

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

July 2022

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No. 577



## **Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme in November 2019: details can be found on the Parish Council Website at <https://www.great-milton.co.uk/freedom-of-information/>. Residents can see records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk or via the website.

## **Great Milton Parish Council**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Clyde Deacon</b>	<b>01844 279242</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>George Bennett</b>	<b>07482 339905</b>
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Peter Allen</b>	<b>01844 278334</b>
Ward:	Milton Common	

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

## **Parish Council Representatives**

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Nethercleft, Dan Bennett, Sarah MacMahon
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak, Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson

**Cover:** Chris the Postman opens the Fete!

**Photo:** Jonathan Dudley.

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@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

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	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

## **Draft Parish Notes**

Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs S Harrod (Chair) W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, D Harms and M Horsley. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr C Deacon, Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC). Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with 1 member of the public. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda, given the council's decision not to comment on the planning application affecting The Bull public house.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed, and is available on the Parish Council website. No report had been received from the District Councillor at the time of the meeting. No correspondence has been received in matters not otherwise covered on the agenda.

### **Planning applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P22/S1395/HH (1 Colletts Cottages Thame Road Great Milton). As amended by drwgn SIP 001 A received on 27/05/22. This application is merely for a small amendment to access arrangements and will have no impact on neighbouring properties: as such the Parish Council will respond to SODC supporting the application and with a note to this effect.

P22/S1895/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton). Erection of a wooden serving bar in the garden of the public house. The Parish Council will not be commenting on this application, given the role of the Chair and Vice-Chair on the pub committee and the shareholder status of the majority of councillors. However, residents have been advised to submit their own views to SODC.

P22/S2023/LB (The Priory Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB). Replacement of dormer window frame. Replacement of render finish with tile hanging. The position of the dormer window under consideration is such that it will impact no neighbouring properties: the Parish Council will respond to SODC supporting the application and with a note to this effect.

P22/S1778/FUL (Grooms Farm Thame Road Wheatley OX33 1JP). Erection of a 17m x 26m Cruyff Court Multi-Use Gaming Area (MUGA) with associated works. The location of the area under consideration for development is such that it will impact no neighbouring properties: the Parish Council will respond to SODC supporting the application and with a note to this effect.

P22/S1948/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery Milton Common Great Milton Oxon). Retention of building used ancillary to fishery (shop/store). The location of the area

under consideration for development is such that it will impact no neighbouring properties other than those owned and operated by the applicant: the Parish Council will respond to SODC supporting the application and with a note to this effect.

P22/S2129/LB (The Old Stores The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT). Removal of mid/late C19 sash windows with plate glass to be replaced with new sash windows with original details and heritage 8mm vacuum sealed glazing to the front facade.

Councillor Harms reviewed this application. Local consultation revealed no objections to the proposed development and as such the Parish Council agreed to support the application.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were reviewed.

P22/S1189/HH (7 Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HY). Replacement of existing single storey rear extension with single storey rear extension. (as amended by plans received 22 April 2022 illustrating first floor window). Permission GRANTED.

To note that the amended planning application for development at Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons is currently understood to be being considered at SODC's Planning Committee on Wed 29th June. Invitations to attend will be sent to those who have commented 5 working days before the meeting. You must have already made a comment in response to the planning application. All those who responded to the consultation will be sent a letter with more information about this before the meeting. If you did not respond to a consultation about a planning application on the agenda, you will not be able to speak to the committee.

If you want to speak, you must register with planning services by noon on the last working day before the meeting. Each category of speaker (parish council, objectors, supporters) is allowed a maximum of five minutes to address the committee. If several people register in a category, they have to share the time. The planning officer's recommendation is to grant permission for the development.

The minutes of May's Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 16th May 2022, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £697.57

McCracken and Sons. Mowing May. £492

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production June. £427

Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying May. £62.40

Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary. Donation in lieu of internal auditor's fees. £100

Website support February. £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)



BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, reviewed and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 13th June was £45,422.20.

The internal audit report and signed Internal Audit Certificate were received from Matthew Hale, Internal Auditor. The report raised no issues or items of concern and the Clerk was thanked for his contribution to a clean financial bill of health.

## **Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2 for the year ending 31st March 2022.**

Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and subsequently Section 2 (Accounting Statements) were received and approved by the Parish Council, and the documents signed by the chairman of the meeting and the Parish Clerk/RFO as required.

The start of the Exercise of Public Rights period, during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined, was announced. This period begins on Tuesday 21 June and concludes on Monday 1 August.

The 2022 revision of the Parish Council's Risk Management document was reviewed and approved.

## **Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct**

The revised Code of Conduct as recommended by SODC's Monitoring Officer was reviewed and considered. After discussion it was AGREED to adopt the revised Code, and for Cllrs Harrod and Fox to submit revised Declarations of Interest given their shareholdings in and non-executive directorships of the Great Milton Community Pub Limited.

## **Dispensation Policy**

The potential adoption of a dispensation policy (enabling councillors with a declarable interest to participate in the discussion of matters relating to those interests) was discussed. It was agreed that a dispensation policy was not necessary at the present time, and that such a policy would therefore not be adopted.

## **Employment Policies**

A range of employment policies were considered for potential adoption, as follows:

- Equal Opportunities policy
- Pensions policy
- Sickness Absence policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Disciplinary and grievance procedure

Further discussion of this item was deferred until the July meeting to enable additional consideration by councillors.

## **Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**



A number of cars were 'keyed' on Lower End overnight on 30/31 May. The advice from Thames Valley Police is to report any damage to them so that a crime reference number can be allocated, which if nothing else will be required for an insurance claim. Anyone with any evidence from security or dashboard cameras is advised to contact TVP as this could be crucial in finding the perpetrator.

### **COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

There are no significant issues to report other than those which are receiving national coverage.

### **20mph zone**

Great Milton is in the first 'tranche' of areas to be covered by the 20mph scheme. The indicative timing is that the 70 areas in the first tranche will be completed by the end of 2022. Officers are working out the most efficient way of rolling out the scheme based on the geography of the 70 areas, meaning that the order is as yet unknown.

### **Village gateway features**

Proposals from Oxfordshire County Council for 'gateway' features at Lower End, Church Road (close to Neighbours' Hall) and Thame Road as a speed reduction measure were discussed. After discussion it was AGREED to advise Oxfordshire County Council to proceed with initial design work.

### **Security in the village**

Great Milton village is now an 'official' Neighbourhood Watch village, affiliated with the Oxfordshire South and Vale and national schemes. New signs will be erected around the village to create awareness. Please contact Rod Snowdon (details in The Bulletin) if you would like to sign up for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and/or WhatsApp group and to receive a window sticker.

### **New Bus Service**

The new daily, hourly bus service linking Le Manoir and Great Milton village with Wheatley, Horspath, Cowley, Florence Park and Oxford begins on Monday 20th June 2022. Residents are urged to support the service to help to secure its long-term future. The Parish Council once again wishes to thank Belmond/LMQS and the Oxford Bus Company for ensuring the restoration of regular public transport provision to Great Milton.

### **Vacancy for Clerk/RFO**

Tim Darch, current Clerk/RFO to Great Milton Parish Council has resigned to pursue alternative employment. The post has been advertised locally: please contact Tim Darch by telephone on 01844 278347 or [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk) if you are interested in applying.

### **Approval of documentation for Clerk/RFO recruitment process**

The advertisement, application form and person and job specification for



the Clerk/RFO vacancy were reviewed and retrospectively approved.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th July 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

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## Benefice Services for July

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 17th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th	BCP Holy Communion 9:00am		Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am
Sunday 31st <i>Fifth Sunday</i>		Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	

## The Rector's Pint

There was a certain comic element - at least to me – in early June, when I attended three jubilee lunches, all happening at the same time! On the day, we had also accepted an invitation to a celebration tea that afternoon, so I was given strict instructions by Cath not to eat anything before then! It was a form of mild torture, but I managed to arrive at the tea intact, and it was well worth the wait! It was also a delight to see people coming together in such a joyful manner.

Times of celebration are so important, and there will be a significant marker in my own life on July 5th, as thirty years ago, on that date, I was ordained as a deacon, in Gloucester Cathedral. The following year I was ordained as a priest, but it is the ordination as deacon that stands out for me. In the Church of England, as well as in the Catholic Church (the Church of England was once Roman Catholic!) all those who become priests are first ordained as deacons. It is a serving role, and a reminder that



whatever comes afterwards, that calling never stops. The best advice I was ever given about the role was ‘never stop moving chairs’.

Much has happened in the Church over those thirty years. Most significantly, when I was ordained, women could not become priests. That happened the following year and then it took another twenty-one years until the first woman, Libby Lane was consecrated as bishop in 2015. Personally, I found it hard to comprehend why it took so long.

I first served as a curate in Cheltenham, and then as a vicar in Cinderford in the Forest of Dean before moving in 2002 to Hughenden in Buckinghamshire where I was vicar until moving here in 2015. I have acted as a vocations advisor and have had two spells as an Area Dean. For me though, the thing that has remained constant is parish ministry, in all its variety.

There have been plenty of challenges, and there have been some particularly difficult and dark times, but there also remains much to celebrate, and I am still here! My faith has had its ups and downs, but I remain convinced of the central realities of what I try to proclaim every week, of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the grace, mercy, justice, hope, and love of God we see fully revealed in him. There is so much more I could say, but space does not permit, so I’m including a prayer for all those who are at the start of their journey with the Church. This is the ordination collect that will be said by the bishops across the land in ordination services at the beginning of July:

God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
through your Son, you have called us into the fellowship  
of your universal Church:  
hear our prayer for your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servants now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## St Mary's Open Day Saturday 1st October

On Saturday 1st October we have an Open Day at St Mary's that will include various activities and information. The day will also include an Auction of Promises. This is a great opportunity for any of us to offer our skills, talents, enthusiasms, time or resources to help build up the appeal funds. If you can offer any 'promises' to be auctioned we would love to hear from you - all ideas are welcome. Some examples might be: baby-sitting, car cleaning, computer help, use of holiday home, taxi service, language lessons, gardening help, ironing or cleaning, bike servicing, preparing a meal... The terms would be defined beforehand and the promise would go to the highest bidder.

To find out more, or to offer a promise, please give me a call or send an e-mail: Jane Jefferis – mobile: 07762 137073, e-mail: [janejefferis@btinternet.com](mailto:janejefferis@btinternet.com)

Or speak to any of us on the Fundraising committee – Clare Blakeway Phillips, Trudy Timbs, Mary Wakefield, Liz Isherwood and Fred Cubbage.

We would love to hear from you!



**ST MARY'S CHURCH**  
GREAT MILTON - RESTORATION APPEAL  
*Conserve, Care, Connect*

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## Alan Kirby

Alan Kirby died in the early hours of Thursday 23 June, at Lincroft Meadow Care Home, Kidlington where he had been living since the end of 2019.

Alan and his wife, Sylvia, lived at Yew Cottage, Lower End, from the early 1990's. In 2021 Sylvia moved to Sandhills, Oxford to be nearer family.

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## Christian Aid 2022

Wow! We/you smashed it!! Another record breaking Christian Aid week total was raised this year by the three villages in the Benefice...

A total of £2900.07 made up of:

Three Lent lunches £490

House-to-house collections £2,410.07

The above total includes £343.87 in Gift Aid on collections of £1,375.50.

THANK YOU everyone... Lent lunch Hosts, Collectors, Deliverers and above all

for each of you who gave money this year... THANK YOU.

*S.A. Dennis*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

July 2022				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	

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## Coffee Morning at the Chapel.

The coffee morning at the chapel every 2nd Wednesday of the month continues to be a very enjoyable morning. Everyone will be made most welcome so come & join us for tea/coffee & biscuits but more importantly a jolly good chat!

The next coffee morning is Wednesday 13th July from 10am - 12:00.

*Yvonne*



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## Great Milton History Calling!!



Hello! Here's a message to all budding young and not so old historians to join our team if you have an hour to spare sometimes – nothing too taxing – we meet for a couple of hours on a Wednesday in the Community Room. Once you get involved you'll be surprised how you get hooked. Things to be done like researching maps/names – where did Joe Snooks live? What did he do? Catch rabbits for a living? Sweep your distant relations chimney?

One thing I am keen to settle myself is the tragic incident that happened outside the Bull Inn during the mid 20's or roundabout. A steam engine, probably pulling

a threshing machine up Neates Hill. It is thought that the reason for the explosion was water had ran to the back of the boiler and up she went! Killed the horses that were in the worker's team. I have seen photos of the incident at an exhibition held at the Neighbours Hall about 20/30 years ago but don't remember who owned them – probably the best bet would be to check the parish records of the time. There's a job for a start!!

Contact any of the members if you would like to know more!! Come and join us!

*Les Preston*

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## **Great Milton Wells Book**

Ian Melton has not been idle through lockdown. He has been digging (metaphorically) around, and discovered evidence of more than 80 wells in Great Milton Parish. He has put together this fascinating, highly illustrated record of them. This should appeal both to anyone wanting to know a little more about the history of our village and anyone wanting a topical, local publication for their coffee table.

*Jane Jefferis*

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## **Haseley Open Gardens**

On Saturday July 9th we are organizing an Open Garden event in the Haseleys.

We hope that as many Haseley residents as possible will open their gardens to create a fun, social afternoon, where we can all satisfy our curiosity about our friends' gardens, and see some beautiful plants (and maybe the occasional wonderful weed). We will also be serving teas and delicious cakes in the Great Haseley Village Hall.

Entrance to the participating gardens will be by donation, with all money received for entrance to the gardens and teas going to St Peter's Church, Great Haseley. Residents and friends of Great Milton and Little Milton would be warmly welcomed to join us.

We really hope to see you there,

*Judy Alexander, Jane Cannon, Scilla Greenall, Fiona Heyward, Mary Isaac and Marylu Sheehan*

## Great Milton Church Fete 2022

Thanks to you all, it was a hugely enjoyable day and we raised in excess of £6,200.

Initial mention must go to Chris the Postie, who was a very popular opener. We are all very grateful to him for the work he does and the way he does it, always with a smile and a wave!

As ever, thank you all so much for helping and or supporting it. We are extremely grateful to those of you who donated items to sell or for the raffle, Hollands Farm and Morgans and Associates, who advertised the event and the village shop who advertised, organised floats and helped count the money.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, tea and bar teams, games organisers, those who did the heavy lifting, setting up and setting down and those who participated and judged competitions. Thank you also to those who displayed their amazing vehicles. These really added to the scene.

We thank our talented herald who played the fanfares and we loved listening to the local children from MusicLand ([www.musiclandoxford.com](http://www.musiclandoxford.com)) who played their instruments for us. They really enhanced the day and set the mood. We have such talented people in our village. Many thanks to the friends who added to our entertainment by organising the children's tug of war, the dog show and the bouncy castle.

A HUGE thanks go to the three men who collected and returned the furniture/infrastructure and to the helpers who helped set up in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; to the friend who put up and then took down the big notice-board and to the friend who provided so many straw bales.

We were delighted to welcome back Raymond Blanc from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons to judge our cake competition and thank him for the prizes that were provided.

This year our entertainment was extended with local bands playing at The Bull. We very much enjoyed listening to the up and coming talent. Thank you to those who organised and performed.

Well done to those who won any of the amazing raffle prizes or the prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and dog show.

Raffle main prize of a Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons dinner for 2 – Simon Alden

If you would like to join the Fete Committee or are interested in running a stall next year, do let us know. We would welcome new ideas.

Thank you again for your support.

*Celina Bernstrom, Clare Blakeway-Philips, Rachel Hutton, Alex Kirkman*



**Amanda Garrett**



**Yvonne Cartwright**



**Amanda Garrett**



**Jonathan Dudley**



**Jonathan Dudley**



**Claire Blakeway-Phillips**





**Amanda Garrett**



**Miriam Khamis Al-Rumaythi**



**Amanda Garrett**



**Jonathan Dudley**



**Alex Kirkman**



**Claire Blakeway-Phillips**

## Church Fete Raffle Prize Winners

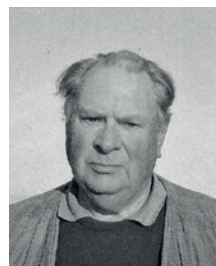
Prize	Number	Winner
1. Le Manoir: Dinner for Two	533	Simon Alden
2. Crazy Bear: Champagne Tea for Two	1032	Ken Rogers
3. Portrait Photo Session with Nick Belcher	482	Lynne Cabbage
4. Luxury Food Hamper	193	Sylvia Preston
5. Roald Dahl Museum	1573	Jane
6. Lamb, Little Milton: Meal for Two	666	Carole
7. Sandy Lane: Organic Vegetables Voucher	1454	Will Hook
8. Spark Yoga Voucher	836	Noel
9. Asda Toiletry Basket	485	Lynne Cabbage
10. Wheatley Farm Shop: Flower Basket	1095	Gill S.
11. John Lewis Cool Bag	613	Stef Harding
12. Chocolates	1208	Mick Putt
13. Champagne	1544	Rupert Woodhead
14. Prosecco	1445	Richard Gregory
15. White Wine	952	Celia B.P.
16. White Wine	138	Tracie Valentine
17. Port	829	Noel
18. Bowl of Fruit	1515	Vanessa Villa
19. Raspberry G&T and Candle	283	Sanitha

*Thank You for Your Support*

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## View from Views

Still very few swallows and swifts but we do hear at least 2 cuckoos on or around the river, plus suspected reed warblers whose nest will be invaded by said cuckoos. Heartened recently to have witnessed yellow-hammers in different parts of the farm. A jay has been a frequent visitor to our bird feeders just for a few days, a beautiful bird but very aggressive and killer for little birds. Only with us for those few days and has since taken him/herself off as quickly as it appeared. It would be interesting what attracted it in the first place and why he /her suddenly was not here anymore; that's wildlife for you.



The very welcome rain, as far as we are concerned, may well have saved our crops from dying from drought and even, with a bit of luck, fill the grain. How they survived so long is a mystery that I can only explain by the fact that, as it has been dry since crops started to grow, the roots have followed the moisture down. As the ground was so damp in the winter/spring in spite of the fact that, on the whole, it was not a wet winter, I can only assume they were able to get enough to survive. What is noticeable, not just on our farm, is that most crops are showing longer ears than normal, something I cannot explain. Good news, as 2 extra grains per head amounts to something like 7% increase in yield, which could equate to .25 tonne to the acre. Don't ask me how I arrived at that figure!

So far my worry about pigeon damage on the lupins seems to have been unfounded, in spite of the fact that, from the middle of May they had done practically no damage and, at the time of writing, they are not in the hoards that normally attack the Rape, so fingers crossed. The big concern over the whole crop is that, due to very dry conditions since they were planted, the germination has, at a guess, only been about 56-69%. How this will affect the outcome remains to be seen; we can only hope that each plant will yield that bit more by not having so much competition.

The Government have just announced that they are going to encourage more productivity from farmland, as if that was not our aim anyway. There is no mention of the other developments that are taking up good land and do not mention the other pressures on our precious land; development of all different shapes and sizes, solar farms, tree planting, etc. With the new support scheme for farmers, which is to encourage us to produce for the public goods without a caveat that rates will be commensurate with the current market trends. These rates I doubt will encourage uptake, with the wheat and fertilizer at the current prices, government support will have to be double the rate talked about at the moment, for us to be interested.

On the other hand, we now learn that the vertical farming, a term we have become accustomed to as a new technology, has been adapted to grow cereals; a project that suggests a 4 acre building would be capable of producing roughly the same tonnage as 1,000 acres. This will allow for even more houses to be built on our Green and Pleasant land. The wheels of progress never seem to stand still; also recently developed is a solar powered robot with the ability not only to sow seeds with such precision that it can then hoe, not only between the plants, but also over the plant pre emergence, followed by down the row throughout the growing season. With the capacity to cover 40-50 acres a year, this means that all you have to do is to fill the seed hopper with seed and the robot/machine will then look after the crop until harvest. At the moment this is only applicable to vegetable crops.



Just to comment on points made by our County & District Councillor Freddie Van Meirlo, states that the CC wish to plant 2 trees to every one removed from CC land. If these are planted on farmland will they actually sequester more carbon than the land is already? He also mentions that if we are concerned about the noise level created by motor bikes we must write to our MP, as this is a growing problem. Caroline Newton our District Councillor also makes some good points and gives me confidence in the Council, and that she shares our concerns over Chalgrove Airfield, I was horrified to note she says some buildings were to be 6 stories high. Of course also she is right to question solar panels on good agricultural land. As she says in this area something like 800 acres (3,500 tonnes wheat) of land is up for planning. These panels should be on roofs and we should be insisting that all new builds should have these, and more encouragement to owners to retrofit.

Point of information for residents of Gt Milton regarding the cutting of the Manor meadow; May is not the time for the control of ragwort as it will have hardly started to grow by then, a point I missed at said meeting as I could not hear clearly what the Belmond representative said. The worrying point is that I am sure this would not be the wishes of M. Blanc, as he has always had thoughts for our village. This puts into question their environmental credentials for the future and this is what is worrying most of us.

*Charles Peers*

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## **Great Milton Athletics Club (GMAC)**

### **Oxfordshire Athletics Association Track & Field Championships 2022**

These championships took place over two days in May and, whilst they are normally held annually, due to the Pandemic the last Championships were held in 2019. Therefore, it was a new and somewhat nervous experience for the young GMAC athletes who participated. Collectively the children entered 28 events between them, obtained 22 personal bests, broke 5 club records, and won 9 medals, four of them gold. A gold medal means the winner is an Oxfordshire County Champion.



The medal winners are all current or former Great Milton Primary School pupils. Fleur Wilson is the county champion for Under 13 girls in hurdles, and William



Kirkman is the Under 13 boys high-jump county champion with his 1.25m jump. (U13s are school years 6 and 7). Fleur also won silver medals in the 200m and long jump (3.80m), and bronze in javelin (15.53m). Two other U13 medals were won by Grace Mosely and Leo Adiri, both in hurdles. In the U15 girls (years 8 and 9), Gracie Wilson won gold in javelin (16.44m) and shot (7.86m). Other children may have just been pipped for the medals, but still impressed with their own personal bests. These were recorded by Dora Twycross (100m and long jump), George Mosely (100m, 200m, hurdles and high jump) and Rufus Blanche (long jump and 1500m). It was a great pleasure to see so many local children competing in GMAC colours, and a real thrill to share their successes and achievements.

Leading up to the county championships, the club attended events at Bracknell, Winchester, Horspath, Abingdon and Little Marlow. At some of these meetings the younger children have been able to participate in Quadkids events. These events consist of a 75m sprint, the long jump, a vortex howler throw and a 600m run. Congratulations go to Livi Wilson in Year 4 and to Charlie Brown and Abby Kirkman in Year 5 for their performances. A call out goes to Abby who picked up a bronze medal at the Abingdon meet. In the U17 category, Paris Jane has set club records in the 100m and 200m sprints, and U15 Kitty Barulis has achieved personal bests in 100m, long jump and the 800m.

Many of these athletes have also competed in other athletics events for their schools, and produced successful performances. Our congratulations go to Gracie Wilson who has been asked to represent Oxfordshire Schools in the Midlands Pentathlon Championships in June.

GMAC was founded in 2012 specifically to cater for local children, and currently has spaces for new members. More information can be found on the parish website: Athletics - Great Milton Great Milton, Oxford, Oxfordshire - Great Milton Parish Council, Great Milton, Oxford ([great-milton.co.uk](http://great-milton.co.uk)).

GMAC would also like to extend a thank you to Le Manoir who continue to allow us to train on their field.



# **GREAT MILTON** **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Hi, fellow residents, neighbours and friends of Great Milton.

We can announce that we have set up and are running the  
**GREAT MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH VILLAGE SCHEME**

Our village scheme is still fully affiliated to the N W South & Vale  
and the all-encompassing National Neighbourhood Watch schemes,

So, you will be able to receive Neighbourhood Watch alerts etc.  
new NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Road signs for the village and  
yellow window stickers to raise visible awareness around the village.  
We extend our grateful thanks to Neil Gunnell, N.W SOUTH & VALE  
for his valuable support and guidance in setting up our scheme.

## **Great Milton Village Fete**

The stall we had at the Fete was very pleasing, with lots of  
our villagers expressing an interest in joining our scheme.

These contacts will be followed up in the coming weeks.

## **Our Next Event**

### **Thames Valley Police Event**

### **The Cricket Pavilion, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Our very own local police officers will be here again to answer any questions,  
give advice, help & support our neighbourhood to be more safe for everyone.

Yes, by popular demand, the Fire Engine will be there again !!

It would be useful to know what are your greatest areas of concern:

**Burglary**

**Vehicle theft / crime**

**Anti-social behaviour**

**Criminal damage**

**other issues of concern**

## **To keep updated and to alert others**

**and if you would like to join either of**

**Our NBHD WATCH “VILLAGE SCHEME”**

**Our NBHD WATCH WHATS APP. GROUP**

Please contact our two Neighbourhood Watch representatives

**Jola Miziniak 07917 676463**

**Rod Snowdon 07836 728919**



## Wheatley Library

We're looking to start up more groups here at Wheatley library to keep our residents busy during opening hours, so please see the list below for the kinds of things we're looking to get started!

We would love for anyone interested in either leading the groups or simply joining in to let us know, and if we can gather enough interest then it would be great to get them going as soon as possible.

The groups we're currently looking at starting are:

- Creative Writing – We're happy to have groups for both older and younger users, to provide a space for telling stories of all kinds.
- Games – Again, possibly for both older and younger users, to spend some time having fun. This can be board games, card games, even D&D. Whatever people want!
- Rhyme/Story Time – If singing or reading to children sounds fun, we have just the thing!

We're also looking for Digital Helpers to assist the community with any technological support on a one-to-one basis, so let us know if this is something that interests you. It's a great way to volunteer and gain new skills, while genuinely helping people at the same time.

And if you have any suggestions for any other interest/activity groups, please do get in touch! You can ring us on 01865 875267, or email us at [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

*Charlie Boddington (Wheatley Library Manager)*

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall in Wheatley High Street.

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## Wheatley Acquisition Explorer Scout Unit

### Explorer Belt fundraising

A big thank you to all the wonderful people who supported our quiz to raise money for our Explorer Belt expedition to Germany and Poland in October 2022. A huge thank you also to the Sheppard Trust who have also supported our expedition.

We are holding another fundraising quiz on Friday 02 September in the Pavilion and hope to see you all again for another fun packed evening. Tickets are £10 pp. Hot food included. Ant and James's 'AMAZING WORD' game will also be back! Early bird tickets can be booked for tables/teams of 6 by emailing: [miranda\\_cook@icloud.com](mailto:miranda_cook@icloud.com). Thank you.

## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

In June, we danced the night away to Lucky Seven, Virginia Reel, Canadian Barn dance, The Flying Scotsman, Cumberland Reel, finishing up with the Gay Gordons. We even joined a Zoom class in Scotland. Thank you, Chris, for your expert tutoring and energy.

At our next meeting on Thursday 14th July at 7.30pm Nathan Swift will be talking to us about the Ronald McDonald House charity. They aim to provide families with a nearby place to stay while their child is being treated in hospital. Everyone welcome. Visitors £5 or join up (2022/23 membership £33).

Other news:

We're busy planning some Summer day trips and outings:

- Tour of the Oxford Botanic Gardens on Thursday 7 July
- Calendar Girls at the Oxford Playhouse 15 July
- Boat trip on Thursday 11 August

Haseley Open Gardens - Saturday 9 July

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

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 730pm in The Pine Lodge, Little Milton OX44 7PZ

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

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

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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

This will be back in August after three long years! It will take place on Saturday 27th August in Rycote Park at 2pm!

For those new to the area, the society has a long history as it originally grew out of the "Dig for Victory" campaign during World War II. It arranges a number of events through the year such as talks with a horticultural theme, spanning diverse topics such as composting to gin making. It runs visits to gardens, holds children's planting events and plant swaps and organises the annual show.

The show is our major event and is a fun, relaxed, traditional horticultural and produce show often held in a large marquee. It has traditionally moved round the district sometimes on village greens and other times, by generous permission of the owners, in the grounds of some of the large houses in the area.

There are classes to enter for all ages, abilities and interests including over 30 classes for children that span vegetable and flower growing, flower arranging, baking, model making, photography and art. The adult classes also cover a similar range with additional classes in areas such as preserve and beer, wine and cordial making. There are many classes that target novices, as well as fun classes like the ugliest vegetable, so all you lockdown bakers and growers use your new skills and enter and see how you do!

As well as the show marquee there are teas, stalls and entertainment for all the family. It is also a great occasion to meet people, socialise and have fun. 2020 should have been our 73rd annual show and after a couple of years of smaller shows we were, and now are, planning to run our traditional style of show. It is a piece of village life that we would like to continue and have revamped the schedule and added new classes to encourage more people to enter, so please join us so that the show continues to thrive and gives pleasure to new generations.


If you are interested in the society, entering the show or helping at the show please contact us by email at [Ghdhs\\_enquiries@outlook.com](mailto:Ghdhs_enquiries@outlook.com) or phone Louise on 07989360127.

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## John Howell MP writes...

When I wrote last month we were anticipating the Jubilee Weekend and the celebrations that were planned. Whilst the weather wasn't quite what we might have hoped, from what I hear celebrations around the constituency went well. The national celebrations were certainly a credit to all of the planning, and it was lovely to see the Her Majesty the Queen at her public appearances. I think tea with Paddington Bear was one of the favourite events and shows that even in her 90th decade Her Majesty still has a great sense of humour. The Jubilee weekend was a great opportunity for community events and a chance to get together after so much separation in recent times.

Sometimes it good to do something different and in May I did something else that I have not done before - I joined thousands of other people across the country in the Big Plastic Count. It was an interesting exercise where you have to 

count the single use plastic you throw away over a 7-day period. Some of the time I was at home at others I was in the office or away. Overall I was quite shocked at just how much single-use plastic I get through in the different settings. The office is pretty good with glass replacing plastic water bottles and corn-starch wrapping use for many documents that are sent to me. But I was quite taken aback at just how much single use plastic there still for food products. Clearly some of this is avoidable and the exercise certainly raised the profile of the need for us to cut back further. The Government Resources and Waste Strategy set out plans to reduce, reuse and recycle and was a step in the right direction. A promising start on which we are now building.

For some people the half term break was an opportunity to get away and I know that many people have been caught up in the backlog of passport applications. During the pandemic, around five million people delayed applying for or renewing their passports which has led to huge demand now that international travel has opened up. My team has been helping as best we are able and where the need to travel cannot have been anticipated, or where the delay in an application being processed has been longer than the advertised time, we have been able to assist some people. The Home Office has been doing all that it can to increase output and it does seem that the situation is beginning to ease. Staff have been working 7 days a week and additional staff have been recruited. I understand that between January and March 2022, over 90 per cent of cases were completed within six weeks. However if you are planning to travel and need to apply for or renew a passport please do so as soon as possible and do not rely on being able to get a fast-track appointment as these are like gold dust. The official guidance is still to allow up to 10 weeks to get a passport. There is little that my team can do with late applications.

Another thing to watch out for are the new barcoded postage stamps. Royal Mail has introduced these new stamps as part of their drive to improve operational efficiencies and security. If you have bought stamps recently you may have noticed the change with the addition of a barcode alongside the image of the Queen's head. If you have a stock of stamps you can still use them until the end of January 2023. If you cannot use your stock before then you can swap them for new ones. Full details are available on the Royal Mail website under the heading 'Reinventing stamps for the next generations.' The change only applies to the regular stamps with the profile of the Queen's head on and not the special stamps such as Christmas

stamps.

In any month a wide range of issues are raised with me from things in the general media to specialist issues. With the help of my team I do my best to respond to all polite correspondence but sometimes it may take a while, especially if an issue needs research. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way in you have access to that. My email address is [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD). Please note that correspondence sent through the post takes longer to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered.

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.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 Tim Darch  
of any updates that need to be made  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **VACANCY**

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Hours: 10.5 per week

Salary: NJC Scale LC1, scale points 7 to 17 (£10.63 to £12.95 per hour), depending upon experience, CiLCA qualification and transferable skills.

#### **Job Description**

The Clerk provides administrative and clerical support to the Council and, as the Responsible Finance Officer, is required to manage the Council's finances. Duties include:

- Managing parish council meetings, including agenda preparation, taking and distributing minutes and ensuring that outcomes are actioned
- Managing the Parish Council's finances, including preparation of accounts and reconciliations, payroll and PAYE, payment of invoices, banking, end of year accounts, submission of accounts for external audit, VAT reclaim, preparing the annual budget and requesting the precept
- Ensuring that planning applications are considered and responses submitted in timely fashion to the District Council
- Dealing with correspondence and enquiries
- Liaison with contractors and other service providers
- Arranging the maintenance of trees and other village assets routinely and as required
- Liaison with village representatives, including the allotment coordinator, Rec Committee, PCC and Neighbourhood Watch group
- Receiving, collating and sending copy and advertisements to the editor of the Great Milton Bulletin, and invoicing for and managing advertising
- Updating the village website with meeting agendas and minutes, news and required financial and governance-related information.
- Other duties as and when required.

#### **Essential criteria**

You will be required to attend the monthly parish council meeting, which usually takes place on the third Monday of each month. You must have some administrative experience and be able to maintain accurate financial records. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software (particularly Word and Excel), be capable of working independently and using your initiative, and be able to deal with a range of issues.

Previous experience in local government at any level will be helpful, but is by no means essential.

**For further information and an application form please e-mail  
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or call  
Tim Darch, current GMPC Clerk/RFO on 01844 278347**





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**Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details**

[www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-  
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## **The Three Villages Car Service**

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

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

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
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## July Events at Waterperry

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Summer Screens - 7 till 9 July: Experience a magical evening at the movies with exciting outdoor screening of some of your favourite films!

Celebrating Ceramics - 15 till 17 July: An artist led event, showcasing the very best in the world of contemporary ceramics.

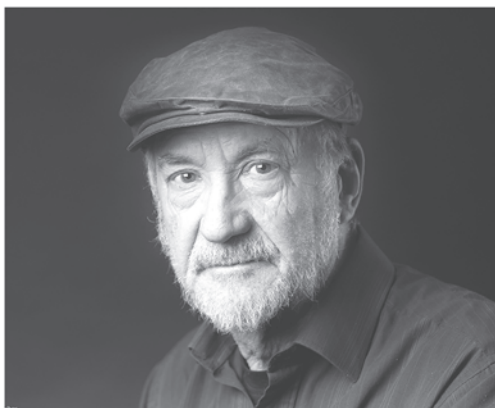
The Secret Garden Live, New Creations Collective - 23 July: Family-friendly, dance adaptation of the best-selling novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Rapunzel, IK Productions - 30 July: Escape into the open-air this Summer with Rapunzel – an exhilarating, heart-warming production.

Moonrakers - 31 July: Come and enjoy an early evening concert of folk songs and tunes in the fabulous open-air Amphitheatre at Waterperry Gardens.

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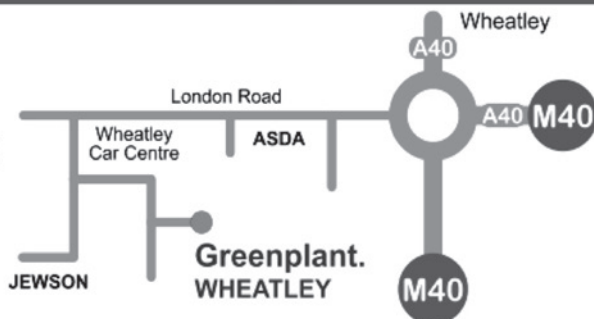


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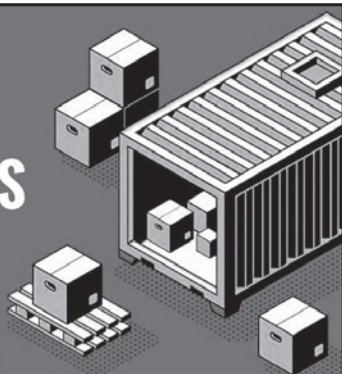
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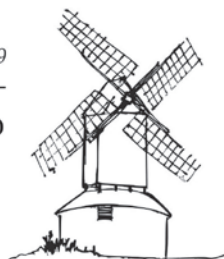
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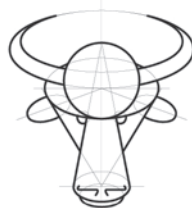
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## Diary

Monday	Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am <i>contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details</i> Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm <i>contact carina.martin@gmail.com</i>
Tuesday	Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Ann Price – 01844 279474</i>
Wednesday	GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:00am – 1:00pm <i>or by appointment</i> 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Thursday	The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. <i>contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. <i>contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net</i> Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm <i>contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198</i> Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm <i>contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com</i>
Friday	Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am <i>contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details</i>
Saturday	Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. <i>contact: see Thursday</i> Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm. <i>Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. <i>contact: see Thursday</i>

## July

Fri 1st	Quiz at The Neighbours' Hall	7:00pm
Sat 9th	Open Gardens at The Haseleys	—
Fri 15th	Book Library at The Neighbours' Hall	11:00am
Sat 16th	Neighbourhood Watch: Thames Valley Police Event at The Pavilion	—
Mon 18th	Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion	7:30pm
Sat 30th	Freecycle Live at The Pavilion with Pop-Up Café	10.00am

## August

Sat 27th	GHHS Annual Show at Rycote Park	2:00pm
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