

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

June 2017

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Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
District and County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council Stephen Harrod (Chair) Clerk	01844 278068 07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

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

Local information

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreeecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 279474	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

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

In My Opinion...

Well, it's that time of year again, with the village fete just around the corner.

It's time to take our hats off to the many volunteers who make such an effort in the setting up and taking down of the stalls and gazebos. Time to thank all the generous folks who donate so many great items to supply these stalls. Time also to reflect on the reasons behind the fete, namely raising funds to support St Mary's church. And mostly time to enjoy what is, in my opinion, a great British tradition. Come what may, rain or shine, we will be out there!

And this year we will be enjoying the presence of our community-owned pub, who will be manning a beer tent supplied by our local brewery!

We need everyone to help make this a success so if you can help, or provide items for the stalls, please get in touch with the stall holders below.

Plants - Liz Moyses (279875) or Sally Orriss (279231)

Cakes and jams - Laura Putt (lauraputt89@outlook.com) If you are not a cook, she would love donations of ingredients

Bric-a brac - Dee Nunan and Alan Pickett (happy to receive small sized donations at The Forge prior to the event but preferably on the day) (dee_nunan@yahoo.co.uk)

Toiletries and gifts - Fizzy Kemp, Sarah MacMahon (The Limes) or Jane Jefferis (North End Cottage)

Tombola - Chris Kitashima (279 976)

Books - Sue Barratt (279 214) Weaver Cottage.

Hoopla - the Block family (278 233)

Teas - Alex Kirkman (alexlkirkman@gmail.com)

Accessories - Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Braemar, (278 475)

Children's toys - take to Toddlers Group between 10.00-11.30 the day before.

Don't let apathy take a hold!

Steve Harrod, Chairman



Front Cover

Woodpecker by Mannie Stone.

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

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

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

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman: Stephen Harrod

Ward: Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory

Vice Chairman: Bill Fox

Ward: Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings

Councillor: Peter Fewell

Ward: The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood

Councillor: Clyde Deacon

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

Councillor: Malcolm Horsley

Ward: Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329

Councillor: Gwen Harris

Ward: Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary

Councillor: Peter Allen

Ward: Milton Common

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee: Michael Robinson, Michele Block

Old Field Charity: Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick

Hard Surface Play Area: Susan Read, Jon Devitt

Neighbourhood Watch: Lesley Bush, Liz Sands

Kent & Couling Charity: Cynthia D'Anger

Sheppard Trust: Ann Price, Pat Cox

Parish Council Notes

The May meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor) with Cllrs Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell, Bill Fox (Vice Chair), and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk). Apologies were received from Cllrs Malcom Horsley and Peter Allen. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 19th June at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Please note that approved minutes will be available to view on Great Milton Parish Council Website www.great-milton.co.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting – 15th May 2017, 7:30pm

Elect a Chairman

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

Elect a Vice-Chairman

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

Existing committee representatives were reviewed:

The Sheppard Trust

Ann Price, Pat Cox

The Hard Surface Play Area Committee

Susan Read, Jon Devitt

Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee

Michael Robinson, Michele Block

Neighbourhood Watch

Lesley Bush, Liz Sands

The Kent & Couling Charity

Rita Booker, Cynthia D'Anger

The Old Field Charity

Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick

Great Milton Parish Council meeting, followed the Parish Council annual meeting and started at 7:40pm.

Planning Applications

None



Planning decision notices received from SODC

South Oxfordshire District Council GRANTED consent on the following planning applications:

Application No : P17/S0857/LB

Application proposal, including any amendments : Erection of Blue Plaque. (As amended by revised plaque details on drawing TM 10/04/17 received 11 April 2017).

Site Location : The Limes Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NJ

Application No : P17/S0654/LB & P17/S0653/HH

Application proposal, including any amendments : New 1 1/2 storey oak framed extension to rear. Conversion of remaining attached barn to habitable space. Retaining walls to rear garden. New thatched eye-brow dormer in south facing thatched roof slope Site Location : 5-6 Priory Bank Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PA

Internal Audit Report

Review of the internal audit report was referred to next month (June 2017).

Great Milton Parish Council Asset Register

It was RESOLVED to approve the GMPC Asset register as a true and accurate record.

Annual return for the year ending 31st March 2017

It was RESOLVED to approve the explanation of the significant variations between 31st March 2016 and 31st March 2017 as a true and accurate record.

It was RESOLVED to approve sections one and two of the annual return. The Chair and clerk signed sections one and two of the annual return.

Proposed Modular Building on Parish Council Land

The County Council wishes to site a modular classroom on Parish Council land at Gt Milton School. There are currently ongoing discussions that the lease would be for 21 years with regular reviews every seven years.

Vacancy – Great Milton Parish Council Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

The Chair received a resignation letter from Helen Cherry to resign from her role as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, as from 31st August 2017.

Helen Cherry, Clerk 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 4th <i>Whit Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 11th <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	No Service	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 18th <i>Trinity 1</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 25th <i>Trinity 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	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 2nd <i>Trinity 3</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

There is so much around once again about the upcoming election I don't want to add too much. However, I will say this. In our most traditional service, the Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, there is a prayer that we use for the monarch and her government.

‘We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes and Governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed; And grant unto her whole council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.’

As we head back to the polls, seemingly for a one issue election, who is going to take us through Brexit? this prayer still stands. All those appointed to government are done so to order society with justice for all and proportionate law and order, based on christian values upon which our society is founded. This is an apolitical prayer, it applies to all who take the reigns of power. I prayer this prayer virtually every 

Sunday morning and I always reflect as I do so, we lose these things and this focus at our peril. For those who would like to read more about the Church's response to this particular election, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have produced a pastoral letter, you can read it here.

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3641/archbishops-pastoral-letter-to-the-parishes-and-chaplaincies-of-the-church-of-england>

But enough of that... I have been reflecting on my morning walks with the dog on the state of the daffodils. I was so frustrated for a few weeks that these walks could not happen because I broke some toes. As Cath describes it, I had a power slide into some radiator pipes. I am so glad that I can now exercise once again. I just caught the tail end of the amazing display of daffodils that Great Milton (where I walk every morning) produces every early spring, but as I write all has gone over and the result is looking very scruffy. This of course is as it should be. The temptation is to tidy up after flowering but this would be a mistake, the longer the plant has to die back the better things will be next year. The scruffiness now is worth it for the glory then. I usually get to about mid - June before I can't bear it any more and in our garden the whole lot gets mown, together with the cow parsley that grows in abundance at the Rectory and which I tackle every May by blessing and enjoying!

Life is like that, sometimes rather scruffy but with moments of glory. The Church I think should be like that as well. At the beginning of June we will once again be celebrating Pentecost, sometimes called the birthday of the Church, the moment when the Holy Spirit, the presence of God was experienced in a whole new way. Jesus often used metaphors from nature, he likened the activity of the Spirit to the wind, you can't tame it and it blows where it wills. The coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost was unpredictable, wild and un-tamed. This Holy Spirit is the essential ingredient for the Church. I do wonder sometimes if the institutional church is counter productive for this, which is where my daffodil illustration comes in (I'm sorry if I am mixing metaphors here with wind and daffodils!) The institution has a tendency towards the neat and tidy, all trimmed with nothing unkempt or scruffy, in truth I think many want life to be like that as well. But as with daffs, this is a great mistake, things might need to be a bit scruffy, untamed in order for there to be moments of glory. There are plenty of people who I believe are very open to the presence of God, to God's spirit working but perhaps for all sorts of reasons see the Church as somehow stifling this, perhaps just a little dull in it's neat and tidy predictability? As the accredited representative of the institution I have been or could be guilty of doing just this, trimming back too soon when things start looking a little scruffy. I said in my last letter that I want the Church to thrive and not just survive. I am convinced that this can only happen if the

Spirit is allowed to generate new ideas and vision in people, not all of which will look neat and tidy. The temptation is to mow the lot down but by doing so diminishing the glory! The Spirit of God can be suppressed when we get the lawn mower out too soon!

May and June of course bring with them three village gatherings. The Spring Fair in Great Haseley has now happened of course and we look forward to the Church fetes in Little Milton and Great Milton. With three to be involved in it is a bit of a marathon, but truly worthwhile and allot of fun. I am grateful to all the hard work that many people invest to make these events what they are. I am also grateful to the very generous contributions to these events. Thank-you.

Oh, and don't forget to vote on June 8, however your conviction leads you. The right and freedom to do so is a precious hard fought privilege.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

June				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
11th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson & Simon Cronk	
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jan Grimwood	
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanna Tulloch	

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Quiz Night – Friday 16th June

Details enclosed in Bulletin.

Rummage Sale

Saturday 24th June in the Neighbours Hall at 2:30pm. Anyone with rummage to donate, please bring to the hall after 10:00am on the day or, if you need it collected, please ring me.

Ann Price (Treasurer) Tel: 279474

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all of you who supported Christian Aid Week this year... to those who held Lent lunches, to those who put up Posters, Banners and Bunting, to all of those who distributed and then collected envelopes from the four villages, those who will count the money and most of all to each of you who gave money to Christian Aid. The money will now be counted and tallied up to give a total for the Benefice and printed in next month's Newsletter... so watch this space!

S. A. Dennis

The Neighbours Club

Our meeting on the 11th May was devoted to quizzes and they were VERY hard - we all felt that we didn't have a brain between us but at least we had a laugh!

We had all been looking forward so much to our outing to the Black Country Living Museum at Dudley 300 years of history in a 26 acre open air museum and after weeks with hardly a spot of rain it absolutely poured down all day long. Nevertheless we went well equipped with rain coats and umbrellas and in spite of the rain had a very enjoyable day and some of us can now say we have been down a coal mine!

Sadly we have lost two of our members within a week, i.e. Dave Herrington and John Davis - they will be sorely missed.

On the 25th May we are looking forward to The Amazing Amazon a talk and slides with John Paine.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - June

Thurs 8th: Afternoon Tea - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 14th: Outing to Worcester a.m. and Spetchley Park p.m.

Thurs 22nd: Flower arranging competition - 2:15pm

Charity Dance - Neighbours Hall on Sat 6th May

THANK YOU to everyone who came along to support the Charity Dance. It was a resounding success. The renovation project for the Methodist Chapel & the Neighbours Hall will benefit by the sum raised of around £1000 with the Neighbours hall receiving a substantial donation of the funds raised on the night.

Great Milton Church Fete 14.00 June 10th 2017

Dear Villagers

We hope you are looking forward to our Great Milton Church Fete.

We have lots of stalls and activities planned. New this year will be a **beer and cider tent** selling local brewed beer from Little Haseley as well as a **vintage vehicle display**. Children from our school will be entertaining us. There will also be the opportunity to take part in games. Dog owners – start preparing your dog for showing off in the **dog show!**

Another competition is the ‘Great Milton Bake Off’. The cakes will be judged on their decoration and presentation. Entry categories are key stage1, key stage 2 (primary school), secondary school pupils and adults. Cakes will be judged at the beginning of the fete and then sold on the cake stall.

We need everyone to help make this a success so if you can help, or provide items for the stalls, please get in touch with the stall holders below.

Plants - Liz Moyses (279875) or Sally Orriss (279231)

Cakes and jams - Laura Putt lauraputt89@outlook.com. If you are not a cook, she would love ingredient donations

Bric-a brac - Dee Nunan and Alan Pickett (happy to receive small sized donations at The Forge prior to the event but preferably on the day).

Email: dee_nunan@yahoo.co.uk

Toiletries and gifts - Fizzy Kemp, Sarah MacMahon (The Limes) or Jane Jefferis (North End Cottage)

Tombola - Chris Kitashima (279976)

Books - Sue Barratt (279214) Weaver Cottage.

Hoopla - the Block family (278233)

Teas - Alex Kirkman(alexlkirkman@googlemail.com)

Accessories - Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Braemar, 278475

Children's toys - take to Toddlers Group between 10.00-11.30 the day before.

Our Grand Raffle has many amazing prizes so it would definitely be worth investing in tickets. Also, keep a look out for the programmes. As well as info about the day, the programme provides you with a chance to win a meal for two at The Bull.

Most importantly, please can as many of you as possible come at 9.30 to help set up and help us clear up at the end. Many hands make light work.

Thank you everyone for your help. *Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Alex Kirkman, Mary Wakefield, Celina Bernstrom and Rachel Hutton.*

A Bit of History

These are just some of the finds from paddocks in Lower End on Friday 21st April by Oxford Blues Metal Detecting Club. Photos courtesy of Dave Allen.

**Elizabeth I
Sixpence**



**Hadrian
Denarius
117-138 AD**



**Henry III
penny**



Annual Seaside Trip

This will be to Portsmouth and Southsea on Saturday 5th August. Invitations will be delivered in mid-June.

Wheatley Singers Celebrate Spring with Flower Songs and St. Nicholas Mass

On 20th May, the Wheatley Singers delivered a joyful and confident performance of Haydn's St. Nicholas Mass and Britten's Five Flower Songs in front of an enthusiastic audience at St. Mary's Church, Wheatley.

Since Kate Billimore took on the leadership as Musical Director in 2015, the choir has grown both in membership and in musical maturity. Together with an experienced guest orchestra, the singers performed Haydn's tuneful and energetic mass; four talented soloists (Angela Scott-Smith, Shelley Cox, Ian Barratt and Giles Dawson) added further sparkle to the evening.

After the interval, Britten's five delightful flower-themed miniatures were interspersed with a daisy chain of songs and poems. Highlights included a beautiful rendition of Gabriel's Oboe by Ennio Morricone, performed by Nicola Hands, and some rather tongue-in-cheek songs inspired by the German folklore myth of the Lorelei, sung by Shelley Cox. Finally, the choir 'swept' the audience off their feet with Britten's final flower song, the amusing Ballad of Green Broom.

This concert raised £494 for the charity ROSY (Respite nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters).

For their next concert, the Wheatley Singers will collaborate with the Great Milton Singers and Cumnor Choral Society for a joint performance of the Brahms German Requiem on 11th November 2017.

Andreas Leidenroth

Cricket Fixture

June 18th: Headington Quarry – Home

The Sheppard Trust

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

Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee	£2,500.00
For new furniture for The Pavilion	
Great Milton Senior Citizens Party	£ 700.00
Assistance with annual seaside trip and Christmas Party	
Great Milton Neighbours Club	£ 750.00
Help towards running costs	
Great Milton Saturday Sports	£1,500.00
Help towards running costs	
Great Milton Athletics Club	£1,500.00
For equipment and first aid training	
Great Milton Hard Surface Play Area	£ 600.00
Towards provision of two weeks tennis coaching	
Great Milton Mother & Toddler Group	£ 500.00
Help towards operating costs, hall rental, insurance, equipment	
Great Milton Neighbours Hall – a commitment of	£5000.00
Towards renovation costs	

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be on Thursday 22nd June 2017. Funds are available for distribution and applications are welcomed.

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to apply. Applications should be sent to:

Mrs Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7QE. Or emailed to janewillis1@live.co.uk.

Applications should be delivered by Monday 12th June 2017.

Recreation Ground Benches

Would you like to contribute a bench in memory of someone or an event?

We would like to place new benches in the Recreation Ground so that people are able to watch events more comfortably. If you would like to contribute towards a bench, would you let a member of the Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee know? This could be in memory of someone or an event if you wished.

The Committee members are Andy Noble, Michele Block, Emily Johns, Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Paul Dennis, Caroline Smith and Mike Robinson.

Dear Editor

How disappointing that the Council has seen fit to strim our glorious drifts of cow parsley. Whilst appreciating that blind spots must be cut for safety reasons it is sad that our village has been urbanised.

Yours truly,

Trudy Timbs

Dear Editor

In response to Carol Ayton's letter (May 2017 : Issue 520):

I have been developing the idea of providing a taxi-bus service to replace the local bus service for the benefit of the village. There are two ways this can be done legally, either you can register to run a local bus service or you can operate a Public Service Vehicle for hire. There are restrictions on both (information available on the .gov website).

If you attempt to run a local bus service you have to operate to the timetable or suffer penalties, you have to have back-up drivers and a lot of other restrictions that make it unattractive. If you run it under a PSV you can more-or-less set it up to operate as befits the local demand. The only restrictions would be that the drivers have to be PSV licenced and the vehicle is restricted to 8 passengers.

The ideal scenario for the village would be, if everyone that wanted to use the service subscribed with a one-off payment to enable the purchase of a vehicle, then an annual fee to cover insurance, maintenance and taxes. The service would then be "on-demand" although there is nothing to stop you suggesting you might be



doing regular runs on prescribed routes on a first-come-first serve basis. The cost to use it would then be calculated on the running costs for the journey. If two or three people from the village were to take the PSV license then it should be easy to maintain a regular service.

When we lived at our previous location I took the St John's "First Responder" course so that the local community knew they could come to our house if they had an emergency. If you combine this training with the provision of a defibrillator then you can imagine how useful this could be. So my ultimate vision would be if we established a PSV for the village in an 8 seater vehicle (1 being a tailgate lift for a wheelchair), with a driver that had "First Responder" training and the vehicle carried a medical care kit and defibrillator.

I would of course be the first volunteer except that I am at least 5 years off retirement so we would need to find alternative drivers if this becomes a reality sooner. That does not stop me or anyone else doing the St John's training and holding the equipment at home if that idea needs developing in isolation.

Could someone arrange a meeting to discuss the possibilities?

Kind regards

Adrian Buckmaster

Village view

Before I go further, may I say why I'm using the pages of the Bulletin as a medium to make the following points, as I would be unable to attend PC meetings for more than 15 minutes due to being incapacitated some of the time.

There are two or three points worth a mention. Do any of you, when sitting in your garden for a bit of peace and quiet on a weekend, think you're at the TT races on the Isle of Man? As you know, summer months are worst – Friday night, Saturday and Sunday it's constant. It's been slightly less these last two weekends; May 6–7, 13 – 14. This all takes place on the A329. I gather about a year ago, there was an attempt to stop this pace-making etc. Speeds are way above 50mph. We must save them from themselves and before a serious accident occurs.

While on the subject of the A329, would it be possible to speak to the powers that be, like the Ministry of Defence via Benson, about the dilapidated fence round the Benson Beacon – perhaps it is not in current use? It needs attention or it will be buried in briars, and look very unsightly.

The last point is the unadopted lane opposite the Old Kings Head, running in


front of Northend Cottage on the triangle. This is used constantly by school traffic as a roundabout. The state of it with axle breaking pot holes is extremely dangerous for vehicles and walkers alike. There could be a small increase in traffic and pedestrians as I see permission has been given for the blue plaque to be placed shortly to mark the residence of the late Darcy Dalton (Oxfordshire Way fame). I wondered if it is all correct in the Bulletin. It mentions the Limes, which is now called Milton Lodge. He lived at Wyverns for many years. Surely it's not beyond the bounds of possibility to get heads together and sort out this short length of lane. I'm aware it's unadopted and not Highways responsibility.

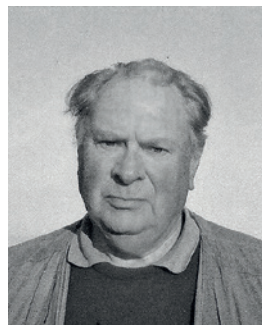
That will do for the time being. See you around.

Les Preston

View from Views

“Manner from heaven”, the rain of 11th-16th May some 7mm in total here, was a great relief, you could almost see the plants relaxing in front of your eyes, whether it has done enough remains to be seen but it will certainly help. Who would have thought it would continue to be dry to the middle of May, by which time some plants were looking as if they could do with a good drink, luckily most of our crops looked exceptionally well except those on the very sandy soils, and the ones planted in the spring. When it did finally rain overnight 11/12th (3mm), the following morning the dawn chorus had risen a few decibels, a lot of relaxed birds enjoying the damp. Last month I wrote one swallow doesn't make a summer, this prompts me to write that there actually do not seem to be that many around this year, we normally have them nesting in our barn they don't seem to have arrived yet, and only spasmodically do we see them around. The Cuckoo is now becoming a scarcity nowadays only twice have we heard it, several days apart, and then only very briefly and in the distance, not one of my favourite birds but certainly their song is an iconic sound of the countryside in summer.

Whilst on the subject of birds, we often observe birds through our window, recently two incidents amused us, one was that a kite swooped down low and tried to pick up a large fat ball that we had put out on a feeding table only to drop it on the lawn immediately (too heavy I guess); a resident crow then tried to peck at it and jumped out of it's skin when it rolled away, this is a fat ball some 4” in diameter. The 



other is that we have a pair of doves that visit who will chase all others away even Magpies.

Our thoughts currently in this area are dominated by planning, and particularly that of Chalgrove Airfield, and mainly the implications if, as they won't, the authorities do not get all the infrastructure ducks in the right order. What concerns me with all this is the fact that disregarding the Green Belt, (not something in principle I am in favour of) Grenoble road is so obviously the better option, is not being considered because it is in the Green Belt, although where it suits them North of the City, it is ok to develop in the Green Belt. But like any other organisation that has more power than the individual, who has to put up with the consequences, they will do just what they want like the Network Rail scandalously not sticking to planning conditions regarding silent rails in north Oxford on grounds of cost then the legal eagles saying it's a waste of time to contest the issue. So we will have prospects of the development, flooding Stadhampton, the roads we be more congested, with whoever is responsible for this infrastructure will be saying we cannot possibly afford this or that. Yet the CC will spend vast sums of money on road improvements which never seem to have the desired effect. Far better also to expand small villages by say 5% this would help make local services Buses and Post Offices for instance more viable. Of course this is all part human pressure that has to come first never mind the destruction of nature, not just in this country but world over.

In agriculture we are facing several conundrums; recently we read in the farming press with reference to immigration, (mainly seasonal workers) and food quality. Seasonal workers are employed, to harvest vegetable crops in particular, as local labour need full time employment. Also the labour laws are so heavily protected, causing the product to be prohibitively costly if producers had to employ labour on a 12 month basis. The only way of overcoming this conundrum is to employ mass-production tactics I have mentioned in previous columns, and thus reducing the quality of food. As far as I can understand this is what has happened in the US, where the majority of food is produced by huge scale farming, and corporate food companies, using commodity foodstuffs to produce cheap branded products of no discernible origin. We then have those starving in Africa saying it is all very well for those in developed counties with full bellies saying we must produce in ways that consider nature and wildlife, again all part of human pressure on the world!

We then have the controversy over the use of chemical aids that by banning one chemical where there does not appear to be any proven scientific reason for doing so, and our response is to use more of a different chemical that will need more than one application using more fuel, water, and time.

Add to all this are the pressure groups stating that this or that food should be avoided for this or that reason. One of the recent issues reported is that of the (I think) the “Clean Eating” campaign, where they are advocating cutting out dairy products. This has been countered by the “National Osteoporosis Society”, saying that youngsters should cut out “Clean Eating” and similar fad diets, and up their intake of calcium and vitamin D, as those who reduce their intake of dairy products run a greater risk of Osteoporosis. For a dairy farmer to change his/her direction will take at least 2 years by which time the trend may well have changed to something else, that’s someone has another “Bee in their bonnet”.

A brief note of comment on 2 letters in the “Great Milton Bulletin“ last month, I could not agree more with both, no one seems to care about anyone else, I had so little response to my letter about Buses that I did not feel it worth taking any further, and as for indiscriminate parking and the damage of road verges I am left speechless, we all need to make more fuss.

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

May was a fun night with two very thought provoking resolutions to discuss and beautiful bags from Analiza Jones www.analizajones.com. We really feel we can make a difference with the ‘Alleviating loneliness’ resolution on a local level. Are you feeling lonely or isolated and can we help? Young or old, male or female, we want to make our community a happy and inclusive place to be.

Our next meeting on Thursday 8th June at 7.30pm is Image Styling with Anne Donald. Come and learn all about how to dress well and look good with simple tips on colour and style. Please note this meeting will be in the Orchard pre-school (next door to the Pine Lodge) due to the General Election.

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.

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

The garden looks very different from last year at this time when it was a very cold late spring and a *Malus* flowered a full two weeks later than it had done for the last 20 years since we planted it; this year it has flowered a full two weeks early. We have had a very dry spring and all our water butts were empty when we left 10 days ago for a week of walking on the Costa Blanca in Spain. It is unusual for us to be away at this time of year when our garden and greenhouse are full of plants being prepared for the fete. Many thanks to Wendy for taking care of things for us.

We arrived back a week later to a tropical jungle as a result of vast amounts of rain; it has made such a difference to everything. Plants are growing well, being lush and green – so lovely to see. Flowering for a lot of plants is well ahead. The sweet rocket spread around is in full flower and looking magnificent in white and shades of mauve and roses, peonies and irises are opening and everywhere is so full of greenery that the weeds are going to struggle now which is always a relief! The fragrance of perennial stock wafts around when the sun shines. It is blissful. A couple of weeks ago there was a very heavy frost which has caused a lot of damage to the English vineyards and also caught the new growth on our *Clematis montana* ‘Elizabeth’. She looks very sorry for herself and, as there is a lot of old, tangled growth on her, we are taking the opportunity to cut it all away and allow it to regrow from the base. This regrowth may take some time and we do not expect any flowers next year, but this is an opportunity not to be missed and she looks a mess in her current state. It also allows us to cut away a winter flowering jasmine which has suckered horribly along the same wall and yet bears very little flower. It is simply not worth the space it occupies. The frost also caught *Rhododendron fragrantissima* and there has been no flower this year which is very sad, but just one of those things; I should have covered it with fleece.

Elsewhere, in the meadow, which was cracked and dry when we left, the growth has been phenomenal and there is a yellow carpet of buttercup and yellow rattle which is a huge pleasure to see. I have found one patch of cuckoo flower where we have not seen it before. This is not a plant we have sowed, but it appears sporadically in the wetter areas, but only in some years. The buttercups are normally more spread out in their flowering time and we have not had such a carpet before. Sadly, I still can't see any evidence of orchids, but I am ever hopeful that they will appear one year.

Heavy rain following drought stimulates plants to grow flower and set seed quickly.

There are some beautiful photos on the internet of the Californian desert where there are magnificent carpets of flowers for this reason. On the Costa Blanca, we walked through lovely hillsides of grasses and wild flowers where there were many orchids of different species. There were few people walking as it was hot, but the trails are well marked and easy to follow. I don't know if this is usual for the time of year, but the winter, as we all know, has been unkind to the Spanish farmers with cold and large amounts of rain so I wonder if this wonderful floral sight is later than usual?

Liz Moyses

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

caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

News from the Pine Lodge

We start the month with our AGM on 7th June at 7.30pm – come and learn about your community hall, our future plans and contribute your ideas. If you would like to become more involved in village life, come along, meet the committee, new volunteers always welcome, plus there's free wine and nibbles!

Our games evenings were fun and although numbers were gradually rising, the committee feels they can't commit to run this as a regular event. If anyone is interested in helping us taking this idea further, please let us know.

The Little Milton Church Fete preparations are well under way for Saturday 17th June 2-5pm and we hope to see you there to make it another village success. In June we have WI: Image Styling with Anne Donald on Thursday 8th (in the Orchard pre-school due to the General Election), Craft Club on the later date of Wednesday 28th, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535



Great Milton Church Fete

10th June 2pm

Recreation Ground

Join us for The GREAT MILTON BAKE OFF

The **Dog Show, Village Sports,**

Grand Raffle with prizes including

2 places in Raymond Blanc's Cookery School

as well as refreshments, plants, tombola, Aunt Sally, shooting, books, crafts, toiletries and gifts, bric a brac & children's toys, homemade cakes and jams and many more....





LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE

At The Old Vicarage, Church Hill

Saturday 17th June
2 - 5pm

To be opened by George Inge

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Raffle, Refreshments, Pimms
and much more...*

VACANCY

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer for Great Milton Parish Council

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

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

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

Experience required for the post:

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

Overall Responsibilities:

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

Duties include:

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

Location:

Home initially, but office may be provided later.

Pro rata salary, based on national salary scale, dependent on experience and qualifications (such as CILCA)

Working from home and petrol allowances payable.

Closing Date for Applications: 10th July 2017

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

Helen Cherry, 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

EVENTS AT THE PINE LODGE

CRAFT CLUB

Note – change of date

Wednesday 28th June

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Time away from the distractions of home
to restart or finish those works in progress

Get advice, learn a new skill

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Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7th June 7:30pm

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**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
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QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 16th June

The Neighbours Hall, Great Milton

Time: 7:30pm

Teams of up to 8 people
Tickets £5 each with a ploughman's supper

To book a team, please contact

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

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- 1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm) £10 or £100 per year**
- Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**
- 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 Helen Cherry

Tel: 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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Facebook: JSC Fun Clubs

Website: www.jsc4kids.com

Great Milton Website

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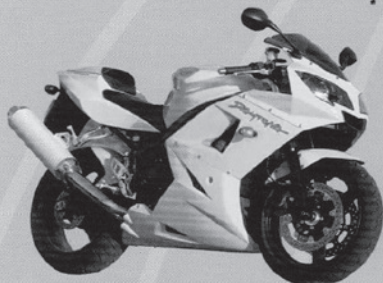
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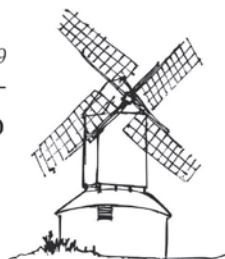
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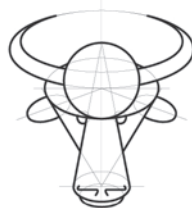
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- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
 Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays.
contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- Saturday Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
 Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm
contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637
 Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

June

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 8th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Afternoon Tea | 2:15pm |
| 10th Sat | Great Milton Church Fete in The Recreation Ground | 2:00pm |
| 14th Wed | Neighbours Club: Outing to Worcester & Spetchley Park | — |
| 16th Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 17th Sat | Little Milton Church Fete at The Old Vicarage, Little Milton | 2:00pm |
| 18th Sun | Cricket match against Headington Quarry – Home | — |
| 19th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 22nd Thurs | Neighbours Club: Flower arranging competition | 2:15pm |
| 24th Sat | Rummage Sale in The Neighbours Hall | 2:30pm |

September

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 22nd Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall | 8:00pm |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|

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

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

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