

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2021

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Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

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

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Vacant	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 279242
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:	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: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: From the Great Milton History archive: Maypole Dancing, Great Milton Flower Show 1908 in the grounds of the Manor House. Photograph probably taken by Alfred Herbert Burrows and revived by Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. John Anderson	01235 529563	
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	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
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

Draft Parish Notes – May 2021

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held virtually via video conference on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Deacon and G Bennet. Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance.

After a unanimous vote Councillor Steve Harrod was elected unopposed as Chair of Great Milton Parish Council for the coming year, and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

After a unanimous vote Councillor Bill Fox was elected unopposed as Vice-Chair of Great Milton Parish Council for the coming year, and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The memberships of the various committees and other bodies affiliated to the Parish Council were reviewed and any changes noted. There were no comments or issues raised.

Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held virtually via video conference on Wednesday 5th May 2021 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Deacon and G Bennet. Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance.

Business was conducted in the order determined by the agenda. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

No reports or updates were provided by the County Councillor, and no correspondence had been received since the previous meeting.

Planning Applications

P21/S1059/LB (The Priory Church Road Great Milton). Amendments. To note that given the largely indoor nature of the proposed works, the relatively minor

amendments and the lack of any issues from previous local consultation, the Parish Council has advised the case officer that it has no issues with the proposals.

P21/S0903/HH and P21/S0904/LB (The Old Stores The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT). Proposed alterations to the existing rear extension, the intended proposed works are: a new side dormer window to the rear extension together with first floor bathroom wall replacement and refurbishment to first floor bathrooms and a new rear roof light to the main roof. Replacement of non-original side and rear casement windows and doors. Permission has been GRANTED for the development proposal described above.

P21/S0482/FUL (Lynday Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7NY). Change of use of existing dining room to a hair salon. Permission has been GRANTED for the development proposal described above.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 26th April 2021 and the previous Annual Parish Meeting in April 2019 were reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised, to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to this meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £508.85

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production May. £tbc

Website hosting (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

SODC Litter picking equipment. £191.78

Came and Company. Parish Council insurance 2021-22. £347.05

Scoop Dotty Dog (dog bin emptying April). £80.40

McCracken and Son. April mowing. £402

Refund to Cllr Allen for gift purchase for former councillor Peter Fewell. £32.50

Web domain renewal (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.18.

It was not possible to review the latest bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement as the required information was not available at the time of the meeting. These actions will be deferred to the June meeting.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

- OCC Highways officer Jon Beale has now conducted a site assessment with a view to compiling a package of measures which will hopefully alleviate the issue with speeding vehicles on London Road in Milton Common. The Parish Council is awaiting his suggestions and will keep residents informed of progress.

- The Parish Council has taken delivery of some litter-picking equipment. There are five sets of tongs/hi-vis jackets/bag hoops in adult sizes, and two in child sizes. 

Any volunteers for ‘ad-hoc’ picks would be welcomed. Those wishing to make use of the equipment should contact the Clerk. It is expected that the annual SODC-organized event will take place in the next few months, and details will be publicised when known.

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm.

Due to the conclusion on 7th May of the regulations which allow virtual meetings and the anticipated removal of all restrictions on indoor gatherings, the next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held ‘in person’ at the Pavilion on Monday 21st June 2021 starting at 7.30pm. Covid-safe conditions will be ensured.

Tim Darch – Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Benefice Services June

	Live Service	Virtual Zoom Service 11:00am
Sunday 6th <i>Trinity 1</i>	St. Mary's Holy Communion – 9:00am	Morning Prayer 11:00am
Sunday 13th <i>Trinity 2</i>	St. Peter's Holy Communion – 9:00am	Morning Prayer 11:00am
Sunday 20th <i>Trinity 3</i>	St. James's Holy Communion – 9:00am	Morning Prayer 11:00am
Sunday 27th <i>Trinity 4</i>	St. Peter's Benefice Morning Prayer – 9:00am	No Zoom Service

Rector's Pint

I love wild places; I am not alone in this of course.

Eleven years ago, I was privileged to take a three-month sabbatical, a time of refreshment and recovery after many years of sustained ministry. I couldn't believe what I managed to pull off; a spiritual tour of England, Wales and Scotland, and all on a newly-bought, but very second-hand motorbike, after I had taken a break from biking for a few years.

Apart from my time alone, I visited Christian communities; a bikers' church in Swansea and a monastery in Southern Scotland. I spent time with an Orthodox Priest I know in Lincolnshire who has converted his garage into an Orthodox church!

I called the whole thing 'Revved up Britain'! Looking back, I see I headed to wilder

places, North Devon, the North Norfolk coast, South Wales, and Anglesey, and the whole thing was crowned with a trip to Northumbria and into Scotland, through the Cairngorms, and up to Torricon. The trip ended with a visit to Mull and across to Iona before the long ride home, over three days, to a very tame Buckinghamshire! There is so much I could recollect, alas I do not have the space to do any of it here.

I know of course that in Britain, our wildernesses are not really wilderness, the hand of man is everywhere. But standing all on my own, on the top of a lesser-known mountain with an un-pronounceable name, a near - Munro (only a few feet short of 3000 ft), with no other evident human presence in any direction, it felt wild enough!

May saw us celebrating Pentecost, and with it the beginning of a cautious return to our churches. I do wonder though; do we try to tame the Spirit of God? the Pentecost account is really pretty wild! A sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and tongues as of fire - that doesn't happen every day. God is unpredictable, Jesus pointed out that the wind blows where it chooses - "So it is the same with the Spirit" (John 3: 8). This last year has forced us to adapt to the unpredictable, at times it has felt like a bit of a wild ride. I have really enjoyed putting together and hosting our zoom services, even with their moments of unpredictability. I have loved the spirit that has actually brought many of us together, even when we have had to be apart, and that it has really mattered that we carry on, that we did something to be together however we could.

I fear that we may lose that spirit, as once again we return to our three separate churches and become comfortably parochially minded and inward-looking. This pandemic has forced us out of our churches to follow the lead of the Spirit, I believe into a more united place. We now need to make sure that we don't force the Spirit back inside!

I think that I might need another wilderness experience...

Simon

Great Milton Bellringers

Ringin' round up!! We have not rung for almost 18 months - but hopefully will be let loose to practice on Thursday July 1st.

Our Vice Captain tolled the tenor bell for Prince Philip - 99 times - that is the only time we have been allowed to ring.

The Tower is being cleaned thoroughly from top to bottom in anticipation of a good start in July!

Should anyone like to learn to ring, or to continue ringing, please do come and see us on a practice night (Thursday 7.30pm) - we need 2 or 3 weeks to get going 

again, but then you would be very welcome. I'm sure everyone knows at least one ringer in the Village, so contact is easy! Come and see us!!

GMB

Christian Aid week May 10th -16th

Thankyou to each of the seven distributors/collectors for their hard work during Christian Aid week and a huge THANKYOU to each of you who gave money this year. The final totals will be printed in the July Bulletin.

S.A. Dennis

Reopening of Great Milton Methodist Church Coffee Morning

Wednesday 23rd June 10:30 - 12:00.

As Covid restrictions are being relaxed we are intending to reopen the coffee morning at the chapel on Wednesday 23rd June at 10:30am till 12:00noon. Everyone will be most welcome so pop in for a cuppa & chat.

Great Milton Church Street Fayre 2021.

June 12th, 2pm-4pm.

Dear villagers

We hope you are looking forward to our Church Street Fayre (poster attached). It will be different this year so here are a few tips to prepare to get the most out of the day.

Hands, Face Space. Please bring hand gel but we will have gel available too. Also, despite the excitement of seeing each other, remember to keep a social distance.

Bring lots of cash. Also bring a card if you wish to buy plants or garden tools as this stall will have a card reader.

Programmes with a map of stalls and activities will be available for 50p at the various entrances ie Pitts Green, the Raffle Stall on Green near the pub and the Churchyard. A quiz trail is included in the programme (designed by James and Maya Roach) with a £20 book token for the winner.

Competitions

Best dressed dog - show off your dog on the day and the best dressed will get a prize.

Cake Competition with the theme My Village - bring these to the cake stall in the Churchyard.

Art competition with the theme My Village. Bring your Art to the Church in the morning or just before 2pm so it can be displayed. The winner will have their art reproduced as village cards for sale.

Raffle - We have great prizes with the top prize of a meal for two at Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons. To have a go, place £5.00 in an envelope with your contact details on and drop off at Braemar or buy on the day. You can have as many goes as you wish.

There will be stalls, the History Society displays, local entertainers, games, Philsters beer, the Pub and teas served in the Pavilion and Churchyard. Do not miss the Old Vicarage garden. If you wish to join the list of performers, it is not too late - just let us know.

The following would really appreciate your donations

Stalls

Books - Sue Barrett and Pippa Read (paperbacks and children's books to be delivered from May 24th and preferably on the day)

Bric a brac - Dee and Alan Pickett (on the morning of the day)

Gifts and toiletries - Carolyn Meynell and Sarah MacMahon

Accessories (jewellery, bags, scarves etc) -Yvonne Cartright

Jams and produce - Evelyn Joslin and Rosamund Griffin

Cakes - Laura Putt

Cakes and biscuits for teas - Margaret Rogers

Toys - Alex Kirkman, from June 5th, ideally on the day

Hoopla - Bottles/Jars/Tins - Michele Block

Plants - Liz Moyses and Helga Dowie

Please help us set up in the morning or take down at the end of the day. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Let us hope the sun comes out.

Alex, Celina, Rachel and Clare

Road Closure

Lower End/Sworford Lane, Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd June

A short stretch of Lower End/Sworford Lane will be closed for road repairs from Monday 21 June. The closure is expected to last one day subject to no unforeseen issues, but could extend to 23 June.



The closure will prevent access in and out of the village from the Wheatley direction, though access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles. The official diversionary route is via Windmill Hill, A329, Church Road, The Green and Lower End. The Forties will also be closed (except for residential access) to eliminate any potential issues that may result from unsuitable levels of additional traffic.

Many parents travelling from outside the village to Great Milton School will need to turn their vehicles and leave in the direction from which they arrived. The number of vehicles needing to perform this manoeuvre at the same time may cause some issues, but the Parish Council will liaise with representatives of the school to try and ensure that this takes place as safely as possible and with the minimum of disruption.

The Sheppard Trust

The light has been switched on at the end of the tunnel – and soon the people of Great Milton will be able to recommence all of their community activities.

With so few requests received last year, the Sheppard Trust are in a good position to offer help to the various voluntary enterprises in Great Milton. In our usual wording:

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do apply. Applications should be sent to:

Mrs Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7QE.
Or emailed to janewillis1@live.co.uk. Applications should be received by Sunday 20th June 2021.

Darjeeling Children's Trust

Great Milton, Little Milton and Great/Little Haseley Benefice's major role in funding oxygen concentrators in Darjeeling, India

Some of you will know that I am a trustee of the Darjeeling Children's Trust. A few weeks ago the Trustees had a desperate plea from residents and the Edward Foundation in Darjeeling for help with funding oxygen concentrators (so as not to have to rely on oxygen tanks) to help treat covid patients. It is a 3 hour journey down the mountain to replenish oxygen tanks and the monsoons with the accompanying landslides were further hampering this. They were desperate. Our charity offered to set up crowdfunding with a target of raising £10,000 to fund oxygen concentrators.

I shared this at our Benefice service and the response was astonishing. We met our target in just a few days and we have been amazed by the support we received. We have purchased 10 concentrators and they are already in use in Darjeeling. I believe that our Benefice funded approximately 3/4 of these. If you wish to see a video with an update and a thank you from Darjeeling, you can find it on <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/darjeelingoxygenaid>

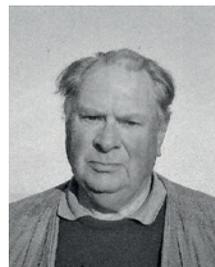
Thank you all SO much. The people in Darjeeling are overwhelmed by the generosity of you and others in the UK and Europe.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips

View from Views

In the last months I have mentioned that Hares seem to be on the increase, now I can say with confidence there are more than I thought having seen 5 all at once, this is good news as there will be others, I have also been told this is the case on other farms. The Blue Tits that have taken up residence in our newly located nest box, must have bred quite a number of young judging by the comings and goings early in the mornings, not sure how other birds will have fared with the advent of wetter weather, these heavy storms will not be good for little ones. Another bonus for us are Grey or English Partridge, a species that is struggling to survive, in spite of all our efforts over the last few years we have never been able to see an increase. However now there are pairs all over the farm which to me is an indication that at last they seem to be breeding in useful numbers. This can be due to our grass margins providing the food they need, fingers crossed they are not found by the resident Foxes or Kites, or the wet .

The Winter Barley now in ear, where it is a good plant it has moved very fast in spite of the weather, like all plants/crops it has been suffering from cold rather than moisture, has certainly now perked up after the rain and slightly warmer weather. However I think that the diagnosis of BYVD is probably the cause of the lack of plants and backward growth, this presents us with a problem as it is usually caused by a carryover from the previous crop, on the green material residues referred to as a "green bridge". We have not encountered this problem as we have not followed Barley with Barley, especially winter after Spring Barley, due to the fact that Winter Barley comes to harvest at least a month before Spring Barley, (so there is less time between harvest and planting the next crop), in reality can happen in any situation where there is a chance that the Aphid can be carried over from a previous crop. I mention 



this as it possess one of those awkward questions, “do we or don’t we”, and either way it could be wrong. We are being encouraged, not to plough or cultivate, as this releases carbon in to the atmosphere, so how do we control this green, do we spray with Glyphosate, which will kill this green bridge but is likely to be banned for health reasons, or do we cultivate.

A lot have been saying that it is lack of moisture that is causing this late spring which is at least 2 to 3 weeks late, I personally think it is the cold as immediately we had warmer days and nights without frost things began to grow. Just to follow on from my TV interview the soiled grass from the winter’s flooding, was still showing up to about the 10th May, and by the 16th may it was fairly evident that there was little chance that the 17 acres of River Meadows would not be worth grazing, at least not with anything like the livestock we would normally feed, meaning that other grass fields will have to be more heavily fertilised to compensate for this lost area, thus adding to possible pollution.

I gather that HS2 is beginning to tunnel under the Chilterns, I have great concerns this will upset the natural water courses with some streams and springs drying up. (on the day that this was announced this caption appeared by a picture in the daily press “Responding to reports that the eastern branch of the HS2, which would connect Leeds to London, is at risk of being axed, Dr Richard Wellings head of transport at the Institute of Economic Affairs, said the whole HS2 scheme is a vanity project which makes no sense from an economic perspective”) Never mind the construction teams have mitigated this by planting THOUSANDS OF TREES! How this is going to help I don’t know, but of course they know best. As usual Government policy to bulldoze through everything has to be right! like all the housing, planning laws, and many other issues that are wrecking or country and countryside without a second thought.

This Year we are planning if allowed to run the “Chilton Vintage Tractor Run” in aid of the “Thames Valley Air Ambulance”, on the 4th July, I hope as many of you as in the past, whether or not we are able to make the run, support me in raising funds for this invaluable cause. Although cancelled last year due to corvid, I still managed to collect over £1,000 through the generosity of readers and others for which they were eternally grateful. This year I have once again got a justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Charles-Peers5>

Just a comment on Covid we learn that the Indian variant is a worry, “why oh why”! are we still allowing travel from that country????

Charles Peers

New Voices in Oxfordshire

A cheating government minister, an abandoned wife and a scheming press agent who turns on his boss: Sound familiar? Any similarity is entirely intentional. These are all characters in @emele, a comic opera by Wheatley-based composer Roger Simmonds.

@emele is the first production by Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera, a new charity formed to provide a platform for new work combining young professional talent and community involvement in the county. The show will receive its world premiere in July with a stellar professional cast, including Jessica Wise, Naomi Rogers and bass Aidan Smith who plays the boosterish, philandering politico.

@emele is a contemporary satirical twist on Handel's opera Semele. In this light-hearted comedy, the heroine is an Instagram influencer and her lover, Jupiter, is in disguise as a government minister who aims to be 'King of the world'. His vengeful wife is Juno and Mercury, the messenger God, becomes a Cummings-esque figure who twists the press and public opinion. Comedy, plotting and intrigue abound until Jupiter gets his come-uppance in a #metoo ending.

Roger Simmonds has written seven operas, which have been performed across the UK including the Young Vic and has written music for television. His speciality is composing music that draws on many influences from Handel to rock and roll, and can be performed both by professionals and by members of the community. @emele also features a semi-chorus of some of the best amateur singers in Oxford. For a sample of Roger's accessible style, try our trailer: <https://www.oxcontemporaryopera.org/#/oco2021>

The show is being staged outdoors for safety at Wheatley House, on July 7th, 9th and 10th July at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £35 & £25 and can be purchased by emailing: emeletickets@oxcontemporaryopera.org or bought through Tickets Oxford.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

It is that time of year again when the greenhouse is full to overflowing with plants which are growing fast, flowering and desperate to grow more. Each morning I open up and move outside as many of the plants as I can to get some fresh air and begin to acclimatise to the big outside world. I think that by the weekend they will be good to stay outside for the summer. I note that a frost is likely very early on Thursday morning so we will need to be especially careful on Wednesday evening to protect anything very tender.



This has been a very unusual spring with April very cold and dry and recording many nights of frost. Our *Wisteria sinensis* on the courtyard wall looked fabulous and was overwhelmingly perfumed. The perfume was added to by *Rhododendron fragrantissima* with its highly scented pinky white bell-shaped flowers. It has been frosted completely each spring for several years now so I had threatened it with the compost heap; it responded well! Sadly, yet again, our potted standard *Wisteria* in a pot has had its buds entirely frosted. I think that too is living on borrowed time.

May has followed on with what is likely to be the wettest weather on record and it is still cold. Many plants are well behind in their development. We have a lovely little *Malus floribunda* which was about two weeks late into flower for only the second time in its almost 25 year life. It still looks lovely except where it has received the attention of the pigeons which seem to delight in simply picking off the buds as they do with *Wisteria* where whole flowering stems lay on the ground unopened. There are far too many pigeons, in my opinion, especially when they do so much damage without even eating what they damage. Farmers must really struggle due to their bizarre protection under the law. Our lawyer son looked at the law after we informed him that, no, we couldn't do anything about them, and had to agree we were correct.

On another bird happening, we rarely see starlings in the garden, but this year we have a nesting pair which sit on the *Wisteria* taking the morning sun. Their iridescent feathers look magnificent; they are indeed stunningly beautiful birds. My daughter-in-law could not believe her eyes when she saw a murmuration near Chearsley

The deer, which make the meadow look like African savannah, have decided our garden is an all you can eat buffet. Then there are the rabbits and the squirrels....

Down in the vegetable garden, things are coming on well. We have eaten asparagus and early salad leaves. The beans in the main greenhouse have flowers which is exciting. Outside beans are not even in the ground – far too early down there with its much cooler microclimate. There are rapidly growing gooseberries which I need to keep on top of so we get to eat them rather than the birds. The rhubarb is huge (it's loving all the rain)! I am hoping that we might actually get some *Victoria* plums this year. Every previous year birds have eaten the buds or frost has destroyed the young fruit. This year, maybe there are too many and the tree too large. I have no hopes for the cherries, but the trees are pretty in themselves and at least the cherries get eaten and not just wantonly destroyed. When my son and his family lived in London, they had more cherries than they could eat. When I asked why the birds hadn't eaten them all, he said "Have you seen a bird? There aren't any because the cats have eaten them all!"

Liz Moses

Morland House Surgery

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

Morland House is currently vaccinating those in priority groups 1 – 9 who are still to have their first or second dose.

Please do not contact us about vaccination appointments. We will send out invitations to book appointments when the vaccine becomes available to us and your priority group becomes eligible.

If you are aged 40 or over and you have not yet been contacted for your first vaccination, you may book your vaccine online through this website www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by phoning 119.

For up-to-date information please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Bank Holiday Opening Hours

This is a reminder that both the surgery and dispensary are closed over bank holiday weekends. Please ensure you order your repeat medication before Monday 25th May in order for it to be ready for collection by Friday 28th May.

COVID-19 Vaccination Card

Patients with online access to their medical record (through the Patient Access app) can now view their COVID-19 vaccination record from the home screen of the app.

This new feature will automatically be visible for patients who have already had access to their detailed care record and immunisations enabled by their practice.

For information on how to gain online access to your medical record, please go to www.morland-house.co.uk and search 'Online Access'.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about our services, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

The Maple Tree

A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree! Have you seen our lovely new notice board? Many, many thanks to Chris our fab Chairperson, Yu-Ho, a wonderful volunteer and the splendid Doug and Geoff from the Wheatley Wanderers!

As government restrictions are lifted, we are cautiously optimistic and gradually opening. Spaces are still limited and must be pre-booked by emailing info@mapletree.org.uk. Covid measures remain in place and there is a suggested donation of 

£2.50 per family per session. Check out our Website and Facebook pages for special events, holiday programmes and helpful information.

Messy Mondays: Play and Learn sensory/creative activities from 10:30-11:30

Tuesday: Play and Learn: Once Upon a Rhyme-Time from 10:00-11:00 and Toddle and Talk from 11:30-12:30pm. Online - Story Time

Wednesday: Well-Baby Clinic (with Health Visitors) to be booked through the NHS and Maple Babies: Group supports for new parents from 10:00-11:00 and 12:00-1:00. Online - activities for babies

Thursday: Play and Learn: Little Scientists, activities for the under 5s from 10:00-11:00

Friday: Play and Learn: Solitary Bee to Social Butterflies: a new group for young children (from 12 months to 3 years) who have missed key socialising opportunities during this past year from 10:30-11:30. For the weekend online - ideas and activities suitable for the whole family

Saturdays: Family Fun on 3rd Saturday of each month, Space (19th June), Under the Sea (18th July) and Endangered Animals (15th August) from 10:00- 12:00

Weekdays 1:1 Sessions

The Maple Tree is offering 1:1 sessions to parents needing a listening ear during these transitional times; this can be by phone, online, in the Centre or on a walk.

We are looking for Volunteers! Would like to join our committed and friendly group of trustees? Or are you interested in helping with our sessions, working with young children alongside our dedicated staff team? Or fundraising? Do you have a lot of spare time or just an hour a week? All welcome!

We are here to help you, if you need help, advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager

Wheatley Library

We are delighted to have our doors open again – in a covid safe way of course! Face coverings, hand sanitizer, distancing and stock that has been quarantined are all in place in order to take care of us all. Do come and see us.

Open hours

Tuesday 14.00-17.00, Wednesday 9.30-13.00, Thursday 14.00-17.00, Friday

14.00-17.00

We are also excited to announce the return of our annual Summer Reading Challenge for children.

Get ready to go wild about your world by joining the FREE reading challenge at your local library!

From 10 July to 11 September children across Oxfordshire can join the Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 2021 to help save the environment of Wilderville.

Collect stickers and rewards as you read library books over the summer holidays.

Complete your challenge at an Oxfordshire Library to win a Wild World Heroes medal, certificate and a keyring.

Under 3s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special card and stickers.

Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for the fun to carry on at home.

If you finish the challenge at your local Oxfordshire Library, you will be entered into an exciting prize draw!

Don't miss out!

Wendy Stanton, Wheatley Library Manager

Little Milton WI

In May, we were taken on a video tour of Waterperry Farm with Lois from the Waterperry Farm Shop. We met the cows and sheep, including Cookie the bull and learnt how they were ecologically raised to produce first class Oxfordshire meats. Together with fruit and veg from the neighbouring Waterperry Gardens, the farm shop stocks home grown, home made and local food all year round (www.waterperryfarmshop.co.uk).

Our next meeting on Thursday 10th June is a Tour & Tasting with cheese & nibbles at Sunnyhill Vineyard, Horspath from 7-9pm. Contact me if you'd like to join us.

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. Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI.

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

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'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 279438 or email littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

News from The Pine Lodge

In line with the relaxation of government restrictions we are very happy to reopen the village Hall. During lockdown we used the opportunity to renovate the kitchen and get some maintenance jobs out of the way. Hopefully you will have noticed during the recent Council voting that the Hall is now set up with Covid safety in mind.

Activities in the Hall are restarting - Yvonne Cartwright has restarted her popular Yoga classes, for more information on class availability and timing her contact is y.cartwright@btinternet.com.

At the end of the summer the Hall is planning an event for the local community on Saturday 28th August so please make a note in your calendar. We are currently planning a bunch of activities for families in the afternoon including a kids fun run, bird show, live music, fun rides, childrens games and more. In the evening there is a dance planned with a live 20 piece 40's Swing Band. With all the activities we are hoping to provide we will need your help. If you would like to help out in any way please send Giles Denby a mail to the address below.

We have a vacancy on the village hall Committee for the role of Secretary if you would like to join the Committee and become involved in the running of the Hall. If you are interested please contact Giles Denby. For more details about the Hall please go to <https://www.hugofox.com/community/the-pine-lodge-7832/home>

If you would like to use the hall for an activity or gathering please let Linda know.

For more details about events or the hall please contact linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com
gilesdenby@yahoo.com

John Howell MP writes...

This month will bring with it a major step forward in the COVID19 recovery programme, which is welcomed. I know that many people have been enjoying the opportunity to meet up with friends again outdoors, but the weather has, quite literally, put a damper on that! The new opportunity to meet indoors and, to be able to stay overnight with people, is good news. The progress that has been made to enable this is also good news. With the virus deemed to be suppressed in most of the constituency I know that many people are looking forward to a more normal way of life. The vaccination programme has, of course, played a huge part in this and my thanks to those who have come forward to take up the vaccination. However there are still many people who have yet to be offered the vaccine and so I encourage everyone, including

those who have already been offered the vaccine, to remain vigilant and follow the guidance for the sake of these people.

The State opening of Parliament marks the start of a new session of Parliament and many MPs, including me, have taken this as a signal to return to the parliamentary estate rather than continue to work remotely. Restrictions do remain in place but simply being on the estate and being able to meet with colleagues informally is of great benefit.

One thing that I have very much missed during lockdown and under COVID restrictions is being able to meet people within the constituency. Prior to the pandemic, along with all other MPs, my Fridays and sometimes weekends were filled with visits to schools, businesses, charities and meetings with individuals and groups to discuss a wide range of issues and concerns. Some of this has continued through virtual meetings but I am looking forward to getting out and about more and seeing what is going on for myself. Once all restrictions are lifted, hopefully in June, I will be looking to schedule visits and meetings. Please do get in touch if there is something you would like me to come to.

One thing that I plan to continue is virtual surgeries. This has been one very positive thing that has emerged from lockdown. The constituency is geographically spread and, although I move surgeries around, people wanting to meet with me would sometimes have to travel some distance to discuss something that did not take long to talk about to enable me to take an issue up for them. With online opportunities we have been able to save people much time and at the same time reduce car journeys. Face to face meetings continue to have an important place in our communications but in future we can determine the best way to meet according to the time needed and the travel involved, which I hope will bring a benefit to many people.

With the beginning of the new parliamentary session we have some important new legislation coming forward. Much of the detail is yet to be published but as information is available I would welcome, as always, views on proposals. Although I have been going to the Westminster office at present my team continues to work remotely and email remains the quickest form of communication. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can still write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. Please be aware that remote working means that it is taking longer for mail to get through to me.

My website is regularly updated on key issues. If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page.



Great Milton Street Fayre

in aid of Church funds

12th June 2021

2-4pm

Spread throughout the village from
Pitts Green along The Green and
Church Road to the Church



Join us for Distanced Fun:
Grand Raffle



Cake and Photo Competitions – Theme “My Village”
Best Dressed Dog Competition

as well as refreshments, plants, tombola, Aunt Sally, books,
toiletries and gifts, bric a brac, children’s toys, games,
homemade cakes and jams and many more....

Help in advance or on the day
gratefully received, please contact
Clare Blakeway-Philips, Rachel Hutton,
Celina Bernstrom or Alex Kirkman

**The Great Milton
Spring 2021 Litterpick
10.00am
Sunday 13 June**



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**For more info contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk):
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**Please contact Tim Darch
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Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA**

Tel: 01844 278347

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Neighbours' Hall

**You are invited to the AGM of the
Neighbours' Hall Committee**

Please come along

It would be lovely to hear or share any ideas for future use of the Hall to ensure this continues as a great community space for the use of Great Milton and surrounding villages.

Date: Thursday 15th July 2021

Time: 6pm

Venue: Main Hall of the Neighbours' Hall

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



GM HSPA TENNIS MEMBERSHIP 2021

Please do sign up/renew May 1st to use the GM tennis court at the GM Primary School. Family or individual child memberships available at £30/£10.

Email: sarahmacmahon888@me.com

Tel. 01844 278556

CUDDESDON & DENTON GARDEN TRAIL

Sunday, 27th June 2pm-5pm

in aid of All Saints' Church, Cuddesdon

Buy your £5 Trail Pass and Map from Ripon College lawn and meander around some of the great gardens of our villages, including Cuddesdon House and Denton



Teas and Pimms on sale at various points on your journey.



House. Also, the price admits you to All Saints' Church and the Bishop Edward King Chapel for tours.

There is a Grand Draw at 5pm in the Village Hall with prizes including:

Dinner for two at Gees Oxford & at our very own Bat & Ball,

Waterperry Gardens Season Ticket for two, A Brian Lowe Tour of Oxford, £50 voucher for John Lewis,

Vouchers for Cricks butchers, Snobby Dogs, Mill View garden centre and many more...



Raffle tickets available to buy at the Bat and Ball or Ripon College ahead of time.

A Treasure Hunt for children as they visit the gardens.



Bring the whole family for a delightful summer's day out!



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Please contact our booking secretary

Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details

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



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Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**

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June at Waterperry

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Whether you're dropping by or spending the day, looking for a quick cup of coffee and a scone or planning to relax over a leisurely lunch, no visit to Waterperry Gardens is complete without including the Tea Shop.

Waterperry is more than just a beautiful place to come and explore, with year-round events from horticulturally themed days to outdoor opera, theatre, concerts, and arts festivals, there is something for all the family.

To find out more about any of our events please visit our website waterperrygardens.co.uk

Rare Plant Fair - Sunday 13th June

The chance to browse stalls manned by experts specialising in both rare and traditional plants, all in the beautiful setting of the ornamental gardens. Garden entrance fee applies, tickets are available through our website waterperrygardens.co.uk

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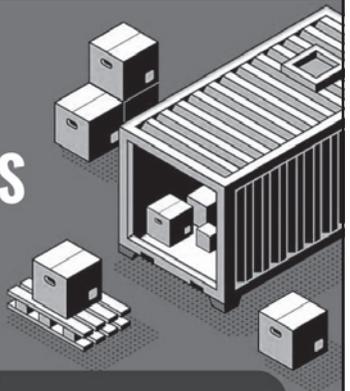
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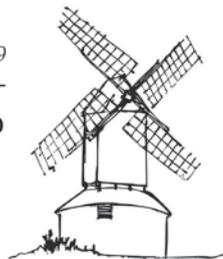
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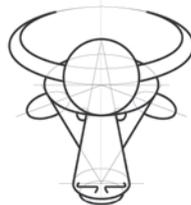
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Diary

- Monday Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm
contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- 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*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
- Thursday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
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
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 Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490
- Saturday 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 281345*

June

- | | | | |
|------|-------|---|---------|
| 10th | Thurs | Little Milton W.I. Tour & Tasting at Sunnyhill Vineyard, Horspath | 7:00pm |
| 12th | Sat | Great Milton Street Fayre | 2:00pm |
| 13th | Sun | Great Milton Litterpick. Meet at the Old Garage. | 10:00am |
| 21st | Mon | Parish Council Meeting LIVE in The Pavilion (restrictions permitting) | 7:30pm |
| 23rd | Wed | Methodist Church Coffee Morning | 10:30am |
| 27th | Sun | Cuddesdon & Denton Garden Trail | 2:00pm |

July

- | | | | |
|------|-------|---|--------|
| 3rd | Sat | Back to the Future – Post Pandemic Party – Views Farm | tba |
| 15th | Thurs | Neighbours' Hall Committee A.G.M. | 6:00pm |

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th June 2021**.

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