

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2019

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No. 540



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 Monckery 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:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Fledgling on part of the old Wesminster Bridge at Lassco.
Photo: Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		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 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

In My Opinion

The recent deep clean: yes, it does look better in places. A bit hit and miss in my opinion of the deep clean we had recently. Pity the cleaners blotted their copy book by putting all sweepings from Chilworth Lane junction area in the roadside ditch. I know the rest of the village was bagged or put straight in the truck.

I see butchery continues apace of our greens and verges with total disregard by work vans and delivery lorries plus inconsiderate parking around the school area.

Three or four years ago now the Chairman and myself had an on site meeting with the Highways Department to sort out blocked drains in Sworford Lane just before the bend and the old bridge. This ditch and drain carries a lot of surface water from the A40 dual carriageway. As we all know, water has been out on this bend already and we have had very little rain to date. This work needs to be done twice a year to keep it functional. During the frosty weather, it will turn into a skating rink and be dangerous, catching out the unwary. Last time we had the meeting, the Highways arrived with no drain plans etc. Remind them to bring them this time and flood warning signs until the job is done. Perhaps Councillor Gwen Harris could action this. It would be appreciated.

Les Preston

Parking, as long as I have lived here, has been a problem in the village. It is not so much the number of cars, although that seems to have got much worse, but the dreadful and inconsiderate parking.

The 2 points that I would like to express, are (1) school Mums collecting children at 3.30pm, park anywhere, across drives, in the PO turning circle and on our lovely village greens, the verges are constantly being eroded. (2) There are a number of cars, I have counted at least 4 that just sit in the village, taking up valuable space for locals to park, apparently not ever moved or used.

Our village is not a car park, and our verges are precious, and do not need thoughtless parents parking on them.

A car park in the Rec, as mentioned in last month's bulletin, would at least alleviate some of the problem. Perhaps a letter to the school, that could go out to all parents, to ask for their help, might have some influence!?? And perhaps a plea to everyone in the village to park in garages and drives if they have one.

Sally Orriss

Draft Parish Council Notes

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th February were Cllrs. S Harrod (Chairman), G Harris, G Bennet and P Fewell, plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen and C Deacon.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st January 2019 were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and is available on the Parish Council website.

Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P18/S2573/FUL (The Oxford Belfry London Road Milton Common OX9 2JW).

Description of development: Construction of 4 Detached and 2 Semi-Detached Dwellings.(as amended by drawings accompanying email from Agent dated 11 September 2018). Appeal lodged by applicant against refusal of permission by SODC. The Parish Council had no objections to the original application and therefore will not be making a representation to the appeal.


P19/S0013/FUL (Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock). Amendment:

as amplified by additional drainage information received 24 January 2019. FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

The following planning decisions were reviewed:

P18/S4161/HH (Haddon, Lower End, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7NL). First floor rear extension and internal alterations to provide additional bedroom, alterations to existing dormer window and external material alterations to rear ground floor. Planning permission is GRANTED for the works described above.

P18/S4178/HH (Brannock, Lower End, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7NL). Replacement garage, home workshop and store. Demolition of existing garage and stores. Subsequent amendment to increase size of garage, remove store and replace chimney with flue. The chimney was replaced with a flue on request of SODCs case officer for the application. Planning permission is GRANTED for the works described above.

P18/S3555/FUL (Hughendon Motors London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU). Erection of 10 dwellings with access, parking, amenity space, and landscaping following the demolition of the existing buildings (As amended by drawing PL105 showing Acoustic Fencing and amplified by responses to the local highway and planning authorities and noise technical note dated 19/12/2018 received 19 and 20 December 2018). Planning permission is REFUSED for this proposed development for 

the following reasons:

Proposed development conflicts with SODC spatial strategy/core strategy

Proposed development as a whole would be out of keeping with, and cause significant harm to, the established character and appearance of the area

Proposed development fails to i) secure affordable housing to meet the needs of the District and ii) secure other on and off site infrastructure necessary to support the development

Proposed layout does not provide for sufficient parking for the 2 bedroom units and fails to demonstrate a turning area to enable a fire tender to manoeuvre. The position of the visitor parking spaces at the front of the site and within the plots of units 1 and 2 would create conflict with vehicles entering the site and confusion for visitors.

P18/S4096/FUL (6 Thame Road Great Milton Oxford OX44 7HY). New detached dwelling.

Application WITHDRAWN.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £424.07

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production December. £240.40

SODC Dog bin emptying 1 Oct-31 Dec 2018. £65.48

SLCC/ALCC membership. £106/£40

A full bank reconciliation was received and the latest bank statement signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 February 2019 was £23,421.18

Parish Clerk's update of matters in hand

SODC has been advised that the suggested litter-picking along Sworford Lane did not take place. Biffa were scheduled to return to do this w/c Monday 11 February but this appears also not to have been completed as expected: the Clerk will once again contact SODC for an update.

The suggested tree maintenance will be carried out by Jenks once the necessary approvals for works within the conservation area have been sought.

Following a local request Plastows Coaches have been contacted to ask if they would be interested in providing a link to Wheatley from Great Milton, but unfortunately they are unable to assist.

The possibility of using the Recreation Ground parking area to alleviate pressure on on-street spaces at school pick-up and drop-off times has been investigated, but the Rec Committee advises for a number of reasons this will not be possible.

The hedges along the right hand side of the Recreation Ground were due to be trimmed during the week commencing Monday 11 February.

Other matters

There is no further progress to report on the updating of the stiles. Funding is to be investigated, although it is acknowledged that maintenance of rights of way is the landowner's responsibility. The ward councillor will continue to liaise with the residents concerned.

There has been a recent spate of burglaries and criminal damage, particularly in the Thame Road area. The police have advised that any further incidents should be reported to them in order to increase the chances of apprehending the perpetrators.

The Parish Council has made contact with Wheatley Parish Council with a view to co-operation on responses and actions relating to Corridor B3 of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, should it be named as the preferred route option.

The Parish Council has responded to the Local Plan consultation: the response will be uploaded to the Parish Council website.

The village Spring litter pick will take place on Saturday 23 March. This will be publicised via the Bulletin, parish noticeboards, the shop, the pub and the village website.

Progress is being made with the proposed volunteer-operated car scheme linking Great Milton with the 280 bus at Wheatley. A number of volunteers have offered their services, though a co-ordinator is still sought. It is hoped that a trial period might begin fairly soon: the start date will be printed in the March edition of the Bulletin.

A suggestion has been made by a local resident that a 50mph speed limit be sought on the section of road between Little Milton and April Cottage (junction with Sworford Lane). The Parish Clerk will contact the County Council's Highways team to arrange speed surveys both on this road and on Sworford Lane, though it is understood that a significant and persistent speeding problem will need to be observed if a change to the limit is to be supported by the County Council. The Parish Clerk will also investigate the possibility of locating a speed camera van on the A329 adjacent to the Windmill on a weekend, and the Parish Council will be borrowing a hand-held speed observation device from the police when available.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th March starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch

Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Wednesday 6th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Holy Communion 7:30pm		
Sunday 10th <i>Lent 1</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Wednesday 13th		Compline 7:00pm	
Sunday 17th <i>Lent 2</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Wednesday 20th			Compline 7:00pm
Sunday 24th <i>Lent 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Service at St. George's, Windsor 10:45am	
Wednesday 27th	Compline 7:00pm		
Sunday 31st <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Services in Our Benefice for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Wednesday 3rd		Compline 7:00pm	
Sunday 7th <i>Lent 5</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

Lent will be upon us soon. It will begin with a simple reflective Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 7.30pm on 6th March. There then follow four lent lunches, three of them on a Friday but one of them on March 21st on a Thursday. Please see below for the details.

To be honest I am not sure that I do Lent very well. And maybe that is the point. If we take on the discipline of trying to give up something we can and usually do find it hard. It is the season when traditionally we remember the reality of Temptation and it begins with the story of Jesus' own temptation in the wilderness, for forty days being tempted, hence our forty days of Lent. As I have written before, Jesus' temptations were particular to him. In his case they were to do with power, seeking it and using it for the wrong reasons and in the wrong way. Jesus, faced with the evil and reality of temptation to use power for himself was not seduced. He would have nothing to do with the love of power, his whole purpose was to do with the power of love.

Actually I rather like the idea of taking up something purposeful for Lent, a discipline not of denial but inclusion. A daily few minutes of prayer when perhaps we have let that discipline slip, or some reading that feeds the mind. I find myself particularly bad at that, I have piles of books unopened and unread all of which I suspect might do me some good!


Not that I will have much time to do that. I have a new job. I am not leaving this one, it is something else as well. It is something called an Area Dean. I have actually done the job before, when I was in Hughenden. What though is an area dean? I now have several large and comprehensive files in my possession all of which are to do with the role. However in the handbook for area deans and lay chairs - a rather long document! is a very brief summary.

'The Area Dean is the Bishop's officer licensed to act within a deanery in accordance with the Bishop's charge. As part of the team sharing in the episcopate (the ministry of oversight) with the Bishop the role of the Area Dean and the Deanery lay chair, working together is:

To lead and unite the Deanery.

To foster the well being of the Deanery's clergy and people.

To foster the development of the mission of the Church in the Deanery, Diocese and beyond.

I love those last two words 'and beyond' it reminds me of Buzz lightyear in Toy Story, 'To infinity and beyond' - Apparently my role is to be stratospheric! In reality it is allot of work on the ground dealing with often some hard but necessary 

things such as looking at the Parish share (the amount given by the local church to enable people like me to be in post) and the deployment of clergy around the Deanery and whether there will need to be changes? In this deanery this will be an important question as we look at the future probability of significant housing developments. Another role is to be mindful of the pastoral care of the Clergy. That is something I found really fulfilling when I was last in post. There are many other responsibilities which I won't mention here. The problem I had when doing this before and I know every other area dean has shared, is that it could be a full time job, but it is usually attached to another full time and demanding job, that of being a parish priest! I have asked around and in these parishes I don't believe that in living memory there has been a rector or vicar who has held another diocesan appointment. There will be the need to get used to this new development and it will take some working through. I will have to learn again to plan my time a little better and prioritise and it will be a little unnerving at first I am sure! It is though not just about me. I believe it is a privilege for the parishes concerned to be able to 'lend' a part of their local parish priest to a wider role. Our deanery, Aston and Cuddesdon is very large. It includes Thame and Dorchester, Watlington and Culham, Chinnor Wheatley and Chalgrove and many other smaller villages such as ours. Someone has to do it, for the next few years, God willing it will be me, but I will need a lot of support.

I have been very good - I have avoided the B word. Less than a month to go unless the exit is delayed. Who knows where we will be then?

Back to Lent. Our Lent lunches in Aid of Christian Aid will be:

Friday March 8th: 12.00 Spring Cottage, Haseley Road, Sally Ann and Ian Denis

Friday March 15th: 12.00 The Old School House, Back Way Anne Maloney

Thursday March 21st: 12.00 Delafield, Little Haseley Scilla Greenall

Friday March 29th: 12.00 Orpswood Cottage, Thame Road, Great Milton, Trudy Timbs.

In addition there will be some simple reflective services of Compline around the Benefice. All of these will now be at 7.00pm (rather than in previous years at 7.30pm)

Weds March 13th St James' Little Milton

Weds March 20th St Peter's Great Haseley

Weds March 27th St Mary's Great Milton

Weds April 3rd St James' Little Milton

Weds April 10th St Peter's Great Haseley

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Canon Dr Martin Wellings on 01865 243216
Services at Gt. Milton during the Chapel renovation will be held in the Common Room, Rullers Field

March				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Pauls Spray	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Anderson	Holy Communion
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	

Tower Restoration Christmas cards 2018


Rosamund Griffin and Nick Belcher would like to thank all those who bought the Christmas cards produced in aid of St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Fund. Together, we made £760.60. We would like to thank Pat and Christine Donnelly for making the cards available through the Shop and those who bought them that way. The total is an excellent contribution to a very important project – one that we shall continue to support and we hope that you will too. More news later about our next plan!

Revision of Church Electoral Roll for St Mary's, Great Milton

Every six years, the rules of the Church of England require that Electoral Rolls must be completely revised, starting from scratch. 2019 is the year in which the full revision is necessary. If you have been on the Electoral Roll up to now, you will receive a new form to complete. If you have not been on the roll before, now is your chance!

If you would like to join, you will need to fill in an application form (ask Clare BP or Trudy Timbs for one), which must be returned to them before March 17th.

The new Electoral Roll will be displayed on the church noticeboard on Sunday 31 March to Sunday 7 April and any corrections should be made to the churchwardens as soon as possible thereafter.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church on April 28 at 11.30 to which all are most welcome. All those on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. 

Details of services and other activities are published in this Bulletin and on our village website.

Major developments

We are planning to repair the external stonework on our tower, conserve the Dormer Monument and build kitchen and toilet facilities in our church. This is a big project so if you would like to help in any way (planning, fundraising, project management etc), please contact the churchwardens – clareblakeway@gmail.com or trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Lifts-to-Bus Scheme Update

We are putting the pilot scheme on hold until we have more volunteers, so unfortunately it will not be starting in March. If anyone is considering volunteering to be a driver, let me reassure you that there is absolutely no regular commitment, you would just do what you can when you can. Volunteer drivers would receive an email or Whatsapp from the co-ordinator giving information about someone who needs a lift to catch (or be picked up from) the 280 at a particular time. This is a short journey and not a huge undertaking. It is not a paid service, though a voluntary contribution to petrol can be made, so ordinary car insurance is not affected. It is literally giving someone a lift to the bus.

More details are in previous bulletins or in the shop. Please contact me if you want to know more or would like to join the list of volunteer drivers.

katepattinson@yahoo.co.uk • 01844 279204

Meanwhile, we are lobbying Oxford Bus Company to extend its PickMeUp service to reconnect our village with the outside world! Please email info@oxfordbus.co.uk or tweet [@Oxford_PickMeUp](https://twitter.com/Oxford_PickMeUp) to urge them to expand their catchment area to include the Miltons and the Haseleys.

The Neighbours Club

The Neighbours' Club opened on the 3rd January 2019 with quite an informal meeting with lots of chat when we caught up with what had been happening over Christmas. We also had one of Lin's quizzes to wake our brains up (!)

On the 17th January 2019 we held our AGM when 14 members attended. The coffee morning we had planned failed to materialise so we will arrange another one for

this year in order to boost club funds. We were left £2000 by John Davis and £500 by Fred Smith for which we were very grateful. The most popular outing in 2018 was the one for Beale Park which started with a boat trip on the river. We received the Treasurer's report which revealed we made a loss of £992 on the year's outings the largest of which was the one to the Isle of Wight. We do not know if we will receive a grant from the Sheppard Trust because they have not yet held their meeting but we are hoping for £800 which would be the same as last year. We will continue with the £5 annual subscription and £2 per meeting. We received our Chairman's report in which he said membership was 21 which was slightly down on last year and average attendance was 17 each fortnight. He thanked everyone for their help in keeping the club running over the last year. He persuaded everyone to stay in their respective positions for another year and he was thanked enormously for being an excellent Chairman for the year.

On the 31st January we had a talk and slides by Mike Payne on the History of Pinewood Studios and on the 14th February it was down to Yvonne to attempt to get us fit again after the excesses of Christmas and New Year. We are now looking forward to our Bring and Share Lunch at 1.00 p.m. on the 28th February.

JCP

Forthcoming Events

Wed 27th Feb - Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe

Wed 6th March - Alternative date for Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman Inn,
Bablock Hythe in case of bad weather

Thurs 14th March -- Reminiscence - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 28th March - Talk re Porch Charity



We have had a busy start to the year. The wells project is gathering pace - we are still looking for more information concerning boreholes, wells, streams and springs. There is a large detailed map of the village which will be used in conjunction with the looseleaf file for information.

The sports book, working title Great Milton Sports, is well underway and will be available in the Spring.

We also keep a collection of interesting old books in the Community Room which may be of interest - come and have a look!

Party for PACE

Revellers attending the annual 'January Party' at the Neighbours Hall (featuring the Great Milton Dads and DJ Niv) raised a fantastic £740 for PACE, a ground-breaking children's charity that transforms the lives of children and young people with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy. Tim Darch (GMD) and Paul Preece (January Party Fairy Lights and Catering specialist) are pictured handing over the traditional 'big cheque' to staff and children at PACE. Thanks to all January Party attendees for your support!



Our Scout Group is Growing!

We're looking for someone or a team of people to take on a volunteer management role helping our Executive Committee and our Leaders to run the Scout Group.

In Scouting this role is called a Group Scout Leader.

The role could be separated into three main areas:

- Leader support and development – this role is to manage and support adults

- volunteering in the Scout Group, review progress and ensure training needs are met.
- Executive Committee Liaison and Leaders Meeting Chair – this role is to develop and facilitate the relationship between the Executive committee and Leaders and will act as a liaison to other adults within the Group.
- Group Development – this role will help to manage the great programme of activities our young people take part in and liaise with the District, others in Scouting and the wider community.

All the roles will ensure that great Scouting happens for the Young people of the Scout Group and may involve enabling change where necessary.

The roles, are ideal for a group of people (or one person) who can't commit to a weekly event but are wanting to be involved in the Scout Group. No prior experience of Scouting is necessary as there will be a full training and induction and support programme tailored to suit your previous experiences.

If interested or would like more information please email Bea at beckylycett@hotmail.com.

The Return of Old Spot? – and another Modern Milton Mystery

If you recall, last Year's litter pick discovered a mysterious Old Spot Port Bottle litter lout who tossed countless empty bottles of that tippie along Sworford Lane.

My latest effort up the Thame Road suggests our miscreant is back, but seems to have graduated to a better class of Port and even, shock horror, a half full bottle of Pinot Grigio! – such a waste.

The big mystery is who is his partner in crime? – THE PHANTOM PRINGLES CRUNCHER!

No less than 4 empty tubes of my favourite nibble, all empty alas, in the space of a few hundred Yards amongst the usual detritus of crisp packets and Coke cans along the Thame Road.

I still wonder what goes through the minds of these people but then I guess it's like looking into space and I doubt if they have the nous to realise or care they are spoiling their own countryside.

On the positive side there is only half a sack of litter these days as opposed to a full one last Year so maybe the National campaigns to clear up after ourselves is working. Obviously not in the case of our Phantom Pringles Cruncher. My appeal to him/her is "take your empty tubes home" or, if you must toss them in the verge, at least leave me a few to nibble on my regular beat...

Great Milton Football Club Monthly Update

Latest Results

26th Jan - League, Summertown (Away) 4-5

(Luke Warmington, Jamie Ford, Bradley Boodell, Patryk Warlaski)

9th Feb - Cup, South Park (Home) 4-4

(Bradley Boodell 2, Jamie Buchanan 2: GMFC won 4-3 on penalties)

16th Feb - League, Masons Arms (Home) 0-3

Fixtures

23rd February Cup v South Park

9th March League v Union Street

23rd March Cup (Semi final) v Chequers

Recruiting

We are currently looking for additional players for our team, and also for committee members. Please get in contact for more details if you are interested.

Keep in touch with GMFC

Facebook – www.facebook.com/greatmiltonfc/

Twitter - @greatmiltonfc

E-mail – greatmiltonfc@gmail.com

Website – <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/greatmiltonfc>

Thank you to our sponsors

Studio Rigging, 37 degrees fitness and 1st Choice Scaffolding

Date for Your Diary

By popular demand the 60's DANCE will be on again for the 5th year running. The date is Saturday 18th May at the Neighbours Hall. More info. later.

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

Dates to note:

Saturday 9th March 9:30 -12:30

Jigsaw Swap event. An increasingly popular event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap for another.

Saturday 30 March Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Monday afternoon art sessions from 3-5

Monday evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

Do pop into the library – an idea for 2019 if you haven't before – you may be surprised at what is on offer

Best wishes for 2019 from all the Wheatley team.

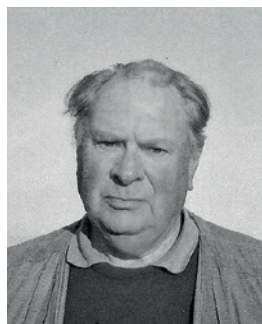
View from Views

This year seems to be going as fast as any before, and here we are in March. The last few days in January were a bit of a shock, followed by extremely mild few days, made me wonder what might be round the corner, by the time you read this you will know, all I can say is winter is not yet over. Those few days of snow brought out loads of little birds on the feeding sites we have for them, with any tall plants still standing with seeds left on them, just covered in little birds, then once the snow cleared they seemed to disappear.

This unexpected blast of cold does not seem to have much effect on numbers so far, as we still have hordes of them, mainly tits and buntings I am informed. We had an interesting happening about the time of the snow, a badger was knocked down on the road, this was very quickly moved, a few days later it was sighted some 100 yards away in the adjacent field, then a few days (and Kites later), it was even further out into the field, I guess a fox must have dragged it as I would have sworn when I saw first it was dead. It's all gone now thanks perhaps to the foxes and certainly the Kites, funny how nature clears up after itself.

We are now being told that "Natural England", the Government body that administers our environmental schemes, is to have its funding severely cut, so much for Gove's promises that he is going to green our countryside, and support such initiatives. This is very disappointing for those of us that have done, and are doing, so much for the countryside, it is like a kick in the belly. Of course as our present Government does not seem to know how to run a "**** up in a brewery" it's little wonder, having been pretty positive over the current issue, I am now becoming very disillusioned. It is a pity we are governed by politicians and not people that have had to earn a living.

Still the big clouds hanging over farming seem to be getting darker and more difficult by the day. The Vegans are getting more and more publicity, and more and more media attention, they have now I gather published a map of dairy farms, so their activist can easily locate and target farmers they wish to attack. They have a perfect right to make all the noise they can



to get their message over, but to violently attack innocent farmers is not on. The other worry is that of chemical restriction, which is all well and good if they are harmful, but I understand that most of these restrictions/banns have no or very little scientific reasons. We have the ongoing issue of Glyphosate, which is likely to be banned for no real reason. Now many of the chemicals we have been using are to be restricted, this will make life more complicated, and not necessarily have the desired effect. We have to accept that we should not be allowed to use harmful chemicals, but at the same time we the public as a whole must understand that not all chemicals are harmful and in fact enhance some products without any detrimental effect. The spinoff of all this is if we are too restrictive then the chemical companies that invest vast sums of money in R & D will not be inclined to do so, and with increasing population we need all the tools we can get to feed ourselves.

We have now seen the Local plan, and yes of course Chalgrove although a lower density of houses, is to go ahead, in spite of our objections. This just goes to show that they (whoever THEY are) have gone ahead whatever we may have said or suggested. This means we will now have more people living in our area more traffic more congestion on our roads, and needless to say more pollution. How on earth do we think we can control all the waste from this number of extra bodies? We have to ask the question will we really get the extra infrastructure we are promised or will the developers be allowed, as in many other cases, make a creditable excuse and say that infrastructure is more than the development can justify.

Our vicar, of the three local parishes made a very interesting point in last month's newsletters saying how expensive it is becoming to maintain the church building, being made more difficult as less and less people are attending, I am no one to preach on this point as I am certainly not very regular, the trouble is time has moved on and people have much more to fill their time than years ago. None of us can conceive a situation where the Village Church were to be allowed to decay so we have to find ways to support it in. The answer is greater use by a wider spectrum of the public, village hall etc, after all originally this is what a church was the centre of the village and a meeting place, This is not necessarily the answer as most villages have their own village halls anyway, and not always a practical proposition, but if the church could be used by other denominations then the costs could spread over a larger section of the public. And these other denominations would then not need to build their own places of worship either.

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

In February, we had a fun evening making green hearts and pom-poms, to show our support for the #ShowtheLove campaign for action on climate change. Look out for our new green bunting coming soon. Thank you to Heather & Mary for a wonderful tea.

This month on Thursday 14th March we have our Annual Meeting followed by Bingo with prizes to be won! Come and join in - Everyone welcome, visitors £5 or membership £42.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, get out the house, 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 in the Pine Lodge.

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.littlemilton.org.uk


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

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

I very much enjoyed the series of beautiful days last week and at long last I am starting to be able to garden again after my ankle injury in September; it has been such a long winter for me so the late winter sunshine has been much appreciated.

I managed three two hour sessions of rose pruning along with my other half who was tackling the large climbers and ramblers. This, along with a little weeding, has made things look somewhat tidier. There is a huge amount to do, but I am taking my own advice of a little at a time, as my fitness improves. At least my recovery period has been over the winter months, but, even so, the weeds are well out of control. The lawn is infested with red dead nettle which has come from the beds and is in full flower. And I don't even want to think about the moss. In reality the lawn needs starting from scratch. Originally it was simply mown field, but now it seems to have ever less grass and ever more other plants which have no place in a lawn. Still, it looks green and lovely from a distance when mown in the summer and I would assume has a lot more wildlife with its many flowering plants than would a well-kept lawn.

Bulb flowering is ahead of schedule I think, but a traditional February cold snap should slow things down. Most people dislike February with its often very cold weather, but I love it as the days noticeably lengthen and the garden truly begins to wake up with the opening of colourful spring flowers. My primroses are so welcoming in their cheery pale yellow and start flowering around November here. I suspect that this is because they are not truly wild and have crossed with cultivated primulas. Occasionally dusky pink versions arise; I weed these out in an attempt to stop their spread. They have been joined by cheery Cyclamen coum with its tiny flowers in varying shades of pink. A friend of mine has a very shady garden with a huge spreading ancient cherry tree. The ground underneath this very old tree is now carpeted with these jewel like Cyclamen in spring. Only a few plants were originally planted in the grass and these have been joined over the years by self-sown seedlings; the result is an absolute joy every spring.

Other jobs which need completing are winter fruit bush pruning of currants and gooseberries. Part of our rhubarb is covered with a forcer to encourage early tender pink stems to develop ahead of the main crop (anything which creates darkness will do – my dad used a bucket and an old dustbin also works well). Rhubarb produces an endless crop throughout the summer in our 

vegetable patch, but, in theory, picking should cease in time to allow the plant to recover in order to crop next year. In practice, it doesn't seem possible to cut too much rhubarb from ours and the plants get bigger every year. We use it to add bulk to our compost heap, as a result of seeing a TV programme about allotments where one lady described rhubarb as a green manure. I am forced to agree!

Rocket and spinach are growing well in the man greenhouse along with other salad crops; the new growing year has definitely begun even though the new series of Gardeners World is yet to begin!

Liz Moyses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay

caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

News from The Pine Lodge

This month we have our last quiz of the season on Saturday 23 March, welcoming a new quizmaster, Alan. Everyone welcome - on your own or in a team. Tickets £10, includes 2-course dinner, on sale at The Village Shop, Little Milton.

Elliott Morris is back in concert in Little Milton on 11th May, playing songs from his new album. Tickets now on sale at www.wegotickets.com.

Please help us to continue as a viable village hall by joining the committee or becoming an event volunteer? We need you now. No previous experience is needed. Take this chance to meet new people, make new friends, gain new skills, add to your CV.

Regular activities include:

LMWI AGM & Bingo at 7.30pm on 14 March

Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (20 March)

Power Yoga with Hayley on Mondays at 9.15am

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

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

Upcoming events:

Quiz Night - Saturday 23 March at 7pm

Easter Activity & Storytelling - Saturday 6 April 10am-12pm

Elliott Morris Concert - Saturday 11th May 7.30pm

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

John Howell MP writes...

In the last couple of months I have noticed that a number of local magazines and newsletters have carried articles on the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, even in villages that would not be directly affected. I have also had a number of people write directly to me on the issue. So this month I am dedicating my newsletter to this.

The proposed Expressway is part of a wider project over a geographical arc from Oxford to Cambridge via Milton Keynes. It is a wide-ranging project and in terms of communications includes East-West rail, digital infrastructure as well as the proposed road link. Let me say upfront that in principle I am generally supportive. History has shown that we must be bold in these projects and look to the longer term with infrastructure investment.

The initial project on the road was launched in a strategic document prepared by the Ministry of Transport under the Coalition between the Conservatives and the Liberal-Democrats in December 2014 and all major political parties have supported the Expressway in the past. Much of the preparatory work for this was undertaken by the National Infrastructure Commission and Highways England have now taken it on. There has been debate over the possible route of the road, particularly at the Oxfordshire end. At early stages three potential broad corridors for the route around Oxford were put forward. In September last year the Minister has announced the proposed corridor would be Corridor B and discounted B2 leaving B1 and B3 for further investigation. B2 was discounted mainly due to the negative environmental impacts near to Horspath, Wheatley and the Otmoor Nature Reserve which are considered to be particularly difficult to overcome. The Minister has recently confirmed publicly in debate 'our strong preference is not to cross Otmoor. We have therefore selected options that do not do that; we have given that very clear signal.' The next stage is to look at detailed routes in the two corridors. I understand that there will be a public consultation in the autumn of this year.

In the absence of alternative information, I have taken the view that the route should utilise existing roads wherever possible rather than carve a new path through Green Belt land or damage other areas of environmental interest and I have suggested it needs to be routed to the west of Oxford. My rationale is that I have long since supported the need for the upgrading of the A34. I would be looking for improvements to the A34 along with measures to deter diversions through villages.

I do not anticipate any real news on this now until later this year

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

The Great Milton Litterpick 1000, Sat 23 March



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Our Easter Story and Activities Morning...

will be at: The Pine Lodge, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ
on: **Saturday April 6th**
from: 10am-12pm
for: Primary School Aged Children



Book your place and receive full details either
by telephoning Sally Ann on 01844 278029 or
by emailing Sally Ann iandennis1@btinternet.com
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All are welcome!



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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)

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 360 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year

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• Full back page colour £35 or £350 per year •

Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

Please contact Tim Darch

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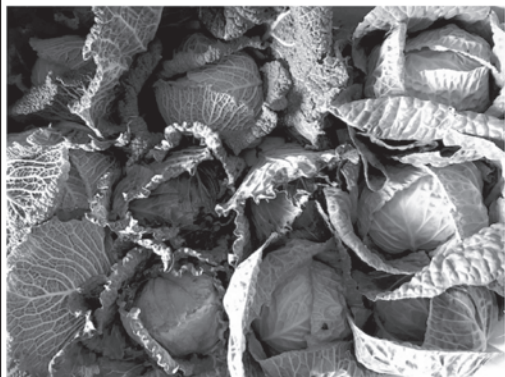
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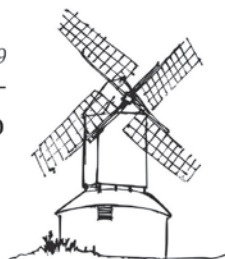
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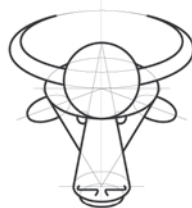
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 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
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contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
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contact Daphne 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 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*

March

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| 6th Wed | Neighbours Club: Alternative date for Skittles | — |
| 14th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Reminiscence | 2:15pm |
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in the Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 23rd Sat | Great Milton Litter Pick: meet at The Old Garage | 10:00am |
| | Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:00pm |
| 28th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Talk on the Porch Charity | — |
| 31st Sun | Mothering Sunday | — |

April

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| 6th Sat | Easter Story & Activities Morning at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton. | 10:00am |
| 27th Sat | Handel's Coronation Anthems & Schubert's Mass in G at St. Mary's | 7:30pm |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th March 2019**.

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