

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2016

Published by the Parish Council

No. 510



Great Milton Parish Council

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

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

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

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

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

Front Cover

The Great Milton Singers at 7:00am May Day morning on St. Mary's Church.
Photo by Liz Isherwood.

If you have any photos of the village or events, we would love to include them!

In My Opinion...

Referendum fever is rampant! I trust that everyone will be having their say on 23rd June as this is a fairly important issue for us all!

More locally, (but equally divisively!) the District and County Councils in Oxfordshire are considering the best way to provide Council services to the residents of the County and have embarked on two studies to assess the various options.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has commissioned Grant Thornton to undertake a study of all the unitary council options open to Oxfordshire in order to move forward this drive. To this end, Grant Thornton is conducting an independent study to look at the unitary options. As part of that work, they have issued a 'call for evidence' to local stakeholders across business, public service providers and the voluntary sector. We have also invited the public to take part, and information and ideas can be submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/oxfordshire-evidence>. If you are unable to complete this survey online, written submissions of up to two pages of A4 may be made to Local Government Advisory, 5th Floor Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP.

Wearing my County Council hat, I would urge you to make your views known via this survey, as, in my opinion, this will be the first step in a (long) process of improving the deal for all residents of Oxfordshire. I look forward to seeing the results of Grant Thornton's work in due course and will keep you posted on this and other developments.

Not forgetting the Church Fete on 11 June! We hope to see many volunteers setting up the stalls in the morning and I personally look forward to serving you at that most important stall, The Pimms Tent!

Meanwhile, let not apathy rule!

Steve Harrod, Chairman



Notes from the Parish Clerk

The May meeting of Great Milton Parish Council followed the Annual Parish Council meeting and was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod with Cllrs Peter Fewell, Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Bill Fox and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and no members of the public. The next meeting is scheduled

on Monday 20th June starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

To elect Chairman

It was proposed that Stephen Harrod take on the Chairmanship of the Parish Council for a further year and this was agreed upon unanimously.

To elect Vice-Chairman

It was proposed that Bill Fox take on the Vice-Chairmanship of the Parish Council for a year and this was agreed upon unanimously.

Review existing Committees

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE these nominees as Parish Council representatives for the forthcoming year.

The Sheppard Trust – Ann Price, Pat Cox

The Hard Surface Play Area Committee – Susan Read, Jon Devitt

Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee -

Michael Robinson, Michele Block

Neighbourhood Watch – Lesley Bush, Liz Sands

The Kent & Couling Charity – Rita Booker, Cynthia D'Anger

The Old Field Charity – Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick

Great Milton Parish Council meeting

Planning Applications

There were no Planning Applications to review.

To note that a separate planning meeting was held on 3rd May:-

Great Milton Parish Council RESOLVED to hold NO STRONG VIEWS on the Application P16/S1169/FUL received from SODC.

Application Type (see definition over): Minor

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 – plans and removal of condition 4 – CSH on application P14/S0279/FUL – Demolition of existing house and outbuildings. Erection of replacement dwelling and outbuildings.

Address: Crofts Furlong Farm, Lower End, Great Milton, OX44 7NJ

Correspondence and Public Discussion

A transparency grant is available to councils with a turnover of less than £25,000. The aim of the Transparency Code is to make councils more transparent to their precept paying community requiring publication of information on a freely available website on:

all items of expenditure above £100

end of year accounts
annual governance statement, internal audit report
list of councillor or member responsibilities
the details of public land and building assets
Minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings.

GMPC uses a village website but if it has limited access or control to post its own information on the website it might be eligible to apply for a grant. It was suggested to invite Carina (website developer) to the next meeting and decide whether this is something the council could apply for.

With regard to the bus service proposal that Sally Lasson and Ian Melton presented at the April Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk (HC) would contact neighbouring parish councils and discuss whether they would be interested in a local bus shuttle service funded in whole or part by ASDA. It is proposed that the bus shuttle would cater for residents of Great Milton, Little Milton, Great Haseley, Horspath and Wheatley. Cllr Stephen Harrod agreed to circulate a survey to residents as to whether they would use the service, if so a case would then be made on behalf of all the villages.

As neighbouring villages have had a defibrillator installed, it was questioned whether Great Milton should follow by example. It was suggested that the Clerk (HC) investigate what funding is available.

The Clerk received confirmation that GMPC will receive a grant towards the cost of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration.

Great Milton Bulletin Distribution

It was RESOLVED that the bulletin would no longer be distributed to Great Milton Primary School.

Village maintenance

It was suggested to ask C. Putt to provide quotes for:-

The erection of bollards on the Green near SVS Van Centre, Milton Common

Strimming along the recreation path towards Green Hitchings

Cutting back the hedge along the recreation path

Speed Survey Report

GMPC received the recent speed survey results, which noted that the majority of cars were exceeding the 30mph speed limit along Thame Road, Great Milton.

Speed Summary Notes:

Note that the figures in the Total Vol. column do not always equal the sum of the number of vehicles shown in the speed bins. This is due to the data being collected in 15 minute batches, averaged and then rounded to produce a summary sheet. Example

below.

Row A shows the average vehicle count in each bin for the survey period (09:00 taken as an example hour)

Row B shows these figures rounded down to show number of whole vehicles. The sum of vehicles in the speed bins now equals 49 and Total Vol. shows 52.

	Time	Total	Bin 1	Bin 2	Bin 3	Bin 4	Bin 5	Bin 6	Bin 7	Bin 8	Bin 9	Bin 10	Bin 11	Bin 12	Bin 13	
	Begin	Vol.	<6Mph	6-<11	11-<16	16-<21	21-<26	26-<31	31-<36	36-<41	41-<46	46-<51	51-<56	56-<61	=>61	
Row A	09:00	52.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.33	1.67	5.00	15.50	19.33	7.33	2.33	0.33	0.17	0.00	= 52.33
Row B	09:00	52	0	0	0	0	1	5	15	19	7	2	0	0	0	= 49

Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for June

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th Trinity 2	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 12th Trinity 3	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 19th Trinity 4	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 26th Trinity 5			Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am

Services in Our Benefice for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd Trinity 6	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

What does the Church think about...?


It is one of those questions that I try to avoid answering. The question assumes that the Church is one definable group with clearly thought through responses and a clear corporately shared policy on every issue. Delve into any one church and you will find a whole range of opinions shared about a whole range of issues. In my own church, the Church of England, for instance there have been debates about the role of women in leadership and the marriage of same sex couples. People with very strongly held convictions have had very differing views about these.

Then there's politics. I have no doubt that some political and ideological views are totally unacceptable for any christian to associate with, for instance the racism and bigotry of the English defence league, utter poison. However we find that there are christians of differing political convictions in all the mainstream political parties. I have my own political views, many of which are not in accord with the direction of travel of the present government! However I really welcome that there are committed christians represented in all the main political parties. Jesus called his followers to be 'salt and light' and 'yeast in the dough', in the world influencing for the good. It is perfectly possible to have this central commitment and yet hold differing political views.

So, what does the Church think about the EU referendum? The Church has no official view. Even in our own local small congregations that there will be differing views. The Church cannot dictate or point to the correct way forward in this. However, it can remind us that we all reflect something of God's image. This is a central part of christian belief, we all have a dignity in taking a part in the shaping of our world. Democracy as we know it might not be perfect, but it has been founded on these christian ideals that every person has a place. The right to vote is a reflection of this and one we are complacent about at our peril. So whatever your opinion, take this right seriously, think through the issues and turn out and vote as you see fit. I will be voting to remain!

Simon

The Neighbours Club

On the 28th April we had one of our favourite speakers with us, i.e. Chris Bazely. This time he was here to talk and show slides on the "History of the Privvy". An odd subject perhaps but it actually turned out to be very interesting. Apparently 

there is evidence of specially constructed toilets as far back as 5,000 years ago. We were shown slides of some very unusual and interesting structures indeed.

On the 12th May it was time for our Bring and Share lunch again. As always there was an abundance of food and drink which all magically disappeared. We were told that John Davis is now renting a bungalow in Steventon and we hope he will soon settle in and be very happy there. We are now looking forward to our outing to Bristol next Wednesday, the 18h May.

Forthcoming Events - June

Thurs 9th - Quizzes - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 15th - Outing to Guildford and Loseley Park and Gardens

Thurs 23rd - Flower arranging competition - 2.15 p.m.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

June				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
19th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Martin Wellings	

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful letters and comfort they have given our family following on the death of Rachel. We have so greatly appreciated your kind words and thoughts, and the lovely article in the bulletin about her touched our hearts. Thank you also for the lovely visits during Rachel's illness which helped her and us so much. From the Hood family.

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Following the roaring success of this year's Annual Party, we now turn our thoughts to raising funds for 2017. Two dates for your diaries are:

Quiz: Friday 10th June in the Neighbours Hall at 7:30pm. £5 per person which includes a Ploughmans Supper. Teams can consist of up to eight people. Anyone wishing to enter please ring me.

Rummage Sale: Saturday 25th June in the Neighbours Hall at 2:30pm. Anyone wishing to donate goods please deliver to the hall after 10:00am on the day. Alternatively, if you need someone to collect your goods, please contact me.

Ann Price, Treasurer – 279474

The Friends of Great Milton School

‘100 Club’

Here is a list of all the recent prize winners of the FOGMS 100 Club – many congratulations to you all!

8 March	No 65	Ailsa Richards
15 March	No 22	Sheila Reeve
22 March	No 78	Roz Guard
29 March	No 60	Linda Sargent
5 April	No 73	Debbie Ball
12 April	No 31	Mrs J Jaunet
19 April	No 68	Chris Groves
26 April	No 10	Mrs E Newell

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser. A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

Miranda Cook, 100 Club Co-ordinator

Charity Dance – Saturday 14th May – Neighbours Hall

Thank you very much to everyone who came along to the Charity Dance at the Neighbours hall, Great Milton on Sat. 14th May. The evening was a massive success, we all danced the night away to the Hippy Haze band and raised almost £1,200 in the process. The money will help towards the Great Milton Methodist Church redevelopment project. Thank you all once again for your support.

Yvonne Cartwright

It is nearly here – Great Milton Church Fete! June 11th

In Honour of her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Time is approaching so we hope you might be interested in

- identifying donations for the fete stalls
- buying raffle tickets (we have 20 fabulous prizes)
- encouraging your family members to make a crown for the best crown competition (beginning of fete)
- clearing some time in your diary (from 9.30am) to help for a short time with setting up the stalls and setting down (4.30pm).
- preparing your dog to exhibit in the dog show (details to follow)
- baking for the cake stall and the teas.

New things to look out for this year are the craft stall, which has lovely fabrics etc on offer and a craft area for children where they can decorate flags which will be made into bunting after the fete. There will be shooting, usual games plus some new ones.

Please give donations to the stall holders or drop off to Clare (Braemar) in the week of the fete (not before). Due to popular demand, there will be an Accessories Stall again, although not previously listed, so please give any accessories to Clare too. Please bring bric-a brac on the day only.

Thank you all for your help in making this a special day in the year.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips and Alex Kirkman

Bottles Needed for the Hoopla Stall at the Church Fete

The Block Family are once again running the Hoopla Stall at the Great Milton Church Fete on Saturday 11th June. We would be extremely grateful for any donations of bottles or cans, alcoholic or soft drinks, fizzy or still – everything welcome (as long as it is unopened and in date!). The more bottles and cans we can collect the more money we can raise on the day.

If you have any donations, however small, please either drop them off to us, or leave on our doorstep, or I have four willing helpers who would be more than happy to collect from you.

Many thanks in advance for your help.

Best wishes,

Michele

Badgers Halt, The Green, Great Milton – 01844 278233

We're getting ready for the Fete and this year, as well as offering congratulations to the Queen, we want to push on with the Building Great Milton project. We will concentrate on Lower End initially – there will be a form through the door before the Fete for all Lower End residents, and if this could be completed and returned – either to the History Room letterbox, or to the tent at the Fete – we will get the project moving!

With thanks and hope to see you on June 11th!!

The Sheppard Trust

In 1906, Miss Ellen Sheppard's wish was that her legacy be used to provide support for charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Great Milton. The Trustees meet three times a year to discuss applications, and many local charities have benefited from her generosity. Last year, grants were made to the following village organisations:

Great Milton Neighbours Club	£750.00
Little Owls Pre-School	£1500.00
Great Milton Senior Citizens Party Fund	£750.00
Great Milton Saturday Sports	£1500.00
Great Milton History Society	£350.00
Great Milton Hard Surface Play Area	£600.00
Great Milton Recreation Ground	£4000.00
Great Milton Athletics Club	£1000.00
Great Milton School	£1000.00

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be on Wednesday 29th June 2016. Funds are available for distribution and applications are welcomed.

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to 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 delivered by Monday 20th June 2016.

Great Milton Athletics Club

Great Milton Athletics Club put in a very impressive performance at the recent Oxfordshire County Championships held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May at Horspath Track, Oxford. Although only four athletes from the club were competing at this high level event, all four achieved personal bests. Esther Davies ran the U13 girls 100 m, the 70 m hurdles and did the long jump. Phoebe Coleman led from the start in the U13 girls 1500m but was narrowly pipped to the post in the final lap and came in 5th place with a PB of 5.31.02. All together the club brought home an impressive 4 golds and 2 silver medals! This was in part thanks to Jack Spencer, who won the U15 boys 100 m (12.21s), the 200m (24.45s), as well as the 80 m hurdles (12.93s) and also achieved gold in the long jump (5.25 m) and silver in the shot putt (9.21m). Freddie Cunningham won silver in the U15 boys 800 m (2.20 sec). Both boys now have the opportunity to represent their county at the Inter- Counties Event to be held in August.

Thanks go to Nollag McGrath for acting as a volunteer marshall, and to Miranda Coleman who gave up her entire weekend to act as a trainee field official. Thanks also go to Pat Read, our proud coach and the Sheppard Trust who recently funded a new set of hurdles for the club.

Forthcoming events which also include the Oxfordshire League, and the Oxford 5 Star and 10 Step competitions will see more of our team participating in Track and Field Events over the summer months. For more information, please see our website at <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/activities/athletics-club>

Massive CONGRATULATIONS to Great Milton AC

Four children from Great Milton Athletic Club competed in the Oxfordshire County Track & Field Championships over one weekend in May. All four are former GM Primary school children.

Jack Spencer won gold medals in the U15 boys 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and long jump, plus a silver in the shot, and fourth in javelin.

Freddie Cunningham won an U15 silver with a personal best (PB) in the 800m, and also obtained a coveted sub-5 minutes 1500m PB.

Phoebe Coleman led the U13 girls race for three laps at a cracking pace, slipping out of the medals in the last lap to finish 5th in the county, but pulling everyone else to a PB as well. She also obtained a PB in the 800m.

Esther Davies obtained PBs in the 70m hurdles and long jump, and ran in the 100m too.

A big thanks to parent Miranda Cook with officiated for the day.

In other track matches GMAC has also been represented by Emma Lamont (100m, long jump, 800m), Luke Robinson (1500m), and Ben Cambell-Reide (1500m), plus in U11 Quadkids events this summer by Patrick West and Hugo Pearson.

Over winter the club competed in the Oxfordshire cross-country league, where most of the above were joined by U11s Lydia Reeve, Lili Roache and Max Cambell-Reide. Lydia and Max won medals.

The older children whose strength is long distance – Freddie, Luke, Ben and Phoebe – also competed in regional cross-country (XC) events including the English National XC championships. Freddie and Luke have both represented Oxfordshire at the Inter-counties XC championships, and Freddie and Jack have represented the county on the track.

GMAC is grateful for the support it receives from the Shepherd's Trust in helping the children reach such commendable standards.

<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/activities/athletics-club/>



Fireworks On Saturday 9th July 2016

Dear Neighbours

A polite note to inform you there will be a short firework display on Saturday 9th July 2016. This will take place on our field that runs alongside the A329.

The fireworks will start at 22.50 and last for no longer than 4 minutes.

Best wishes

On behalf of Raymond Blanc and the team at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

Darjeeling Talk no.2! Wednesday, June 22, 8pm-9pm, Neighbours Hall

I will be giving another brief update/slide show on the Darjeeling Children's Trust and my second visit to Darjeeling (last Oct/Nov). Come and enjoy a glass of wine and hear latest developments on some of the children you might have heard about and what has been achieved since my last talk as well as life in Darjeeling. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you locally for being so supportive. You have donated at least £2439 so far which is brilliant for a small community.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips

News from the Recreation Ground Committee

We are DELIGHTED to announce that work on the refurbishment of the playground is to start very soon!! We are currently working through the final stages of the plans but anticipate that work should start the first Monday following the Church Fete, ie June 13th 2016 and take approximately six weeks to complete.

We have worked with our contractor, Playground Facilities, previously. They have assured us that disruption will be kept to a minimum and that they hope to safely complete the work in stages, avoiding the need to close the playground completely. We also hope that access through to the school from the Recreation Ground can be safely maintained throughout this project.

The plans for the work are on display in the windows of the Pavilion. In addition, there is some more equipment near the basketball hoop and youth shelter, which includes a nest swing and fitness range.

The Parish Council and The Sheppard Trust have generously supported this project, which is being funded by a £50,000 grant from WREN's FCC Community Action

Fund and £49,037 from South Oxfordshire District Council. WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Great Milton Cricket Club

At the time of writing, our only game of the season proved to be a real thriller – going to the very last ball of the match.

Our opponents, Haddenham, batted first and with two of their players recording high scores – 96 and 66 respectively – they scored 176 for 4 in their 35 overs. Our most successful bowler was Paul Dennis with 2 for 26.

Our reply saw three of the team making respectable totals – Ali Noble (52) Chrish Groves (38) and Steve Webb (48) – Steve being out with one ball left and one run needed for victory.

Tim Darch was the batsman facing the nerve-wracking prospect of scoring the one run needed – and he did it!

Fixtures for June

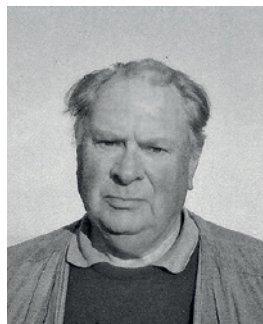
12th: Sydenham	Home
19th: Headington Quarry	Home
26th: Haddenham	Away

Anyone wishing to play for the club please contact the Captain, Steve Webb, on 279679.

Ann Price, Secretary

View from Views

Around the turn of the month we had a New Moon and as is often the case the weather changed dramatically, and we were suddenly plunged straight into summer, I just hope it does not mean that this is all the summer we shall have. The weather then again changed dramatically on the 10th & 11th giving us just short of 2 inches of rain, which although a bit of a shock, has done a tremendous amount of good, as some of the crops were looking as though they could do with a drink, and within a day looked completely different, so much better for their drink. The warmer



weather has also done the crops the world of good with the rain just the icing on the cake, such a happy release from the dull dismal dank wet weather all through the winter. The only exception to this is Rape crops which look terrible, due mainly to the devastation wreaked by hordes of marauding Pigeons, why they have done so much damage this winter I am not sure, probably the fact that for some reason or other the crops were not far enough advanced, due partially to the banning of one the chemicals that we used to rely on, when shutting down for the winter, and then not getting away fast enough in the spring, and allowing the pigeons access to the crop. Now the spring crops are suffering from an epidemic of slugs caused by the excessively mild 2 winters we have just had, plus the lack of Hedgehogs and Thrushes, having said that the Kites must be eating them as they seem to be constant visitors to the parts most effected.

Our tasks now are to keep everything growing so the fertiliser spreaders are out (mostly done by now actually) to give the crops the food they need to provide us with food that we require, and the Sprayer to keep all pests and diseases at bay, starting very early in the morning on those crops likely to have pollinators in them so as not to kill and beneficial insects such as bees. The other task at the moment is to get all the small conservation plots ready and planted, these will be areas that we have purposely left untouched until now so as not cause any disturbance to anyone who may be living there. This is always a tricky operation as at this time of year the ground can dry out so quickly and become unmanageable and then a good shower of rain can make it too wet again so it is just a matter of catching it just right without letting the soil dry out so that the seeds have a chance. This can be a real problem as happened to us last year the majority of growth was weeds and not what we had planted.

Now having stopped our winter feeding of birds we don't see so many hopefully they are too busy procreating, they certainly are making enough song and dance about something early in the morning, a sound that really tells us summer is on it's way. Our first Swallows appeared on cue in the middle of April and whilst in Scotland 22nd to 25th April we heard our first Cuckoo then the first one at Views Farm on the 1st May, so things are looking up. "The British Trust for Ornithology" have just started there bird surveys again, as yet we have not had any results, will keep you posted when we do. Meanwhile all other birds seem busy reproducing just hope a good percentage survive.

I gather that our wonderful Government has said that they are now not sure if they are going to continue with the full programme of extending the Broadband coverage in some areas, although it is not too bad here. I understand it those in farming, who live in the more remote parts of the country are struggling filling in their subsidy forms, that we are now being encouraged to do on line will find it extremely difficult

to comply with the wishes of the powers that be, another case of tying ones hands behind ones back.

I mentioned earlier that we had been in Scotland, we went on a whirlwind train tour to Fort William, the thing that struck me as much as anything else, and has done so before that apart from Red Deer, does not appear to have the abundance of wildlife that we do. One would expect in the wide open spaces with so little habitation like that to be teeming with wildlife.

Like most others I have spoken to about the recent vote for the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), normally I find it difficult to vote for someone I don't know, or of, in the case of the Thames Valley appointment the present incumbent has been re-elected and although I was very sceptical about this position in the first place. I actually think he after strong lobbying from the NFU has pushed rural crime up the ladder, the crimes on our farms do not seem as bad as they were, so he did get my vote as I happened to be by the Polling Station on that day otherwise who knows. I a recent article in the National Press I note that he is very worried about our borders too, and that we do have to watch who comes in to the country, and that already our services (schools, housing social services Police, NHS and so on) are at breaking point, perhaps if someone like him thinks this way he may have some influence on the politicians.

Charles Peers

PS just successfully completed the Tractor run except our David Brown did not make it and passed out in Tetsworth on the way however with substitution we completed the day and David awaits a little more attention many thanks to those who donated very generously to the Air Ambulance I will leave the donations box open until the you receive this note so all contributions greatly received.



Neighbours Club 2016 outings Programme

June 15th	Guildford morning and lunch. Afternoon at Loseley Park and Garden . Interesting 16th century house and lovely garden. Cost house and coach £21.
July 13th	Sevenoaks morning and lunch. Afternoon at Chartwell , home of Sir Winston Churchill. Cost house and coach about £26 (N.T. members free – coach only).
August	No outing.
September 7th	Brighton . Cost of coach about £16.
October 5th	Tower of London in morning, Museum of London (free) in afternoon. Cost Tower and coach about £30.
November 16th	Coventry (cathedral, car museum, art gallery and museum, shops). Cost coach £15.
January 2017	Pantomime at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Cost ticket and coach about £20.

Please ring me and let me know a.s.a.p. of any in which you are interested.

Mrs. Celia Cope, Woodbine Cottage, High Street, Great Milton OX44 7NF.

Tel: 01844 279459. All welcome. Thank you.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The past year has been spent preparing for a momentous occasion in our lives. Our daughter, Ally, is to be married in St Mary's church, Great Milton to her beloved fiancé, Mike, this coming Saturday. The reception is to be held in a marquee in our garden which is already in position. As a keen gardener this has meant that not only are we preparing for a wedding, but also a garden open day.

I have been growing and planting things which I had hoped would be in flower for May 21st; this has not been easy as the spring has been very cold and pretty much everything has been delayed in flowering, but the last of the tulips are almost finished too. This time last year I had masses of peonies, sweet rocket, Erigeron annuus (an odd name as it is definitely a perennial), alliums, geraniums. This year only the alliums are flowering and even they are only just starting. My sister is doing the church flowers and had been hoping to use the Erigeron which makes an excellent 'filler' plant with its white daisies. However, I pruned the roses in November just enough to prevent wind

rock (always a problem here - the wind can sometimes loosen tall plants in the soil so that they topple over) and have not further pruned most of them at all. The result is that a number of roses are already in flower which is a very welcome sight.

I have already put pots of Marguerites out of the greenhouse as, although they are tender, they tend not to suffer quite as much as some other bedding plants in the very cold nights we have been having. I have large (10inch) pots of mixed white bedding, which I have grown from plug plants and cuttings from last year's plants, ready to go outside in the terracotta pots which still have orange Ballerina tulips hanging on. I think the heavy rain today and a few more days of warmth will hasten the tulips' end. I would not normally put summer pots outside much before June here as we may still have frost, but this year needs must!

I have grown Pheasants Eye Narcissi in large pots keeping them entirely out of the sun and they are just opening this week which I am very pleased about as they are very strongly scented. Their leaves look a little tatty so I will either cut and arrange them, or position them, still in their pots, behind a low wall by the gate which will brighten the entrance when guests walk back from the church.

Ally is very sad about the weather forecast which today, with only three days to go, shows heavy rain nearly all day. The garden is as good as I can get it and I hope there will be at least a short break in the weather for guests to enjoy it. The most important thing is joining with friends and family to witness in church the joining in marriage of these two very happy young people.

Liz Moses

Membership secretary

liz@moyses.org

01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year.

From the Archives



We congratulate Mary Newell on her needlework success - shall we say Royal success? Her Majesty Queen Alexandra purchased one of the smocks worked by her which was on one of the stalls at the Home Art Exhibition. Mary Newell also gained another award at the same exhibition.

The Parish Magazine, July 1904

John Howell MP writes...

The refugee problems that we have are the result of complex situations which do not have easy answers. Many of the reports that we see and hear about the plight of refugees are shocking and I share the concern expressed by many. Many of the reports that we see and hear do not give the full picture. Many of the reports that we see and hear fail to distinguish between refugees and economic migrants. Numbers and locations have been bandied around in the news which seek to make political capital out of a critical humanitarian situation especially where children are involved. I want to take the opportunity this month to share my views and to try to bring some clarity to what the Government has been doing on this important issue. The question that governments have to ask is how we can best help those in need without, as far as possible, inflaming already difficult situations.

Firstly there is much that the Government does through the Department for International Development (DfID) and I am completely committed to the UK meeting its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of our economy on aid despite many people suggesting that we cannot afford to do this.

On unaccompanied children I fully support us helping them. I am deeply concerned that we do not set conditions which create a perverse incentive for families to entrust their children to people setting them on the dangerous sea crossing to Europe. This is why the government has agreed that only children who were already registered in Europe before the EU-Turkey deal on 20 March will be eligible for resettlement where it is in their best interests and why the focus is on taking children from the camps around Syria.

I am also pleased that we are supporting professional agencies well experience in this work such as UNHCR, Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee. I am pleased too that we are supporting our neighbouring governments in Europe. The UK is the largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Europe and is assisting countries build their capacity to manage the situation. In this DfID has committed £46 million to help support refugees and a £10 million fund focused specifically on the needs of children in Europe. This includes supporting reunification with family they may have been separated from and who are in other EU countries including the UK. Separately, 75 UK experts are being deployed to Greece to support more effective reception screening and processing of newly arrived migrants which will also help identify children and see that they are given appropriate support and care at the earliest opportunity.

Refugees are usually in a traumatised state when they arrive in a place of safety. This

is why it is important to work with local councils who have responsibility for housing and other support services to establish their preparedness to receive refugees. We need to ensure that they have support networks in place to enable them to settle.

Some have made comparisons with the Kindertransport but these are wide of the mark. The essence of the Kindertransport was to take unaccompanied children from an unsafe area of the world and to give them sanctuary. That is precisely what the Government has been doing in supporting countries most affected by the continuing migration crisis in the Middle East and North Africa where we are making the biggest difference and to provide resettlement to those most in need of support in the region.

There will always be new challenges in these situations and we must be careful to take measured action that protects people's interests and not rush into emotional responses that puts lives at risk.

To receive my regular e-newsletters and briefings please email me to be added to the circulation list at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. For more information about my work please do visit my website www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/johnhowellmp) or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

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Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

Great Milton Church Fete

11th June 2pm

Recreation Ground



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Time: 2pm – 3pm

Price: £5

Where: Great Milton Pavilion

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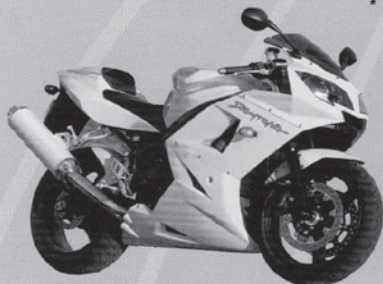
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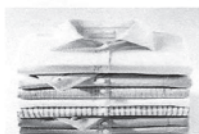
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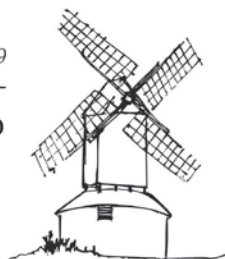
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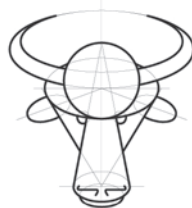
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- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
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contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
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contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
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June

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| 10th Fri | Quiz with Ploughmans Supper in The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 11th Sat | Great Milton Church Fete in The Recreation Ground | 2:00pm |
| 15th Wed | Neighbours Club Outing to Guildford & Loseley Park | — |
| 18th Sat | Little Milton Church Fete at The Old Vicarage, Little Milton | 2:00pm |
| 20th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 22nd Wed | Darjeeling Talk no. 2 in The Neighbours Hall | 8:00pm |
| 25th Sat | Rummage Sale in The Neighbours Hall | 2:30pm |
| 29th Wed | Sheppard Trust Meeting | |

July

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| 1st Fri | Wheatley Park School Summer Arts Show in The Old House | 5:30pm |
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