

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2017

Published by the Parish Council

No. 530



Parish Council Publication Scheme (*Freedom of Information Act*)

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. These records include minutes, financial information, and responses to planning consultations. Applications can be made to the Parish Clerk and documents viewed by appointment. Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

Great Milton Parish Council

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

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

Parish Council Representatives

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

Front Cover

The first flush of Spring? Photo: Paul Wakefield.

In My Opinion...

Well done to the enthusiastic team who made such a success of the litterpick – by all accounts an excellent turnout and a good pile collected!

The PC is asking again for feedback on the possible reduction of the print run for the Bulletin and ask that if you haven't already done so, please complete the form in the Bulletin and let us know if you want a printed or electronic version in the future.

The big news of the moment is the District Council's Local Plan which has been pushed back to the drawing board by a majority of local councillors who do not believe that the Chalgrove Airfield proposal is deliverable. SODC will now have to submit a revised plan with realistic alternatives to Chalgrove as a Plan B, likely to be locations closer to Oxford City, but of course we must not write off the Harrington proposal. The new plan will have to be submitted *postea* so watch this space and the local media for updates on the situation...

And don't let apathy rule!

Stephen Harrod, Chairman



Parish Council Draft Notes

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


Planning applications

No planning applications have been received since the last meeting.

The following applications have been considered by South Oxfordshire District Council:

P18/S0194/HH (Rear single storey extension. Rylands Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL). Planning permission has been granted for this application.

P17/S3337/FUL and P17/S3338/LB (dining room extension together with provision of external staircase to first floor flat and all associated works. The Bull, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NS). Planning permission has been granted for this application.

P18/S0169/FUL and P18/S0170/LB (Provision of new open fire, fire hood, chimney lining system and rebuilt stack; installation of kitchen extractor )

Key Contacts:

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council	01844 278068	
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Tim Darch (Clerk)		
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

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

Local information

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

Transport

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

system. The Bull, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NS). Planning permission has been granted for these applications.

P18/S0047/FUL (Change of use of redundant community room to a one-bed affordable older persons bungalow. Community Room Fullers Field Great Milton OX44 7PJ). Planning permission has been granted for these applications.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

Timothy Darch. Salary,Tax and Expenses. £432.27

OALC membership renewal: £144.31

Castle Water (allotments): £14.95

Oxford Green Belt Network: £15

A bank reconciliation and latest bank statement were received and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 6 March 2018 was £20,025.86.

Revisions made by the Clerk to the Council's Fixed Asset Register and Risk Management Document were considered and approved.

Requests for unspecified donations from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice and Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice were considered. It was RESOLVED to make no contribution to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice and Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice given funding pressures and there being no tangible link to Great Milton.

OCC Highways has been prompted once again to consider the proposal for installation of proposed fencing at Milton Common (opposite SVS).

The pothole/collapsed drainage pipe outside 6 Priory Bank has been revisited by OCC and now shows as 'fixed' on Fix My Street'.

Several very well-established trees on Sworford Lane have been felled, though these were not located on common land so were not a Parish Council responsibility. It is not clear why the trees have been felled.

The Clerk reported that the process of moving towards compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations which replaces the Data Protection Act from May 2018) is ongoing. A data audit will be conducted: privacy notices will be issued as appropriate, while any historical personal data held will be deleted. The Clerk will sign the Parish Council up with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

It is understood that a resident of the Pitts Green area is in discussions with a local contractor to facilitate the necessary repairs to the road surface.

It was RESOLVED to continue with paper-based distribution of the Great Milton Bulletin as now for at least another month while an assessment is made of the volume of opt-in requests received.



Following its cancellation on Saturday 3 March the litter pick has been rescheduled to Saturday 24 March starting at 1200 (previously 1000) at the Old Garage.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the telephone box for £1 and to consider options for its use (e.g installation of a defibrillator) and for local maintenance opportunities.

Councillor Fox reported that the Heads of Terms for the lease of land for a new modular classroom at the school have reached draft stage. The Parish Council is broadly happy with the agreement as drafted, and dialogue is ongoing with Oxfordshire County's Estates Surveyor and the County Solicitor to finalise the documentation.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th April 2018 starting at 7:30pm in The Pavilion, to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Neighbours Club

We had a fascinating afternoon at Club on the 15th March when Les Preston gave a talk and showed slides about "Fifty Years in Great Milton". It was wonderful to see out village scenes without a car in sight! Of course some of the old buildings have long since been demolished and new ones have been built but we were able to recognise practically all of them. He also took us through the process of the erection of the sign "The Bull" from the first delivery of the pole looking rather uninspiring but then showing us how it was aged and given many coats of varnish to give it its character that we see to-day. The beautifully painted sign is, of course, one of Les's Welsh Blacks and the frame for it was made by Zeke Moss at the Foundry in Thame and its lovely to know that its going to proudly stand in its present position for many (hundreds?) of years to come. Les also took us on a tour of the West Country visiting places that many of us remember from our holidays in years gone by. All too soon it was time to pack away the photo albums and say good-bye until our next meeting which is to be a Bring and Share Lunch on the 29th March.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - April

Thurs 12th: T.B.A - 2:15pm

Tues 17th: Outing to Braermore House and Countryside Museum
on edge of New Forest

Thurs 26th: School Games - 2:15pm

Great Milton Bulletin to Go Paperless

As many of you may be aware, Council services have come under increasing financial pressure in recent years, and the Parish Council is no exception. As a result, we have to carefully plan how the local precept (our proportion of your Council Tax) is spent, whether to increase what you pay, and which services may have to be reduced.

Over the last couple of years we have seen that one of our biggest expenditures is the village bulletin. As advertising revenue is not what it used to be, and given the fact that the bulletin is also published monthly on the village website (www.great-milton.co.uk), printing and distributing a paper copy to each household is no longer financially viable. Therefore, as of May this year the bulletin will go online only and will be available at <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/great-milton-bulletin/bulletins-2018/> .

We do however realise that there are some residents of the village who may not have access to the internet but who will still wish to receive the bulletin's information. Therefore, we will run limited print copies on an 'opt in' basis.

If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the bulletin, please could you complete the form below and either drop it off at Shepherd Cottage or the post office by 25th April 2018.

Village Bulletin paper copy Opt-in Form

I wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the
Great Milton Bulletin after 1st May 2018

Name

Address
.....
.....
.....
.....

Services in Our Benefice for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Easter Day</i>	Family Communion 11:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 8th <i>Easter 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	No service	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 15th <i>Easter 3</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd <i>Easter 4</i>		Benefice Communion 10:00am	
Sunday 29th <i>Easter 5</i>	Evening Service 6:00pm		Benefice Communion 10:00am

Services in Our Benefice for May

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 6th <i>Easter 6</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service Fields Farm Rycote Lane 11:00am


Ramblings from the Rectory

I hope readers won't mind but this reflection perhaps starts in a rather stark place. It is however some thoughts about our mortality in the light of the Easter hope.

life is a terminal condition! We will all eventually die. It is the only absolutely certain thing we can say about our lives, from the first breath we take, there will one day be a last breath. How are we to face this inevitable mortality? A very popular reading for funerals is by Canon Henry Scott, 'death is nothing at all'. I am uncomfortable with this reading; for those who have had to face grief that is simply not true, at the time death seems like everything. What many people don't know is that these words were a part of a sermon Henry Scott Holland preached about death entitled, 'The King of Terrors'. The date was May 15, 1910, The sermon was preached at St Paul's Cathedral following the death of King Edward VII.

In his sermon Henry Scott Holland begins, 'I suppose all of us hover between two ways of regarding death, which appear to be in hopeless contradiction to each other'. The first way, he says is: 'The familiar and instinctive recoil from it (death) as embodying the supreme and irrevocable disaster'. He then goes on to contrast this bleak and barren perception with another extreme, an experience that some people can have when it can seem that death is 'nothing at all'. But that well known meditation on death was written in quotation marks as a part of a 30 minute sermon which goes on to describe this as a momentary experience: 'Alas! it will pass from us. The long, horrible silence that follows when we become aware of what we have lost out of our daily intercourse by the withdrawal of the immediate presence will cut its way into our souls.'

What was Jesus' response in the face of death? We see the answer when he was called to the tomb of his friend Lazarus, four days dead. We read in John's Gospel simply 'Jesus wept', sometimes described as the shortest verse in the Bible! In this episode, Jesus fully identifies with the tragedy of death and he identifies with all the loss and grief that accompanies death. But he then demonstrates in the most dramatic way that he has power over death itself by raising Lazarus from the dead (you can read the story for yourself in John chapter 11). His biggest demonstration of his power though will occur shortly after. On the third day after his own death, his tomb will be empty. Before he summoned what must have been a very surprised Lazarus from the tomb Jesus challenged Lazarus' sister Martha by pointing to himself and saying 'I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives, and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'. This remains a challenge to us all, in the face of certainty of our own mortality and that of our loved ones, can we take a step of faith to trust in Jesus' resurrection from the dead? If so, can we believe that because of Jesus' resurrection death itself is defeated for us?

What did Henry Scott Holland believe? For him death was neither to be denied, nor was it nothing at all. There was a third part to his sermon, a hope that was based entirely upon Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Essentially what he said was that none of us can fully see what we will become, but because of Jesus' resurrection we can be assured that what comes after death is going to be far more glorious than what we have now. When Scott Holland preached his famous sermon, motivated by the death of the King, it was a call to his listeners to hold to that hope, to be changed by it, and to live their lives by it. Similarly we are invited to face our own mortality, and that of our loved ones, and yes that is a very stark reality. But Easter Sunday, and indeed every Sunday, is a declaration of a new beginning, a new hope, the hope of Jesus risen from the dead and the promise that his resurrection will be our resurrection. Before 

all else, it is essentially why I do what I do. I do not believe it to be myth or metaphor. I believe it to be true, really, actually, true. Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at the Church on Sunday 15th April at 12.00 noon.

Happy Easter.

Simon Cronk

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

April				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	Holy Communion
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	at Watlington	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Matt Stammers	
29th	7:30pm	Gt. Milton	John Rowland	Holy Communion

Great Milton Cricket Club

The club held its Presentation Night recently at The Bull with trophies being presented to the following players:

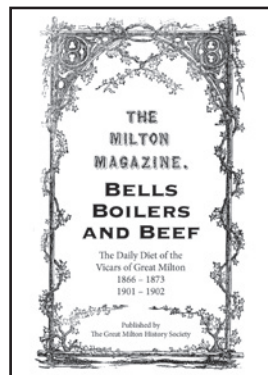
Batting	Ali Noble and Jake Barton
Bowling	Ali Noble
Most Sixes	Jake Barton
Most Catches	Paul Dennis and Bow Watts
Most Ducks	Ali Noble, Steve Webb, Jake Barton and Tim Darch
Players' Player of the Year	Ali Noble
Fielder of the Year	Jake Barton
Supporter of the Year	Ann Price

My thanks to the players for the beautiful bouquet of flowers which they presented to me. A well-attended event finished on a very pleasant note with a very tasty buffet provided by Tasha and her staff.

Ann Price, Secretary

We have a new publication! Extracts from the Parish Magazines since 1866. At that time, these 'bulletins' were written by the Vicar, representing his views and covering most aspects of village life.

This booklet is available from the History Room on Wednesday mornings, 11:00am to 1:00pm approx., or from any member of the Society at a cost of £2.00.



From the Great Milton Parish Magazine, August 1934

John Hurst died on July 9th aged 80 years.

Mr Hurst was a Great Haseley man by birth, but for many years he carried on the business of blacksmith in Great Milton. Not only by the death of Mr Hurst do we lose a respected member of the community, and a good friend of many; but also with his passing goes another link with the past – the shoeing-smith. In pre-war days the life of a shoeing-smith was a busy one, he was a very important person in an agricultural district. Now with the coming of the cheap motor engine, the decline in farming, and the glassy state of the roads, the number of shoeing-smiths is fast diminishing. They were in their heyday in an equine age that knew not the internal combustion engine. The Old Forge was pulled down a few months ago, and now its master has gone.

Great Milton Church Fete June 9th 2018

Dear Villagers

We are now planning for our annual fete, and hope you are saving the date. If you can help in any way or wish to be involved, please do let one of us know. Many helpers ensure it is more fun! We are particularly keen to hear from those of you who are willing to help run a stall, and for helpers in setting up or setting down the gazebos and stalls. The gazebos are now mainly pop up so it is easier.

Also, if you have items for the raffle or ideas for the fete in general, we would love to hear from you.

Alex Kirkman, Celina Bernstrom, Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Mary Wakefield, Rachel Hutton and Graham Orriss

The Neighbours Hall AGM

This years AGM was held on February 21st and marked the retirement of Ann Price and Derek Earl.

Ann had been secretary for 21 years and on the management committee for 60 years, an unmatched period of service. She has been hardworking, committed and unassuming; and her minutes form an invaluable social record of the changes in village life over the past few decades. We have recognised that it would be impossible to replace her and so the work she undertook will be shared by the committee as a whole.

Derek has been a conscientious and hard working caretaker for over 20 years and has coped with the varying demands of the users of the hall with equanimity and cheerful efficiency.

A small presentation was made to both and all those present drank to their continuing good health.

No progress has been made on obtaining grants and so it has been decided to decorate the hall and renovate the floor. This is underway at present.

We will continue apply for grants in the coming months and would welcome any comments about the planned refurbishment of the hall as a whole.

In future:

Bookings will be undertaken by Janet Smith 01844 278415

Minutes will be written by Hazel Hand

The key will be available at the shop in opening hours.

At other times arrangements should be made when booking the hall.

The new caretaker is Tom Gregory

Tony Jefferis



Thank You

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Hall Committee for the wonderful gifts presented to me on my recent retirement as Hall Secretary. In addition, thanks to the Chairman, Tony Jefferis, for his kind words.

Also, thanks for the many kind messages included on the 'Retirement' card which accompanied the gifts.

I found it to be a very humbling experience. My thanks again.

Ann Price

Spring

Definitions:

- an elastic device that reverts to its former shape;
- a sudden jump upwards or forwards;
- water welling up from an underground source;
- a flock of teal (ha! did YOU know that?!);
- the season after winter, before summer, from vernal equinox to summer solstice;
- when a young man's fancy turns to love...
- when the Wheatley Singers blow away the winter blues and join forces with stellar soloists to gladden an audience with sparkle and delight.

Following their triumphant début in St Mary's Thame (if you missed their incredible Brahms' Requiem, what were you thinking?!), Wheatley Singers are coming home. Favourites Shelley Cox, Ian Barratt and Steven Henderson will be joined in their solo roles by the fabulous Charlotte Elkins to perform with the choir and full orchestra in Beethoven's incredible "Mass in C". The soloists will also present their own selection of solos, duets and more, designed to uplift and enthral you. And actor Bruce Alexander will enhance the event with specially selected readings.

The concert's on Saturday April 28th at 7.30pm in St Mary's, in support of two special charities: "Gingerbread", the leading national charity for single parent families (celebrating 100 years in 2018), and "Maple Tree", a very local (slightly younger!) organisation, which supports parents and carers of children under five. So you can combine a wonderful evening with the satisfaction of making a contribution to these noble causes. Tickets (£10 - £8 in advance) available from choir members and Wheatley Library.

Great Milton Pub Company

Update on our plans for The Bull.

Hello Great Milton!

Many of you will be aware that we have exciting plans for The Bull!

As a community owned Pub it's vital that we constantly look at ways to increase the attractiveness of our pub to help keep trade healthy and to ensure it remains at the heart of the village. As a committee we have been busy behind the scenes looking at ways we can enhance The Bull, and wanted to share our plans with you.

Firstly, many will have noticed the glorious log fire has been hors du combat this Winter due to the chimney fire we had last year. Our initial plan to simply replace the chimney extraction fan was not going to be good enough so a proper fix was required. In essence this means a full rebuild of the chimney and supply of a new grate complete with all the fun and games of requiring scaffolding, listed building and planning consent! This has proven to be not only extremely time consuming but also challenging due to the very few number of suppliers happy to take on such a project in a Grade II listed, thatched Pub. None the less, we've appointed a contractor and works will start from Mid-April, just in time for Summer!... but at least we can beat off the Autumn chill when it comes around again.

Secondly, we submitted a single Planning application for some work we are considering to the main structure and layout of the Pub.

The first phase of this is to add an external decking area. For those of you familiar with the back of the Pub, there is an area bordering the car park immediately behind the kitchen and dining room which is fenced off and houses some storage sheds. Our short term plan is to move these storage sheds and convert this area into an attractive, wooden decked area for eating and drinking – this will add to the appeal of The Bull during the warmer months.

The second phase is to move the internal staircase. Many of you will be aware that the access to the upstairs accommodation is currently via a staircase located between the Snug Bar and the Dining room and our plan is to now have an external staircase located to the rear of the Pub. This will have the benefit of providing a more secure, private access to the accommodation. There will also be some minor internal reconfiguration to the upstairs area to cope with the moving of the staircase.

The approved plans show a more permanent extension to the dining area. This is something that a number of villagers have requested, and although we have planning approval, we have no immediate plans to commence this work which will be costly and will need to demonstrate a good return on investment.

We also wanted to draw your attention to the fact The Bull has been a Community Owned Asset for 5 years come this April! As a result we are planning a party to celebrate. More details to follow, but for now please mark your calendars with Sunday 6 May.

Lastly, keep an eye out for a feedback survey which we will be distributing to get your feedback, so please do respond!

Thats all for now; we look forward to seeing you in The Bull!

Old Spot – a Modern Milton Mystery

Joining in with the village litter pick always raises emotions and this latest effort was no different. I think of anger, frustration, despair and am saddened by the sheer thoughtlessness of the lobbers (or should we call them tossers) but am always curious at what we find. Trying to think what goes through the mind of litter louts is like looking into an empty void so I look for other clues as to who these people are.

How many empty cans of Red Bull there are, (the speciality of Thame Road), and the number of Coke cans and mostly full bottles of Ribena in Swarford Lane and, further afield, wonder at the mentality of the Burger King brigade using the A329. No doubt white van man could give us a clue. Several carrier bags full of some long half finished lunch showed that litter now has a six pack! Which saves us a bit of time.

However, this year's litter pick has thrown up a very interesting phenomena – the secret 'Old Spot' port drinker who has deposited no less than 20 empty 1 and 2 litre bottles in the verges of Chilworth Lane and Swarford Lane, the two roads we helped litter pick this time? There may be more lurking in the verges as we didn't cover all the road. As I found almost as many empty bottles of Listerine, my man management experience tells me we have an alcoholic in our midst! Shock horror!

Alas the Asda & Sainsbury's labels also tell me the miscreant is not patronising Pat & Chris in the shop either! (Shame).

At the end of the day I am a lot healthier after two hours in the country air, albeit with a creaking back, very satisfied with all our efforts but left with a plea to the Old Spot port bottle tosser, whoever you are,

“Take your rubbish home”.



Little Milton WI

In March, we held our AGM, followed by delicious bring and share supper. It is helpful to remember that while we are a small group, we are part of a large nationwide federation of women. In this year of #MeToo and #TimesUp, we can see clearly the power and impact of women speaking up, both for themselves and others. It therefore seemed very appropriate that our AGM was on International Women's Day. I would like to thank Chris Jeffery for her inspiring words as outgoing secretary and welcome Eleanor Summers and Anne Hawkins to the 2018/19 LMWI committee.

This month on Thursday 12th April at 7.30pm is the start of the new 2018/19 programme with a talk by Carol Turner on Tribes of the Golden Triangle. It's not too late to join in, come and try us out, visitors welcome, only £4.

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

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

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

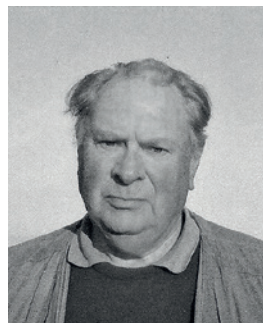
Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

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

View from Views


I hope by the time this is read the weather will have cheered up it really seems to have been a long and tedious winter, the end of February was a little unexpected although the cold will have done no harm it was a bit of a shock to the system, "March in with a Lion out with a Lamb" (we had our second of 8 Lambs the day it started typical but all well and fit now thanks to TLC at the time) as we were beginning to think about spring with the Daffodils well into bud then full stop. During this extreme weather it is fascinating to see how many different species of birds visited our garden to look for food, apart from the usual visitors we have seen Fieldfares devouring rotten apples in no time, Reed Bunting, many Long Tailed tits in ones and twos instead of the usual flocks, all disappearing when a Sparrow Hawk fly's through. One day whilst joining the M40 I saw a large flock of Lapwings (Peewits), then a few days later they



appeared on our farm, I guess they are the same flock, this is a first for a long time they have gone now but were here for several days, as these are reckoned to be on the decline this is good news as mentioned in the “River Thame Conservation Trust” Newsletter last month (<http://riverthame.org/rtct-february-2018-newsletter>)

During May the (also mentioned in their newsletter on the above web address) “River Thame conservation Trust” is doing a May blitz this is to try and identify points of possible pollution, in the form of testing water quality at various points on the river and tributaries, and being carried out by its faithful band of volunteers. If any reader is interested in getting involved in the preservation of our river please make contact as they are always looking for extra bodies. This is an organisation that is doing a lot of good work on our lovely little river and needs all the support it can get.

I have just finished reading a book by the wildlife manager of Richmond park which made very interesting reading, as they obviously have exactly the same problems as we with the public thinking that it is ok to walk anywhere without realising that this has a detrimental effect on wildlife. As for dogs the book actually illustrates why dogs mess all over the place is not only very unpleasant, but a real danger to wildlife. There is also a piece by David Attenborough who vindicates all my personal comments about overpopulation, and I quote “There are too many of us on this planet, there simply aren’t enough resources for all of us, and something simply has to be done if we want our planet to survive” so we should not be pressing ahead with things that we human beings want and consider the implications of our actions.

We now have a new “President of the National Farmers Union” the first woman to take up this office, I have heard her speak a couple of times and I would judge by what I have heard that she will support our course very well , so we look forward to some useful debate during the coming months on Brexit. It seems one of her missions is to promote British food and the quality that goes with it, I am concerned that we are finding it more and more difficult to produce this. Firstly most of the pricing for our produce is governed by the super market, although there is an adjudicator that is supposed regulate any the way they deal with us but it does not cover the processor who we actually deal with. With Brexit, as I have said many times before, we are likely to open our boards to any country we like at any price as long as it provides lower food prices to our consumer. I am not against lower prices but if we want higher standards of welfare traceability food safety and all the regulation that goes with that concept we have to pay for it. To be really sure of good farm quality it is best to purchase direct from the Farm, but unfortunately most products except for say eggs, have to be past through a processor, which is where the problem starts, no processor is interested in low volume, small local slaughter houses are closing and the bigger ones are 

not interested in low numbers, so it is becoming more and more difficult to have prime animals killed, the same goes for most other commodities. So take this to its logical conclusion so where will all the artisan food come from. The other side of this coin is that now most food processing companies are so big that no one can be sure where their products have come from, and whilst we are for ever pushing the price of food down it is only making this worse.

With the recent demise of the meat wholesaler Russel Hume, it is horrifying to read and hear what was going on behind closed doors, not only were they altering the sell by dates but also country of origin. This is being done by organisations that are insisting we adhere to the rules and at the same time put us under price pressure, it is them that are bending every rule they can get away with, and as I mention above the Grocery Code adjudication does not apply to them. When you read also of the people they were supplying, big high street names makes you wonder if you can trust what a menu or label says. Small is instantly becoming more beautiful!

The picture of the pile of rubbish we had collected is now double in size off the same area!!!

Charles Peers

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

As I write we are suffering our third snowfall of the winter. Most winters we don't really get snow at all and I can't say I miss it now I am reaching a certain age and snow becomes more than an inconvenience. Even my young grandson declared the last lot of snow simply too cold after a few days! We awoke to a couple of inches and I have been surprised by its rapid disappearance today despite the temperature remaining stubbornly below zero and there not being any sun; I have put it down to the ground being relatively warm after a few nice spring days. On Friday I noted that the temperature was 10C in the early evening and enjoyed the happy spring birdsong while thinking how sad they were going to be in the snow that was forecast for Saturday. Indeed, the temperature dropped to below zero overnight, the effect of the arrival of a cold front.

This snow has slowed down my gardening activity yet again. The clearing of old growth is almost complete and weeding and division of perennial plants were well underway this week. Once again, I have had to remove a lot of the yellow flowered *Phlomis russeliana* which is ever threatening to take over the garden. Somehow every year it seems to expand its territory without me noticing, but I enjoy its presence in

the garden and so will not get rid of it all. As a trouble-free (other than its world domination aspirations), attractive, flowering perennial, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

Prior to the snow two weeks ago, we were troubled by the sad appearance of the Italian cypresses which had splayed out due to the heavy snow in December. Fortunately, help was at hand in the form of a newspaper article by Helen Yemm which was brought to my attention by a friend, thank you, Philippa. It seems that, while they are thought to be unsuitable in the British climate, in Italy they are tightly clipped from a young age so their branches do not get too long; I had never before read that this was necessary and perhaps our success rate in this country would be improved simply by a change of management. My better half set to with his long-handled tree pruners and reduced their height and slimmed them down leaving them looking neat and tidy (the bits were spread a long way on the ground and I am still trying to collect them!); this was completed just in time and I am pleased to report that the last two lots of snow have left them untouched.

I potted up Violas in the autumn hoping for some spring flower, but the repeated snow and rain has left them looking rather sad. It seems too late to plant more so I am just hoping they will perk up with the warmer weather or it will be the compost heap for them. Next year I will wait until spring to plant them. I am pleased that the tulips are progressing well despite the poor weather and daffodils are a cheering presence throughout the bad weather along with our wild primroses which have seeded extensively; these latter bring me endless pleasure every time I see them!

It is time to think about seed sowing if you have not already done so. I love reading seed and plant catalogues and, somehow, it is just not the same looking on websites. I always seem to end up buying too many, but they get sown eventually apart from parsnip seed which have to be very fresh to get a good germination rate. I like to try something new every year and this year I have managed to buy some *Persicaria orientalis* which, despite its height and exotic appearance, is actually a hardy annual. Unfortunately, I didn't read up about its management and have discovered the seed needs a period of cold to break its dormancy so I have put the packet in the fridge and will give it a few weeks before I sow it and hope that this improves its germination rate; it would have been better to sow it in the autumn and allow winter frost to do the job.

Take some time to enjoy the spring flowers and the birds, especially if the sun shines.

Liz Moses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay • caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

Neighbours Club Outings

Braemore House and Countryside Museum, Hampshire

Tuesday 17th April 2018

Braemore is a magnificent Manor House, full of interest, completed in 1593 and has been lived in for 250 years by the Hulse family. The museum “provides a fascinating insight into the days when the village was self-sufficient”. The 900 year old church is also well worth a visit.

We will leave Great Milton around 900am and arrive at Salisbury around 11:00am for coffee, shopping and lunch, leaving at 1:30pm to drive 7 miles to Braemore House for a tour at 2:00pm. The cost will be £24.00.

If you would like to come on this outing, please contact Celia Cope URGENTLY on 279459.

The club also has an outing to the Isle of Wight, organised for Sunday 9th September but, unfortunately, the initial response has been disappointing, which means we are in danger of having to cancel the trip.

The cost of the trip will be £28. This covers the cost of the coach and the ferry. The coach will accompany us to the Isle of Wight and take us to various well-known places.

Anyone interested in joining us should please contact Ann Price on 279474.

Other Outings

Wednesday 16th May

Chedworth Roman Villa. “One of the grandest Roman villas in the country”. National Trust. Bourton-on-the-Water morning and lunch; villa in the afternoon. Cost: Villa £9.80 (NT free), Coach £15. Total £25 approx. (NT £15).

Thursday 14th June

Morning in Dorney Court. “One of England’s most beautiful Tudor Manor Houses”. Lunch and afternoon at Savill Gardens; Golden Jubilee Garden, Rose Garden, Herbaceous Borders. Tea at Queens Farm Shop. Cost: Dorney Court (including 90 min. conducted tour of house) and Savill Gardens £17, Coach £15. Total £32.

Wednesday 11th July

2-hour Boat Trip, Caversham Bridge to Beale Wildlife Park and Gardens. Lunch and afternoon at Beale Park. Cost: Boat £12, Beale Park £6, Coach £15. Total £33

Wednesday 8th August

Gloucester morning and lunch, afternoon at Barn Owl Centre for one-hour talk and one-hour interactive experience. Cost: Owls £10, Coach £15. Total £25. (Barn

Owls optional; spend whole day in Gloucester if preferred).

Wednesday 31st October

The National Arboretum, Westonbirt, Nr. Tetbury. Morning and shops at Tetbury; lunch at Tetbury W.I. Afternoon at Westonbirt; tour of the Old Arboretum; easy walking on grass and hard paths. Cost: £8, Coach £15, W.I. Lunch £8 – £10. Total £31 – £33.

Wednesday 28th November

Christmas Lights and Market, Kew Gardens (?)

60's & 70's DANCE

Saturday 12th May, Neighbours Hall

By popular demand the 60's & 70's DANCE is back. Hippy Haze band will be entertaining us and there will be a bar with wine, beer & soft drinks available. The event this year is in aid of the Neighbours Hall Renovation Project which will benefit the whole village community.

Tickets will be available in April from the shop or alternatively from me (01844 279205).

Wheatley Library

01865 875267

Dates to note:

Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 10:30am

Local author Ruth Mancini will be talking about writing her latest book "In the Blood".

In southeast London, a young mother has been accused of the unthinkable: poisoning her own child. Criminal defence lawyer Sarah Kellerman takes on the case

Balancing the case with raising her disabled five-year-old son, Sarah becomes more and more involved, overstepping professional boundaries in an attempt to uncover the truth. It's only when her own son becomes unwell that Sarah realises she's been drawn into a dangerous and deadly game.

Ruth Mancini is a criminal defence lawyer, author and freelance writer. Her previous novels include "Swimming Upstream" and "Swimming Home"

19th -26th May during library hours only:

The Friends of Wheatley Library (FOWL) art and craft group will be taking part in Oxfordshire Art Week this year.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

The Friends of Wheatley Library:

There was a wonderful talk given by Roger Simmonds about the three operas that he wrote based on stories by local authors. Nearly 50 people from near and far came and this was a real community event. Thank you Roger!

If anyone would like to support our library by joining the friends group. We meet every 2/3 months to make plans about our library such as author talks and fundraising. Please contact the library for details.

Regular FOWL events:

Morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

New: Evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

Drawing group sessions weekly during term time from 2.30-4.30

There is a small charge for refreshments

Digital Helper sessions fortnightly

A taste of our online services:

PressDisplay offers the current edition of thousands of newspapers from across the world, in their original formats. You can search for papers and stories by keyword or browse publications by language or country of publication.

Access at home with your library details or in libraries.

Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

News from The Pine Lodge

After our call for more volunteers to help us run the village hall, we are pleased to welcome Corinna Sidhu and Alison Vallance to the team. We still have vacancies on the committee, so if you would like to become more involved in Little Milton village life, please contact us for more information.

This month we have the last Quiz of the season on Saturday 28th April, WI on Thursday 12th April with a talk by Carol Turner on Tribes of the Golden Triangle, Craft Club on 3rd Wednesday of the month (18th April) Games Evenings on 4th Thursday of the month (26th April) and the regular Yoga & Fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am.

On 19th May, we welcome back the guitarist, Elliott Morris, combining elements of

folk, roots, jazz and country music. Embracing the traditional and the contemporary – this is folk music for the 21st century. Tickets available at the Village Shop and online at www.wegotickets.com/event/429202.

We're also celebrating the Royal Wedding with a Village Party on Sunday 20th May. The Parish Council are funding a pig roast with a bring & share buffet, children's activities, music and licensed bar. If you would like to contribute a salad or pudding, please contact Teresa on 01844-278922.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

John Howell MP writes...

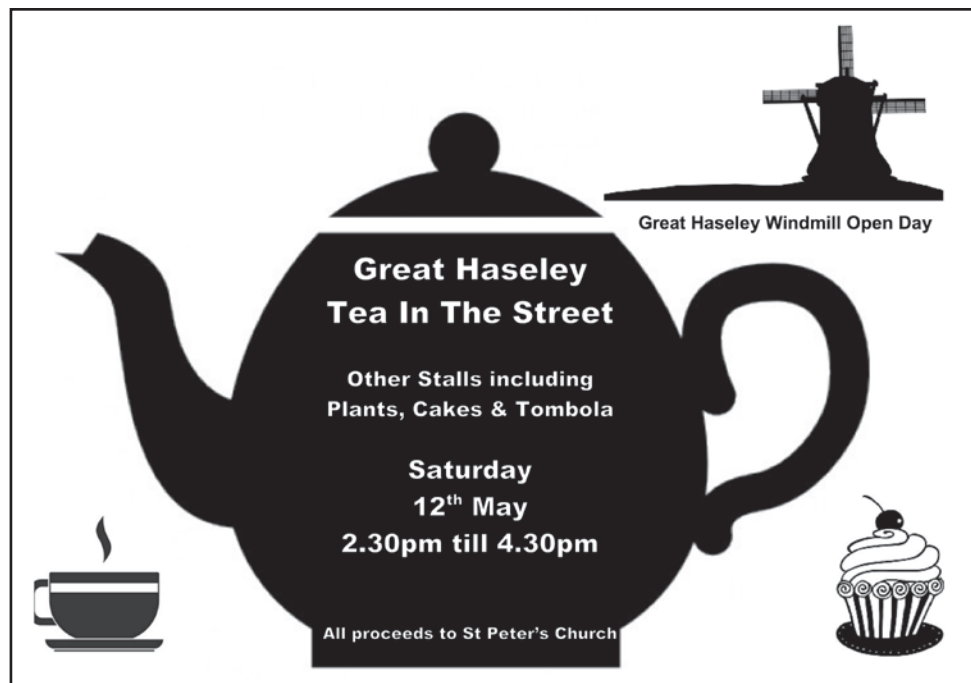
Along with all MPs I regularly receive campaign emails originated from various organisations to which supporters of the particular cause sign up and send a template email to their MP. Many of these templates are well-constructed and the emails can be helpful in giving an indication of the level of support for a particular campaign. What is too often missing with this campaign approach are the personal stories that so often give such meaning to the issues that people raise. One recent campaign has been from perhaps a relatively small group on treatment for Cystic Fibrosis. In particular I have been contacted by parents of children suffering from the condition desperate to get access to a drug which they believe could literally be life-saving for their children. The drug is Orkambi which only has limited availability in the UK but which campaigners believe there is evidence to support wider use. In order to get a better understanding I have visited families in the constituency living with the condition; visits which have been enormously helpful to me in sharing evidence in Parliament.

On the other side of the story there are some campaigns that get off the ground on the basis of fake or ill-informed news. One recent one is on the provision of school meals where some wrongly claim that there has been a huge cut in this. This is not so and it is good news that public 'fact checks' are setting the record straight. For example the Channel 4 fact check questions the claim and sets out the actual detail. It is all part of the changes to the Benefits System and I am pleased that it will enable some 50,000 more children to get free school meals compared with the former benefits plan. I am also pleased that nobody currently receiving free school meals will lose their entitlement.

Checking the facts is always important and, of course, we will never get away

from different interpretations of the same information. Whenever I am contacted by a constituent on a situation I always try to find out more before simply firing off a letter or whatever first action might be called for. It is important to hear all sides of the story and get an understanding of situations. Often when you talk to different people about the same issue the different 'angles' you get helps to provide a rounded picture - which I appreciate. This is something that I am finding particularly valuable in my 'conversations in the street'. This is a programme of just walking around different villages in the constituency and talking to those I meet on whatever issue they like to bring up. It is not a fixed programme as it is worked around where I need to be for meetings. If you see me out and about and have something you want to discuss do please stop me and have a chat. Face to face conversations are always so much more productive than the short exchanges possible on social media.

I also try to keep in touch through my electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues. If you would like to subscribe please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me please email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons.





TENNIS COACHING SUMMER TERM 2018

Once more we are delighted to let you know that Neil James is available for coaching this summer. Please see below for details:

DAY	TIME	AGE GROUP	COST	START DATE	FINISH DATE	NO CLASS (Half Term)
WED	3.30 – 4.30pm	5 – 6	£30	02/05/18	11/07/18	30/05/18
WED	4.30 – 5.30pm	7 - 9	£30	02/05/18	11/07/18	30/05/18
WED	5.30 – 6.30pm	10+	£30	02/05/18	11/07/18	30/05/18
WED	6.30 – 7.30pm	ADULT	£65	02/05/18	11/07/18	30/05/18

You **must** be a Member of the tennis club to register for a course. Please complete the relevant part of the form below or email tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com

We are a non-profit organization run by volunteers. Classes are offered subject to weather and sufficient demand. Groupings shown are provisional, final groupings worked out according to best fit. GM HSPA decision on groupings is final. Adult classes are max of 4 per class; Juniors max 8 per class. We are sorry that having attended previous courses does not guarantee you a place. Juniors must sign up for an entire course: it is not possible to pay on a pro-rata basis. Bookings will not be accepted without payment and places cannot be held. If you don't get a place, your cheque will be returned.

To reserve your place, please complete the Application Form and send with your payment (cheques payable to **Great Milton HSPA**) to Nollag McGrath, 6 Colletts Cottages, Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7NX. Queries? Please contact 01844 278663 / 07903 182668 or email tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com

TENNIS COACHING APPLICATION FORM 2018

NAME	CLASS DAY & TIME	AGE (IF < 16)	COURSE FEE
			£
			£
			£
			£
Annual Membership fee (compulsory – no lessons without membership)	Junior membership £10 per child or Adult (>18) / Family £30		£ 10 / £30 * pls circle
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CONTACT DETAILS			
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Contact Tel:			
Emergency contact:			
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A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a plaid shirt, playing an acoustic guitar. He is looking down at his hands on the strings. A microphone is visible in the upper left corner. The background is blurred.

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Photo by Ron Milsom

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Saturday 28th April 7:00pm

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Saturday 19th May 7:00pm

www.wegotickets.com/event/429202

Tickets available at LM Shop or outdoor

Details at

www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

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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.

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**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

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The role is varied and interesting. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be proficient in Word and Excel, be capable of working independently and have the ability to deal with a wide range of issues.

Previous experience in a similar role would be beneficial.

Access to transport and an internet connection (preferably high speed) are necessary.

A computer and printer will be provided if required.

For more information and application procedures, contact the present Parish Clerk by post at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, Oxford OX44 7QP, by phone 01844 279150 or by email Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Closing date for applications: 28 March 2018. Interviews week beginning 23 April 2018

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April at Waterperry

The Big Easter Bunny Hunt

24th March – 15th April

Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt around the ornamental gardens. Find the bunnies and claim your special Easter prize.

£2 per child – children must be accompanied by an adult

for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

Fritillary Weekend

14th & 15th April

See the county flower of Oxfordshire in all its native splendour as it flowers throughout April in our wildflower meadow and riverside walk.

Normal garden entrance fee applies.

**The gardens are open in aid of the National
Garden Scheme on Sunday 15th April.**

Windmill Windows

Est 1999

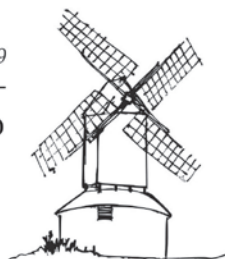
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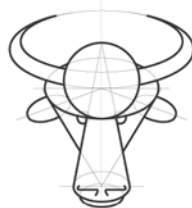
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Diary

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

April

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 12th Thur | Neighbours Club: tba | 2:15pm |
| 14th Sat | Entente Cordiale: Anglo-French Delights at St. Marys | 7:30pm |
| 15th Sun | Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St. Mary's | 12:00pm |
| 16th Mon | Parish Council and Annual Parish Meetings at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 17th Tue | Neighbours Club: Outing to Braemore House & Museum | — |
| 26th Thur | Neighbours Club: School Games | 2:15pm |

May

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 12th Sat | 60s & 70s Dance with Hippy Haze at The Neighbours Hall | — |
|----------|--|---|

June

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 9th Sat | Great Milton Church Fete in The Recreation Ground | — |
|---------|---|---|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th April 2017**.

Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.

01844 278347 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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

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