

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

August 2023

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## **Great Milton Parish Council**

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto: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:** Simon Alden's MG at the Vintage and Classic Car meeting at The Bull 22/06/23.  
**Photo:** Paul Wakefield.

## 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

## **Parish Council News**

Minutes of the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday, 17th July 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), S MacMahon and S Illingworth.

In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk), Cllr G Heritage (SODC) and two members of the public. Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs P Allen, D Harms and M Horsley. Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC) conveyed his apologies.

### **78/23 Variation of order of business**

Item 87/23 broadband in the Pavilion was discussed during item 81/23 correspondence and public discussion.

### **79/23 Declarations of members' interest**

No Declarations of members' interest were made.

### **80/23 Matters to report**

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

Cllr G Heritage (SODC) wanted to make GMPC aware of the community grant fund available, with applications open until 20th October 2023. The community grant fund is £5000 spread across the Ward.

Cllr G Heritage (SODC) also wanted to make GMPC aware of Planning surgeries that are available to Parish Councils. These are online meetings with a planning officer who can offer advice on any planning applications/issues. Cllr G Heritage (SODC) will forward the link so GMPC can book a session if needed in the future.

### **81/23 Correspondence and public discussion**

A member of the public raised the subject of Broadband to the Pavilion. They commented that the Village is already plagued with telegraph poles and overhead cables, and we should not support a project that would demand more. It was questioned why GMPC wanted this project to go ahead when groups like the Great Milton Youth Club should encourage attendees to be away from screens.

A member of the public also raised the point that the Village plan from 2012 was in that plan to investigate electricity cable burial in the Village and that if the project for Broadband to the Pavilion were to go ahead, then it would mean more telegraph poles and overhead cables.

Cllr Harrod confirmed that the Broadband to the Pavilion had been stopped and that the building would be withdrawn from the OCC initiative. Cllr Harrod said that GMPC wanted this project to future-proof the building while OCC funded it. Cllr Fox added that it was a countywide initiative to get places connected. Cllr MacMahon

raised the fact that OCC could turn away from offering Great Milton future projects.

Cllr G Heritage (SODC) mentioned that in her Village, overhead cables are everywhere, and they are going through a battle to get cables buried underground; it is not an easy battle and is still ongoing. GMPC will speak to Cllr F V Mierlo (OCC) at the next meeting regarding overhead cables.

Cllr Fox noted that the problem Hornbeam tree is being chased, and GMPC is doing all they can at this stage for the tree to be moved/removed correctly.

### **82/23 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.

### **83/23 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the June meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 19th June 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **84/23 Financial resolutions**

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

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

Chris Ashworth Salary, Tax and Expenses August: £562.72

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste June: £62.40

J M Dudley June Bulletin: £359.00


Great Milton Freecycle: £90

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.

### **85/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

- We are still looking at suitable places for the Hornbeam tree within the Parish.
- The Clerk will begin research on getting .gov.uk email addresses for all Councillors and report back at the next meeting in September.
- The Councillor Priority fund has been applied for to help with costs for the Speed Indicator Devices, and OCC has been contacted regarding the installation of SID poles.
- Jenks have completed the yearly tree survey. The report shows there is only one high-priority item. The high-priority item identified by Jenks in the tree survey concerned tree T7, a field maple, and involved removing the stakes and a 2 ft diameter of turf around the base and installing strimmer guards.
- Cllr Harrod asked if work could be done on the bush on the small Island 

between The Forties and Church Road to prune the brambles out and keep it maintained. The Parish Clerk will enquire about prices for this work to be completed.

### **86/23 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](https://www.police.co.uk) website. Cllr Harrod asked if the Clerk could contact the Neighbourhood Watch to ask if they could attend the September meeting of Great Milton Parish Council.

### **87/23 Broadband in the Pavilion**

This item was discussed during item 81/23 correspondence and public discussion.

There was a meeting between GMPC and the Great Milton Recreation Committee on Tuesday, 11th July, where it was agreed to stop the process of connecting The Pavilion.

### **88/23 Parish Clerk Laptop update and discuss a new laptop budget.**

The GMPC Clerk's laptop was purchased in November 2017 for £400.

The Clerk uses the laptop regularly to keep up to date with all the administrative side of GMPC. As such, it is now becoming rather slow and crashing from time to time. Recently there were a couple of days when the laptop would only boot into safe mode meaning the Parish Clerk couldn't complete tasks.

The Parish Clerk would like to discuss a budget for a new laptop so they can continue to research the correct laptop for the job.

GMPC agreed on a budget of £500 for a new laptop. The Parish Clerk will research and agree on a suitable replacement laptop with GMPC.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 18th September 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

There is no meeting in August, but the Clerk remains contactable in the event of any issues or queries. Meeting ended 20:06

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## **Senior Citizens Party Committee**

### **Harvest Festival**

To be held at The Bull on Saturday 2nd September. Produce will be accepted from 12:00pm with judging taking place at 2:00pm approximately.

The evening activities will commence at 6:30pm with a short Thanksgiving Service followed by the auction of produce.

All proceeds will go towards the Senior Citizens Annual Party Fund.

*Ann Price – Secretary*

## Benefice Services for August

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 6th		Holy Communion 9:00am	
	Lammas Service (marking the beginning of the harvest) Pegg's Farm, Great Haseley 10:30am		
Sunday 13th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 20th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 27th		BCP Communion 10:30am	
	Benefice Holy Communion, Rycote Chapel, 9:00am		

## Benefice Services for September

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 17th Harvest Festival	Family Worship (with The Methodists) 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th	BCP Communion 9:00am	Harvest Festival 5:00pm	
	Benefice Service (to be decided), 10:30am		

## Benefice Services for October

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st Harvest Festival		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am



## The Rector's Pint

After my last letter I wrote about 'wilding' a part of our lawn. 'No-mow May' is a grand idea, but as far as garden lawns are concerned, moving into 'no-mow June', and then onto 'no-mow July', was not, perhaps, such a grand idea! I fully appreciated that this wouldn't be an instant wildflower meadow, and that creating such areas are hard, but worthy work. After just over two months, I was mindful of the story of the vicar admiring the old gardener's wonderfully kept garden, his prize-winning Dahlias and his abundant and beautiful vegetable plot. Ever the one to use his encounters with his parishioners as an opportunity, the vicar remarked, 'My, what a sight, we really must thank the Good Lord for all the abundance he provides for us'. The gardener replied, "Ah that be true. Mind you vicar, you should have seen the state of his place when it was left to the keeping of the Good Lord and before I got my hands on it!" As I said in my last letter, our churchyards are wonderful spaces in which we can manage 'wilder' areas. It is clear now that the wild spaces that I have allowed to develop in my garden also now need managing. Stewardship does not imply neglect!

So, my grass had to be cut, and it became a metaphor. The day after I started tidying up, I read Psalm 90. It's not a comfortable read, as it talks about the transience of all life:

"For a thousand years in your sight are as but yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night. You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes: in the evening it is dried up and withered."

I really appreciate the Psalms; there is an honesty in those writings which reflects the full experience of life, and not just the good bits. Whenever I read them, I will now also read an accompanying meditation from the Christian writer, thinker, poet and priest, Malcolm Guite. The rest of this reflection will be his hope-filled meditation on that Psalm.

A cosy comforter, a lucky charm?  
Not with this psalmist, for he praises God  
From everlasting ages, in his psalm.

A God of refuge - yes - and yet a God  
Who knows the death that comes before each birth,  
Who sees each generation die, a God

Before whom all the ages of the earth  
Are like a passing day, like the cut grass  
In Larkin's limpid verse: 'brief is the breath



Mown stalks exhale'. So we and all things pass,  
And God endures beyond us. Yet he cares  
For our brief lives, his loving tenderness

Extends to all his creatures, our swift years  
Are precious in his sight. In Christ he shares  
Our grief and he will wipe away our tears.  
(From David's Crown 2021)

*Simon*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

August 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
6th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Malcolm Dodds	
13th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
20th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
27th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	

September 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Simeon Mitchell	
17th	10:30am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Joint Service at St. Mary's
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	

October 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Malcolm Dodds	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	



We were surprised and a bit disappointed that there was not one response to our note concerning the refurbishment of the the Village Well on the Green. The HS can provide the funds (as we said last month) – what we would like is practical help and interest to make the well weatherproof and restored to something like it's original self.

*GMH*

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## School Governors' August News Bites

### Welcoming refugee children

In October 2022 school initially welcomed 23 newly arrived pupils from Afghanistan. A further 9 Afghani children and one from Ukraine joined later. There was an emotional goodbye to all at the end of term. Education is protective; it is how these children have begun to rebuild their lives and look towards their futures. The Head and her team provided a sense of belonging and gave them a routine via normal school life. We wish all pupils and their families well as they move on to their permanent UK homes. You gave us the opportunity to build on and promote a culture of inclusion and empathy.



### School Sports and Outings

A busy term came to an end with Sports Day & many trips including Reception and Y6 to Science Oxford, Y2 to Wheatley Library (on the 46 bus), Y5 to Stratford on Avon for a Tudor crime & punishment experience and Years 3 & 4 to the Jack Peers Centre. Everyone loved Y6's production of Alice in Wonderland.

### Teachers' Strikes Ended

Recent strike action affected school in so far as some support staff were unable to come to work as they had children at home because the schools their children attended were closed. Our school stayed



open. Out of the four teachers who were in the NEU, none of them voted to strike when the ballot papers went out, therefore none of these teachers took action on days of industrial action. Not to say that staff at Great Milton do not have strong feelings about the shortages in the education sector, or that they



did not support colleagues across the country who chose to strike. The Department of Education and all four major teaching unions announced on 14 July that all teachers will receive a 6.5 per cent pay rise from September 2023.

#### OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills)

The ongoing debate about whether one-word grades for schools make sense prompted OFSTED to announce changes to its inspection system. These include allowing schools that were given an inadequate rating over safeguarding to be re-inspected within three months, giving them a chance to be re-graded if they have addressed concerns. Governors are aware of the stress OFSTED inspections create and will continue to support and work closely with Head and her team in the lead up to the next one which will most likely take place in the next year academic year as the last full inspection at the school was in 2013, with a short one in 2018. Our school scored Good both times. "You and your Deputy lead the school with passion and enthusiasm. You are determined that all pupils will receive the best standard of education and care possible."

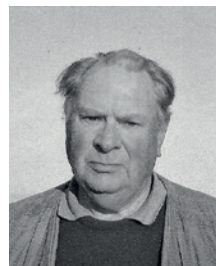
#### **Term Dates, including Insets.**

Term ended on 21 July, pupils return on Tuesday, 5 September. There are two inset days on 1 and 2 September. (Inset days are formally called in-service training days, but the shortened term is used almost everywhere. They are days when teachers are required to be available for work but pupils are not in school. These days are used for a variety of activities, including time for teachers to write reports, undertake performance management reviews/ planning, planning lessons and schemes of work).



## View from Views

Of course it is far too early to make any predictions but at the time of writing I am fairly optimistic, as early harvest reports are of record breaking yields, also all fruit bearing trees and bushes are covered in ripening produce. The next Newsletter in 2 months' time we will have a better idea. This is probably due to the right amount of rain at, roughly, the right time. In spite of all the talk of drought conditions, all our ditches and ponds still have water in them, which is not usually the case at this time of year. As harvest starts to get into full swing, we are continually reminded that safety must be a priority. Farm safety is becoming more and more an issue, farming being one of the most dangerous places of work. Mainly due to the pressures put on us to improve productivity and, tighter time scales having to be adhered to, which of course is causing many mental problems for those who are susceptible, a number that is worryingly on the increase.



We are constantly being reminded of the decline of certain species with all sorts of spurious reasons by those who have a point to make depending on which axe they wish to grind, at the time. This year my observations are that I have only heard the Cuckoo twice once early in the season and once just a few weeks ago, Yellow Hammers that we had in profusion, have all but disappeared, on the hand Sky Larks and Buntings seem to be flourishing, along with some other species, Dragon flies not may sited, but plenty of Damsel flies, and plenty of Grass hoppers in the river meadows.

When it comes to emissions from farming there have been some recent developments. We are constantly told we must stop cows belching, well apparently if they are fed with a chemical extracted from daffodils, belching can be reduced, whatever next. Also, it has been discovered that a gas (Di-methylsulphate DMS not sure of the spelling or it's actual name but rest assured it is something like that) produced by ripening cereal crops can form a barrier (cloud) that will reduce the effect of global warming. George Monbiot continually says these sorts of initiative only scratch the surface, this of course is true but it has to be right to keep looking at all aspects that could make a difference, in the hopes that one day we will be able to crack it.

With reference to the current discussion over the right to roam policies, there was an article in the farming press and, I quote "Increasing public access to the countryside needs to be a grown-up discussion, with fears the policy is at the centre of a political battleground. Livestock attacks, wildfires caused by open campfires (disposable barbeques) and fly-tipping incidents, have thrown right to roam back into the spotlight with debate ignited once again on how the policy will play out in the countryside". This

was accompanied by a picture of cattle trying to eat or play with a tent that somebody had left for someone else to clear up, this could easily have been a Deer, Badger, or any other wild animal. This in a way illustrates the points I have been making many times before that, due to the density of our population now we have to restrict access if we are to preserve any form of nature.

Rural crime is becoming more and more of a problem, highlighted recently when a local farmer hit the national press having had £100k's equipment taken from his yard. Having made that point it is reassuring to read that the Kent Police announced that their "Rural Police Task Force had made 34 arrests, 35 stop& searches, 506 vehicle stop checks and, completion of 75 investigations. A total of 112 vehicles were seized and 97 traffic offence reports been issued". Added to this they had recorded 182 wildlife related incidents and 146 poaching reports. This would indicate to me that at last the Police are taking note of what we have had to put up with over the last few years.

Over the last 3-4 years we formed a couple of farm clusters to cover the upper and lower parts of the "River Thame". The idea is that we work together to make more of an impact on the natural world (of our area based on the River Thame) by working collectively on various initiatives. Having had a run-in period we have decided that we should both pool our resources and work as one cluster, so "Thame Catchment Farm Cluster" (TCFC) has been formed. This will enable us to for instance initiate things like, wildlife corridors along the length of the river, produce soil analyses so as to identify areas of risk for pollution, analyse carbon release or sequestration and, create greater conservation schemes. We are lucky that this cluster is being supported by the "River Thame Conservation Trust" by providing personnel with the necessary knowledge, to kick start our organisation. Being such a group enables us access to funding, from both Government and wildlife organisations. This is all very exciting which could produce a lot of benefits for nature, in our special area whilst not ignoring the fact that our primary aim in life is to produce food.

*Charles Peers*

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## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

In July, Paul Jeffery took us on a short walk to Wells Farm BBOWT nature reserve, where he showed us the amazing oasis for wildlife on our doorstep. We learnt all about the farm, the livestock and wildlife that live there, how to identify animals from bones or footprints and what we can do to help keep it a safe haven for all ([www.bbowl.org.uk](http://www.bbowl.org.uk)).



We also went on a day trip to Reading Museum to see Britain's Bayeux tapestry, with more trips planned to Warwick, the National Trust and a guided walk around BBOWT. Everyone welcome, contact us if you'd like to come along.

In August we go on a day trip, this year to the Old Chapel Textile Centre in Newbury on Thursday 10 August. There's an exhibition, shop, a talk on the Country Wife mural from 1951 and tea & cake. See [www.nationalneedleworkarchive.org.uk](http://www.nationalneedleworkarchive.org.uk) for more info.

Come and meet us at the Great Haseley & District Horticultural Show at the Pine Lodge on Saturday 26 August 2pm where we'll be running the cake stall. Any helpers, cake donations or customers welcome.

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 (unless we're out!)

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## **Maple Tree Nursery**

**A great place to grow**

### **Hello from The Maple Tree!**

Our fabulous Children's Centre needs a special trustee. Do you have some time to spare and a background in finances. Are you able to join our small but lovely group of trustees? We are looking for someone to grow and improve our services to all the families in Wheatley and the surrounding villages.

We are open all summer and have some special sessions suitable for younger children and siblings up to age 8 or so.

Mondays: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesdays: A nature walk, Pirate's Day, Sport's Day and Ready for School sessions at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Focus on Healthy Eating and Terrific Teeth at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at The Maple Tree and our local villages at 10:00-11:30am (Horspath, Holton, Little Milton and Great Milton)

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday in August

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details about our summer programme. For details, please go to [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

Please also have a look at our Maple Tree Market page on Facebook or just come to The Maple Tree for a browse! We have some wonderful children's clothes, baby essentials, toys, and games available. This aids the environment by recycling, helps families during these difficult financial times and helps to sustain our charity when families are able to make a small donation.

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

Email: [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk)

Website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley)

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

*Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager*

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## **Morland House Surgery**

**Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked telephone consultations only

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

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


Dispensary is open during these hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1.00pm

Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning.

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

- A link to the electronic consulting service eConsult. Use eConsult to ask about your health symptoms, conditions, or treatment. You can even request 



things like sick notes and GP letters. From the home page click on 'Contact your GP practice Online'.

- A link to the NHS App. Download the App, or open the NHS website in a web browser, to set up and log in to your NHS Account. Owned and run by the NHS, your NHS Account is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services online.
  - Up to date information on current news items including:
  - Staying safe in the hot weather
  - Prescribing policy for patients travelling abroad
  - Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre – X-Rays, blood tests, ultrasounds, CTs and more
  - Information on the NHS 111 online service which is available 24/7
- 

## **John Howell MP writes...**

Population growth and new housing bring many changes and challenges to our communities as we well know. One change brought about is the review of representation in Parliament. Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 the Boundary Commission is required to review the parliamentary constituencies in England every 5 years. This is to ensure that MPs represent roughly the same number of people and therefore have around the same number of people eligible to vote for them. The latter is known as the 'electoral quota'. Another key factor of a review is that boundaries respect local links between areas. Constituency names can also be changed to reflect growth. I am writing about this as there will be changes coming forward which will affect this constituency, not least that the name will change from the Henley Constituency to the Henley and Thame Constituency. This reflects the growth of Thame and the fact that it is now a larger town than Henley and indeed the largest in the constituency. It is also geographically more central to the constituency. There will be more significant change for residents to the north and west of the constituency as they will be moved to a different constituency altogether.

All of the villages which come under Cherwell District Council will come out of this constituency and be part of a new constituency which will be known as the Bicester and Woodstock Constituency. The northern boundary of the Henley and Thame Constituency will be the same as the northern boundary of the area covered by SODC. This is, in fact, as it was when I first became the MP here! This will affect residents in Bletchingdon, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott & Murcott, Hampton

Gay & Poyle, Heathfield, Horton-cum-Studley, Kirtlington, Islip, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp, and Weston-on-the-Green.

To the West of the constituency all of those currently in the Sandford and Wittenhams Ward will move to the renamed Didcot and Wantage Constituency, currently known as the Wantage Constituency. This is a sensible change as the Ward is currently partly in my constituency and partly in the Wantage Constituency. The Boundary Commission do not like split Wards as this makes local representation more difficult. This affects residents in Clifton Hampden, Culham, Marsh Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford on Thames, and Toot Baldon.

If you would like to know more about this you can read all the details on the Boundary Commission website at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

And now to something much more local and immediate, I am sure that the news that the upper limits for Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly tipping have been increased will be welcome. I know that environmental crimes like these are of concern to many. I hope that we can get wide publicity of the increased fines to deter more people from such damage. The increases come into effect from the end of this month. The upper limit of fixed penalty notices for littering, graffiti and fly-posting offences will increase from £150 to £500; for household waste duty of care offences from £400 to £600; and for fly-tipping offences from £400 to £1,000. This is part of the Prime Minister's Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan which was launched in March. The Government is also looking at ringfencing the money raised from these fines for enforcement and clean up activity.

Parliament will soon be going into the summer recess, but work continues. Although the House is not sitting ministers continue to work on their briefs and I continue with my work. The summer break does give a chance to catch up with things and my team and I will also be taking short breaks as do many others at this time. 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](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.

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## Vale News

### Homes for Ukraine – call for landlords

Are you a landlord or are you considering becoming one soon? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Most of our Ukrainian guests in Oxfordshire have settled very well in

their local communities and found work, so we're now very keen to find a range of good value properties across the county to help them to start rebuilding their future with more independence. If you're a landlord or interested in becoming one please email [oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 07858 687569. For more information, visit our Vale of White Horse Homes for Ukraine webpage.

### **Waste and Recycling Activity Pack**

Get ready for the holidays by downloading our free children's Waste and Recycling Activity Pack. This colourful and easy-to-read pack provides some fun activities for young children to enjoy during the summer holidays which will help teach them about waste and recycling and about reducing waste around the home.

To download your pack, visit [southandvale.gov.uk/activitypack](http://southandvale.gov.uk/activitypack)

### **Plastic-Free July**

This month we've been supporting Plastic Free July – an occasion for people across the world to try and significantly reduce their plastic use for the month... or perhaps not use any at all! The Climate Action Oxfordshire website has some great tips on how to use less plastic – including taking a reusable bottle and downloading the Refill app so you can always find where to fill up, and swapping clingfilm for reusable covers.

### **Free and low-cost activities this summer**

From dance to skateboarding, Xplorer to family fun days, these free and low-cost activities will keep everyone busy. Booking is recommended for some of the sessions and the councils' websites have booking forms and all the details of the activities including date, location and times. Find out more on the Vale School Holiday Activities page.

### **The Beacon Autumn Season is here!**

The Beacon's autumn season is now on sale with lots of great shows for the whole family. From magicians to stand-up comedy, wine tasting and Christmas pantos just in time for the holidays (oh no it isn't!) Matt Richardson's Laughing Ox brings another incredible line-up to The Beacon stage with comedians Zoe Lyons, Katie Mulgrew, Andy Askins on Saturday 14 October at 8pm.

Don't forget to book your tickets early for the Christmas pantomime Beauty and the Beast by TaleGate Theatre Productions. Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December at 2pm. For more information and to book your tickets visit The Beacon website.

### **Puppet Barge at Abingdon**

A new theatre for kids has popped up on the Thames at Abingdon this summer! The Puppet Theatre Barge has sailed from London to Abbey Meadows where it will be moored at one of our moorings from 22 July to 13 August as they put on performances of Oscar Wilde's The Selfish Giant. The play which lasts 50 minutes is aimed at children aged four and upwards. For more details see their website [www.puppetbarge.com](http://www.puppetbarge.com)

# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 18th AUGUST**

**at**

**THE NEIGHBOURS HALL**

**GREAT MILTON**

**TIME: 7:30pm**

Teams of up to 8 people

Tickets £6 each

with a Ploughman's Supper

To book a table, please contact

**Ann Price – 01844 279474**

10 tables available

Beer/Wine & Soft Drinks for Sale

**All funds raised will go towards the  
Senior Citizens Annual Party Fund**

# **QUIZ NIGHT @ THE BULL**

**THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**

**Starting at 7:30pm**

Come along, have a fun evening and test your knowledge of a range of subjects in a friendly atmosphere. Entry is by ticket only – these are available from the village shop or the pub and cost £5 p.p.

*All proceeds are for the  
Village Chapel Improvements*

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JULY 24

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We have such a busy summer of activities planned for children (and some activities for adults) over the summer holidays. Scan QR to see what we have planned



**Vale  
of White Horse**  
District Council





# THE MAPLE TREE TREASURER VACANCY

- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk).
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:

 [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/)

Registered charity no.: 1174117



# Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service

**The School Aged Immunisation Service offer the following vaccines to eligible school aged children aged 5 to 16:**

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (TDP)
- Meningitis (ACWY)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Flu (seasonal)

**If your child is educated at home:**

- They can attend a local Community Based Clinic
- Please contact us (details below) to book into a clinic and to provide consent

**If your child is in school:**

- They will be offered their vaccinations at School
- The School will contact you directly with details

Contact us through our web address, by scanning the QR code or by calling 07920 254400

**Or visit [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms)**

To translate our webpages to other languages please click:



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We have full time hours, part time hours, evening and weekend working opportunities available in a variety of departments.

Please email [careers.mqs@belmond.com](mailto:careers.mqs@belmond.com) who will be delighted to give you more information. Alternatively please scan the QR code below to send us your details.

Niall Kingston

General Manager





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The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for **prebooked** telephone consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team for more information.

**From 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 our new Dispensary hours are:**

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

*Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning*

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

For further information, please visit our website [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

## **Great Milton Post Office and Stores Opening Hours**

	Shop	Post Office
Monday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Tuesday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Wednesday	8:00 – 2:00	9:00 – 12:30
Thursday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Friday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Saturday	8:00 – 12:30	9:00 – 12:30
Sunday	8:00 – 11:30	Closed

**Bank Holidays – Closed All Day**

## **Neighbours' Hall**

A large recently refurbished community Hall with central heating, new lighting and well-equipped kitchen. The Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

Available for hire by the hour or the day.

Cost for hiring

£15 per hour, £120 for the full day

**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/](http://www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/)

GREAT MILTON

## **ART & CRAFTS CLUB**

Join us for a monthly social get together loosely based around creative hobbies.

Whether you're a sewer, a knitter, a painter or a crafter, work on your favourite project while catching up with your neighbours.

No charge. No judgement.  
Open to all ages and genders.

First Monday of every month (\*except May) in the Pavilion from 6.30-9.00pm

## **The Three Villages Car Service**

The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**

## **Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground**

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**For booking and more info, please email Caroline at [carolinesmith@2redroofs.com](mailto:carolinesmith@2redroofs.com)**



## **Book Library**

at the  
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20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**11 am – 12 noon**

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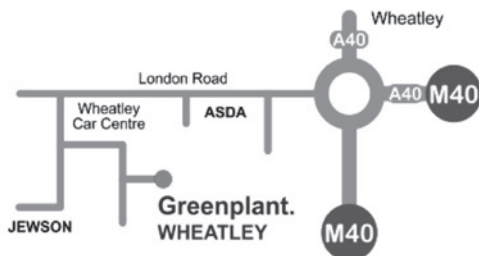
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This classic Shakespeare play has been transformed into a musical extravaganza and adapted into modern language, so that it is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.

### Waterperry Opera Festival Fri 11 to Sun 20 August

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### Oxford Story Telling Festival Fri 25 to Sun 27 August

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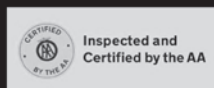
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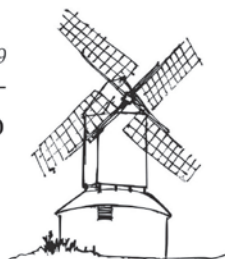
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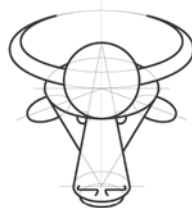
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# Diary

Monday	Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am <i>contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details</i> Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm <i>contact carina.martin@gmail.com</i>
Tuesday	Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Ann Price – 01844 279474</i>
Wednesday	GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm <i>or by appointment</i> 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm <i>contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com</i>
Thursday	The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. <i>contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. <i>contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net</i> Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm <i>contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198</i> Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm <i>contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com</i>
Friday	Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am <i>contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details</i>
Saturday	Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. <i>contact: see Thursday</i> Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm. <i>Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. <i>contact: see Thursday</i>

## August

18th Fri Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall 7:30pm

## September

2nd Sat Harvest Festival at The Bull 6:30pm

Thur 14th Quiz Night at The Bull 7:30pm

18th Mon Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion 7:30pm

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