



Little Milton Newsletter

Layla age 8



Jasper age 7

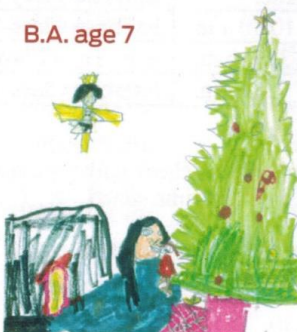


M. age 8



Felix age 7

B.A. age 7



Ella age 10



December 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: DECEMBER 2023

Sun	3rd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St James'
Mon	4th	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	5th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	6th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge L.M School Christingle Service
Thurs	7th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Sat	9th	2.00 -4.30 p.m.	Christmas Fayre – Pine Lodge
Sun	10th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship
Mon.	11th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	12th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	13th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council
Thurs	14th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting – Pine Lodge
Sat	16th	4.00 p.m.	Carol Service – St James'
Mon	18th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	19th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	20th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	21st	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge Carol Singing round the village
Sun	24th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Communion – St James'
Mon	25th	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Tues	26th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	27th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	28th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge

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

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Below is a summary of some of the topics and discussions which took place at the Parish Council meeting held in November.

Planning

No planning applications had been received, there were no matters to discuss.

Little Milton Village Shop

Discussion took place on the extent to which the Parish Council can support the village shop and what form the support might take. It was agreed that the parish council, the village hall and the village shop will provide two representatives each to meet informally to look at; the legal structures of the village hall and shop, explore grant funding streams, further explore the possibility of fitting solar panels to the village hall and to draft a village wide consultation. It was agreed the village shop will continue to provide financial updates to the parish council.

A329 Speed and HGV Issues

Installation of new bollards

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have submitted an invoice for 50% of the cost of installing two new bollards on the A329 near Little Milton School. The Clerk confirmed the invoice had been paid. It is hoped the work will commence shortly.

Speed Indicator Device Signage

Three quotations for the supply of Speed Indicator Device Signs (SIDs) had been circulated. Typically, the cost of each sign is £2,900/£3,200. OCC will install the signs and have suggested possible locations, residents near to the proposed sites will be consulted:

- 1) Haseley Road just before the main dip and 20mph start – this will slow traffic before the 20mph sign.
- 2) On a post on the stretch of road by Plum Tree Cottage in the centre of the village – this location allows for good vision and distance to speed.
- 3) By a telegraph pole by Manor Cottage at the top of the hill – this will warn vehicles to slow down on the approach to the school.

Cllr Harrison will apply for grant funding towards the cost. County Councillor Van Mierlo has indicated he will approve £1,500 from his County Councillor grant fund on receipt of an application. **Resolved** to purchase two SIDS to be installed at locations 1 and 3 above. A third sign will be purchased when funds are available.

Application to Oxfordshire County Council for a Weight Restriction

The data from traffic surveys carried out last week is expected shortly. It might be prudent to organise a similar survey on Haseley Road. The information together with historic monitoring data will form part of the application pack to be submitted to OCC for a weight restriction on the A329. Engagement with residents to request information/ photographic evidence of near misses, accidents, etc. is vital to put together a comprehensive dossier.

Community Speed Watch

There has been a good response to the call for volunteers to engage with a Community Speed Watch.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Spaces

The grass will be treated in the spring to improve the sward and reduce weeds. The hedge behind the MUGA is due to be trimmed next week, together with bramble clearance around the Recreation Ground. The cutting of the verges has been delayed to later in November as growth has slowed.

SOHA has given approval for a bench to be placed in Old Field (opposite the existing bench). If the application to the District Councillor Grant Fund is successful it is proposed to place a bench in the opposite corner of the recreation ground to the existing picnic bench.

An order for bark chippings, to be spread along Church Path, will be placed next week at a cost of £117.00.

One of the goalposts on the recreation ground has been repaired. The goalposts will be repositioned to avoid the ground getting too muddy.

Village Hall

Cllr Denby attended an Electric Vehicle Charging seminar. 100 charge points throughout the county are being funded by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). SODC has received 200+ applications which are being processed and graded. Focus is on car parks which can be used at night.

Utilities and Highways

In response to concerns raised by residents and during public participation this evening, Cllr Sheppard reported he had requested via Fix My Street that OCC clear the gully where the stream passes under the road. The parish council will also contact riparian landowners who have a responsibility to maintain the watercourse alongside the main road in an effort to reduce the flood risk.

Cllr Sheppard reported, via social media, that Thames Water released effluent into the stream on 5th and 6th November 2023, for a total of 16 hours, during heavy rainfall. Thames Water publish a map on their website showing when and where effluent is released.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th December 2023, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings.

Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Current Council members

Councillor Francois Van Der Merwe (Chairman)	07740 438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Ed Horwell	07527 346187
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438 freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Georgina Heritage	georgina.heritage@southoxon.gov.uk

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress counts as 2 items and a three piece suite (consisting of 1 settee and 2 chairs) counts as 3 items.

Before you contact us to book your bulky waste collection, have a good think about whether you have any other big items to dispose of. Once we have processed your booking, we are unable to make any alterations or add any other items – even if you have only booked one or two items.

To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01235 422406 or book on line from the Council's website www.southoxon.gov.uk

Give your furniture to a good home

Have you considered donating your furniture to charity or a good home? Emmaus is an Oxford based charity that will come out to all areas of the county and collect unwanted furniture free of charge. For legal or practical reasons this does not include soft furnishings without a fire label, safety items, or any item that is not in a saleable condition. Please [visit the Emmaus website](#) for more details.

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – DECEMBER/JANUARY

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
5th December	No	Yes	No	Yes
12th December	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
19th December	No	Yes	No	Yes
28th December ++	No	No	Yes	Yes
4th January ++	No	Yes	No	Yes
10th January ++	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
16th January	No	Yes	No	Yes

++ Change of date due to Bank Holiday

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR-OCTOBER 2023

Real Living Wage

I'm delighted to report that a motion was passed at our Council meeting on 12th October to ensure all companies seeking to win council contracts are committed to paying, as a minimum, the Real Living Wage.

The cross-party motion was passed unanimously, and both SODC and Vale of White Horse councils are working towards accreditation as a Living Wage employer with the Living Wage Foundation. SODC currently ensures all directly employed council staff receive at least the Real Living Wage and has done for several years. However it became evident that not all council contractors have been following this example. Whilst it is not in our power to change existing contracts, current suppliers and contractors are being urged to commit to the living wage, and all future companies seeking to win council contracts are now committed to paying the Real Living Wage as a minimum.

Affordable Housing Grant

A new improved grant process has been introduced which will encourage more affordable, energy efficient homes to be built in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

As part of both district councils' work to help meet the urgent need for genuinely affordable housing in the region, local developers, Community Land Trusts and self-builders can apply for a Section 106 affordable housing grant to build affordable homes that meet the councils' climate criteria.

Both councils approved an improvement to the existing affordable housing policy, to enable funds from Section 106 developer contributions to be used as a grant to build affordable homes that are energy efficient and cheaper to live in and heat. The policy includes a revamped application process which includes clear evaluation guidelines and free expert consultation services.

The new application form now includes questions which determine how projects will minimise energy use and carbon emissions, as well as how they have identified locally appropriate species and set up long term management plans when adding tree planting and biodiversity improvements.

New SODC Grant Schemes

Rural Businesses and Organisations

A new grant scheme has launched for rural businesses and organisations based in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, as both councils have secured funding through the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund.

The fund is designed to support capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure that help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities.

Grant funding is available for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas, growing the local social economy and supporting innovation, investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

Town and Parish Councils, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, registered charities, constituted community-based organisations, social enterprises (like CICs) are all eligible for the scheme.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR OCTOBER 2023

Freight strategy:

The Atkins study into area weight restrictions has been [published](#). Two further studies will be pursued into area weight restrictions covering Henley-on-Thames and the Windrush Valley. The study outlines a process for all villages and towns to request further work to reduce HGVs on inappropriate roads. The process will be published on OCC's website for parishes and towns to apply to.

20mph policy robustly defended:

As the government seeks to intervene in the responsibilities of local councils, cabinet member Andrew Gant has [robustly defended](#) Oxfordshire's pioneering 20mph policy.

New countywide air quality website launched for Oxfordshire:

A new Oxfordshire air quality website has launched – providing air quality guidance and resources across the county. The website oxonair.uk, which has been created in partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and district councils, aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

Permission granted for release of land for new Oxford United stadium:

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to the release of a parcel of land at 'the triangle' north of Oxford near Kidlington. This will now be on a leasehold basis. Oxford United Football Club (OUFC) will be required to meet a series of conditions and secure planning permission from Cherwell District Council.

Pothole innovation trials:

Results from a [maintenance trial](#) in Berrick Salome suggest a recycling-based technique reduces carbon by 71% and speeds up the scheme by 60%. 'In-situ cold recycling' reuses the existing surfacing material and saves hundreds of tonnes of carbon.

Boundary review:

The Electoral Commission has issued its draft recommended changes to boundaries of County Council divisions, which would be in use for 2025 local elections. The Commission agrees with the recommendation of OCC to increase the number of councillors from 63 to 69, in line with population growth. A consultation will be open from 3 October to 11 December. <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/>

HIF1 Road:

The secretary of state will now take the decision on new road and active travel infrastructure from A34 / Didcot to Golden Balls Roundabout

Benson relief road: Approval given to enter agreement with construction company Remembrance Sunday: Invitations to the chair of the council to attend wreath laying can be sent to chairofthecouncil@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Smoking cessation: Support is being [offered during 'Stoptober'](#)



CHRISTMAS FAYRE LITTLE MILTON



The Fayre this year will be on
Saturday 9th December

There will be a variety of stalls and activities and, as usual, all the profits will be shared equally between St James's Church, The Pine Lodge, The Orchard and Little Milton School.

If you would like to help or have donations of tombola, raffle prizes, etc. please contact any of these organisations.

Thank you
Teresa Qusted

Service 126: Watlington to Thame

via Chalgrove, The Miltons, The Haseleys and Moreton

Service 127: Watlington to Thame

via Lewknor, Postcombe, Tetsworth and Milton Common

Red Rose Travel*Tuesday and Thursday only*

Service number	126	127
WATLINGTON, Library	09:00	10:40
Shirburn, Main Road	---	10:45
Lewknor, Leathern Bottle	---	10:48
South Weston, Salisbury Lodge	---	10:50
Postcombe, Salt Lane	---	10:53
Tetsworth, Green	---	10:58
Milton Common, Common Cottage	---	11:03
Cuxham, Half Moon	09:04	---
Chalgrove, Red Lion	09:10	---
Stadhampton, Green	09:15	---
Little Milton, Old Field	09:21	---
Little Milton, Telephone Box	09:23	---
Little Haseley, Green	09:27	---
Great Haseley, Horse Close	09:30	---
Great Milton, The Bull	09:36	---
Moreton, War Memorial	09:46	---
THAME, Town Hall	09:53	11:15

<i>Service number</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>127</i>
THAME, Town Hall	12:10	13:30
Moreton, War Memorial	12:18	---
Great Milton, The Bull	12:28	---
Great Haseley, Horse Close	12:34	---
Little Haseley, Green	12:37	---
Little Milton, Telephone Box	12:41	---
Little Milton, Old Field	R	---
Stadhampton, Green	12:47	---
Chalgrove, Red Lion	12:52	---
Cuxham, Half Moon	12:58	---
Milton Common, Common Cottage	---	13:42
Tetsworth, Green	---	13:47
Postcombe, Salt Lane	---	13:52
South Weston, Salisbury Lodge	---	13:55
Lewknor, Leathern Bottle	---	13:57
Shirburn, Main Road	---	14:00
WATLINGTON, Library	13:02	14:05

R – only serves this point if requested by passengers on board

COMMENCES TUESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2023

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NEW BUS SERVICES LAUNCH IN NOVEMBER

Bus services are being restored to many Oxfordshire communities who have been without regular public transport since 2016.

Following Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet's decision to allocate £1.2 million to improve rural public and community transport, further new services will be launched this month to connect more villages back to the bus network, market towns and Oxford.

Councillor Andrew Gant, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Management, said: "This is more good news for bus users on top of [improved services](#) announced last month – a [£1 single fare cap](#) for Sundays in December; the imminent arrival of a new fleet of [electric buses](#) for Oxford; and the extension of our [park and ride](#) joint parking and ticketing deal.

"Many people rely on buses to get around the county, and beyond, and we're committed to working with providers to make it as easy and reliable for them to do so."

From Monday 6 November, the following services will begin:

- 122/123: Watlington to Reading via Nettlebed, Stoke Row, Checkendon, Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End. This will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, through [Red Rose Travel](#)
- **126/127: Watlington to Thame via Lewknor, Postcombe, Tetsworth, The Miltons, Chalgrove, The Haseleys and Moreton. This will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays through [Red Rose Travel](#).**

From Monday 27 November, these services will be in operation:

- 68: Longcot, Fernham, Uffington, Kingston Lisle, Westcot, Sparsholt, Childrey and the Letcombes to Wantage and Faringdon. This will run from Monday to Saturday through [Pulhams Coaches](#).
- 108: Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley, Blackthorn and Piddington to Oxford and Bicester. This will run from Monday to Saturday and is being operated by [Oxford Bus Company](#)

Timetables will be available shortly from [Traveline](#) and individual operator websites. Revisions to the Villager Community Bus V26 service to link Ramsden with Witney, and providing new journeys on Thursdays, began in early October. Further new services linking several villages north of Bicester and north of Banbury are anticipated to begin in February 2024.

NEW

These new services are in addition to those funded by the government through the council's successful [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#), including restoration of a service between Carterton and Swindon, new express peak buses from Carterton and Banbury to Oxford and improvements to other strategic inter-urban routes throughout the county.

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3rd December

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley

Wednesday 6th December

6.00	Little Milton School Christingle Service	St James' Little Milton
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Sunday 10th December

9.00	Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St James' Little Milton

Saturday 16th December

4.00	Carol Service	St James' Little Milton
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Sunday 17th December

9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
4.00	Carol Service	St Peter's Great Haseley
6.00	Carol Service	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 24th December

10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
4.00	Crib Service	St Peter's Great Haseley
11.15	Midnight Mass	St Mary's Great Milton

Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10.00	Christmas Day Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
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Sunday 31st December

9.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Benefice Family Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley

VIGIL FOR PEACE

AT ST MARY'S GREAT MILTON

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7th 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Come for quiet reflection and the chance to meditate on the 23rd Psalm, in both word and music, as we think of ongoing conflicts, particularly in Gaza and Israel

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: DECEMBER 2023

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
3rd December.	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th December	3.00 p.m.	Great Milton	Rev. Stephen Spain	Carol Service
17th December	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	Rev Paul Carter	Holy Communion
24th December				No Service
25th December	9.30 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	
31st December	TBA	TBA	TBA	Joining Service

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Great Milton Methodist Church Carol Service this year will be held on Sunday 10th December at 3:00pm. Everyone will be most welcome to join us.

The Service on Christmas morning will be led by Revd. Stephen Spain at 9:30am.

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

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

W/E 3rd December	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 10th December	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 17th December	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 24th December	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 31st December	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR DECEMBER

W/E 3rd December	-	Advent
W/E 10th December	-	Advent
W/E 17th December	-	Advent
W/E 24th December	-	Advent
W/E 31st December	-	TBA

CAROL SINGING IN LITTLE MILTON

THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER

Once again we will be carol singing around the village - this year on Thursday 21st December from 6pm onwards. Please arrive just before 6pm meeting us all on the Green opposite the little red post box at the entrance to Oldfield at the top end of the village. We will set off at 6pm SHARP!

We will take the following route – Thame Road, Oldfield and then down through the alleyway to Chiltern View. From Chiltern View we will continue on down Skinny Horner to the Phone Box on the Green. We will then go down the Haseley Road and along Gold Street to George and Joyce's... From George and Joyce's we will go to Milton Manor Drive and finally to the Pub!! You are welcome to join us enroute. A bell will be rung when we arrive at each new place to let you know that we're with you so open your doors and enjoy our carols and join in if you like!

There will be a collection for the Porch which supports the Homeless but this is entirely VOLUNTARY. Bring a torch but carol sheets will be provided

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S.A. Dennis (278029)



RECTOR'S PINT

On the days immediately following Christmas Day there are three further holy days; St Stephen on the 26th, St John on the 27th and on the 28th, the Commemoration of the Slaughtered Innocents. This is a deeply unpleasant story. Following the birth of Jesus, Joseph was warned in a dream to flee, with Mary and the baby, to Egypt. Herod had heard of Jesus' birth, thanks to the very 'unwise' men who had told him of the birth of a new king, and he planned to hunt Jesus down and kill him. To do this, he ordered that all the male children in and around Bethlehem, who were two years old or under, should be killed. The story is found in the second chapter of Matthew's gospel.

Bethlehem was not a large town; we would think of it as a village, and was probably home to no more than twenty or thirty babies and infants. The incident is not recorded anywhere else, but in a land where brutality was widespread, the murder of twenty or so children in an un-important town would scarcely have caused a stir. It is no less terrible for that, and we do know from independent accounts that this is precisely the sort of thing Herod would have done. There is a long list of atrocities associated with him, including the killing of his wife and three sons.

We are all horribly aware of another terrible 'slaughter of innocents', with the shocking and brutal atrocity committed by Hamas in Israel two months ago, and the consequences which followed in Gaza, when so many children were caught up in the conflict. I believe that we should grieve for the suffering and deaths of all these innocents, without prejudice. I am not going to try to unravel a horribly complex situation here. The truth is, the fallout has been terrible. Innocents have been slaughtered.

The Biblical story of the slaughter of the innocents, hidden away at the back of our Christmas celebrations, is a reminder that Jesus, whom Christians call 'Immanuel, God with us,' was born into a world in which acts of brutality were commonplace.

In the carol, 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,' are these words: *Yet, with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long; Beneath the angels' strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man hears not the love-song which they bring. Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the Angels sing.* The story of the slaughtered innocents is a reality check amidst the festive sentiment and excess, but year by year we can still declare this love song, this message of Immanuel. In these uncertain and troubled times, I hope that all those of you who read 'The Pint' will know the blessing of the Christ child, 'God with us' this Christmas.

Simon

REVEREND VICTOR STORY: 1945-2023

A gentle giant, Victor was a down to earth, unassuming man who served as Rector of our churches for fifteen years.

The sea was always close to Victor's heart. He was born in Hastings into a seafaring family, he joined us direct from Rotterdam, where he had been a Chaplain for the Mission of Seafarers, supporting merchant seamen from around the world. On Sea Sunday each year, Victor returned to The Mission as a guest preacher.

Victor loved his weekly visits to school to attend assembly. A bear of a man, he towered over the children – they were always astonished by the size of his shoes! A highlight for

Victor and the children alike was the Ascension Day walk and picnic, hosted in the vicarage garden. Children would run up to Mr Story and hug him around his knees. A calming presence, Victor took his role as a school governor seriously, no doubt calling on experience gained when he was a mathematics teacher in a senior school, prior to becoming a priest.

Congregations will recall Victor trundling into church carrying a large leather bag with his surplice in a bundle under his arm. Serious sermons were interspersed with child friendly stories of town mice and country mice, and the famous coffee tycoon Maxwell Mouse. And the poignant story of an elephant on a ship en-route for Rotterdam Zoo. Victor had a sense of humour that could be best be described as “corny” but it had a schoolboy’s innocence.

A skilled carpenter with a prolific output, reminders of Victor remain in our Church and School. Oak tables, constructed with precision, planed smooth and with highly polished finishes provide platforms for bibles, church and school records. Many a household is the proud owner of one of Victor’s rather weighty oak boxes.

Victor retired from the parish in May 2015 and moved reluctantly to Chipping Norton. He was given a warm welcome by his new neighbours and soon made good friends with the shopkeepers – particularly the butcher! He was welcomed into the life of St Mary’s Church and would regularly lead the 8.00 am services in outlying churches, enabling a lie-in for the regular clergy!

Victor passed away in the John Radcliffe Hospital on Thursday 16th November after a short illness. Rest in Peace Victor

Jane Willis (On behalf of the PCC)

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

We will not be meeting to sew/stitch/quilt/knit etc. because we are having our Christmas lunch in December...but do look out for the January date and venue and join us if you can

Sally Ann Dennis

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

Thanks to everyone in the village who came to the Fireworks in November, we had an extra-large turnout partly as a result of Stadhampton having cancelled their event this year. We heard that some visitors had regrettably parked in Oldfield even though we had sufficient parking space on the recreation ground and parking marshals to direct the cars. A big thanks to all our team of helpers who had a very busy evening.

If you might be interested in helping manage the running of the Hall and events for the village, we have are looking for an additional person to join the village hall committee.

We are planning to reintroduce **Movie Nights** at the Hall this winter with wine and cheese (and of course other drinks for none wine drinkers). We would like your vote on which movie you would be most interest in coming to see...of those below ***please give us your top 3*** - responses to giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

*A. Grease
G. Elf
H. Rocky
I. The Godfather*

*F. A Bond movie
B. Gladiator
C. Top Gun
D. Zulu*

*J Get Carte
E Indiana Jones*

Regular activities in the Hall include:

Mondays at 10.30 am **Yoga & Fitness** with Yvonne

(y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, and **Thursdays** at 6:00 p.m. **Keep Fit** on with Alyce

(alycefwf@gmail.com)

Wednesday 9:30 am **Advanced Textile** on workshop with Amargeet

(amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Friday 9:30 am **Keep Fit** (focus on mobility and stretching) on with Alyce

(alycefwf@gmail.com)

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. contact

Kath Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. contact

Kath Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further details

contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

Village Hall committee 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m. For further details

contact giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at www.littlemilton.org.uk , or contact

Linda Lovegrove linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

There have been plenty of enrichment activities in school this week, developing empathy, on Monday with 'Odd Socks Day' to launch 'Anti – Bullying Week' and the theme of 'make some noise'!

Well done to everyone who remembered to wear odd socks to celebrate differences as at Little Milton Primary, we absolutely recognise that everyone is unique, and all the children fully understand that this is what makes the world a better place.

On Tuesday, we were delighted to celebrate World Diabetes Day and one of our children, who has first-hand experience of this condition, led a collective worship to further raise awareness and understanding. It was a brilliant presentation, and everyone was glad to receive their blue balloon as part of the Diabetes Blue Balloon Challenge! (The blue balloon was used because managing diabetes is like having to keep a balloon in the air whilst trying to do your daily tasks).

Wednesday morning welcomed an unusual visitor: someone from The Stone Age! Maples and Rowans enjoyed a drama workshop which taught them about this period in history through interactive activities. Everyone was fully engaged, and it was wonderful to see the expressions on the children's faces as they fully immersed themselves in the activities- they loved them!

On Thursday it was Willows Class's turn to head into the woods for Forest School. Despite the cold weather they enjoyed making weird and wonderful potions.

Finally, to conclude the week, we supported Children in Need with children wearing spots or mufti and cakes being sold to raise funds for this very worthy cause. Thank you very much to everyone for their support, and especially Mrs Austin who helped our Pupil Council to plan and run the day's events.

At the time of writing it is mid-November, however as this piece will appear in the December newsletter, we would like to wish the Little Milton community a very Merry

Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to see you at one or all of the following festive events: the seniors' Christmas Lunch at the Lamb (date tbc), our Christingle service at St James's Church, 5.30pm on 6 December and the Christmas Fayre at the Pine Lodge, 2-4.30pm on 9 December.

Best festive wishes,

Hannah and James Co-Headteachers

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In November, local shanty band, Short Drag Roger entertained us with traditional shanty songs and tales of the sea, sailors and love. Thank you to Sharon & helpers for doing the teas.

In December, Melanie Dean will be demonstrating **Christmas flower arranging** on **Thursday 14 December** at **7.30pm**. We will be raffling the finished pieces afterwards so here's your chance to win some beautiful flowers. Everyone welcome (men too) - Visitors £5 or join up for £23.

On **Thursday 11 January**, we're out for our annual **New Year dinner**, this year to **The Lamb in Chalgrove**. Let me know if you'd like to come along and I'll book your place and send you a menu to choose from.

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

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm
Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk
Kath Stacey 01844-279438 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

There were still quite a few leaves on the trees and bushes towards late November and even a knapweed in flower on the reserve! At that time the previous year we had a very cold snap, but so far this has not showed up, leading to milder weather. It appears that the Atlantic weather fronts are doing a tango with the arctic ones before they decide which direction to take, leading to unpredictable (and wet) conditions. Will we have a mild winter? We should start to see some of the winter migrants returning to strip the berries from the bushes and congregate in numbers, especially in the fields bordering the bridlepath to Great Haseley.

Last month we managed to clear some of the top path at the far end (north east corner) to make it more accessible. We will either continue this or start preparing the nearby hedge for laying by trimming back the branches that are growing towards the bridle path away from the line of the hedge and thinning out some of the growth. The next work party is schedule for Sunday 10th December from 10am until 1pm and meeting at the barn first. I also plan to do a walk round in the afternoon from 2.30pm starting at Oldfield gate. Feel free to join in.

You may have noticed that some of the arable fields have not been worked on recently. Sadly, Paul Phillips the local farmer, passed away shortly after the death of his Father, Guy. Paul would love to stop the tractor and have a long chat about wildlife he had seen

or what the plans were for fields. Like his Father he was not interested in intensive farming and worked well with BBOWT to leave very large field margins that helped plants and animals thrive. Farewell my friend.

Paul Jeffery (Tel: 278 424 Email: Paulj201@hotmail.com)

VIEW FROM VIEWS

It's been a little wet of late! We have more water standing on our fields than I can remember, don't quite understand why. I think it must be that, although we have not had much more rain than other years, but it has kept raining a little. Most crops now seem to be suffering from this continual wet, what I don't know is how much more they will stand. The wheat I told you about last month that we planted into a standing cover crop of some 18" tall, is through the ground and looking promising and, I hasten to add this is the one crop that does not seem to be suffering, it is on much drier ground. Oil Seed Rape (OSR) I fear a right off. On reflection the slug problem in the OSR may be caused by the fact that, by trying to be green we did not move the ground prior to planting, this gave the slugs a wonderful climate to breed. Lots of trash from the previous crop, plus lumps of straw left by the baler. I think this illustrates that all the great benefits of leaving everything to nature does not necessarily work under all conditions, some of the rewilding, nature friendly farming, are not always the answer, or practical, a learning curve. The jury is out nothing is plain sailing in spite of all the environmental pressure by those who do not have to pay the bill and sit in an armchair pontificating.

Periodically we are visited by a pair of Collared Doves, these birds' pair up for life, over the last month or so there have only been one, I ask the question why? The survivor does look a little down hearted. Then one day, only on one occasion, there were 3 or 4 all arguing amongst themselves, now back to only one again, so we can only speculate on his/her future/demise. Most migrating birds have now left us, including the Swifts and Swallows who I thought a little late this year, we now wait for our winter visitors to return. There are some good flocks starlings, which is heartening as they are supposed to on the decline, and many large flocks of small birds mainly tits I am informed, would really like to know what they are, I do believe that these flocks contain many different species, I would like to think these include Linnets, as I keep being asked, have you got any Linnets, to which I have to answer I haven't a clue. The great news is that we now have barns Owls in 2 parts of the farm, one seen near the village and, the other by Cuddesdon Mill, (as seen on the front of Stadhampton's Village Voice). All these being accompanied an explosion in the Partridge population, also loads of Sky Larks all over the farm. It is very gratifying to us to think that some of the conservation measures we have taken could be having an effect. To add to this Hares are once again on the increase as are the Deer.

We are led to believe that our District Council, I have no reason to doubt this, is one of the best at recycling our waste. They have a very simple system and, it is a pity the rest of the country does not do the same. It to me is ridiculous that all councils don't use the same-coloured bins for the same uses. Here in South Oxfordshire, we are told that all the green bins are sorted and recycled, and the grey bins take all non-recyclable waste which go to be incinerated, (not ideal but at least it does generate electricity). Recently the bin men left a sticker on the lid of our Green Bins stating, use this QR code to understand what can and cannot be recycled, this is all very well and good but, not all understand a QR code, I cannot see what is wrong with a simple piece of paper that can

be filed, or in our case on the kitchen notice board, for easy reference. Anything as important as this must be as simple as possible for everyone to understand.

Great news for the time being, as many by now will have heard Waterstock Golf Course has been turned down, I guess it will only be time before it is revived again, and we will have to go through the whole process again. This application was accompanied by all sorts great works that the developers were going to include as a sop for to us locals to make it look good and gender our support, like a forest school 150 sqm about the area of the penalty area of a football pitch, a creche 600 sqm not much bigger about ½ a football pitch, 120,000sqm of amenity buildings, who are they trying to impress. This just shows how developers try and show they are mitigating the impact on the area, in giving something to the community.

Recently the Aerobic digester at Cassington was hit by lightning, we learnt that this was owned by a Water Company, why does a water company own a recycling plant, nothing to do with water supply, or sewage treatment, and now we the taxpayer have to pick up the bill to make improvements to the existing infrastructure, doesn't seem right to me.

Finally I wish all readers a happy Christmas and more importantly a peaceful New Year!

Charles peers

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

This year has been particularly wet and it has certainly reduced the need to water things! With more water, the fruit bushes did well, especially raspberries. A bumper harvest of squashes too, probably the best ever for me. I wonder what next year will be like? Time to start planning, to cover the ground and smother any weeds that think they want to own the plot!

We have a few plots available now so if you are interested please contact me (paulj201@hotmail.com). I can introduce you to the site and how things work.

Happy growing and Happy Christmas!

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

ATTENTION ALL DOG WALKERS

As editor I receive comments about the lack of awareness that some dog walkers have about picking up dog poo in and around the village particularly in the BBOWT reserve. This is an ongoing challenge to keep pressing home the dangers to health and the general anti-social impact that uncollected dog poo has. Hopefully this short article will help to remind dog walkers of their responsibilities.

Editor

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

November

1st No; 50	Mrs Jeremy Mogford	£10.00
2nd No; 16	Mrs Jeremy Mogford	£8.00
3rd No; 4	The Vallance Family	£6.00

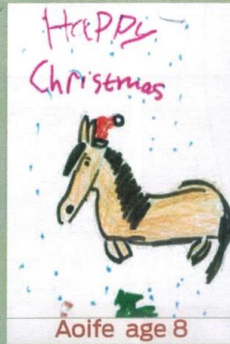
Thank you very much for buying a number or numbers for the Little Milton 200 Club, year 2023 - 2024. We have been able to allocate £288 to be paid out in prizes over the next 12 months and £288 for Little Milton School to be put towards items that are needed for the children.

Diane Austin (Organiser)

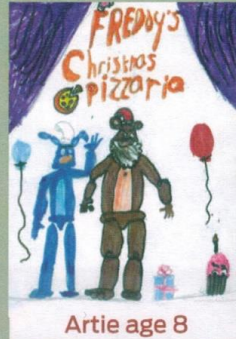
CHRISTMAS



Flo age 6



Aoife age 8



Artie age 8



Seren
age 7



Reed age 9



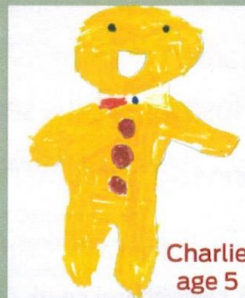
S. age 6



Omelle age 4



Oliver age 5



Charlie
age 5

ARTWORK



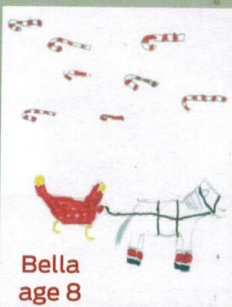
Felicity age 4



Ferdie
age 7



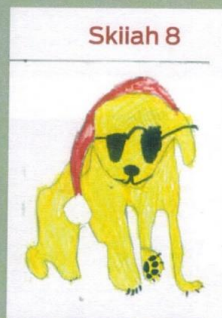
Lillie age 6



Bella
age 8



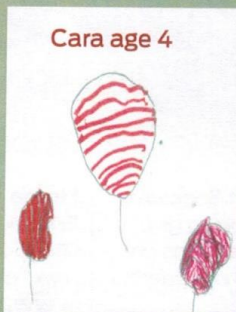
Scout age 4



Skilah 8



Theo age 8



Cara age 4



Heather age 4



**MORLAND HOUSE SURGERY, MORLAND CLOSE,
WHEATLEY, OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for
pre-booked consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of
the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by
phoning 111

**The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29
September 2023 WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN**

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you
already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not
do anything.

**If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication,
then please do so.**

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or
contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel
01865 872448 (option 3)

Flu and Covid Vaccines - All eligible patients have been offered their flu and
Covid vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then please
contact your nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find out if you are
eligible, please visit www.nhs.uk and search for "Covid Vaccination".

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of
health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit [www.morland-
house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)



Nordmann fir Christmas Trees

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**Thame &
Wheatley**

Walks Programme December 2023

- Sunday 3rd** **Meet at the windmill in Brill for a 7½ mile walk via the duck decoy.**
- Thursday 7th** **Meet in Stokenchurch for a 6 mile walk through woods and over commons.**
- Saturday 9th** **Meet in Stokenchurch for a 5½ mile walk through woodland and fields towards Spriggs Alley.**
- Tuesday 12th 10:30am** **Meet at Queens Lane Coffee Shop, Oxford, for a leisurely, gentle 2½ mile social walk around Christchurch Meadow. Coffee at the start and options for eating at the end.**
- Thursday 14th** **Meet in Wallingford Bridge, Riverside car park, for a 5 mile varied circular walk around Wallingford, including the castle gardens, ramparts and parks.**
- Saturday 16th** **Moderate 5½ mile circular walk from Stadhampton prior to the Thame & Wheatley group Christmas lunch (advanced booking required).**

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

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

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can be



John Howell MP writes

November 2023

The State Opening of Parliament marks the formal start of the parliamentary year and the Monarch's Speech sets out the government's agenda for the coming session. On 7th November the new session of Parliament was opened with a historic King's Speech. It was the first King's Speech for 70 years. The detail of the speech has been well covered in the media and there will be differing views on the Bills to be brought forward. In the Prime Minister's introduction to the King's Speech I was personally pleased to note mention of the Holocaust Memorial Bill which will progress the construction of a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London. I have been a Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for some time. The centre will provide a focal point for national remembrance and help to promote learning the lessons of the past. As Leader of the UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe I was also pleased to see the Prime Minister draw attention to the fact that he has ensured that illegal migration has been on the agenda of every international meeting that he has attended from the G7 to the Council of Europe. His attendance at the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe which was held in Reykjavik in May was very welcome.

Now to a much more local issue which is regularly raised with me, that of Royal Mail deliveries. In some specific post code areas across the constituency mail is not being delivered on a regular basis and indeed at times people have not received post for over a week. I have challenged Royal Mail on this on a number of occasions and in September met with senior staff to pursue matters further. A number of issues were explained as I set this out on my website at the time. In a recent follow up meeting I was advised that there have been some changes in senior personnel with someone specifically brought in to oversee improvements to delivery in this area. Where there are delivery problems in specific post codes Royal Mail has promised a local investigation if given the post code detail. Staff shortages remain and if anyone is interested do look online on the Royal Mail website where vacancies are advertised. It was also interesting to learn that some of the delays are with distribution via third party carriers before mail gets to Royal Mail itself for delivery. With sight of the envelope the team at Royal Mail can use the codes to track the precise journey of a letter to see where they delays are coming from. It was interesting to learn that organisations such as the NHS use these carriers which may explain why some important letters offering appointments are delayed. The situation will remain under review with Royal Mail.

If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website

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

Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

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

May I also take this opportunity to pass on my sincere thanks to the army of volunteers who give their time to help others in their communities in many different ways throughout the year. Our communities are strengthened by this generous service. Thank you all.

Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of the month (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the **January 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th December**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are publish

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age UK	01865 890879	Naheed Qureshi
Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7907	Thame & District
Church: St James	01844 278349	Revd. Simon Cronk
Doctors	01865 872448 111 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery Out of Hours Service NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 278175	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Little Milton School	01844 279310	Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Head Teachers
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	A J Woods Ltd
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180 01844 875635	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278605 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Steve Willis (Chairman) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
Police	101	Thames Valley Police (Non-emergency)
Post Office	01844 279001	Alison Shelton (Postmistress)
Public Transport	01865 323201	Comet
SODC	01235 422422	All enquiries
Southern Electric	0800 0727 282	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0800 3169 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ben & Charmain
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

For all other numbers go to website www.littlemilton.org.uk

Front Cover: Little Milton School