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Little Milton
Newsletter

February 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: FEBRUARY 2024

Thurs	1st	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	2nd	9.30 a.m.,	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	4th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon	5th	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	6th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	7th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	8th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI – Pine Lodge
Frid	9th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	11th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship
Mon.	12th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	13th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	14th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council– Pine Lodge
Thurs	15th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	16th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Mon	19th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	20th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	21st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Compline St James' Little <MIlton Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	22nd	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	23rd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	25th	9.00 a.m.	Communion BCP – St James'
Mon	26th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	27th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	28th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group Venue to be confirmed
Thurs	29th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
March Frid	1st	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	3rd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'

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

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2024

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

Planning

The following Discharge of Conditions application was noted:

P24/S0024/DIS - The Site of Milton House Gold Street Little Milton
Discharge of condition 7 (Drainage) on planning application P22/S1241/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide four dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access.

Finance

The draft budget for 2024-25 was discussed in detail together with key financial assumptions related to planned major projects and the projected summary of closing reserves for 2023-24 through to 2026-27.

In agreeing the budget, the Council accepted that there will be a significant reduction in the Council's Reserves. It was further agreed that careful management of major projects, from a financial point of view was important and if necessary, some projects could be deferred to 2025-26.

Resolved to approve the budget for 2024-25. The budget covers improvement to public open spaces in the village, new speed indicator devices, replacement fencing around the playground, MUGA refurbishment, improved MUGA lighting as well as the usual services provided to the village by the Parish Council.

Resolved to increase the 2024-25 Precept to £14,000, an increase of £500 on the current year.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Playground / Planning

Part of the fencing around the playground blew down during the recent storm. Cllr Wakeling will obtain quotations in wood and metal material to replace all the fencing around the playground. Cllr Harrison will obtain a quotation for recycled plastic fencing.

Communication

Cllr Horwell reported he had received several responses to the request via social media for areas of the village to be included in the Deep Clean scheduled for February.

Community

The Village Hall Committee have had initial discussions with a software developer to provide an online booking management system. It may be possible to include bookings for the MUGA.

Highways

Cllr Sheppard has written to Thames Water regarding reports of 55 releases of effluent into Haseley Brook last year but has yet to receive a reply. Cllr Sheppard has also enquired again about investigation works into effluent leaks into the school car park and possible water ingress into the sewage network from the surrounding fields.

The effluent release map for Thames Water has been checked and unfortunately the monitor for Gainsbridge Brook is not working correctly, it may be submerged by flooding. Cllr Sheppard will chase Thames Water for an answer.

A request to clear the gulleys has been made via Fix My Street. Several residents have also reported flooding issues via Fix My Street.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th January 2024, 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 – FEBRUARY2024

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
6th February	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
13th February	No	Yes	No	Yes
20th February	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
27th February	No	Yes	No	Yes

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4th February

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

Sunday 11th February

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

Wed. 14th February

7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 18th February

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

Wed. 21st February

6.00 pm	Compline	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 25th February

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

Wed. 28th February

6.00 pm	Compline	St Mary's Great Milton

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: FEBRUARY 2024

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
4th February.	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Simeon Mitchell	
11th February	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	
18th February	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
25th February	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Rosentall	

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

W/E 4th February	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 11th February	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 18th February	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 26th February	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 3rd March	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

W/E 4th February	-	Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 11th February	-	Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 18th February	-	Lent
W/E 25th February	-	Lent

The rota for next year will be available in January. If there is anyone who would like to join our small but happy group, please let me know.

Also if anyone wants to give a donation so that flowers can be put in church to remember someone on a

Teresa Quested 278922

RECTOR'S PINT

I find that January and February are possibly the hardest months of the year to get through. It is partly the post-Christmas effect. Our 2023 Christmas in all three parishes was remarkably good, and I left our Christmas Day service in Little Milton with a feeling of joy and goodwill. I was then clobbered by the inevitable bug. I was in bed at 9pm on New Year's Eve, and spent New Year's Day in a haze, having cancelled a meet up with friends. I did not face the New Year filled with great enthusiasm! I had just turned 64 a couple of days earlier, and was feeling every one of those years.

However, I write this following a rare and crisp frosty morning. The first snowdrops are showing and as I walked with Oscar past the windmill, the sun was rising over the Chilterns. To the south are The Clumps and beyond those, the foggy outline of the Downs; ancient Wessex. I was overwhelmed with gratitude, and with a reminder that moments of joy, when they come, need to be welcomed and cherished.

We are already looking forward to Lent. As usual, there will be a weekly reflective service of Compline every Wednesday at 6pm. There will also be a series of Lent Lunches, and in addition, we will be hosting a series of studies every Tuesday looking at St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. The details are included here, following The Pint. Further details of venues for all the Lent activities will follow once they are known.

On another matter entirely, I have been so struck with how divided things are now. This came to a head for me with the demonstrations around the world relaying to Gaza, and the corresponding rise in antisemitism, not least in London. In December I organised a simple and non-partisan 'vigil for peace' in St Mary's. I hope that for those who did come, they found it helpful. I am grateful to Andrew Meynell for letting me have a prayer he came across some years ago, which comes from St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. I believe it still has relevance now.

Pray not for Arab
Or Jew,
For Palestinian
Or Israeli,
But pray rather
For ourselves,
That we might not divide them
In our prayers, but keep
Them both together
In our hearts.

Simon

LENT LUNCHES

Every year we are pleased to host Lent Lunches around the Parishes. These raise much need money to support Christian Aid and they also have the added joy of bringing people together to share a convivial lunch. We do ask for donations to cover the costs and also to be able to give generously to Christian Aid. Although we are suggesting a donation of £10.00, any donation will be gratefully received.

There will be three Lunches, all beginning at 12.30pm.

- Weds 28th February, hosted by Jane Jefferis at Northland Cottage in Great Milton
- Weds 6th March, hosted by Scilla Greenall and Anne Maloney at Dellafield Cottage in Little Hadley
- Weds 13th March, hosted by Sally Anne Denis and Jane Willis at Spring Cottage Little Milton.

There is no need to book in advance, do come along.

Lent Course 2024 - The Christian Life in a Turbulent World
If you're interested in how much the historic Christian faith has to teach us about how to navigate the complexities of the 21st century, there will also be a five-week Lent course on Tuesday evenings throughout Lent. The first is on 20th February at The Rectory in Great Milton, and the others will be on 27th February and 5th, 12th and 19th March all at 7.30pm. We will be using Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, one of the earliest Christian writings to provide a framework for our discussions. Everyone is welcome, but it would though be helpful to know who will be coming, so please contact me at: simoncronk@btinternet.com 01844 278349.

Simon

OUR YEW TREE

Our village churchyard is a haven for nature, under the expert guidance of Paul Jeffrey, who also looks after our Wells Farm Nature Reserve.

A fine feature of the churchyard is the ancient yew hedge bordering the main road. At about ten-yearly intervals it does need routine maintenance.

The next maintenance is scheduled for Thursday 29th February. The work has been authorised by the church authorities and also by the SODC Forestry Officer. It will be carried out by a local firm of tree surgeons of high repute. They have previously worked on the hedge.

Afterwards, it will be very apparent that 10 years of growth had to be removed in one go, but the gardeners amongst us will know all too well that this will mean the hedge will very soon regrow and regrow strongly.

And then that should be it for another 10 years.

Roger Summers

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

Thank you to Kath for making us so welcome in January. This month we are meeting on Wednesday 28th February from 11.00 a.m. onwards. The venue is to be agreed. Please telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 if you would like to come along and join us. We'd love to see anyone new, especially if you have just moved into the village and want to meet a few locals

Sally Ann Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

Last month The Lamb and Hall hosted the Seniors New Year lunch with an excellent roast beef. At the end of which a wonderful group of children from the village school

came and sang carols. Our thanks to The Lamb and the School for a lovely way to start the year.

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 Monday 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*

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In January 17 of us went out for our annual New Year dinner to The Lamb in Chalgrove. A big thank you to Katie & team at the Lamb for the wonderful food and warm welcome. Highly recommend a visit.

Sadly, long-standing WI member Deirdre Mann passed away in December. She was a big character and will be very much missed. Love to all her family and friends.

We're back in the hall on **Thursday 8 February** for a **Mardi Gras Pancake Cook off**! Come and have a pancake party with us.
Everyone welcome, visitors £5.

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

CHILDREN'S CRAFT MORNING

MAKE YOUR OWN EASTER GARDEN ON A TRAY

ST PETER'S CHURCH, GREAT HASELEY
SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

10.00 – 12.00 (REGISTRATION FROM 9.30)
PLEASE BOOK AS SPACE IS LIMITED: TEXT OR WHATSAPP TOBY GARFITT ON 07941 164038

COST: £5, TO COVER ALL MATERIALS (LET ME KNOW IF THAT'S A PROBLEM). PAY BY CASH OR CARD, ON ARRIVAL.

THERE IS PLENTY OF PARKING, AND THE CHURCH HAS TOILET FACILITIES

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

We were delighted to welcome the children back to school last week and see them quickly engaging with their new topics and learning. We were especially pleased to meet our new children too, who settled in well and we are very proud of how welcoming and helpful the children have been towards them.

Impressive artwork has been produced, with all three classes busy creating masterpieces! Rowan class sketched polar bears as part of their 'Frozen Kingdoms' topic, Maple class sketched ammonites as part of their 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles' topic and Willows created weather motifs in 3D using objects as part of their 'Bright Lights, Big City' topic. Example of the artwork are available to view on the school website.

Rowans walked to the woods for a chilly, but rewarding, Forest School session with Elena, our Forest School Lead. They had a productive afternoon making bird feeders out of pinecones. Despite being a slightly shorter term in the academic year, the spring term always has plenty of extra activities. We have Bikeability coming in to work with children in KS2 to teach them how to be safe on the roads with their bikes. We also have our popular 'Starry Night Stories' on 24th January from 6pm - 7pm which we are very much looking forward to.

We are always delighted to engage with our local community and were thrilled to be asked to sing for the Pensioners' post-Christmas lunch at The Lamb. A group of Maples and Rowan class children performed confidently and entertained their audience with a broad repertoire including, 'We wish you a merry January'! The Friends' Burns Night and Family Ceilidh Evening at the Pine Lodge will have taken place by the time you read this. We hope that many of you were able to attend and enjoy this event.

Hannah and James Co-Headteachers

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Some pretty cold weather in January meant we needed to keep breaking the ice on the livestock water troughs but they are pretty hardy and the Hebridean sheep seemed unconcerned. With over 100 sheep on the reserve due to other sites being flooded it has been quite busy and pretty tough counting them!

Vacancy: Would you like to help. We need a volunteer "**stock watcher**" to count the animals on Sunday's and check they are ok. Training given but it is straightforward. Please contact me via the email below.

When will we see the first blossom on the blackthorn? This is the first to flower and an important source of food for the early insects. Look out for emerging bumblebee queens. The birds should become more active too with lots of territorial singing. I have counted 4 pairs of hares in the fields at least. Badgers should have given birth to young underground but it will be too early for them to surface just yet.

Last month we completed the clearance of the top path in the north east corner. As time and weather allows we will now focus on laying the hedge at the end of that path down along the bridleway towards the footbridge. Basically it is pruning on steroids! So if you would like to help, please come along or reach out to me so I can add you to the WhatsApp group.

Weather permitting, I am planning more than one work party in Feb. Current plans are **Sunday 4th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 18th**. Please contact me to confirm or check the signs. We meet by the barn at 10am (Google maps ref 51.7026524, -1.1035352, W3W pancakes.expanded.talkative) to collect tools and then head for the north east corner (GM 51.7056097, -1.0918156, W3W stop.aimlessly.warmers). Usually finish around 1pm but may carry on through the afternoon if the weather is good.

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

VIEW FROM VIEWS

For a change I won't bore anyone with a comment on the weather, I think we all know it has been wet, I have never known the river to be as high as it was on the 6th of Jan, nor have I known it to have been in flood for so long end!!

There is no question now as to what we have to do with 2/3 of our planted ground which, is a complete washout literally. Let's hope the respite in the weather in the middle of January when, I write this column continues and, we can get our planting done in good time and conditions, to let the spring planted crops flourish.

Most of our land was drained by my predecessor but, now unfortunately they are beginning to cause problems, exacerbated by the wet weather. We find that some are blocked with root fibres that can be cleared once they are found. This is a process not aided by the 60 plus years since they we laid, these are all mapped, measured in imperial, with most of the reference points either not there or in the same place. These rely on what we call Mole draining, this is done by pulling a round 3" diameter cylinder through the ground about 18-24" below the ground crossing the drains at strategic angles to create channels for water to percolate into the drains all these now need renewing, those we have already show how effective they are, this is just another job we will have to do, as well as making sure all other water courses are free running mainly ones that come from water courses from other land, the law being the lower land has to take the higher.

Sir James Dyson, of Vacuum cleaner fame, is also a very big Farmer, owns as much land if not more than the Monarchy, known as "Beeswax Farming". He is producing Strawberries 12 months of the year under glass, in a completely sustainable way, all rainwater is collected and used for irrigation, he has anaerobic digesters that provide the electricity, and all berries are picked by robot. What the produce is like is up to those who eat them but, it does illustrate what the future could hold for food production. It does take those with his resources to lead the way and, experiment. If we are to survive in the future with the increase in population and, less labour, or willingness to do these mundane jobs, then these practices will have to be developed. You could argue is this the way we should be going? But it does have some merit.

I don't know if anyone has noticed how much more Mistletoe there is in trees around lately. This parasitic growth has mainly been prevalent in apple orchards and in Herefordshire, but now appears to have spread over the whole country, particularly noticeable here along the roadside at Adwell between Wheatfield and Lewknor. I read that this is due to there being more Blackcaps now overwintering in Britain, possibly due to Climate Change (Global Warming). Apparently, these birds like Mistletoe berries but not their seeds which get wiped off on other trees, unlike Mistle Thrushes (hence the name) and Fieldfares who I guess eat the whole lot and spread the seeds in other ways. Another possible sign of Global warming we saw a couple of hares (on the 7th January), cavorting as they are known to do in March, Partridges paired up around

Christmas time, untimely early. In spite of the reports, we hear that nature in this country is depleted, I would defy anyone to come here and say that, the other day we counted at least 20 tits and others around our feeders, and whenever I walk our fields there are always flocks of unidentifiable birds flying around, I suspect Sky Larks, Buntings, Fieldfares, Starlings and, I suspect many other species. When mentioning Starlings there certainly do not seem to be so many about although, I understand plenty around the Otmoor reserve, there was a report on Faming today a few days ago where a farmer was having to erect netting around his cattle feeders because, Starlings were nicking all the best bits of the cattle food, I can remember in my student days, being responsible for a group of Barley beef animals and having the same problem. At the time this was the latest system now not accepted anymore as the beef it produced was lacking in all sorts of ways, flavour, texture and many other ethical issues.

So, with the storms we have been having, just as was predicted some 30 years ago the above habit of the Blackcap could be caused by Global Warming. So, if this is the case are we taking it seriously enough, our politicians certainly don't seem to be in spite of their rhetoric, the recent Cop conference statement may have some effect, unfortunately it hasn't so far, but let's hope. Unfortunately most of the measures we need to take will cost us all money, something we have to accept if we are to save the planet, in the past we have had our energy and, food far too cheaply, now we need to accept that it should cost us more to fill our cars, or feed ourselves and become more realistic on what spend on the necessities of life.

Our new Minister, Steve Barclay, came to Oxford for the annual Farming Conference, and as usual with Ministers, gave a paper saying, how marvellous we farmers are and, he would do all he could to support us. We have heard this record so many times before we await with bated breath. Some things sound good but, they often do but then fizzle out in delivery. All the Shadow Minister said was they would support green energy

Charles Peers

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Time to plan for the New Year and begin to prepare the ground. It is still too cold for planting except for fruit bushes. We will have our annual meeting in early March, probably Sunday 3rd in the afternoon. It would be a good time to clear your plots and help tidy up the paths between them. I will email you all to confirm dates. We have a few people wanting a plot, please let me know if you no longer want yours if you haven't already.

Oh and the badgers seem to have their name down for plot 1 and have been the most active of all the plot holders on the digging front. I suspect I might have a challenge getting them to comply with the allotment contract ☺

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

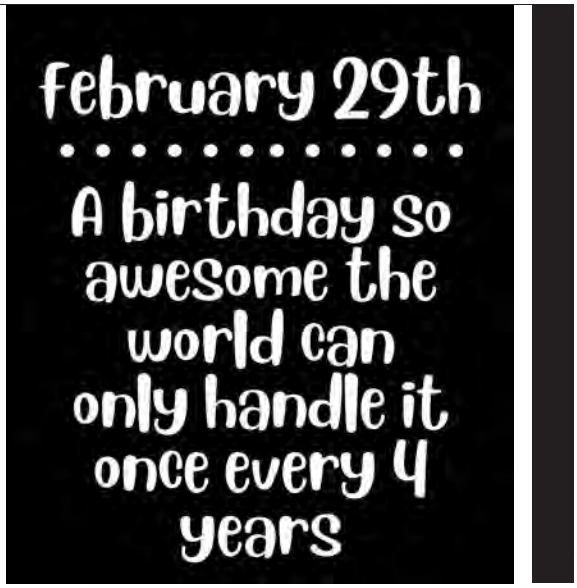
FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

January

1st	No; 13	Teresa Quested	£10.00
2nd	No; 21	Mrs Ashmore	£8.00
3rd	No; 31	Teresa Quested	£6.00

Diane Austin (Organiser)

Dear Villagers,
Thank you so much for using the clothes bank in the Pine Lodge car park. We have received £152.00 for the months of October, November and December.
Please can we ask that if you see that the bank is full, could you call the help line number on the front of the bank and the company will come out and empty it.
Many thanks
The Friends of Little Milton School



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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)

Group Consultation Clinics – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

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

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p

RAMBLERS Thame & Wheatley

Walks Programme 2024

February

Thursday 1st	**Meet at Ewelme (Cow Common car park) for an undulating 5½ mile walk via Swyncombe Church and Swyncombe Downs.**
Wednesday 7th	**Meet at Watlington, Recreation Ground car park, for a 6½ mile walk up Shirburn Hill and back down Pyrton Hill, with good views.**
Tuesday 13th	**Meet at Watlington, Recreation Ground car park, for a gentle social 2½ mile walk around the town, stopping for coffee at the Spire and Spoke.**
Friday 16th	**Meet at Towersey, near the Three Horseshoes PH, for a 5½ mile walk along the Phoenix Trail and skirting Henton & Forty Green.**
Thursday 22nd	**Meet at Holton, lay-by junction A40 and B4027, for a 5½ mile walk via Forest Hill, skirting Stanton Great Wood and through Holton Wood.**
Sunday 25th	**Meet at Watlington (Town car park on Hill Road) for an undulating 7 mile walk in the Chilterns taking in the medieval villages of Cookley Green and Swyncombe.**

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Please check the website to confirm details as programme 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 also be found on the website

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: c/o Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BE.

John Howell MP writes **January 2024**

Even before the Christmas decorations were down, or perhaps before they went up, speculation on the date of the General Election has been hotting up. It could actually be as late as January 2025, but whatever the date, the campaigning is already underway. Not just in the battle for media attention and getting messages out, but also in more subtle ways. In Parliament the increase in emails on specific issues referring to the next Party Manifesto is noticeable. In parliament the use of mechanisms to promote specific issues, such as Early Day Motions and Westminster Hall debates appears to be increasing.

Early Day Motions (EDMs) are motions that formally call for debate in the House of Commons but there is no timeline, simply at an 'early day' and few ever get debated. They are often used on behalf of campaign groups the reality, known by all involved, is that they rarely achieve anything. In any one Parliamentary session there will be well over a thousand EDMs tabled, and at an average cost of a several hundred pounds each, this is a substantial cost to the taxpayer. Given that they are ineffective, along with many colleagues on both sides of the House, I decided some time ago that I would not sign EDMs. Instead, there are many other more effective ways for an MP to raise an issue or lobby government. Whilst EDMs can only be signed by MPs we now have e-petitions which can be signed by anyone. These have much more success in raising awareness of different issues and some do get debated.

There is also a note of caution on Westminster Hall debates. I said above that I have often held a Westminster Hall debate. An MP uses a Westminster Hall debate to raise issues of concern to them. They are formal debates recorded in Hansard, but there are not votes. However, they do get a response from a Minister. So, whilst the debate is important to the MP holding it, the attendance of other MPs is neither critical nor representative of the wider support for the issue. Sometimes it is just not possible to attend.

I have already made public that it is not my intention to put myself forward as a candidate for the next General Election. I have served the Constituency since initially being elected in 2008 and have been returned to Parliament in four subsequent elections. I continue to take an interest in the views of constituents and, with the support of my team, assist those constituents wanting help. However, I am in the happy position of being able to sit light when an email tells me that the senders vote at the next General Election depends on my reply to their email. Such emails often spring from campaign groups and, whilst I will continue to reply with my view, it is really the views of the various Parliamentary Candidates for the Constituency that should be of greater interest. I will have moved on to pastures new.

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 **February 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th January.** The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are publish

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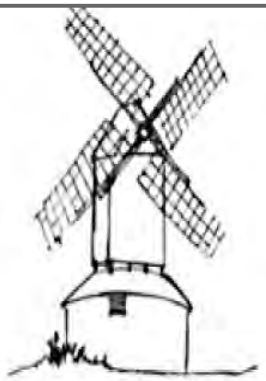

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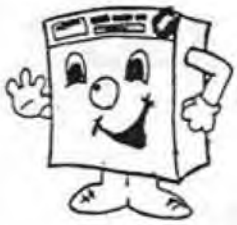

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Southern Electric	0800 0727 282	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0800 3169 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ben & Charmain
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

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

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