

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2018

Published by the Parish Council

No. 532



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	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkeny Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	07401 399489
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

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

Front Cover

Oxfordshire Family History Society and volunteers recording the gravestones.
Photo: Nick Belcher.

In My Opinion...

I am sure most of you will be pleased to hear that the Parish Council has agreed to continue publishing the Bulletin in printed form following the feedback received from residents, both formally and informally. Almost 80 people responded to the survey saying they wanted to continue to receive paper copies of the Bulletin, and in addition many people responded verbally to councillors and the clerk, expressing their deep concerns about the loss of the printed newsletter.



In a nutshell, the PC decided to propose this change in the light of declining advertising revenues and increasing production costs. However, thanks to the efforts of our clerk, Tim Darch, advertising revenue has in fact turned around and has improved to the point where we believe the Bulletin can continue as a self-funding programme into the medium term. In my opinion, this is a very positive outcome.

It was also very gratifying to receive a number of offers of financial support from various residents who were concerned at the possible demise of the printed version, and to them we express sincere thanks, but hope we can survive without this support!

Thank you to all who responded, both formally and verbally. I trust you will all continue to enjoy the benefits of a printed journal of parish life. You may see some changes to the layout as we would like to seek sponsorship of the front cover!

Remember, don't let apathy rule!

Stephen Harrod, Chairman

Draft Parish Notes

Apologies were received from Cllrs Peter Fewell and Clyde Deacon. District Councillor Caroline Newton attended the meeting along with Tim Darch (Parish Clerk/RFO).

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council preceded the monthly Parish Council meeting, at which Cllrs Stephen Harrod and Bill Fox were unanimously elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the coming year. The Parish Council's various Committees reported no changes to their arrangements.

The County Council's monthly and annual reports and the District Councillor's update and Annual Report were received by the Parish Council. Cllr Caroline Newton outlined the content of her Local Plan update, which appears on the Parish



Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Adam Stevenson	01491 613223	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 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

Council website.

Speeding through village and on A329.

It was agreed that a speed survey was likely to lead to the same results as previous surveys. Signage is likely to be too expensive, and traffic calming such as chicanes or speed humps would then require street lighting, which is not popular in the village. It was suggested that a letter should be sent by the Parish Council to Le Manoir (the village's major employer) on this issue.

Proposed housing development at Hughendon M40 Garage, Milton Common.

The owner of the garage and the developer gave a brief presentation. The current owner (since 2003) has been given 6 months notice of termination of his franchise by Triumph Motorcycles, as they wish to relocate the dealership to North Oxford. The owner plans to reduce his staffing establishment and establish a secondhand motorcycle sales business near to his home in Berkshire, and has submitted an application to develop 8 3-bed and 2 2-bed 'affordable' dwellings on the Milton Common site, the plans for which were outlined to the meeting. Outline permission was granted around 18 months ago for fewer but larger houses: it is hoped that a revised application will be approved by September and the development will hopefully be fully built by mid-2019. The Parish Council had no major objections to the proposal but stated that it would await the submission of a further application which it would consider in detail: the views of local residents will also be sought.

Planning Applications

P18/S1184/HH (Demolition of an existing single-storey conservatory and erection of proposed 2-storey front and side extensions and single storey rear extension and outbuilding. Yew Tree Cottage Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NF).

The Ward Councillor's comments and those received from neighbours were relayed to the meeting in his absence. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objection to the proposed development.

Planning permission has been granted for the following applications:

P18/S0273/HH (new detached garage. 5-6 Priory Bank Church Road Great Milton, OX44 7PA).

P18/S0792/A (Advertisement Consent: Proposed signage, The Oxford Belfry Hotel London Road Milton Common OX9 2JW).

An appeal relating to application number P17/S3619/FUL (Retention of Staff Accommodation Static Caravans: The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common, Oxon OX9 2JW) has been deposited with the District Council as Local Planning Authority. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against condition(s) imposed on the above planning permission. The Parish Council responded

as follows on the initial application:

At a meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, it was decided that we would recommend that this application should be refused. The original application was granted for a two-year period while this application seeks renewal for three years which is excessive given that the caravans are unsightly and close to residential houses. We would support a renewal for two years from the date the caravans were first installed (July 2017).

The Parish Council's position on the appeal remains unchanged and is broadly similar to that of the local planning authority: no representations will therefore be made.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the monthly meeting of the Parish Council (both held on Monday 16th April 2018) were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings,

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £446.93

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production. £283.60

Green and Growing. Grass cutting May: £582

Came and Company. Great Milton Parish Council - Insurance Renewal. £354.90

The Maple Tree. Donation towards operating costs (as agreed at Minute 53/18): £500

The internal auditor's report was received along with the Internal Auditor's section of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The internal audit report raised no concerns or issues for action.

Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and Section 2 (Annual Accounting Statements) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31st March 2018 were reviewed and agreed, then signed in sequence by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO as required in advance of publication and the Exercise of Public Rights period (scheduled for 4 June to 13 July 2018).

Receipt of the refund of £890.40 due to the Parish Council from HMRC having paid the Clerk's tax rebate via PAYE was noted.

The annual increment in the Clerk's salary from April 1 2018 from £4,813.04 to £4,992.86 per annum, as agreed by the National Association of Local Councils, was noted.

It was agreed to close the Santander Business Account and to obtain the signatures/photo ID of Cllrs S Harrod and P Fewell (the signatories on the Santander account) for this purpose.

Submission of the application for refund of £1379.60 VAT incurred between April 1 2017 and March 31 2018 was noted.

Verge cutting has begun. Unfortunately a bench adjacent to the school entrance was damaged during mowing: the Clerk reported that the bench will be replaced on the contractor's next visit.

The Parish Council has re-registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, its membership apparently having lapsed some time ago. There remains uncertainty over whether the Clerk can be appointed Data Protection Officer: a relaxation of the legislation has been proposed to remove the requirement for Parish Councils to appoint a DPO. In the meantime the Clerk has been taking necessary steps to move towards GDPR compliance.

The Council's Subject Access Request policy, Privacy Policy, Draft IT Policy, Removable Media Policy and Document Retention Policy were reviewed and approved. A clear-out of the PC's paper files will be scheduled in due course.

79 'opt-in' forms for continued receipt of paper copies of the Bulletin have been received (along with a letter recommending continuation of the current arrangements) in response to the suggestion that the Great Milton Bulletin becomes a largely online magazine with a limited print run for circulation to those that request a hard copy. After further discussion it was RESOLVED with the agreement of all Councillors present to postpone the proposed changes for now but to keep the situation under review, particularly with regard to costs versus advertising income. The Clerk is to investigate opportunities for advertising/sponsorship of the front cover of the magazine.

Cllr Bill Fox reported that very good progress is being made on issues relating to the land upon which the school's new modular classroom will be located. The revised lease is close to completion, and the new classroom is scheduled for delivery on 27 May, with footings already in place already ready for its installation.

The Parish Council has been asked by the Expressway Action Group if it wished to join in with a signage campaign protesting against the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, but has declined to do so for the time being.

The potential creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village was discussed.

This is a process to produce a land management plan for the Parish, which may help to deter speculative applications for development. However this can be over-ridden: additionally the District Council can now demonstrate a 5 year land supply which means that large-scale speculative applications are less likely. The Council has therefore decided not to pursue the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the time being.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th June starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for June

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Trinity 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>Trinity 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>Trinity 3</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>Trinity 4</i>			Family Service 11:00am

Services in Our Benefice for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Trinity 5</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

(Not) Ramblings from the Rectory.

Nothing from me this month, instead I have asked Tony Jefferis to allow me to circulate something he has written. For those who don't know, a quick biography. Tony is a resident of Great Milton, He worked as a Consultant ENT Surgeon: for 25 years in East Berkshire, with Honorary Contracts at St Mary's Paddington and Harefield Hospitals.

In addition he has been involved in Postgraduate Medical Education in Oxford since 1992. He has also delivered the teaching the Teachers courses in Palestine and Israel and worked with Edinburgh University Global Health Academy in Gaza. Tony has also recently visited Africa, helping with the curricula of the College of surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa. Tony is also one of the Licensed Lay Ministers, alongside Toby Garfitt, in this benefice, we are enriched to have these two very wise men in our midst.

Recently Tony took part in what turned out to be a controversial visit to Syria.

So here is what Tony wrote about the recent trip to Syria. I think it is a useful and balanced account:

A Journey into Syria

On their website the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises “against all travel to Syria”. There had been an alleged chemical attack in Douma, a suburb of Damascus, in the week before our group was scheduled to go. The group was an eclectic mix of peers, church leaders, journalists, artists, and charity workers (loosely me!) on a pastoral visit. On the 14th April when we were due to cross the border from Beirut there was a missile raid by the US, France and the UK. Despite this we decided to go ahead. Then a “tweet” by one of our party, intended to be informative but neutral, resulted in widespread condemnation of our group in the British Press, characterising us as “unhelpful”, “dupes” and “useful idiots”.

This coloured our visit, which for me was to investigate whether there was a role for the Medical Education Charity with which I am associated. The questions I wanted to answer were “What are the medical problems facing the country now?” , “What will they be when the war ends?” and “Can we help?”

The trip showed quite clearly that there will be enormous problems with the infrastructure: we travelled from Damascus to Homs and then on to Aleppo. Much of these beautiful historic cities has been wrecked, the villages that lie between them have been reduced to ghost towns. There were many poignant sights, a school classroom devastated with exercise books still open, a flowering cypress growing in the rubble (heavenly scent!), some ancient Byzantine stonework arching a now shattered doorway and tragic evidence of a hospital flattened by bombs.

We were fortunate to meet many people, in formal convocations, in churches, in classrooms, on the streets and in a refugee camp. There were several repeated messages, the war must end, the West must listen, sanctions must go and from the dispossessed “We just want to go home.” Those who had lived under rebel control had experienced hyper inflation on basic products, a kilo of flour costing 45 times as much in rebel held areas as elsewhere.

We met a couple of British journalists, who were emphatic that much of what we had heard in the West was misinformation, “fake news”. For example their view was that the White Helmets, or Syrian Civil Defence, twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, were a front organisation for al Qaida. They identified them as being responsible for spreading rumours about the latest alleged chemical attack in Douma. It was and is impossible to reconcile the two alternative narratives about the war. Brutality and cruelty clearly exists on both sides, they both scramble truth and misinformation and despite this there are pockets of good will everywhere even among supporters of the regime. From these some will be involved in the reconstruction.

There was already evidence of this reconstruction, interestingly chiefly among

places of worship, churches and mosques . Whether this is the best use of international aid is debatable, but I was reminded of the iconic pictures of St Paul's standing tall in the blitzed landscape of wartime London.

From a medical perspective, the facilities in the refugee camp were basic. They were willingly staffed, had a reasonable supply of every day drugs but the dressing station which was open to the street, only sheltered by a torn curtain was rudimentary; whether this was because of poor supply or poor management was impossible to say. Medicine has been reduced to “patch and mend”, life expectancy reduced by 20 years and the refinements of a modern medical system had been largely lost in the dust. There is much to do.

One of the tragedies of Syria has been the exodus of the young professional, including health care workers. Over 6 million have fled. For reconstruction and reconciliation to be effective many will need to be encouraged back. How this might be done is not clear. However in the UK we have much expertise and despite the hostile posture of the government towards the Assad regime there is a surprising amount of good will among the people of Syria towards Britain. The Syrian people will need support in every area when the war ends, and if we as a country are genuinely concerned about our international reach and “soft power” we need to be offer help alongside the others involved.

The challenge that was made to the group, was that as we were guests of the Syrian Orthodox Church, we were only meeting people sympathetic to the government. At the very least this would mean that we were given skewed and partial view of the situation and at worst we would be consorting with murderers. This is where one must make ones own judgement as to what is right and what is wrong: my view, as a doctor, is that one needs to assess the medical needs regardless of the political situation, and sometimes this will mean dealing with unsavoury people.

There was plenty to think about and “process” after our trip. On the morning I left Damascus I was woken by bombs, the next day in Great Milton bird song woke me. This was a vivid illustration of the need to keep the peace with vigilance and to resolve our differences with generosity, gentleness and kindness.

Tony Jefferis

The Neighbours Club

On the 10th May we had a visit from Anne Borrowdale who came to give a talk about her time as an invigilator at the Exam Hall which she had been doing since 2005. She had many experiences but one which stuck in her mind was the gentleman

who set fire to his trousers! This was caused by a lighter in his pocket accidentally switching itself on – this of course caused a few titters from the students!

On Wednesday the 16th May a group of members and friends set off on this month's outing. This time we went to Bourton-on-the Water first and spent a very pleasant three hours or so there having lunch and looking round the very varied shops in the town. In the afternoon we went on to Chedworth Roman Villa – a National Trust property and "one of the grandest Roman Villas in the country". Chedworth was discovered in 1864 when a site was dug out to reveal extensive walls, bath houses and fine mosaics. At the time timber buildings were erected to protect the delicate ruins and in the 4th century a large luxurious country house with under floor heating and two bath houses was erected – a very comfortable place indeed in which to live if one could afford it. It proved to be an ideal site with spectacular views and its own water supply. We saw some very lovely mosaic floors although a lot were covered over with tarmac to protect them but further work is to be carried out in July this year. Inside of course the floors were visible for us to admire. A very different and interesting outing.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - June


- Thurs 7th - Flower Arrangement Competition - 2:15pm
- Thurs 14th - Outing to Dorney Court and Savill Gardens
- Thurs 21st - Fish and Chips - 1:00pm

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

June				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Matt Stammers	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton		at St. Mary's
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion

Caroline Newton – District Councillor

My name is Caroline Newton. I have been your representative on the District Council (SODC) since September 2017 when I stood for election following 

the resignation of the previous District Councillor, Steve Harrod (who remains your County Councillor and Chair of Great Milton Parish Council) . Having been born and raised in South Oxfordshire, I now live with my family in Britwell Salome.

I'm writing this briefing to let you know of recent changes at SODC and how they may affect you.

The District Council is responsible for many of the local public services you use from planning, to social housing and waste collection (while the County Council is in charge of social care, the roads, education).

One of the main focuses of the District Council at the moment is the creation of the Local Plan, our vision for the development of our district over the next 15 years. This Local Plan identifies where housing, retain and employment land should be located, as well as the infrastructure needed to support this growth - like new schools, roads, health services etc.

Just before Easter, my fellow councillors and I called for a pause to the Local Plan as we were concerned that the developments it proposed could not (and should not) actually be delivered within the 15 year time-frame of the Plan. The main concern for most of us was the inclusion of a proposal to build around 3000 on Chalgrove Airfield. I had, in any case been far from convinced that this was the right place to locate thousands of new homes. But in the months running up this decision to pause there had been two critical developments. Firstly, it had become apparent that there was a big gap in the funding available for the infrastructure necessary to make such a big settlement work (particularly the road-building infrastructure), and secondly we realised it was far from clear that the site would be vacated by its current tenants (Martin-Baker) in that time-frame.

Partly as a result of this concern about the direction of the Local Plan, councillors decided it was time for a new Leader at SODC. The Council is still run by a Conservative Administration, but in mid-April councillors elected Jane Murphy to replace the former Leader, John Cotton, whom many of you knew. As part of this reshuffle, Jane invited me to join her Cabinet where I am now responsible for Housing and Environment for the Council.

Under this new leadership, the Council has decided to look again at all available sites for major housing development in the district, as long as the extra time it will take does not significantly impact on a countywide housing growth agreement (the so-called Growth Deal).

We intend to reassess each of the main housing sites currently proposed in the Plan, along with previously-considered locations and some additional sites that have more recently been put forward by developers:

- Current proposed sites: Culham, Wheatley, Berinsfield and Chalgrove Airfield;
- Previously considered (but not progressed) sites: Thornhill, Wick Farm, Lower Elsfield, Grenoble Road, Northfields, Harrington and land at Great Western Park;
- Additional sites submitted by developers: land at Emmer Green, Reading, Reading Golf Club, Playhatch at Reading, land off Thame Road, North Weston.

The sites of greatest concern to residents in Great Milton will be Chalgrove, Harrington and North Weston. Chalgrove and Harrington are well known you. You may recall that Harrington was not considered a suitable site for such a large number of houses in the most recent SODC assessment. Without wanting to pre-judge the work of the Council, I am not aware of any new factors that would change that assessment.

As for the North Weston, I understand that an outline proposal was put to the Planning team at the end of last year, much too late to be considered for the Local Plan as it then stood. I have asked officers for information about the site and will share that with you once I have it.

I work hard to represent the interests and concerns of residents of my ward amongst my fellow councillors and with officers. I try to come to Parish Council meetings where I update on Council business and am tasked to investigate matters relating the parish. But am also available between times so please don't hesitate to contact me. I will respond as quickly and helpfully as I can.

Caroline Newton • caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk • 07951 477144

Church Fête

Our Fête is nearly here - June 9th at 2pm in the Recreation Ground!

You might wish to

- decorate a cake, to be judged by Benoit Blin from le Manoir. The theme is "Royalty" and the categories are key stage one, key stage two, secondary and adult. Once cakes are judged, they will be auctioned.
- bring your vintage car
- donate cakes for the teas or cake and produce stall
- donate books, toiletries/gifts, accessories, bric a brac, tombola and hoopla prizes
- buy raffle tickets (from shop or on the day) for a chance to win one of the many great prizes
- train your dog ready for showing off in the dog show

There will plenty of activities for children and adults as well as a hot air balloon (weather dependent) a bar and hot dogs.



Ant and his team will deposit the equipment from 9.30 so please do come to help set everything up and take it down if you around. Helpers are much appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Church Fete Committee



GREAT MILTON
HISTORY SOCIETY

The Great Milton History Society are compiling a booklet detailing the many & varied sports activities carried out in Great Milton covering around 100 Years from the 1870's onwards.

We would be grateful for any photographs and personal recollections covering events and teams from the village. All material will be returned.

Please contact us at the History Room at The Bull on Wednesdays or contact Ian on 279489 or Pat on 279300.

Thank you.

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Rummage Sale

This has been arranged for Saturday 23rd June in The Neighbours Hall at 2:30pm.

Anyone requiring rummage to be collected, please ring me. Alternatively, items can be brought to the hall on the day, after 10:00am.

Quiz

Arranged for Friday 6th July in the Neighbours Hall at 7:30pm. Full details elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Ann Price, Secretary – 279474

Sheppard Trust

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be held on Thursday 21st June 2018. 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 Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or emailed to janewillis1@live.co.uk and should arrive by Monday 11th June 2018.

Charity Dance Held - 12th May 2018


A massive thank you to everyone who supported the CHARITY DANCE on Saturday 12th May. The evening was a great success with lots of dancing to the brilliant Hippy Haze band. The funds raised amounted to well over £600 & will go towards further renovations to the Neighbours Hall.

Vonnie



The Neighbours Hall renovations have begun with decorations & flooring! New windows next!

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

In May we had a very interesting and well received talk by Ruth Mancini. Ruth is a local crime author and she discussed how life events and circumstances inspire 

fiction. Thank you for coming Ruth! If there are other authors/poets/artists/musicians living in our area who would be interested in speaking at one of our regular events, please speak to staff at the library.

Dates to note:

Saturday 30th June

Ex-library stock book sale. 40p for a book or 3 for £1. Children's books are 20p each.

Saturday July 14th – Saturday 15th

Summer Reading Challenge 2018: Mischief Makers

The Summer Reading Challenge theme for this year is Mischief Makers, based on the 80th anniversary of the Beano comic. Mischief Makers is all about adventure, friendship, reading and fun! We'll encourage children aged 4-11 years to read six books over the summer as usual, and explore a map of Beanotown to find the mysterious buried treasure and become the ultimate mischief makers. Dennis and Gnasher, with friends Pieface, JJ, Rubi and other Beano characters will be there to help them.

Saturday 14th July

Jigsaw Swap event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap with some other puzzles.

Saturday 28th July

Ex-library stock book sale. 40p for a book or 3 for £1. Children's books are 20p each.

Wednesday 1st August

10.30 Edward Hess, owner of the Manor House in Wheatley will be speaking about the research and history of the building as per his book.

Refreshments will be provided.

Regular FOWL events:

On-going sale of donated books

Morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

There is a small charge for refreshments

A taste of our online services:

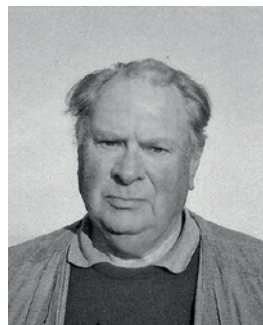
Naxos Online Music

Listen to whole discs or individual tracks of genres including classical, jazz, blues, and world music through this streaming service. Choose from over 60,000 CDs. Enter your library card number in the Passcode box at the top left hand of the page to access at home.

Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

View from Views

Who would believe we are now half way through the year already and, it will soon be the longest day, at last it seems like summer, I don't think I have ever known the weather change so dramatically as it did over the May bank holiday. Not only the weather but the growth as well, finally got our Barley planted towards the end of march and, was showing through the ground in about 5 days the shortest time I can ever remember (normally it takes about 10 days), that was at least a week before the weather really warmed up, and now looks a million dollars. The Winter Wheat also looks very well at the moment, unfortunately soon all imperfections and our mistakes, will start to show anytime now, at least at the moment everything is looking good. However its results will rely on how the summer turns out. That is more than can be said about the rape as although it is looking better now but, only just, all the unevenness in the yellow fields show the lack of eventual crop and yield, (at least everyone's looks the same).



The one Swallow I reported last month does not seem to have been followed by the normal numbers which is a little worrying, perhaps they have found a better home, we heard our first Cuckoo on the 14th May, the rest of the wildlife world seems to be doing what it does naturally at this time of year in procreating and, nurturing. I note we are still being blamed for the loss of wildlife, never the development industry and at least we are trying to make good any mistakes of the past.

There has of late been a deal of publicity about the future of farming, both good, bad and, interesting. There was a debate on Radio 4 about eating meat and whether this is ethical when we could satisfy our need for protein from plants, such as soya, this to my mind is fine. At the same time we must not forget that nature is cruel, it is normal in nature for one species to eat another that's how it works. Humans being at the top of the chain have a responsibility to lesser beings to care for their welfare and life while they are alive as we have this ability and understanding but, it does not preclude us from eating them.

Another bit of interesting development comes from one of our prominent Agricultural Colleges that has been involved in trials into automated farming by growing a hectare of cereals without putting a hand or foot on the. As a result they are saying that once this system is fully operational, we will not need the big and heavy machinery we use today, compacting the land. All we will need is a platoon of smaller drones and, guided devices, targeting individual pests or problems, sounds very

futuristic to me, but it does make sense when one thinks we cover the whole field with whatever just because perhaps only half the field needs that treatment.

The “Oxford to Cambridge Expressway” has had a lot of publicity in one way or another, and as a result I have attended a couple of meetings, being somewhat interested as one of the routes suggested comes very close to us. However I discover that at the moment they are only looking at possible corridors that they may use, so it is a little premature to get too hot under the collar over the details as yet. What I have gained in attending these meetings is where there are opposing political parties concerned it seems that the left of centre participants are more interested in gaining political points than the issue at hand, which is rather sad. This political sector are at pains to criticise rather than being constructive making points like, whichever route/corridor is taken it will interfere with the green belt, not that this is important now as it is only an industrialised agricultural dessert where the farming community has killed everything in it's way, without realising or giving credit for what we have done of late to rectify some of the errors of the passed. (Planting 30,000km hedgerows, 27,000 km grass margins for wildlife, and 2,700 km stone walls doesn't sound like we don't care) It is all very well for these not involved to criticise with their belly's full of cheap wholesome food! Other comments which I found difficult to agree to was do we really need our current form of transport? Ok if you live near public transport but, not if you have a 6 mile walk to the nearest bus or Doctor. And finally the effect on wildlife my feeling is that on the whole wildlife tends to adapt to circumstances, and some pundits are advocating using road verges etc to provide wildlife corridors, where as I do not believe in humans dominating wildlife there can be a compromise. The bare fact is that we in this area realise we do need this road as our local roads are too congested and, with the advent of online shopping, and house building, it will only get worse with white vans delivering 24/7.

Charles Peers

Tiddington Boot Sale

We will be holding our 3rd Saturday Car Boot Sale on 7th July at Tiddington Village Hall Playing Field. Pitch fees and refreshment proceeds will again be donated to New Dawn Education Center, a charity running a secondary school in Huruma, a slum town on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. Most students are from single parent families who cannot afford school fees and whose homes have no electricity or running water.

So if you have a loft to empty or want to grab a bargain, please come along.

Where?

Tiddington Village Hall Playing Field
OX9 2LY, (A418 between Thame and Wheatley)

Book a Pitch?

£10 per car. Limited space – advance booking helpful

When?

Saturday 7th July 2018, 9.00 — 12.00
Sellers entry from 8.00 a.m.

Contact:

Wendy 07966 132128 wendy@taylorhill.co.uk
Jennie 01844 339359 jennieswilliams@hotmail.com
New Dawn NGO No: OP.218/051/2003/0285/2908
Refreshments and toilets available
Further information about New Dawn School from wendy@taylorhill.co.uk

Little Milton WI

In May, we had an interesting discussion on the new 2018 resolution, Mental Health Matters, followed by a beautiful mini operatic concert by Amilia. She'd even learnt the WI favourite, Jerusalem, as a finale.

This month on Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm we have a Wet Felting workshop with Melanie Kinghan. It's not too late to join in, come and try us out, visitors welcome, only £4.

Also come and see us at Little Milton Church Fete on Saturday 16th June. We'll be running the Accessories stall and Lucky Lollies game. Any donations of jewellery, bags, scarves, household and other accessories welcome - contact me for delivery or collection.

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.

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

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

Catering & Waitressing Service also available: Light lunches, Afternoon teas and Children's parties. Looking for help with your party or meeting? Contact us for a quote

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

News from the Pine Lodge

After a busy May, we're starting Summer with our AGM on Monday 4th June at 7.30pm. Come along and hear all about your community hall, our future plans, wish the retiring committee a fond farewell and welcome in the new members. We still have vacancies for a secretary and chairman so this could be your chance to make a difference and contribute to village life. No previous experience is needed as the retiring trustees and committee will give full support to new volunteers. Please consider giving some time to supporting the hall – this does not have to be a long commitment as one or two years will make all the difference! Take this chance to meet new people, make new friends, face different challenges, gain new skills and enhance your CV.

Regular activities this month include;

LMWI Felting workshop with Melanie Kinghan - Thursday 14th June 7.30pm

Craft Club on 3rd Wednesday of the month (20th June) at 7.30pm

Games Evening on 4th Thursday of the month (28th June) at 7.30pm

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

Pilates with Lee on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am

Toddlersense, multi-sensory adventures for children on Thursdays 1015-1415

NEW Adult Acting & Theatre sessions on Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm

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Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The last winter was warm and wet followed by a cold spring. This has continued to show its effects. I have had two clumps of chives for around 20 years; all that is left are two shallow hollows; they have simply vanished. I left in the ground, in a sheltered place, a pineapple sage which flowers bright red in October/November; its flowers amazingly survived the two heavy snowfalls, but the plant has clearly succumbed to the spring heavy rains. Well, it was worth a try.

My biggest disappointments were some of the Tulips which I needed for colour during our recent garden visit and open day. I have bought my Tulips every year from the same company for a long time so I gave them a call to find out what I might have done wrong. An interesting conversation followed; the lady I spoke to knew exactly which varieties I was asking about as it has been a general problem even with the

growers who will be struggling with supplies this year. It seems that Tulips need at least 10 weeks of winter cold, but the warm wet winter did not provide that so flowering has failed in about 4/5th of the bulbs of some varieties and often stems have not been able to hold up the heads (this was a problem for my parrot Tulips). Some varieties were unaffected and I had a mix of both. Ballerina Tulip was the worst offender producing only 19 flowers from 100 bulbs. I was advised to plant out the bulbs as this variety will continue to flower for a few years in the garden and next year should be fine. Apparently flowering failure was also a big problem with the dwarf winter Irises and it seems some varieties of these have vanished from commercial growers.

On the flip side, I was not hopeful about Dahlia Roxy which I had left in the ground, but it is happily shooting away now so is clearly a winner. Virtually all the Salvias I left in the ground are also unaffected, but in the garden death of a plant means space for another!

I was puzzled by some seedlings and young plants I did not recognize and nor did my group of RHS course gardening friends. Had I asked Sally, she would have known as she gave me the seed! *Smyrnium perfoliatum* is a woodland plant which produces bright green seedling one year followed by young plants the next spring and, finally, in the third year the plant grows bigger and send up a beautiful acid yellow/green flowering stem. It has given much pleasure this spring and now I have all three stages around the garden. One gardening friend commented that one of the big nationally important gardens had asked for volunteers to weed out the plant as it had become invasive. I will bear this in mind, but at the moment I am happy with the situation and at least I now can recognize it early. Despite preferring shade, it is growing very happily in full sun here so I don't think it is particularly fussy and I would thoroughly recommend it.

I notice that everything is growing fast in the current beautiful weather and that includes the weeds, so keep up with the weeding and make sure you keep newly planted plants well-watered; a good watering every few days is better than a daily sprinkling. Don't forget to go out in your garden frequently simply to notice and enjoy the changes which seem to be happening on a daily basis just now; I love this time of year – there is so much promise!

Liz Moyses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact Carys Lyndsay who is the membership secretary.

caryselindsay@gmail.com

John Howell MP writes...

In the last couple of months I have written about different ways in which I work and about the way in which Parliament works. I am often asked about the work that I do on behalf of the Government overseas. This month let me explain how this fits into the overall picture.

I have two roles on behalf of the Government which take me abroad on a regular basis. These are as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria and as a representative on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Also as a Member of the Justice Select Committee I am sometimes asked to go on fact finding missions to other countries with the Committee.

Trade Envoys are appointed to countries where substantial trade and investment opportunities have been identified by the government. My role in Nigeria is therefore to promote British business and trade interests and particularly to help open channels for people from the UK to trade with Nigeria. The Trade Envoy programme predates Brexit but has taken on greater significance in the light of it. The programme is to support the drive for economic growth by building on the UK's existing relations with these markets and maximising bilateral trade, thereby generating real and long term benefits for the UK. Nigeria is one of the largest country in the sub-Saharan Africa and has a population of some 186m people. It is also rich in natural resources, especially oil and has a fast-growing economy. It is infamous for corruption but the current Government there is working to stamp this out. In this role I am asked to go to Nigeria on short visits several times a year. I also meet with representatives from Nigeria here in the UK and attend a series of bi-lateral meetings as arranged by the Department for International Trade.

The Council of Europe is an older and wider circle of nations than the European Union – it includes, for example, Russia and Turkey among its member states. We will still remain members of the Council of Europe once we have left the EU. The Council was founded in 1949 and currently has 47 member states. As an international organisation it is dedicated to upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It oversees the European Court of Human Rights. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is made up of 324 members drawn from the national parliaments of the Council's member states. It usually meets four times a year for week-long plenary sessions in Strasbourg. PACE is one of the two statutory bodies of the Council of Europe, along with the Committee of Ministers, the executive body

representing governments. The Assembly is often seen as the driving force of the Council, holding governments to account on human rights issues, pressing states to maintain democratic standards, proposing fresh ideas and generating the momentum for reform.

These international roles are yet another facet of the work of an MP and are an important part of the work we do on the international stage to secure the UK's place among other countries.

There is information about both of these roles on the UK Parliamentary website www.parliament.uk alongside all the other information on the workings of Parliament.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. As always, I am interested to hear constituent's views on the proposals before the House. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons.

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it up to date
so please could you advise Carina Martin
of any updates that need to be made
carina.martin@gmail.com



Great Milton Church Fete



9th June 2pm

Recreation Ground
Bake Off: The Professionals'

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£10 per session or £50 when you sign up for the full 6 weeks. No obligation: If, after the first class, you are unhappy with what you experience or it's not for you, get your money back. My name is Leone White. For more information, a discussion about the classes and whether they're right for you, or to sign up, please contact me on 07445 059 001 or leonejw@hotmail.com. You can also visit my website at www.leonewhite.com. I will be delighted to hear from you.

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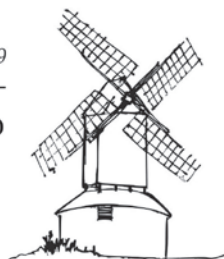
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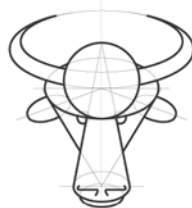
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01844 279761 07721 457035

JONNY@ORODRUIN.CO.UK

Diary

- Monday Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm
contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- Saturday 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*

June

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------|
| 7th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Flower Arrangement Competition. | 2:15pm |
| 9th Sat | Great Milton Church Fête in The Recreation Ground | 2:00pm |
| 14th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Outing to Dorney Court and Savill Gardens | — |
| 16th Sat | Little Milton Church Fête | |
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 21st Thurs | Neighbours Club: Fish and Chips | 1:00pm |
| 23rd Sat | Rummage Sale in The Neighbours Hall | 2:30pm |
| 30th Sat | Havana Nights Big Summer Bash at Views Farm | — |

July

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| 6th Fri | Quiz in The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 7th Sat | Tiddington Boot Sale in the Village Hall Playing Field | 9:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th June 2018**.

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

Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.

01844 278347 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

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

The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.

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