

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

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Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
District and County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council Stephen Harrod (Chair) Clerk	01844 278068 07554 516989	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

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 279474	
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

In My Opinion.....

I have read with interest the letters that have appeared in recent editions of this august publication, calling for 'things to be done' about various issues relating to our lovely village. These have ranged from the establishment of private 'bus' services, to damage to verges, to inconsiderate motorcyclists taking theirs and others lives into their own hands on the main road.



I wish you all the best of luck! After a number of years in public service, at Parish, District and County level, I sometimes despair of the level of apathy in our society when it comes to 'something needing to be done'!

In my opinion, these 'things' tend to be left to a small core of individuals in (almost all) communities. These folk often become either disillusioned with, or overwhelmed by, the expectations of the vocal majority who readily identify faults in the system but are unwilling or unable to 'do something'.

This is at least unfair, if not unsustainable, as the few volunteers who do come forward are likely to eventually withdraw their goodwill, at which point nothing at all 'will be done' about anything.

The Parish Council is a case in point where we need to maintain a group of seven volunteers to manage the affairs of the parish and it is akin to pulling hen's teeth to get new people to step up to the plate. In the near future we will be short of not only a Parish Clerk, but also two councillors to fulfil these roles, and we are facing a dearth of interested parties putting their names forward, though I believe we may have one potential applicant for the Clerk's position.

Come on guys! Let's have some new faces coming forward to get involved with the parish and 'get something done'!

If you feel the need to be at the forefront of making things happen, rather than just pointing out what is needed, get in touch with me or Helen Cherry and let's get some new blood into the Parish Council.

Please form an orderly queue.....

No more apathy please!

(END rant)

Steve Harrod, Chairman

Front Cover

A sunny if somewhat windy Fete.

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

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.

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman: **Stephen Harrod**

Ward: Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory

Vice Chairman: **Bill Fox**

Ward: Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings

Councillor: **Peter Fewell**

Ward: The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood

Councillor: **Clyde Deacon**

Ward: High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage

Councillor: **Malcolm Horsley**

Ward: Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329

Councillor: **Gwen Harris**

Ward: Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary

Councillor: **Peter Allen**

Ward: Milton Common

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989
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 Notes

The June meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor) with Cllrs Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell, Bill Fox (Vice Chair) in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk). Apologies were received from Cllrs Malcom Horsley and Gwen Harris.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 17th July at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Please note that approved minutes will be available to view on Great Milton Parish Council Website.

Planning Applications

Great Milton Parish Council recommended "No Strong Views" on the following planning application received from SODC:

P17/S2051/HH – Tin Top House, Great Milton

Detached timber clad garaging/store

P17/S0576/FUL – Ramada Hotel Welcome Break Oxford Thame Rd near Wheatley

Two-storey extension of existing hotel to provide 34 new bedrooms and additional restaurant seating space (As amplified by Transport statement May 2017 and travel plan May 2017 accompanying e-mail from agent received 29 May 2017)

P17/S1643/HH – Haddon & Bannock Lower End Great Milton

Remove existing roof tiles to "haddon" and adjoining property "Bannock" and to replace with similar synthetic tiles, in keeping with the existing roof. To repair existing shared dormer at rear of property. To replace existing render with synthetic tiles to match roof

Planning decision notices received from SODC

P17/S0730/FUL - Neighbours Hall Church Road Great Milton

Replacement UPVC windows and doors to a community building; Removal of external storage and landscaping of external space (as amended by revised site and floor plan received 14 May 2017). South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is GRANTED for the carrying out of the development referred to above

P17/S1067/FUL - The Oxford Belfry Hotel London Road Milton Common Erection of six detached and two semi-detached dwellings (As amplified by contaminated land questionnaire received 26 April 2017 and amplified by Great Crested Newt Survey dated 8 May 2017 received 9 May 2017) South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is GRANTED for the carrying out of the development referred to above



Internal Audit Report

The council received the internal audit report from Mr Hale of whom reviewed whether the Councils internal controls are effective in managing its activities and operating procedures.

Summary:

“Continuing on from last financial year the Councils systems of financial and other controls are still effective in managing its activities and operating procedures. There are good internal controls in place and the Council is using its resources efficiently, effectively and economically to provide its service”

Helen Cherry - Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd <i>Trinity 3</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 9th <i>Trinity 4</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 16th <i>Trinity 5</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 23rd <i>Trinity 6</i>		Benefice Communion CW 10:00am	
Sunday 30th <i>Trinity 7</i>	Benefice Communion CW 10:00am		Compline Service 6:00pm

Services in Our Benefice for August

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


Ramblings from the Rectory

I sometimes write something topical on these pages. I have just encountered a couple of people and in frustration exclaimed that I had been staring at an empty computer screen for a couple of hours wondering what on earth I was to write for the monthly local village magazines? 'There's always the election' I said. 'Oh please no' was the response. We have also seen some terrible things over the past few weeks which disrupted the election, and then horrifically and dramatically with took the focus away from the outcome following with the fire in West London. Thoughts and prayers remain with all those who have suffered as a result. But this time I will take the advice and for my main piece avoid the immediately topical and write about something completely different. There is however a response following to something John Howell wrote in the May Bulletin about one of my ramblings.

It was a real pleasure to connect with Adrian and Bridget Plass whilst at Spring Harvest in April, Adrian had been entertaining us at one of the evening after hours events. Some will remember when they came to Great Milton last September. It was lovely to take them out to a full English breakfast at a cafe at Blue Anchor Bay.

I am reminded of another encounter with Adrian Plass when he came to speak in High Wycombe. He told a true story that struck a chord with me.

It concerned a woman that he had met in his travels. When she was a girl she used to sing in the choir of a church in the North of England. It was a large and successful choir presided over by a very strict director of music. If members of the choir missed three choir practices, then they were asked to leave the choir. This girl had been ill one week, and so had missed a practice. She was then so scared the next week that she missed another practice. On the third week, having by now missed two practices she was so terrified at meeting the choir master that though by now she was perfectly well, she missed a third. She knew that her chances of being in the choir were scuppered and so she sat at home feeling very miserable when she heard a knock at the door. When she opened the door she saw one of the older members of the choir. He simply looked at her with great concern and said "Ee lass, we have missed thee". For this girl it was a life changing experience of grace that eventually led to her being ordained to share this message of grace with others.

I wonder what people's view of God is like? Is it actually 'three strikes and you're out.' A view sadly, it has to be said, helped by the ways they might have been treated by his church. And yet alongside this we must remember the message of Jesus who told a story, a parable about two sons, one of who cashed in his inheritance and squandered it in wild living, you will find the story in Luke chapter 15 vss 11- 31. In that 

story when the boy comes to his senses and seeks to return home, but only as a hired hand, feeling that he had lost the right to come back as a son, he was welcomed back by his Father who had obviously been longing and watching for his return and when he saw this sorry figure in the distance rushed out to meet him and smothered him with hugs.

God doesn't say to us 'there there it doesn't matter' when we act or think in ways which we know to be wrong. It does matter, the Christian answer is to look at the Cross to see just how much. But neither does God say, 'three strikes and you're out'. It is easy for us to get into situations where we put God to one side, or to simply drift away from God. I've actually had communications from people who wonder if I will mind if they can come to church because they have not done so for a long time, will they be accepted? I'm staggered that they think they won't be. I like Adrian's story, I can almost hear God saying, "Eee Lass, Ee Lad, I've missed thee." His church of course should say no less.

Simon

Church and Village Fete

As the Rector I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who made the church and village fete possible this year. I would like to say a personal thank You to Clare Blakeway - Philips and Alex Kirkman and also to Celina Bernstrom, Mary Wakefield and Rachel Hutton for your organisation and co-ordination. I would also like to say a huge thank You to the many people who helped to organise the stalls and events and kept us refreshed with drinks from the Beer, Pimm's and Cider tent, teas and cakes from the Pavilion and hot dogs from the Barbecue. A special thank You to the guys who arranged for the transportation of the gear, and to those who helped with putting the site together and taking it down again on the day. It was a great afternoon and the Sun shone on us all. A comment was overheard that the event pays for the vicars salary! This is not so, that comes largely from the giving of the congregation. Nonetheless the Church is hugely grateful for all the time and effort put into this which raised a good sum, nearly £6000-00 which will help keep the church going for the whole village. It was a great village day.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

July				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
2nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alan Turner-Smith	
9th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Andrew Maisey	
16th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
23rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
	6:30pm		At Rose Hill	Circuit Service
30th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	

The Neighbours Club

On the 25th May we welcomed John Paine to our Club. John came to us to talk and show slides about "The Amazing Amazon". He went there in 2008 and told us a great deal about this river. At 4,255 miles long it is the world's longest river and covers an area of 2,720,000 sq miles. It is 425 ft deep; contains 20% of the world's fresh water and is home to 2,000 different species of fish. It was an extremely interesting afternoon and we will certainly be asking John to come to us again.

On the 8th June we had afternoon tea and as always, there was an abundance of delicious food including sandwiches, savoury bits and pieces and gorgeous cakes – greatly enjoyed by all.

On the 14th June it was time for this month's outing. We spent the morning and had lunch at Worcester and went on to nearby Spetchley Park in the afternoon. Our last outing was cold and wet and this time it was extremely HOT!

JCP

Forthcoming Events - July

Thurs 6th - School entertains - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 12th - Outing Morning and lunch Winchester on to Mottisfont Abbey
(NT property) in afternoon

Thurs 20th - Pangbourne to Croatia by train.

Talk and slides by Nick Brazil - 2.15 p.m.

Great Milton Cricket Club

Results

Haddenham	190 for 6 (35 overs) Ali Noble 2 for 12
Gt. Milton	82 all out Nick Harris 52
Headington Quarry	204 for 6 (30 overs) Paul Dennis 2 for 46
Gt. Milton	205 for 3 Ben Curtis 107 N.O. Jake Barton 56

Fixtures for July

2nd: London Erratics	Home
9th: Holton	Away
30th: Sydenham	Home

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!

4 April	No 15	Judy Washington
11 April	No 75	Laura Putt
18 April	No 66	Mrs R Reynolds
25 April	No 18	Melanie Scully
2 May	No 74	Lisa Lloyd
9 May	No 64	Mrs J Jaunet
16 May	No 82	Emily Johns
23 May	No 76	Hannah Calderwood

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!

Laura Putt, 100 Club Co-ordinator

Christian Aid Week 2017

Further to last month's entry, there is now a total sum raised for Christian Aid this year which you may well have seen advertised on our Thank you Posters around the Benefice Villages!

The total raised this year within Great Milton, Little Milton and the Haseleys is £2378.57 which is made up of:

	£
Three Lent lunches held in March	550.75
One Church collection	67.00
House to House in Great Milton	463.16
House to House in Little Milton	802.99
House to House in the Haseleys	494.67
	2,378.57

of which £890.34 was gift aided so the above total includes an extra £222.59. Gift Aiding your contribution does make a difference!

This total is about £103 more than 2016 so huge thanks to all of you who came to Lent lunches, collected House to House or gave money in any way...

Stop press: A further £23 was received after counting, taking the total up to @£2,400... and knots (see May Newsletter!) were tied in red thread by one Prayer Booklet reader!


S.A. Dennis

Great Milton Athletics Club (GMAC)

Cross Country season 2016/17

The cross country (xc) season finished in March with a number of successes. Esther Merlin won a medal in the U11 girls competition and Phoebe Coleman went on to race in the Oxfordshire county championships where she came 11th in the U13 girls' event. Great Milton girl power also helped Wheatley Park School girls' xc team to a team silver in the South Oxfordshire schools xc final. Congratulations to Phoebe Coleman, Esther Davies, Emma Lamont and Lucy Block.

Track & field competitions

The track and field season is now well underway, with many fine performances and personal bests so far this summer. The county championships taking place in May saw Jack Spencer win gold in 100m, hurdles, long jump, pole vault, 300m, and a 

silver in the high-jump. His 300m time of 38.88 seconds was a championship record. It was a splendid sight to see two GMAC U15 boys, Jack along with Magnus Pridmore in the county 100m final. Magnus obtained a coveted 100m personal best in that final. Freddie Cunningham won his first county gold in the 800m in a personal best time of 2:13 following an assertive run from the front. For the girls, Esther Davies collected her first county medal, a bronze in the pole vault. In other competitions, Maya Roach won a gold medal for her sprint in an U9s Quadkids event and Esther Merlin was GMAC's top points scorer in the U11 Quadkids with personal bests in all four events. Congratulations go out to Esther Davies and Jack Spencer who have been selected to represent Oxfordshire Schools in the U15 Midlands Pentathlon Championships in late June. They will compete in hurdles, long jump, shot, high jump, and the 800m.

Training

Training away days have been enjoyed with national coaches at Lee Valley, Leamington Spa, Brunel Indoor centre and Millfield School for a mixture of pole vault, high-jump and long jump. Some of our athletes were also hugely privileged to train at Loughborough University to receive guidance from the Great Britain hurdles coach Benke Blomkvist.

During the winter, extra training was shared with the talented Aldershot (AFD) squad and their generous sprinkling of international athletes such as Steph Twell.

Other news

Earlier in the year, all the children benefitted from a generous donation of British 2012 Olympic kit from local girl Mara Yamauchi, a 2008 and 2012 Olympian. Children adorned in team GB kit were a regular sight in the village and at Horspath track after her visit. Mara has a long history with Great Milton, visiting the school in 2009 a few days after coming second in the London Marathon, and taking Class 6 for a training session.

GMAC are the powerhouse behind the local primary schools' Area Sports, which takes place on 14th July and delights and inspires hundreds of local children. Many of the older children and young adults who will be helping organise Area Sports are former Great Milton school pupils, and current or former athletes with GMAC. The GMAC training squad is currently at full capacity, but priority to join is always given to children from Great Milton who are aged year 4 upwards. Children from further afield aged year 5 upwards are welcome when there is space. We have an open invitation to young teenagers who enjoy 1500m and xc to join the squad. Interested parents should make initial contact using the club email address enquiries.gmac@gmail.com.

More information can be found on the village website:

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

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Quiz

Another enjoyable Quiz Night ended with the closest ever result – 1.5 points only separating the first three teams. The victors were ‘Saturday Strollers’ on 58.5 points, followed by ‘Where’s Tom?’ on 58 points with ‘Hippo Campers’ on 57 points.

The Committee would like to thank all those who supported the event which realised £287.00 for Party funds. Special thanks to Paul Dennis who, once again, took on the role of Quiz Master.

Ann Price, Treasurer

The Neighbours Hall

As part of our refurbishment of the Neighbours Hall we have taken delivery of 100 new chairs guaranteed to enhance your next visit - not only do they look good but they are comfortable too.


Which leaves us with around 50 of the old chairs to re-allocate. For a mere £2, per chair, donation to the refurbishment funds you could have spare chairs for Christmas, BBQ's, parties, messy grandchildren or any other occasions when you have more rears than seats. They stack, so take up minimal space.

See Ann Price for further details.

Great Milton Church Fete 2017

Thank you so much for helping make our Church Fete such a success yet again. We are also extremely grateful to our donors and sponsors, including White Lion who advertised the event well. We are pleased to say we made £5,503.26 which is wonderful, especially as we were battling with high winds.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, the professional looking hot dog, tea and bar teams, programme sellers, car park organisers, those who set the scene with bunting, flags etc and those who organised events in the arena or displays.

This year saw the introduction of the first Great Milton Bake Off which allowed some creative people to show off their cake decorating skills. The school children's dancing was well rehearsed and delightful, the children's tug of war was once 

again very competitive as was the dog show! Well done to those who won any of the amazing raffle prizes or the prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and shooting. We still have an unclaimed shooting prize for someone called Calum!

A HUGE thanks go to the three men who collected furniture and to the helpers who put up gazebos in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; to the friend who put up and then took down the big notice-boards locally and to the friend who provided so many straw bales. We also benefitted this year from the addition of 2 marquees which were kindly lent to us and looked very smart!

The Watlington Concert Band was professional as ever and helped provide a festive atmosphere.

Finally, a huge thank you to our Master of Ceremonies for guiding us through the day. Nick Belcher has made another excellent video of the day which will be on the village website.

If you would like to join the Fete Committee next year, do let us know. We would welcome new ideas and support.

Thank you again for coming and/or contributing.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Alex Kirkman, Mary Wakefield, Celina Bernstrom and Rachel Hutton (organisers on behalf of Great Milton PCC).

Tombola

Many Thanks to the generous people who kindly donated many items for this years Tombola. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and although fewer donations this year on the day our total amount was a great result.

Thank you very much to the people who came and purchased the tickets many returning time and time again to have another try. Some people buying tickets were those who donated so several prizes were given back. Some people did not want the prize so gave us the ticket back to sell again.

On the day I would not have coped without my support of helpers so a special thank you to my young people. Craig Payne transported all the items in his car and remained to help, he introduced me to a friend Ryan Cherry who volunteered his support. My two family members Holly and Liam helped as well.

The stall was busy with a steady flow of customers and no time for a break for my willing helpers except Liam who did take some time off to enjoy the fête. We all purchased Tombola tickets and it does become addictive. Thank you everyone!

Christine Kitashima

A Huge Thank You from the Blocks

The Block Family would like to thank everyone who kindly contributed bottles to the Hoopla Stall for the Church Fete whether in person, or anonymously on our doorstep. We had a tremendous response to our request this year, and as a result had our busiest and most profitable year yet!

So thank you, one and all, for making the Hoopla stall such a fabulous success. Here's to next year!

Michele, Mike, Harry, George, Lucy & Martha

Great Milton Church Fete Raffle

Prizewinners List

Prize	No.	Winner
1. Le Manoir Cookery School for 2	2461	J. Catherall, Gt. Milton
2. Spa day for 2 at Oxford Belfrey	1116	Alice Salter c/o Le Manoir
3. Tickets for Gifford's Circus	2349	Sam, Denton
4. 2 Tickets for Les Miserables	1400	P. Allen, Gt. Milton
5. Round for 2 at The Oxfordshire Golf Club	2522	A. Peel, Gt. Milton
6. Voucher for Roald Dahl Museum	1794	R. Pearce, Gt. Milton
7. Farol – £25 Gift Voucher	2378	Mrs. P. Wills, Gt. Milton
8. Voucher for Cotswold Wildlife Park	1473	A. Subramaniam, c/o Mike Block
9. Season Ticket for Waterperry Gardens	1546	Pippa Read, Gt. Milton
10. Voucher for Cotswold Motor Museum	2596	Sally Orriss, Gt. Milton
11. Voucher for Crocodiles of the World	1188	Fiona Jefferson c/o Mary Wakefield
12. Joe's Tea Hamper	1474	A. Subramaniam, c/o Mike Block
13. Asda Goody Hamper	2575	Catherine Peers, Gt. Milton
14. Chauffeur Driver Ride in Red Deemster	1714	G. Taylor, Gt. Milton
15. Flower Basket	2308	Sue Ashworth, Gt. Milton
16. Voucher: Pot of Tea at Mad Hatter	2591	Peter Bernstrom, Gt. Milton

Thank You for Your Support





We all thoroughly enjoyed our tent at the Fete this year – lots of new visitors as well as friends and well known faces. Thank you to all the organisers – everything appeared to go smoothly from our vantage point!

There were a number of enquiries concerning Village history and Village people. We have a few events in, shall we say, the embryo stage. Maybe a talk on local archaeological finds, supported by a display of items discovered in the Village – maybe you have some that could be added to the show – let us know.

Later in the Summer, the Oxfordshire Families team will be recording the gravestones in the churchyard, and at the same time, we hope to undertake the registration of the floor memorials in the Church.

So lots to do – come and help if you would like to!



Buses

Dear All,

It was nice to have a good response to my previous letter in the magazine and hopefully we shall be able to get a committee together to do something about the bus situation that the council seems to be completely incompetent to deal with. A lot of you signed the petition that I took around at the Church Fete last week and Patrick and Christine very kindly let me leave it in the Great Milton PO – so if you haven't yet signed there is still a chance to do so.

We now know:

1. People are unable to get to work and some have given up their jobs as a result.
2. Those who no longer own cars or do not have driving licences cannot get to the medical treatment centres they may need without considerable difficulty and inconvenience.
3. Youngsters are unable to take themselves off to events/matches/parties in nearby towns/villages.

4. Both old and young are undertaking dangerous walks along busy roads where there is no footpath and the verges are completely neglected and unsown. Cars do drive at dangerous speeds along these roads and as I said before it is only a matter of time before there will be a nasty accident.


5. Property prices may well be affected – I gather there have been moves away from the village because of the withdrawal of the bus service

People really do not want the inconvenience and cost of arranging private transport for all these things and, although one is grateful to all those who offer these services, it is up to the local authority to get its act together and reorganise the ridiculously inefficient bus services in the county. During the day there are dozens of double deckers driving all over the place with two or three people aboard. There should be some way of redistributing the drivers and vehicles on certain routes on certain days so that there is an efficient and timetabled service for all – not just the lucky few.

Carol Ayton

A Response to John Howell

I don't want to get into a lengthy dialogue with our MP John Howell in these pages but I just want to say that I have noted his response in the GM Bulletin to one of my ramblings. Can I firstly say that it is impressive that Mr Howell obviously reads the various magazines from around his constituency, or at least has them brought to his attention.

My comment was specifically about the so called Dubs amendment to do with unaccompanied refugee children from Europe. Mr Howell is absolutely right to draw to my attention the fact that 3000 was a target figure. I was mistaken, I had not appreciated that detail. Mr Howell states that some local authorities had been struggling to place the children in their care. I don't doubt this. However, the Guardian reported on 4th March: 'freedom of information responses collated from the Observer from dozens of UK councils paint a very different picture. There are at least 368 more spaces available for unaccompanied minors in the UK, under the national transfer scheme for asylum-seeking children'. In that article the claim was also made that several authorities confirmed they had capacity for more child refugees and had communicated this to the Home Office and that the offers had been ignored. If this is true it does indicate that though difficult there was a will to take more child refugees. Again, if this assessment is correct 368 more spaces, though well short of the 3000 target figure, is double the 350 that were finally to be allowed in with this scheme. Target or not, 

there was a deep sense of dismay about this decision as indicated in the comments and quotes that I used. Lord Dubs claimed that at the beginning the government accepted the letter and the spirit of the amendment, and maintained that they had gone back on their word. (BBC news 9 Feb 2017) Also, according to the BBC news, the Immigration minister Robert Goodwill was quoted as saying that the 350 would “meet the intention and spirit” of Lord Dubs’s amendment. There was clearly a strong difference of opinion whether just over a tenth of the original target figure did in fact meet the intention and spirit of the amendment. My own archbishop Justin Welby and many other people obviously felt not.

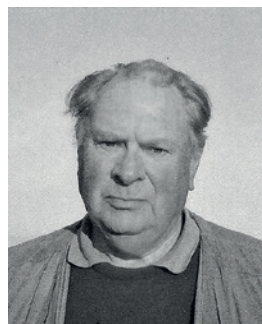
Finally, on a more personal note. Whilst it is not necessary to always agree with a particular political party’s standpoint or outlook, it is still possible to support our local MP’s in the work that they do. At this difficult time politically I wish John Howell every success in being a good and conscientious local MP as he represents his constituency.

Simon Cronk

View From Views

It is at this time of year that we can begin to get an idea of what our crops will produce, on a recent walk through our crops, I got the impression that the Winter Wheat appears to have fared the rigours of the weather reasonably well, I don’t think it will break any records but will produce a very respectable yield. The Spring Barley on the other hand has had a very difficult time, being so dry soon after planting seems to me to be slightly below average, other than in the wet areas, funnily enough, where it is very thin and at least a week behind the rest of the field. The reason that these wet areas to have suffered in a dry time is due to the difficulty in getting a seed bed, the ground being wet and claggy meant it would not breakup into a fine seed bed thus becoming very knobbly providing little soil seed contact, one could argue if we had postponed planting a few days the soil would have worked into a better seed bed, but then it could well have been too dry for the rest of the field to germinate at all, all part of the joys of farming! Oil Seed Rape is now impassable, even the footpath we have cleared is now practically impassable and not sure what we can do about it, so really have no great idea of its potential yield, except on last inspection looked a very reasonable crop.

Whilst on my crop yield estimation walks, I have been gladdened by being deafened



by the Farmland bird song especially the Sky Larks, the Sparrows outside our bedroom window serenade us whilst waking at four or so in the morning, it's the sort of scenario that makes us appreciate being alive, and living where we are, when we hear and read what terrible things are happening in our towns and cities. Most trees and shrubs have finished flowering its now down to the roses and wildflowers to give us colour and the smells just wonderful! It is also heartening to see our field margins beginning to show colours, indicating that our floristic enhancement, as it is called, is now baring fruits after a very difficult start due to dry conditions at planting two years ago. Soon the birds will go into their quite mode, and with the passing of the longest day you could say it is the start of the run down to Christmas. It hardly seems yesterday that we were lighting fires and turning the heating down to save energy and realise it is all going to happen again, anyway lets enjoy the rest of the summer weather hoping that we do not get too much of anything.

What A surprise we have a new Environment minister in the words of Guy Smith (deputy president of the National Farmers Union) "only the fourth in five years", I can remember that it was not very long ago the same scenario happened before. It is the same old story the Countryside and environment are of no importance, forgetting completely that in fact it produces the food we and wildlife eat, the air we breathe, and the beautiful country we all like to see and enjoy. At the moment I cannot comment on Mr Gove but his original sound bites seem to be favourable, except for a worrying comment he made when asked about the trampling of crops, "people should have free access to enjoy the countryside". Does he not, along with George Monbiot, (who has just announced that the public should have free access to the countryside where ever) understand free access not only damages Farmers income, but adds great pressure to wildlife, which is having its space restricted by the human being, which cannot be allowed to continue.

On a completely different subject which is of personal worry to me that I just need to get off my chest, this is in regards to the unfairness of our society. Most readers will be aware of the "Jack Peers Centre" which was set up in memory of my father Jack Peers as an extra resource for the youngsters of East Oxford, and students of "Peers School" now "The Oxford Academy" (TOA) in the early 80's, when there was a problem of direction for these youngsters, trying to show them amongst other things what the countryside has to offer. Now owing to cuts etc, without going into boring details, curtailing its activities, under the present head, a very innovative programme has been devised to cater for the problems of some very disadvantaged children. This has been a very successful programme, which has reformed the youngsters' lives, and their behaviour, is now almost impossible to afford, the alternative is that these



youngsters have to attend expensive independent special schools, which needless to say are run as a business, at vast expense with profits lining the pockets of executives of the businesses running them. "TOA" has now come up with the idea of running these courses at the centre as a separate business, just so that they can hold on to the members of staff that have made this project so successful, but do not have the money to do so. My gripe is that these schools have to struggle with very difficult individuals without extra funding. Yes more money is going to schools, but there are also proportionally more pupils, the "TOA" being one of the 16 or so top schools in the country, after a recent Ofsted inspection, has become very popular. Whereas private schools that don't on the whole have the same problem, get millions donated by the wealthy, this does not seem fair to me. Obviously there is more to this story that this column allows space for and I am really trying to write about Farming and the countryside, so should not really mention this injustice but it is my own hobby horse.

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

Thank you to Anne Donald for a very inspiring talk on Image styling and to The Orchard for a lovely meeting venue. If you would like a consultation with Anne just email her at styledbyannie123@gmail.com for more details.

Our next meeting on Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm is a talk on the charity, Mercy Ships & Climbing Kilimanjaro at 67 with Ken & June Brazier.

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.

Everyone welcome, visitors £4

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438

News from The Pine Lodge

Thank you to everyone who came along to fete last month, it was probably the biggest and hottest yet! Did you see the 'This is Little Milton' stall? It had information

on all the organisations in the village.

Would you like to become more involved in village life?

Want to feel part of the community?

Could you help with village events?

Come along to village events, join a club, pop in the shop, come to church

There's something for everyone - New volunteers always welcome

In July we have WI: Mercy Ships & Kilimanjaro at 67 on Thursday 13th, Craft Club on Wednesday 19th, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

We have just returned from a short walking holiday in Burgundy to find the UK in the midst of a heatwave with very high temperatures. We rarely go away in summer because the garden is so demanding, but close friends wanted to do this walking holiday with us because the men, who are old school friends, walked Hadrian's Wall last spring in mostly pouring rain and around 30 miles a day. The women decided that was too much, so the plan to enjoy sun with shorter walking was hatched. Burgundy was also in the middle of a heat wave, but after some rain it actually felt cooler there than here.

Much of our walking was through vineyards and countryside. The wild flowers were spectacular with masses of orchids which we enjoyed with slightly less envy because, just before we left Great Milton, my other half had spotted our first orchid in the meadow when he nearly mowed it off; we were so excited about it and protected it with a chicken wire cage so it wasn't munched by the first passing deer. Deer are a real problem for gardens around here as they are particularly fond of flowers especially roses, but seem to be frightened off when the alpacas are in residence. The knock-on effect has been that Tulips have reappeared in the garden which I planted more than 20 years ago before I discovered they got eaten. I had always assumed the culprits were rabbits, but that cannot be the case as we still have rabbits in the garden with the alpacas so it must be that deer are responsible.

Following the fete, there were far fewer plants in pots and Sally kindly agreed to water in our absence. Little did she know how hard that task would be in the heat! A splendid job was done and pretty much everything survived for which I am very grateful. I really will put less in pots next year. I say that every year, but I get tempted in garden centres and before I know where I am the pots are back again. This is not helped by each year already having plants growing on for the fete next year.

Watering must continue each day until we get some decent rain, but even then, pots of bedding and hanging baskets will require daily watering. If your pots do dry out completely you need to put them in trays and allow them to soak up water to resaturate the compost; water poured on

top will simply run through if there is no tray to provide a reservoir. It is important to remove the pots when it rains or the roots will become waterlogged and the plants will suffer. The appearance may suggest they are wilting and short of water; the application of yet more water may well result in death. However, death in the garden is always an opportunity to acquire yet another plant!

Do keep vegetables well-watered especially peas and beans when they are flowering and setting pods. The addition of good compost (preferably home-made which takes longer to rot down than shop bought) before any planting helps the soil maintain moisture and nutrients. However, too much water can be a bad thing as we have found with our asparagus bed which is on the flood plain and not raised enough. I fear we will need to start again....

Liz Moyes

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact Carys Lyndsay, membership secretary. caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

John Howell MP writes...

With the General Election now behind us I am writing this on the day MPs gather at Westminster for the start of the new Parliament. I feel honoured to be back here. I am, of course, grateful to those who supported me on polling day, however once polling day is over successful candidate is the MP for everyone who lives in the Constituency. In my work as MP I have always worked hard for those I represent and as such I am interested to know people's views and am open to listening to differing sides of debates as issues arise. I find such debates helpful in forming my own view, and in the end coming to my own judgement on issues.

There is little doubt that this election has drawn some important national issues to the fore and I look forward to working through these in the coming months. Sometimes people have personal issues or problems and seek the advice of their MP. I am happy to try to help with issues where possible. Strictly speaking MPs are there to help with matters in their own constituency for which Parliament is responsible although sometimes I can help beyond this. Concerns relating to the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, the Borders Agency, and the Department of Work and Pensions are examples of issues that I can directly take up. However many of the issues that are raised with me are matters for our local councils and you have elected representatives to these council who are often best placed to help. For example matters such as planning, refuse collection, housing benefit and council tax are dealt with by the district council, whilst issues relating to highways, social services, school transport and trading standards come under the remit of the county council. Full details of the responsibilities of the different councils can be found on their websites and my office is always willing to try to direct you to the best point of contact for help should you need it.

I do hold surgeries and as the constituency is geographically large I move them around to try to be nearer to different communities at different times. However with the use of technology many issues can be addressed more promptly using phone and email. In my experience over the last 9 years as your MP, I have found more and more

issues have been dealt with in this way. It enables much more prompt action to get the ball rolling to resolve issues. Individual case issues are usually dealt with through my constituency office so in the first instance please call there if you would like help or advice.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and hearing from many more on the various issues that will no doubt arise.

Contact Details

Email: john.howell,mp@parliament.uk

Phone: Constituency Office – 01491 613072

Westminster Office – 0207 219 6676.

Postal address: Constituency Office, PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD

Westminster Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always I am interested to hear views on the proposals before the House.

EVENTS AT THE PINE LODGE

CRAFT CLUB

Wednesday 19th July

7:30pm – 10:00pm

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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 – 01844 278479.

Old Field Open Day and BBQ



Saturday July 15th from 11am

Learn about the field, the animals and plants who live there and what we do to maintain it.

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**Household Items, books, CD's
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**Items can be brought to
the event from 9.30am – 10.30am ONLY**

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You are invited to a 'drop in session' to see the architect's plans on

Sunday September 17th 2017 anytime between 3-5pm

at the Neighbours' Hall – light refreshments available



The Neighbours' Hall was presented to Great Milton and neighbouring villages in 1924 by the Rev. and Mrs Percivall Pott who lived at the Manor from 1921 to 1947. As the Neighbours' Hall is a Community Hall and a wonderful asset to the village, regularly used for community events, we are keen to involve villagers in the refurbishment so we 'get it right' for everyone!

Maybe you can help with suggestions or offer practical or financial help or just wish to know more. We look forward to seeing you there. *The Neighbours' Hall Management Committee*

VACANCY

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Applications are invited for the position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Great Milton Parish Council.

This is a permanent, part-time position for 9.5 hours per week.

£4,408 per annum (in accordance with the current NJC salary point LC1.16)

Experience required for the post:

- Previous Local Authority administration desirable or equivalent administration and accounting experience
- Possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft Office software (particularly Word and Excel),
- Good organisational and interpersonal skills are essential.
- Be capable of working independently without supervision and have the ability to deal with a range of issues.
- Experience of website maintenance preferable - training will be provided if necessary.

Overall Responsibilities:

The Clerk provides administrative support to the Council and as the Responsible Financial Officer, will be required to manage the council finances.

Duties include:

- Procedures - Manage the monthly meetings of the Council prepare agendas, take minutes, advise Councillors on procedural / legal matters and progress actions.
- Planning - Ensure planning applications are considered by the Council and submit responses to the local authorities in accordance with timescales and policies.
- Finances - Manage the Parish Council's finances, prepare financial reports, payment of invoices, and end of year accounts, submit accounts for internal and external audit, VAT reclaim, prepare for budget review and precept determination. Submit invoices for village newsletter advertisement and chase payments.

Location:

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Closing Date for Applications: 10th July 2017

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more details and a Job Description of the role.

Helen Cherry, 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 470 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

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- 1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm) £10 or £100 per year**
- Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**
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Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

Please contact Helen Cherry

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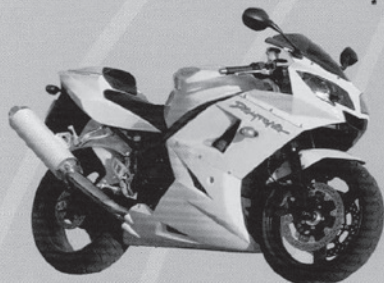
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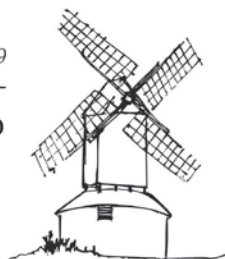
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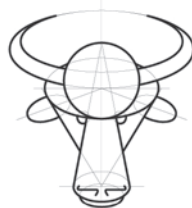
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- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday 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
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 Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- Saturday Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm
contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637
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 218345*

July

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| 6th Thurs | Neighbours Club: School entertains | 2:15pm |
| 12th Wed | Neighbours Club: Outing Winchester and Mottisfont Abbey | — |
| 13th Thurs | Little Milton W.I. meeting at The Pinle Lodge, Little Milton | 7:30pm |
| 15th Sat | Old Field Open day and Barbecue | 11:00am |
| 17th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 19th Wed | Craft Club at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:30pm |
| 20th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Pangbourne to Croatia by Train talk and slides | 2:15pm |
| 22nd Sat | Freecycle at The Pavilion | 10:00am |

September

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|----------|---|--------|
| 17th Sun | Neighbours Hall 'Big Plans' drop-in session | 3:00pm |
| 22nd Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall | 8:00pm |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th July 2017**.

Adverts to **Helen Cherry** 21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

07554 516989 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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

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