

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

July 2023

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Sarah Illingworth	07792 083549
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Sarah MacMahon	07580 581655
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Netherclef (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

Cover: Dave & Matt in chest waders clearing the pond up at 'Old Field'.

Photo: Yvonne Cartwright.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
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

Rarish Council News

Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday, 19th June 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs B Fox (Vice-chair), D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon, S Illingworth

In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC).

66/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs S Harrod (Chair) and P Allen. Cllr G Heritage (SODC) conveyed their apologies for their absence.

67/23 Variation of order of business

Agenda item 76/23 was spoken about before item 75/23

68/23 Declarations of members' interest

No declarations of members interest were made.

69/23 Matters to report

The County Councillor and District Councillor's reports were received, reviewed, and available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Van Mierlo highlighted the Parish town council charter that is in his report. It is about setting up better lines of communication. An engagement period will begin to go towards this charter, which he encourages the Council to engage with once it begins.

70/23 Planning applications

A: No new planning applications have been received in the period from SODC

B: To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.

P22/S2788/FUL (Brimpton Grange Access To Hotel From A40 Milton Common OX9 2JW) Erection of six detached dwellings, creation of vehicular and pedestrian access and associated infrastructure and works. (As amplified by additional energy information received 31 August 2022 and drainage information received 1 November 2022 and amended by revised site plan showing right of way received 6 January 2023 and amplified by ecological information submitted on the 23 January 2023) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

71/23 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the May meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 15th May 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

72/23 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses May: £562.72

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste May: £62.40

J M Dudley April Bulletin: £311.40

Community Heartbeat trust: £162

SODC uncontested election fee: £200

Green and Growing: £120.00

McCracken and Sons: £1092.00

Oxfordshire animal sanctuary: £100

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

Hugo Fox: web support May: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, reviewed and approved.

C The internal audit report and signed Internal Audit Certificate were received from Matthew Hale, Internal Auditor. The report raised no issues or items of concern.

D Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2 for the year ending 31st March 2023.

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

E The start of the Exercise of Public Rights period, during which the Parish Council's accounts can be freely examined, was announced. This period begins on Tuesday 20th June and concludes on Monday 31st July.

73/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- White lines are now painted along the bottom of Thame Road at the junction.
- We are still looking at suitable places for the Hornbeam tree within the Parish.

At this moment in time, OCC cannot find an appropriate alternative location. The tree will be removed if no location can be found going forward.

74/23 Security in the village

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incidents they witness or experience to the police via the 101-telephone service or online via the police.co.uk website.

75/23 Broadband in the Pavilion

To further discuss the potential of broadband in the Pavilion. Along with an update regarding the notices put up about installing an 8m light telegraph pole.

Cllr Horsley read out the following statement to the Parish Council:



Statement to the Parish Council.

In 2022, in response to alleged youth-driven vandalism, some Great Milton residents set up a Youth Club. The aim was to give kids in the village a club to try out new activities in an inclusive way. This would be a mix of sports and other activities, including 3D gaming. To do this, they needed Broadband. As such, I was approached primarily to see about funding and make some enquiries.

I (Cllr Malcolm Horsley) informally approached James Cunningham, the chair of the Rec Committee. He explained that this had been looked at before and stated that as long as it was an underground solution, it would be considered. When it was considered before it was deemed that additional telegraph poles would be unsightly

I investigated a mobile Wi-Fi (Mifi) solution. However, this is not really feasible until 5G networks arrive in the countryside (no visible plans at the moment).

Earlier in 2023, OCC Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo attended the Parish Council meeting and announced that he had a fund for community projects. I questioned whether we could use it as part of funding for an underground solution to getting Broadband in the Pavilion alongside other sources of funding. He suggested that there may be a better way.

In May, we discovered there was a 'permitted development' notice for a telegraph pole on the gate of the Rec. and the Pavilion. This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting, as we were unaware of it. I followed up with Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo. He put me in touch with the head of the Broadband programme for OCC. We had been prioritised; however, the underground message had been lost. I discussed options for co-funding the underground piece, but that would be too complicated to set in motion. His proposal was to continue to install the telegraph pole, and we could fund moving it directly with BT Openreach directly after. The benefit of this is that OCC would pay the £30-40k connection charges and three years of mega fast broadband service.

I wrote to James Cunningham explaining all of this and apologising for setting things in motion inadvertently (that was not my intention, and there had been no communication from OCC on the matter). On Tuesday, 13th June, The Rec Committee had an EGM to discuss this issue and firmly rejected the proposal. I planned to feedback to the Parish Council on Monday, 19th June and then halt the work on the assumption that we would not be able to come up with a counter-proposal. On Thursday, 15th June, BT Openreach were in the village doing some preparatory work for the installation and were informed by a member of the Rec Committee that this was not wanted.

I was informed by the head of the programme. Given that we appear to have run out of time to find a way to move this underground, and the "install it overground first

and then move it” is unpalatable to the Rec Committee, I informed the programme director that all work should be stopped. And this also respects the decision of the Rec Committee, who have significant priorities for the Recreation ground and Pavilion through 2023.

This means that we will shortly be off the programme and will not benefit from the investment. In the foreseeable future will only be able to connect the Pavilion should 5G arrive in the village. I have informed the Youth Club of the decision.

The Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee are the trustees of the charity that owns the Pavilion and the Recreation Ground. All further questions should be directed to them, and their contact details can be found on the Great Milton Website.

The Parish Council then discussed the issues regarding the installation of broadband in the Pavilion. Cllr F Van Mierlo let GMPC know that the installation scheme was currently on pause for now, but time was running out to go ahead with the scheme and informed the Parish Council that if the opportunity isn't taken now, there will not be an investment like this in the future.

Cllr Horsley was tasked with inviting the Rec Committee to meet with Parish Council to discuss further.

76/23 Grass cutting

A member of the public contacted GMPC to ask about some Lime Trees that had been cut down. GMPC spoke to their contractors for grass maintenance, and it was confirmed that they did not cut down the lime trees. Cllr Horsley will speak to local residents about this.

Some footpaths in Great Milton are becoming a bit hazardous. The landowner's responsible for keeping the footpaths clear and in good repair. Cllr Horsley will contact the landowners regarding the overgrown footpaths.

After all the items on the Agenda had been discussed, Cllr Fox raised the problem of speeding in the Village and asked what more could the Parish Council do to help reduce this problem.

Cllr Fox mentioned the device that tells people their speed and lights up either green or red to make people aware of their speed. Cllr F Van Mierlo told the Parish Council that these devices are relatively effective and can help drop speeds in areas where they are installed on average of about 3-4mph. The devices are solar-powered but would need to be maintained by the Parish Council. He informed the Parish Council that OCC would erect the SID poles at their own expense. The Cllrs asked about using some of Cllr F Van Mierlo's priority fund to help fund these devices, which he encouraged the Parish Council to apply for. The cost for the device is around £2,500, and from Cllr F Van Mierlo's priority fund, around £1,500 could be



granted towards the devices.

The Parish Clerk will apply for the Priority fund and also contact other local Parish Councils that currently use these devices to find out about how they are maintained and moved around the Parish. The Parish Clerk will also contact Jon Beale at OCC to begin the discussion about the SID poles installations.

Cllr Horsley asked about the Speed Watch programme which Cllr F Van Mierlo informed the Parish Council is a Thames Valley Police initiative, it is volunteer-run in the community. It was agreed by the Councillors that the Parish Clerk would contact TVP to enquire about the Speed Watch Programme and report back at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 17th July 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Meeting ended 20:20

**THIS IS HOW IT USED TO BE – AND COULD BE AGAIN!
COME AND SEE US AT THE TOWER.**



Benefice Services for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 9th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 16th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 23rd		Benefice Service 10:30am	Benefice Communion BCP 9:00am
Sunday 30th		Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	

Benefice Services for August

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 6th		Holy Communion 9:00am	
	Lammas Service (marking the beginning of the harvest) Pegg's Farm, Gt. Haseley 10:30am		

The Rector's Pint

This is the time of year when, if I can clear the morning fog from my brain, I really appreciate the explosion of nature on my morning dog walks, the abundant grasses, wildflowers and poppies. Entering the spirit of ‘no mow’ May, I left a significant part of our lawn unmown this year, and I’m holding my nerve (as I write, it’s the second week of June). I’m waiting to see if anything other than a straggly mess will result, and the creeping buttercup, usually the scourge of the flower bed, together with the daisies, are already a pretty sight at the bottom of the garden!

It is so easy to be pessimistic about the state of the environment, from what we have done to our rivers to the serious challenge of the destruction of the rain forests



for commercial gain, mineral extraction, and intensive farming. This is a catastrophe, and unless checked will have dire consequences. But nature has a way of filling a gap and regenerating itself, when left to do so, and in a small way we have a resource available to us that is evidence of that. I'm talking about churchyards.

Our churchyards have parts which are well-tended but also parts which have been left largely uncut, and I have delighted in the grasses and wildflowers that have resulted. In Great Milton there is a whole area filled with Oxeye daisies. I don't know if there has been a helping hand in this, or whether they have naturally seeded themselves, but they are wonderful.

I had this in mind when I opened the weekly email from the Diocese and read that, in March, the Diocesan Synod voted to begin embracing floral sustainability in all its 800+ churches. I am glad that we seem to be beginning to do that. When the Bishop of Dorchester, Gavin Collins, came to consecrate the new part of the Churchyard in Great Haseley in April, I was asked to provide some prayers. I provided three. The first was a prayer of hope we have in Christ, the second a prayer for those who mourn their loved ones in the Churchyard and the third, is a prayer from TEAR Fund which I slightly adapted and called a prayer for the wildlife of the Churchyard.

Creator God, we acknowledge that as your handiwork, we stand alongside all that you have made. Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys, soaring birds and scuttling creatures, all are held within your care. May we grow in our love and appreciation for the fabulous variety around us; and in this place may our awe and wonder draw us closer to the natural world, and through it to you, the God of all things. Amen.

I am so grateful for all those who tend our churchyards, and also for the vision they have to leave some parts untouched.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

July 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
2nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
9th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
16th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
23rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
30th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	

Christian Aid 2023

Another successful Christian Aid week total was again raised this year by the three villages in the Benefice...

A total of £2,524.16 made up of:

Five Lent lunches £731.00

House-to-house collections £1,678.16

Church Collection £115.00

£2,524.16

£878.61 was Gift Aided so the above includes and extra £219.66.

THANK YOU everyone... Lent lunch Hosts, Collectors, Deliverers and above all for each of you who gave money this year. THANKYOU.

S.A. Dennis

Update from the Churchwardens

Thank you for supporting the Church Fete in so many ways. We should have just over £6,000 to go towards the maintenance of our church. As well as the day to day maintenance, we pay £22,000 as our contribution towards the total diocesan share. This is a lot of money to find from a dwindling congregation so the Church Fete is key to St Mary's survival.

Alongside this, we have been working hard to raise funds to develop our church so that it can be used more flexibly and better meet people's needs. This includes building a small kitchen and WC facilities. The Dormer Monument is in urgent need of conserving too. We have recently gained £43K from grants (100% success rate) towards this conservation. We hope to be able to do this this year. We plan to keep the Monument in its current position under the tower. This will then allow us to move more quickly in developing the kitchen/ WC facilities as they will no longer be dependent on moving the Dormer Monument. This revised plan follows from the feedback we received at our Open Day last November. We will share it once we have the new drawings.

We hope to conserve the Monument this year and have approval for our new developments later in the year. We will keep you posted! As well as applying for grants, we will continue to build on our fundraising talks which provide an opportunity to update you as well as raising money.

Clare and Trudy



Lovely to see so many old and new friends at the Fete. GMHistory had a really big space and could answer most queries. This is a good opportunity to mention that we have to move in October, so if anyone wants to locate a relative or ancestor, or any other question, pop in on a Wednesday between 10:30 and 12:00 while we are still there! We will keep you up to date with our move – where or when!! All the records, publications, booklets, etc will be with us – so an interesting time ahead!!

The Well on the Green

This well was an original source of water for the centre of the Village and as many of you can see, is now in poor repair. GMH has some funds available and we want to restore the well so it can rightly become an attractive feature of the Village Green.

We are looking for someone to take on the task. We have photos and details of the original structure to use as a guide.

Should you be interested in helping with this project, please contact Ian Melton (01844 279489) for any further details.

GMH

Appreciation of British Gardens

An Illustrated Presentation by Fred Cabbage

With grateful thanks to Fred for his really enjoyable and interesting talk that took place on Sunday 11th June at the Neighbours Hall. His talk and lovely photos featured many of the wonderful gardens we are so lucky to have in this country.

Fred has visited over 100 British garden attractions, many through his work in the tourist industry, and he was able to give the audience fascinating insights and anecdotes inspiring us to visit some of his favourites.

The talk featured attractions such as Alnwick, Sissinghurst and Tatton Park as well as less well-known gardens such as Leonardslee and Exbury, and some background on Highgrove too.

Hopefully we can persuade Fred to do another presentation in the future, next time on Overseas Gardens.

Tea and cake was enjoyed by all and donations to St Mary's new kitchen and toilet were gratefully received.

Great Milton Church Fete

As ever, thank you all so much for helping and or supporting our fete.

The scores are almost in... We have provisional figures and it looks as though we have made £6000. This is made up of £6600 in takings, £500 in sponsorship and costs of about £1000. This is a brilliant total

We are extremely grateful to those of you who sponsored the fete, donated items to sell or for the raffle, Hollands Farm who advertised the event and provided burgers, to Cornfields Bakery for scones and rolls, and to the village shop who advertised, organised floats and helped count the money.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, teas, bbq, drinks and to the games organisers, Thank you also to those who displayed their amazing vehicles. These really added to the scene. Thanks also to the Scouts who brought their brilliant climbing wall and to the people who brought the hot air balloon, it was a shame the weather wasn't right.

A HUGE thanks go to the four men who collected and returned the furniture/infrastructure and to the helpers who helped set up in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; also to the various friends who lent us the equipment, to the friend who put up and then took down the notice-board and to the friend who provided the straw bales. Also the friends who helped collect, return and set up the loudspeaker systems.

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

We hope you all enjoyed the entertainment at The Bull in the evening, which rounded off the day perfect, great bands, food and drinks. Thanks to all who organised and participated.

If you have any ideas for next year and/want to get involved please get in touch AlexLKirkman@gmail.com

And finally, thanks to the wonderful committee who makes all of this possible :)

Church Fete Accessories Stall

A big thank to everyone who either donated or bought any Accessories at the Fete this year. We had an amazing assortment of items & raised £310:50. The remainder of items went to Sobell House Charity who were very happy to receive them.

Thank you again - Vonnice, Dee & Barbara.





Photos: Clare Blakeway-Phillips

Church Fete Raffle Prizewinners

1. Le Manoir: Dinner for 2	447	S. Michaels c/o Mike Block
2. 3 Course Sunday Lunch for 2 at The Lamb, Little Milton	1110	Malcolm Horsley
3. Portrait Photo session with Nick Belcher	396	Clare & Bill Fox
4. Bottle of Bollinger Champagne	134	Lynne Cubbage
5. Food Hamper	61	Jo Bacon c/o M. Rogers
6. Roald Dahl Museum & Story Centre	177	Perry c/o Clare B.P.
7. Waterperry Gardens Voucher	1217	James Roach
8. Sandy Lane Farm: Organic Veg Voucher	1415	Jenny
9. Spark Yoga Voucher	398	Clare & Bill Fox
10. Bosch Tassimo Coffee Maker	1473	Sue Rowell
11. Monkey Puzzle Café: Voucher for 2	405	Fizzy Kemp
12. Framed Cross Stitch Picture	1774	Chris Montgomery
13. Asda Pasta Bowl with Matching Mugs	1207	Caroline
14. Wheatley Farm Shop: Flower Basket	1405	Irene Burtenshaw
15. Plant in a Planter	270	Ant Reeve
16. Fruit Basket	1278	Nick Acaster

Thank You for Your Support.

Days Out with The Neighbours' Club

The recent river trip on the Thames at Henley was very hot and sunny (and had a full complement of passengers!). On September the 6th the Club goes to Warwickshire. First stop is the British Motor Museum at Gaydon (north of Banbury). Walk along the Time Road, a century of motoring history beginning in 1896 and experience how motoring has changed: the roads, the cars and even the fashions. Discover when Cat's Eyes were first introduced, when the first driving test was taken and where the first motorway was built. See the world's largest collection of historic cars, including several with royal associations. There are film and TV cars. 'Making British Cars' tells the tale of the changing times and fortunes of the motor industry in Britain plus so much more.

If the Museum doesn't hold any interest, the coach is continuing onto Warwick for about a two and a half hour's visit. The centre is relatively compact but it has the fascinating Market Hall Museum (which is small, free, and has excellent accessibility

over two floors), Collegiate Church of St Mary's (one of the largest churches in Britain) plus the Masters' Garden and several other places of interest to explore in your own time.

On the return journey everyone will have the chance for a shop or cup of tea at the Blue Diamond Garden Centre at Bicester.

The trip cost is £30 to include the entry to the Motor Museum or just £20 for those who opt to only travel to Warwick.

The Great Milton Neighbours' Club extends an invitation to anyone over the age of 55 to join them in any one of their specially arranged day visits in 2023.

For further details please email fred.cubbage@btinternet.com or 'phone 01844 279683 (please leave message in no immediate answer). The Club welcomes any eligible person in the area to have the same opportunity to experience a different day's visit (and, at the same time, help the trip's viability). Plastows Coaches of Wheatley used for all trips and there are several local pick-up points. Priority booking to Club members but all other expressions of interest to be lodged as soon as possible.

Welcome to the second School Governors' News Bites

Year 6

The Y6 residential last month was a huge success. The 5 glorious days of sunshine on the river at Longridge in Marlow were very Kenneth Grahame. It included challenge activities which pushed pupils out of their comfort zone and got them to improve their teamwork skills. Many of these 23 pupils in Y6 will go to Secondary School in the Autumn a more confident version of themselves. They have one more trip before the end of term - to Science Oxford. Details of that along with the other end of year trips and Sports Day will be in the August bulletin.

Music

All year groups had a lovely time at The Afghan Songbook Workshop when the Afghan children (& some parents) were able to teach their British friends (including staff & some governors) songs from their homeland and celebrate their culture openly. The subsequent concert at The Sheldonian was a sell-out success, reviewed by one audience member as "Breathtaking, stimulating, innovative". Afghanistan's silenced musicians found a new sage.



Twitter

Follow our school on Twitter @GMiltonOwls where you will also find updates about the FOGMS MidSummer Party, 15 July in Tiddington Village Hall.

Numbers & Governors

There are 171 pupils on the school roll, 10 teachers spread across 7 classes and 10 Governors (4 from this village). We bring a depth of knowledge to the school & act as critical friends. We support as well as challenge the school to improve, ensuring the pupils get a quality educational experience. We hold the school to account ensuring it is sustainable for the future. Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3,500 governors like us striving to improve outcomes for the children in its schools. Governors form one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor who has links to the Church. Please email chair@gmilton.org if you are interested.



Freecycle

Great Milton Freecycle has been successfully running since 2012. We run four Freecycle Live events a year with the aim of reducing waste by providing a means for local residents to bring items they no longer need and take items left by others. We keep a record of the weight of all the items taken and those we recycle or Freecycle after the event to demonstrate the reduction in waste.

Last year 1,023.98kg of unwanted items were taken away at our four events and we also recycled or Freecycled 401.3 kg of items left after the events. This is a significant increase from other years and we are extremely proud of this.

Future Freecycle Live events

We have two more events planned for this year:

Saturday 22 July - 10.00am to 11.30am

Saturday 14 October - 10.00am to 11.30am

Once again they will be in the Pavilion, Great Milton Recreation Ground and Wheatley Scouts will be back to run a pop up cafe in July.

We accept the following items at our events

- Clean clothes, shoes, bags and accessories
- Electrical items - we now offer PET testing for all electrical items
- Books/DVDs
- Toys
- Clean and unbroken 'other' items e.g Household items, sports equipment, baby and childrens items

We cannot accept:

- Building or DIY materials
- Large items of furniture
- Liquids
- Knives

Please remember that drop off of items at the Live events is 9.30am to 10.15am. We cannot accept items bought after this time unfortunately and we do enforce this.

Facebook

We also maintain an active Facebook group, currently with 285 members. This provides a space to advertise our Live events, share ideas on reducing waste as well as an opportunity for our members to freecycle items outside of our events. Even those that we cannot except at the Live events!

Please use this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1893675294248295/?ref=s> here to find us on Facebook.



Volunteers

We are looking for new volunteers to help out at our events. The last few Live events have been very busy and we have struggled to keep up with items being left for the Freecycle. Even if you can only give an hour of your time at our events, we would love to hear from you. We are a very friendly, small group of three! Please get in touch via Facebook or by email: greatmiltonfreecycle@gmail.com.

Thank you

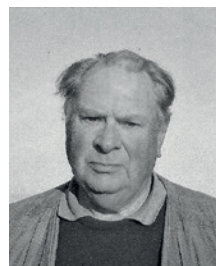
We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council and the Sheppard Trust for their funding and grants. Thanks to this we have been able to pay for the venue hire, our insurance, the PET testing kit and training for one of our volunteers to do the PET testing. Simply, without this funding we would not be able to continue. Thank you also to all our volunteers without whom it would also not be possible to run our events.

We look forward to Freecycling with you over the next year.

View from Views

Already it is midsummer once again we ask ourselves where has the year gone, I guess you could say that it was not until the end of May that the weather took any notice of the date. This was illustrated by the lateness of tree blossom at least 2 weeks, by now most birds will have fledged, I noticed the other day a couple of Sparrows making sure for the second time this year that, their species did not die out. It would not surprise me if many of the first broods would have suffered in the violent rain storms we had mid-May, so perhaps many more will be at it again, or will have been by the time you read this. One part of nature that seems more prevalent this year is the Ermine Moth, noticeable by the protective web it spins for its caterpillars as a deterrent to predators, mainly found on Spindle trees/bushes it will strip all the leaves but as far as I can remember these all recover over the summer, they already seem to be on the move and you can see the green shoots appearing, by the time you read this I guess most bushes will have recovered, or be well on their way.

Welcome rain on the 10th June, I recorded 14mm, unfortunately being as heavy as it was some of our best Barley is now residing on the floor, it actually looks worse after the light rain 3mm the following day, hopefully we can recover most of it. After practically a month of dry weather this is heaven sent and will help the harvest no end. At the same time the first Lupins flowers appeared, which this year are a much better-



looking crop, practically covering the ground, as most things were in our favour at time of planting, allowing us to plant earlier with a better seed bed, so they got off to a good start. Having said that we have some issues with the evenness of planting, leaving areas with poor germination, a problem I think we have now overcome. We have been warned that Lupins are very vulnerable to pigeon damage, last year that was not a problem as the crop was so thin the birds probably thought it is not worth the effort of landing and taking off. This year however, we have had many guns shooting many birds but, as yet, I have not seen any damage, save one small area, that I can attribute to bird damage, very strange.

I am concerned that these violent storms about a month apart, just as some 1st & 2nd fledging would be about to take place will have affected many young birds but, have no evidence of any shortage of young birds, it must have made some difference to the numbers. Also, 14mm and the river is still within (as I write fingers crossed) it's banks.

We are forever being made aware of the lack certain foods on retail shelves, hardly the case for the small village, and Farm shops, who are prepared to pay a realistic price for their goods, if our producers do not get enough for their produce have decided not to plant, nothing to do with weather conditions in northern Africa. The Dam in Ukraine will of course now have a knock-on effect, with the unfortunate fact that food prices will have to rise. This will add to the difficulties for those on a low income. The government are talking of capping the price of some foods to help those with problems, I feel this is the wrong way to attack this problem, we should let all prices be at a sustainable level for all in the food chain, with other measures in place to help those with problems. Sometimes this could be just a matter of education which is now not I believe part of the curriculum, as a population we need to be taught the value of good nutritious food and economical ways to process/cook it. This suggested capping adds to some of the conundrums we have to face but, it does follow a high level meeting our leaders had with the PM where, he practically gave Agriculture his undeniable help and support. This was followed by a long text to all farmers saying, what wonderful people we are, looking after the food supplies to the nation. Now on top of this are the thinking of a cap but also relax legislation on livestock worrying by domestic dogs. To add to this it is suggested that supermarkets be charged for the disposal of plastic wrappings etc, this will of course have to be passed on to everyone in the food chain. There is nothing wrong with plastic as such it is that we humans seem incapable of disposing of it properly which, actually is not that difficult. Plastic is a very useful medium, without which we would be the poorer, it is just that we are incapable of disposing of it or, paying for it to be disposed of, waste is the responsibility of all of

us, it is one of those things we feel we should not have to pay for, we must, we should, and the sooner we start to pay the real value of things the better!

On top of all the above those of us that have taken the decision not to plough anymore, as this one way to lessen our carbon foot print, find we are facing another problem. Now we find we are beginning to be infested with another grass weed to combat “Sterile Brome”, which those of us that tried it in the 70’s will remember came up against and dropped the idea, this is just another hurdle we will have to jump, somehow without chemical aids, I would suggest.

Charles Peers

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In June, Janine Kilroe told us all about her job in the prison service, with some scary and fascinating stories about the dangerous men she encountered. A very entertaining speaker who took no prisoners! She offers talks and her fine art photography for sale at www.janinekilroe.com.

We also went on the first of our day trips, to National Trust house, Nuffield Place and then on for lunch at The Maker Space. Our next one is to Reading Museum to see Britain’s Bayeux tapestry on Wednesday 19 July. Everyone welcome if you’d like to come along.

At our next meeting on Thursday 13 July at 730pm, we are going on a walking tour to find out What’s on our doorstep at BBOWT’s Wells Farm reserve with Paul Jeffery. Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or become a member for £34.50.

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.
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John Howell MP writes...

In a month when the temperatures are rising, and many people are getting out and about more to enjoy the countryside it is good to see some recent announcements that will benefit the countryside and also support our farmers. Of course, this is not to suggest that these issues are of concern all year around!

In the middle of May the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced new funding for farmers and landowners to support projects to create new habitats for wildlife, help protected sites and boost efforts to reach net zero. It builds on the success of the first round of the scheme announced last year and will help with work to protect and enhance landscapes. It will deliver environmental benefits while also supporting farmers. Natural England and the Environment Agency will take the lead on the work and will select specific projects based on a number of criteria such as their environmental and social impact and, for the first time, there will be a food production criterion. This is important as it will be

used to ensure that projects take food production into consideration and mitigate any negative impacts on this where possible.

Also announced last month was a commitment to protect the interests of our farmers in future trade deals. I know that this has been a concern within the constituency and am delighted that the Prime Ministers has brought together representatives from the whole food supply chain for the 'UK Farm to Fork Summit.' This will include representations from the UK's farming, horticulture and agri-food sectors and is welcomed by the NFU.

Then at the beginning of this month DEFRA launched another initiative with the publication of 'Unleashing Rural Opportunity.' This is a policy paper setting out plans to grow the rural economy and communities. It involves some key planning proposals which will involve consultation in the near future. Details of this are yet to be published. I hope that anyone with an interest in the growth of our rural communities will take an interest in this paper which can be found on the GOV.UK website by searching the title of the document.

Perhaps with a focus on the rural economy it is worth also mentioning the Procurement Bill which has its final reading in the House in this week that I write. The Bill was introduced last year and, among other things, seeks to bring forward more effective Government procurement and to help smaller businesses (SMEs) win a greater share of government expenditure. I know from correspondence with constituents in business that some of the former complexities of the government procurement process has effectively ruled them out. I am pleased that this has been worked on to create easier access. If the Bill is passed there will be a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the particular barriers facing SMEs throughout the procurement lifecycle, and to consider what can be done to overcome them. During the course of the progress of this Bill through parliament there have been some concerns on issues such as national security. However I believe that these have been dealt with at different stages. Although it takes some time to get a Bill through parliamentary process, one of the merits of the staged progress is that there is time for issues and concerns to be raised and for amendments to the original Bill to be made before it is passed into law.

There is always much going on in parliament, if there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.

Cost of Living Support

If you're struggling with money because of the cost-of-living crisis, there are two events coming up that could help. We'll be joining BBC Radio Oxford at their events at Abingdon marketplace on Monday 10 July and outside Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Wednesday 2 August from 10am – 1pm.

There will be lots of information and advice on what help there is for people struggling to make ends meet at the moment. Everyone is welcome and in the meantime there's lots of information on cost-of-living help on our websites.

Ukrainian housing officer Olha helps others find their feet

Olha arrived in Oxfordshire under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in May 2022, and now works as part of our Ukraine Support, dedicated to supporting guests to find accommodation. In support of refugee week, Olha shared her experience of arriving in the UK, finding work and accommodation and settling in her family to life in the UK. You can read her story on our website.

We want residents to have their say on our Air Quality Action Plan

We launched the survey on the council's new joint Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to coincide with Clean Air Day (15 June). The AQAP sets out proposals for the next four years to improve air quality in the districts. This includes the good news that most places have seen a consistent reduction in one of the main measured pollutants: nitrogen dioxide

Wallingford, Watlington and Abingdon have seen the levels of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide fall below the national objective level over the past three to five years so it is "proposed they will no longer be designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the future. Air quality monitoring will continue at those places.

What's on at The Beacon

For many the summer season is just starting but Summer at The Beacon is coming to a close and we'll soon be launching our new Autumn season of classes and shows (watch this space for more news on the launch!)

In the meantime, there's still plenty coming up over the next few weeks to entertain people of all ages.

Arts Hub Wantage will be presenting opera on screen: La Traviata on Friday 30 June at 7.30pm, Three Choirs, One Love have two performances on Saturday 1 July showcasing where three local choirs come together for the first time and Comedy Club 4 Kids will be heading to the stage on 22 July with fun for all the family, it's just like a normal comedy club but without any rude bits.



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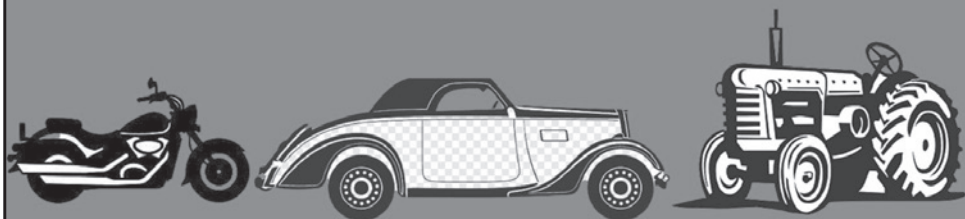
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Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details

www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/

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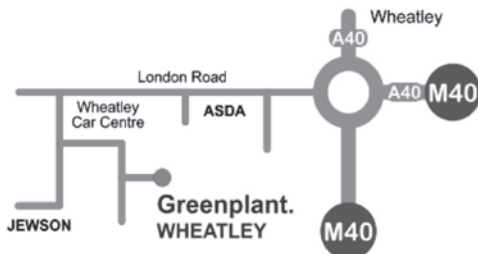
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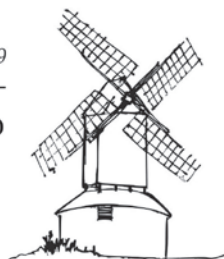
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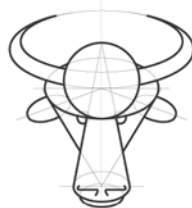
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Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
 GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm
or by appointment
 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 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 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

July

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| 9th Sun | Adwell Vintage Vehicle Show at Adwell House, near Thame | 12:00pm |
| 15th Sat | GM School: FOGMS Summer Party | — |
| 17th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 19th Wed | Sheppard Trust Meeting | — |
| 21st Fri | GM School: Summer Term Ends | — |
| 22nd Sat | Freecycle Live at The Pavilion | 10:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th July 2023**.

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

Adverts to **Chris Ashworth** 07450 238474.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.

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