

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2022

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 279242
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:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
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:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: The Bull sign being lowered for cleaning and repair, November 2021.

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: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@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		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

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
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		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	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

Draft Parish Notes – March 2022

Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, held at the Pavilion on Monday 21st March 2022 at 7.30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, C Deacon and D Harms. Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs S Harrod and Caroline Newton (SODC). Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with one member of the public. No interests were declared. The item discussing security in the village was brought forward for the convenience of those present.

Matters to Report

Monthly reports were received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook ward). Both are available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Fox observed that reported progress on the proposed development of circa 3000 homes at Grenoble Road hopefully meant a reduction in the chances of development at Harrington.

Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received this month other than that relating to matters dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered.

P22/S0613/FUL (Bentley House London Road Milton Common). Demolition of existing car repair workshop and erection of replacement commercial building comprising 4 units, with associated works including access, parking and landscaping. Amendments to planning approval P20/S3158/FUL to reduced permitted eaves height to 5.4m and install 1.8m high fence and landscaping enclosure to the front of the site. Details submitted to reword conditions 3,4,5 and 6 of P20/S3158/FUL to allow development to be undertaken in accordance with submitted details and to remove condition 11 relating to construction being undertaken in accordance with BREEAM excellent standard.

This application was reviewed by Cllr Allen. The application is for a car workshop that is approximately three to four times the size of the existing building on the site. SODC has already approved the application, this being a variation to various aspects including building height and landscaping. Having already objected to this application in its original form, after brief discussion it was AGREED to reiterate the original objections, but to note the minor amendments which may generate a small improvement in the appearance of the development.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered.

P21/S5363/LB (The Old Stores, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NT). Removal

of mid/late C19 sash windows with plate glass to be replaced with new sash windows with original details and heritage slimline glazing to the front façade. Permission GRANTED.

The minutes of the February meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 21st February 2021, were received, reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £808.53 (includes £200 GMPC bonus agreed at Item 28/22 and backdated national salary increment for 2021-22 of £99.68)

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production March. £tbc

Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying February. £62.40

St Mary's Church annual grass cutting grant. £600

Recreation Ground annual maintenance grant. £400

ALCC annual membership renewal. £50

OALC annual membership renewal. £162.70

ICO data protection fee. £40

Oxford Green Belt Network. £15

Green and Growing: removal of storm-damaged trees at allotments. £264

Website support February. £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

BT Office/e-mail package. £10.80 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received. Considered and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 March 2022 was £45,756.45.

To note an increase in the Clerk's salary following a national salary agreement from £11.53 to £11.73 per hour from 1 April 2021. The backdated pay increase has been paid this month, and ongoing salary payments will be at the new rate from April.

Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- The zig-zag markings outside the school have been re-marked and the road resurfaced to facilitate this.
- The vehicle-activated signs in Milton Common warning speeding drivers to slow down will be installed shortly, now that the poles upon which they will be mounted have been erected.
- Fallen barbed wire exposed by the recent tree works at the top of the 'Manoir Field' has been removed: thanks have been expressed to the Manoir team for this.
- The significant volume of brambles on the section of Fullers Field closest to Thame Road has been removed by SOHA. Thanks to local residents for their part 

in this improvement.

- The litter pick on Saturday 19th was successful and well-attended: many thanks to all who attended and who helped to collect around 20 bags of litter. The Parish Council now has its own litter-picking equipment: if anyone would like to borrow a picker, hoop and hi-viz jacket, or look after a set for regular use, please get in touch with the Clerk.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

Although it was initially proposed that this item should be removed from future agendas, all present agreed that in light of the recent surge in Covid cases this item should continue to be raised at future meetings for the time being. No specific local issues were reported that have not been covered nationally.

20mph zone

There are no further developments to report on progress towards a 20mph zone.

Tree outside ‘Stonefield’, Lower End

A sycamore tree which straddles the verge outside ‘Stonefield’ (Lower End, opposite Pitts Green) has been added to the parish council’s tree inventory, and will be included in its inspection and maintenance regime going forward.

Security in the village

Thames Valley Police have been contacted with a view to providing security guidance in light of recent criminal activity in and around the village. A selection of leaflets have been supplied, which will be placed in the shop, Neighbours’ Hall and the Pavilion. Additionally, representatives of the Community Policing Team will be in attendance at the Pavilion on Saturday 23 April and Saturday 16 July (1000-1400) to meet residents, provide advice and respond to concerns.

The forthcoming Bulletin will include a piece by the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, introducing themselves, seeking additional volunteers and providing advice. A Neighbourhood Watch page has also been created on the village website, with links to useful electronic documents and web content.

It was also suggested by a representative of the Neighbourhood Watch group that there should be a Neighbourhood Watch stall at the Church Fete on Saturday 11th June. This was unanimously supported by councillors. It was also suggested that various services (for example ‘Smartwater’ marking) could be offered at the fete. Discussions will continue as regards the best way to utilise a stall should one be available.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The evolving plans for celebrations to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on the long weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June were discussed. Various issues were raised, not least the scheduling of the Tug-of-War on the previous weekend and

the Church Fete the weekend after, resulting in a glut of village events and a consequent reduction in available people to assist with organising any Jubilee-related celebrations, coupled with many people being away from the village that weekend. Various options have been considered, but after lengthy discussion it was agreed to pursue the possibility of a 'community picnic' on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 5th (pending the agreement of the Rec Committee), with the suggestion that other informal events could take place at The Bull (pending the agreement of management and staff). Discussions will continue, and further details will be communicated in due course.

Clerk's remuneration for the coming financial year 2022-23

The Clerk's salary for the coming year was discussed. Following a proposal by Cllr Allen it was AGREED to pay the Clerk for an additional hour a week (10.5 hours) from 1 April 2022, to reflect the hours actually being worked on council business.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held at the Pavilion on Tuesday 19th April 2022 (a day later than usual due to the Bank Holiday, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm and to which all are welcome.

Benefice Services April 2022

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Thursday 14th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>		Holy Communion 7:00pm	
Friday 15th <i>Good Friday</i>	Meditation 11:00am	Pilgrimage Walk starting from The Green, Great Milton 2:30pm	
Sunday 17th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Holy Communion 9:00am		Family Communion 10:30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am		Family Gathering 4:00pm
Wednesday 27th			BCP Holy Communion 12:00pm

The Rector's Pint

Is Vladimir Putin a happy man? He is an autocrat with dictatorial control and power, but I suspect it has not brought him peace. History is peppered with despots who had too much individual power and abused it with devastating and far-reaching consequences, it rarely ends well for them.

Jesus once asked the question, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but lose his soul?"

That though is the nature of the abuse of power. At the beginning of Lent, I reflected in a sermon about the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. They were, in fact, temptations for him to abuse his power, to use it to his own advantage. I reflected that we have a saviour who gave power away to serve others, and to take on evil, not to add to it. "Compare and contrast with the power structures of our world".

I hope and pray that by the time this is read, some sort of negotiated peace will have been reached and that the fighting will have stopped.

But against all the despots and dictators, against all the death, destruction and despair that results from their actions. I still believe this is God's world, although it seems to be fallen and broken. There is so much kindness and compassion and goodness which reflects the love of God. We saw this evidenced in the extraordinary and immediate response from Ukraine's European neighbours.

As individuals in small Oxfordshire villages, we might feel powerless, overwhelmed by a sense of disharmony, still navigating covid, rising bills to pay, perhaps personal difficulties but then we compare with the sudden overwhelming and unjustified assault that Ukraine has undergone.

This has resulted in an extraordinary response here as well. People have donated bundles of emergency gear and clothes and generously given to the appeals that have sprung up. Many of us will by now know that at least one family from Ukraine is being welcomed to Great Milton, there might well be more locally as homes are opened by some who will be in positions to do this.

This generosity of course needs to be sustained. In considering our response to the crisis, as individuals, and as village and church communities we need to look at support in all areas.

Each of us has something to offer. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul tells his readers that they are all 'many parts, but one body', like them, all of us have complementary functions: However much we can give and help, I am sure that our villages will do all that they can.

On Easter Sunday we will once again affirm that ultimately God's purposes are far

mightier, as we proclaim Jesus' victory over death, evil, and human sin. As we approach Holy Week, and Easter, we pray with all those caught up in conflict and suffering, in Ukraine and the many other conflicts around the world.

Simon

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services 2022

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion service: St James Little Milton 7.00pm

Good Friday

Good Friday Meditation: 11.00am St Mary's Great Milton

Good Friday Pilgrimage walk around the villages: 2.30 pm starting on the Green in Great Milton, walking to Great Haseley, then to Little Milton and finally back to Great Milton. Hopefully the Bull will be open. All are welcome, with or without dogs!

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Holy Communion: 9.00 am St Mary's Great Milton.

Easter Sunday Family Communion: 10.30 am St Peter's Great Haseley.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the Children following this service.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

April 2022				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
13th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Gillian Dodds	
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	

Compassion Countdown

Fans of the TV game show Countdown will be familiar with the long-time occupant of dictionary corner, Susie Dent. I follow Susie on twitter and it's always interesting to see her 'Word of the Day' tweet, where she shares some obscure English word, its meaning and sometimes information about its origins. Some recent words 

have been, ‘philocaly’ – the love of beauty, and the ability to cherish the small things in life – and ‘apricate’ – to luxuriate for a moment in the warmth of the sun.

The coming of spring each year reminds us of new life from death, as new flowers emerge from what was recently frozen earth. It brings many opportunities to apricate in a spirit of philocaly!

As April begins we find ourselves well through the season of Lent, with Easter rapidly approaching. Unlike Advent we don’t count down the days in anticipation of what comes at the end – unless, of course, you’ve given up chocolate! But, very much like Advent, Lent is a time of preparation and reflection.

Traditionally Lent is a season of penitence: of acknowledging the weakness and self-focus of our human nature and how that is sometimes expressed in anger, greed, envy and, sometimes, even violence. We look to God for forgiveness, healing and a better way forward.

This Lent we have seen too much of the darker side of humanity as the war in Ukraine has unfolded. The burning homes and bombed hospitals can make us despair of humanity and question where God is in all of this. Yet at the same time we have seen the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people. We have also experienced an enormous outpouring of compassion in response to the refugees who have fled their homes in search of safety.

Compassion is a powerful emotion. It is also a word that carries a lot of meaning. Like many English words it has its origins in Latin. It is made up from the Latin words *com*, which means ‘with’, and *passio*, which means ‘to suffer’. So compassion means, quite literally, ‘to suffer with’. In practice it is the emotion we experience when we identify with suffering or distress of others and are moved to help.

Christians believe in a deeply compassionate God: a God who invites us to join in the divine response of compassion by helping the suffering and being people who work for justice and peace. More than this, God in Christ literally suffers with us. In Jesus Christ, God enters into the full experience of being human. In the events of Good Friday Jesus experiences conspiracy, betrayal, state sanctioned violence, abandonment and death. His suffering is such that he even questions the presence of God as he cries from the cross, ‘My God, my God why have you forsaken me?’ Our compassionate God is profoundly present in suffering. In Jesus Christ, God identified with and entered into the suffering of the world. God suffers with us.

But that is not the end of the story. Easter is coming: the day of resurrection, the morning of the empty tomb! The promise of Easter is that beyond suffering and death is new life.

God of Compassion,
help us to see the face of Christ in the suffering and the dispossessed,
to be moved by compassion
and to hold tight to the promise of Easter resurrection.

Amen.

Revd Stephen Spain, Great Milton Methodist Church

St Mary's Churchyard Spring Clearance

This year's spring clearance will take place on Saturday 23rd April between 10.00 and 12:30pm. All are welcome, please, bring your own tools (leaf rake , secateurs, spade etc) and gloves. The work is light, variable and good fun. No previous gardening expertise is needed but is nevertheless most welcome.

Please let Tony Jefferis know if you plan to come: to ensure we have adequate refreshments.

Contact details afjefferis@btinternet.com or 01844 278743

Village litterpick: Saturday 19th March

Approaching 20 volunteers (some from as far afield as Wheatley) turned out under glorious blue skies for the Spring litterpick, collecting over 20 bags of rubbish plus assorted larger items. Many thanks to all who participated.

Tim Darch



Letter

Dear Tony,

With reference to your note in last month's Bulletin, I would like to admit to all readers that t'was I who sent an email to the Parish Council with a suggestion to condense the village assets, and give better access to the school by providing a one-way route through the recreational ground and a bit more parking, just to alleviate the congestion in the village street. Suggesting the possible sale of the Neighbours Hall, saying only that perhaps the Manior might be interested, I also said that I guessed that, as you have mentioned, it would probably be out of the question due to conditions and agreements etc; so it was only a suggestion which I hope all would understand what was behind my thoughts.

Charles Peers

Great Milton History



Notice Of Publication of our Catalogue Of Wells.

A limited number of the above is planned after our work in identifying the many wells and boreholes which are part of our village's history as the source of water supplies before mains water arrived in 1957.

No owners names will be used but a map of the locations is essential and we trust all involved will be happy to support this project.

Should there be any objections or queries please contact Ian Melton on 279489 or Pat Cox on 279300.

Dates for your Diary

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee we have two events planned.

May 28th is the **Tug of War**. This will be bigger than previously, involving 5 villages. It will be on the Recreation Ground in the afternoon so best of luck to all the teams. In the evening there will be a party at The Bull with Great Milton Dads Band entertaining us.

June 11th is **Great Milton Church Fete 2-4pm**. This will be on the Recreation Ground and the village Green. Music showing off local talent is also planned later in the afternoon. If you would like to perform, please get in touch with Lucy Darch. We are looking for stall holders and helpers so please get in touch with Rachel Hutton,

Celina Bernstrom, Alex Kirkman or Clare Blakeway-Phillips if you can contribute in any way. We would also appreciate any raffle prizes. Both events are raising funds for St Mary's Church.

Great Milton Neighbourhood Watch

Hello fellow residents, neighbours and friends of Great Milton.

With the end of the recent Covid restrictions we have all returned to a more normal way of life, with the freedom to spend more time out and about, take holidays and return to places of work.

Now is a good time for all of us to review security provision for our:

Homes, Garden sheds/outbuildings, Motor vehicles especially with reports of burglaries, break-ins, car thefts and other crime in the village.

“What can we do?”, I hear you all asking!

The Best Deterrent

It is up to all of us to keep vigilant, with prevention in the forefront of our minds.

Here are some Top Tips

Outside lighting at the back and front of your property

Lights fitted with “dawn to dusk” light bulbs

P.I.R or solar-powered lights

Correct locks fitted to your exit doors

Locks or padlocks fitted to sheds/outbuildings

Window locks

Keep your car keys away from your front door

Keep your car's keyless entry keys in a metal box/tin to block the fob signal

To keep updated and to alert others, we are considering setting up a Great Milton Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group. If you would like to be included in it, would like to volunteer as part of our Neighbourhood Watch or have any crime prevention ideas for our village, please contact our two existing Neighbourhood Watch representatives Jola and Rod. Look out for further updates soon!

Thames Valley Police will be at The Pavilion to Meet Residents and

Provide Advice On The Following Dates:

SATURDAY 23rd APRIL (10am to 2pm)

SATURDAY 16th JULY (10am to 2pm)

Jola Miziniak and Rod Snowdon

(Contact numbers on page 3 of the Bulletin)

Neighbours' Hall Book Library

Our next open session is Friday 22nd April at 11am to 12.30pm. Do come along, it would be great to see you there. We have a good selection of books and jigsaw puzzles for you to borrow or take for free! We will be providing tea, coffee and cakes to enjoy whilst you browse and chat - hopefully in the lovely Neighbours' Hall garden.

All are welcome to make use of the book and jigsaw puzzle library at any time you visit the Hall - donate, borrow or take - just good to make use of this nice community facility.

Barbara and Hazel

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Annual Party

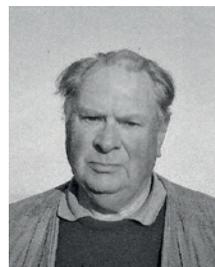
The date for the Party this year is Saturday 30th April, 4:00pm at The Neighbours' Hall. Invitations have now been delivered – if you are 'newly qualified' this year and not known to us and would like to come, please ring me. To qualify, you need to be in one of the following categories:

- a) Married Couple – if either spouse is over 65, the partner is invited regardless of age.
- b) Single Lady – aged 60 or over.
- c) Single Man – aged 65 or over.
- d) Widows and Widowers – regardless of age.

Ann Price, Secretary – 01844 279474

View from Views

Unbelievable that just as the world is recovering from Covid, Putin and his cronies, upto the time of writing, are knocking six bells out of the poor Ukrainians, and here we are going on strike. When I thought naïvely that the pandemic would bring the world together, I despair of the human race. Anyway now that we are faced with even more refugees and, thank goodness we are going to accept them, where can they go, I think from the start we could use the large houses of the Oligarchs and, perhaps holiday homes, maybe Soho House would have some spare space! We must give these poor people succour somehow even though, as I have said many times, we are at capacity. The shortage of goods at the moment a result of the conflict does illustrate the



importance food security, interesting to note that in fact we are self-sufficient in cereals, when you think the amount of land that is now not producing food but, supplying feedstock of anaerobic digestion, ethanol for E10 petrol, and solar farms.

On a brighter note spring must be just around the corner, heard what I thought to be the first sounds of a dawn chorus about the middle of March. After a rather long and tiring, apart from the one or two megger storms pretty uneventful season with very little rain although this has not mitigated the flooding, beginning of March flooding after 7mm rainfall with our meadows under water for ten days. Much bird activity at the moment most notable is the appearance of Bramblings about a couple for a week or so then, suddenly we noticed at least 20 feeding under the garden feeders, since when flocks around the feeding areas on the farm, whether they have always been there remains to be seen not being aware of them before, a bit like Long Tailed Tits suddenly appear as if from nowhere then not seen for some time, added to this there seem many more song birds about I thought I heard a Chiff Chaff the other day, also all through the winter masses of Sky Larks sing as they do.

The crops look about the same as they did a month ago and now really need to get a move on, of course a tickle of fertiliser would help but, due to the dramatic increase in price we cannot afford the luxury of an application until the ground warms up, instead of an application in the hopes that it will be there when it does. On the whole though they still look pretty healthy if a little backward. I was asked a few weeks ago if I thought this was a late spring, to which I could only answer that I was not sure, the Snowdrops were perhaps a little later than I would expect, but the Daffodils earlier, the grass seems to have grown more than normal (I should have got the mower out sooner but am reluctant to start too early as it only means it will grow that bit faster) so, I think you could draw whatever conclusion you like from that. Our Clover companion crop was knocked back quite severely by whatever frost we had but seems to be recovering well now, it has certainly reduced the incidence of Black Grass this being a real enemy, but not entirely, which means we will have to take some action in the hopes that long term it will stifle it, whatever it already has reduced the need for chemical input. We could crow about the dramatic increase in the price of cereals that we will be receiving as a result of the world situation, this of course will be mitigated by the increase in the costs of growing (fuel and fertiliser). So no one wins, in the long run it is the consumer that will have to pay, otherwise it won't be grown. I have in the past made the point that the more we produce off an area of land the less there is of trace elements, I have just read an article saying just that.

Local Farmers are still concerned at the attitude of our County Council towards food in encouraging the use only of plant based food, saying it is better for the 

planet and our health, both arguments can be contested. It seems to me they are a little like the Russian population taking note of the popular press, who not only have an axe to grind but, also rather inclined not to take notice of the true facts however they are put over, or the fact that the medical profession is saying we need some animal protein for good health. It has been proved that animal production in his country and, the EU as a whole, is fairly carbon neutral and is a myth to say otherwise, added to which it does not give the Farming community credit for investigating methods to mitigate all these issues, and ignore the fact that we have committed our industry to being carbon neutral by 2040, not sure how.

It's that time of year again 15th May sees our annual Chiltern vintage Tractor Run, now back on it's usual date, this year we have been invited by Lady McAlpine to Fawley Court for our lunch break, always a brilliant venue much to see and good burgers to eat. Once again we are running his event in aid of the "Thames Valley Air Ambulance", this year again I have set up a Just-giving page so ask all readers to consider giving a little to help this valuable cause it is <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Charles-Peers5>

Charles Peers

Morland House Surgery

COVID-19 Spring Booster Vaccine - Update

People aged 75 years and older, residents of care homes for older people, and those with weakened immune systems will be offered a spring booster of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. We will be in touch with how and when to book an appointment just as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

Until then, anyone aged 12 and over should ensure that they have the full course of vaccines available to them. For more information, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

NHS App

If you own a smartphone, we strongly recommend you download the NHS App. To use it you must be aged 13 or over and registered with a GP Surgery in England. To find out more please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/> Use the NHS App to:

- Get your NHS COVID Pass
- Get advice about coronavirus
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Book appointments

- Get health advice
- View your health record
- Register your organ donation decision
- Find out how the NHS uses your data
- View your NHS number

After you download the app, you will need to set up an NHS login and prove who you are. The app then securely connects to information from your GP surgery.

Collecting Repeat Prescriptions from Wheatley Pharmacy

Several of our patients are now collecting their repeat medication from Wheatley Pharmacy. You too can do the same. Order your repeat medication as you would normally and just let one of the dispensing team know that you wish to collect from the Pharmacy. Turnaround time for medication dispensing at the Pharmacy is currently three days from submission of your repeat medication request. You do not need to wait for a text message to confirm your medication is ready before going to collect.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 vaccine, and opening hours, please visit

www.morland-house.co.uk

Wheatley Library

It is free to join and use the library!

Opening hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 2-7pm

Wednesday 9.39-1pm and 2-5pm

Thursday 2-5pm

Friday 9.30-1pm and 2-6pm

Saturday 9.30-1pm

You can manage your library account, pay charges, request books and renew books the following ways:

- In person with your library card
- Online <https://libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk/web/arena/my-account>
- Oxfordshire Libraries App available from any app supplier

You can also reach us via

- telephone 01865 875267



- email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.” – Andrew Carnegie

Best wishes

Wendy Stanton (Wheatley library manager)

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall in Wheatley High Street.

Sustainable Wheatley ‘Litter Crew’

Sustainable Wheatley has recently formed a ‘Litter Crew’ sub-group to tackle the perennial blight of litter around Wheatley. The intention is to support our parish council outside workers who are often overwhelmed with the amount of litter that ends up on the streets and verges within the boundaries of the parish.

We also try to cover the immediate approaches to Wheatley where they have a common boundary with neighbouring parishes. I am therefore appealing to residents of Holton, Great Milton, Cuddesdon and Horspath to see if anyone would like to help to clear these troublesome spots in a joint effort. The main area within Great Milton parish that our volunteers would like help with is the stretch of London Road from the bridge over the River Thames to the slip road from the A40. This is a troublesome area which needs regular clearance.

We communicate largely by means of a WhatsApp Chat on mobile phones. Members alert each other about areas that need a clean-up and people then organise themselves in groups of two or three as necessary. It’s a lonely task tackling this issue as an individual so it is hoped that a community of people willing to support each other in this campaign can make a difference to our local environment. Equipment such as litter-pickers, bags and hi-viz vests can be made available for members to use.

If you would like to join the LitterCrew WhatsApp group please email Wendy Stanton, Chair, Sustainable Wheatley at sustainablewheatley@gmail.com.

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In March, we held our first joint meeting, welcoming members from Stadhampton WI, following our merger. We had a lively AGM and Jubilee Quiz (thanks Helen). We’ve also decided on a new group name, Tons Together WI.

At our next meeting on Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm we will be making Easter Crafts. Everyone welcome. Visitors £5 or join up (2022/23 membership £44).

We've made a meeting plan for the coming year with crafts, Scottish dancing, cookery, cocktails, yoga, talks and much more. Save the 2nd Thursday of the month in your diaries so you don't miss out.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group. Please email us if you fancy joining WI or need a lift.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 730pm in The Pine Lodge, Little Milton OX44 7PZ

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Maple Tree Nursery

A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree!

Spring is in the air finally! The daffodils are in full bloom and it was lovely to see everyone at Daffodil Day at Shotover House – thank you for supporting us!

We have something for young children and their families to do every weekday and once a month on a Saturday! Check out our website or Facebook page as it changes slightly from term to term. And did you know that we are now on Instagram too? Follow us @themapletrecentre

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am (drop in) and Bonding with Baby run by Babies First

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am, Baby Massage at 10:30-12:00 and Cruisers and Crawlers at 1:00-2:00pm

Wednesday: Cruisers and Crawlers at 10:30-11:30am and Maple Babies at 1:00-2:00pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (drop in)

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am 3rd Saturday in month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm (drop in)

Our sessions are bookable through Eventbrite; bit.ly/mapletreeeb. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

Have you thought about becoming a trustee? Do you have extra time and experience in grant-writing, accountancy, maintenance, fundraising, teaching or early years? We would love some extra help and have something for people with all sorts of life experience.

Save the Date: The Maple Tree Magic Show on Saturday 2nd July!

Check out our Website and Facebook pages for our special events, our popular First Aid classes and helpful information!

We are here to help young families, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk • Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager

John Howell MP writes...

As I write at the beginning of this month the issue that is most dominant is the dreadful situation that has been unfolding in Ukraine. I have added my voice to the many who unequivocally condemn Russia for the action that it has taken and continues to take. Our government has joined others across the world in imposing sanctions against Russia and through my own work as Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe I have helped lead the way in getting Russia suspended from the Council. It is also the Council of Europe, which has a remit for displaced people in Europe that is best placed to assist.

Perhaps foremost in people's minds is the humanitarian situation that arises from the hostile action. I know that for many constituents it is the effect on the lives of innocent people that such situations bring that has stirred them to offer support in whatever way that they can, and I thank all those who have contacted me on this for their concern. Most of the refugees want to stay close to Ukraine. I have volunteered to work with the Home Secretary to liaise with the countries neighbouring Ukraine to provide aid and assistance. In terms of aid what is most needed is money. The Government has given £220 million in aid within the region and a further £175 million to bolster the Ukrainian economy, reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas imports and to mitigate other financial pressures created by the invasion. Although I know that some people want to send goods I would encourage financial support

first and foremost. There are complexities in sending goods and much does not get to where it is most needed. Recognised aid organisations have established mechanisms to get things to where they are most needed and have staff who can be deployed to assist. Financial donations support their work and allow for flexibility to meet changing needs as circumstances change. Many people crossing into neighbouring countries are going to stay with family and friends and need financial assistance rather than material aid. Food is needed for those in Ukraine, but there is the complexity that it is difficult to deliver aid to a war zone without direct conflict with Russia. This is best done through recognised agencies where safe passage can be negotiated.

More formally, the Home Office has set up a series of measures to support people in the region. For British Nationals and relatives of Ukrainian people settled in the UK in the region there is the Ukrainian Family Scheme and people in region should contact 0300 3032785.

There is also a Ukrainian sponsorship scheme for Ukrainians who do not have family ties with the UK. At the time of writing details on this are awaited. The Ukrainian Humanitarian Pathway has also been set up to help refugees.

The Home Office has also set up a customer hub in Parliament for MPs and their staff to raise concerns in relation to Ukrainian issues such as access to the UK. I have dedicated one of my staff to be available to make sure we can raise cases whether I am in Parliament or elsewhere on Parliamentary business. We currently await details of the personal information that will be required in relation to individuals wanting to come to the UK. If anyone would like to raise an individual case please email me with details at the address below.

This is a continually evolving situation and I will do my best to keep my website updated with new information as it becomes available.

While this terrible situation unfolds parliament continues with its ongoing programme of business. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way in you have access to that. My email address is john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD). Please note that correspondence sent through the post can take a couple of weeks to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered.

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk.



Great Milton Freecycle Live

SATURDAY 30 APRIL
10.00 TO 11.30AM

Drop off is strictly 9.30 to 10.00am

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Saturday 30 April

09:30 to 11.30

The Pavilion, Great Milton Rec

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QUIZ NIGHT @ THE NEIGHBOURS' HALL

SATURDAY 13th MAY 2022

STARTING AT 7:30pm

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Renovation Fund**

**Come along, have a fun evening and
test your knowledge of a range of
subjects in a friendly atmosphere**

ENTRY IS BY TICKET ONLY

**These are available at
The Village Shop and cost £5 p.p.
Please feel free to bring snacks for
the half-time break. Drinks will be
available from the bar.**

**QUIZ WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A
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GREAT MILTON – TUG OF WAR
Saturday 28th May – Great Milton
Recreation Park



**Six village
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**First pull at
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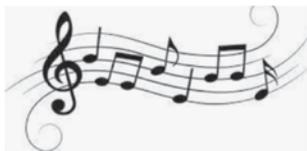
MUSIC AFTER THE FETE

This year we are planning some live music after the fete at The Bull. We'll be hoping to add to the funds raised at the fete in the afternoon.

Saturday 11th June 5pm - 8pm.

If you are a local musician and would like to discuss taking part, please email lucy.darch12@gmail.com

Or just make a note of it in your calendar and come along and enjoy the evening!



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'A CELEBRATION'

Old Fred's School Log Book - Launch and Exhibition



Do come for an afternoon of memories, reminiscences and friendships in the Shotover School Hall, (now Primary School)
Littleworth Road, Wheatley OX33 1NN

Saturday, 23rd April

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Talk on the history of the school and Fred Anson's log book by Kevin Heritage at 3.30pm.

Supported by Wheatley Society and Wheatley Village Archive

Tickets £15: all profits to Ukraine aid effort.

Ale on tap: £10 up front for approx. 7 pints.

Bring your own wine/lager/spirits.

Soft drinks available.

Tickets/ale tokens on sale at Great Milton Stores.

**'Not the January Party...'
Great Milton Dads and DJ Niv.
Neighbours' Hall, Great Milton.
Saturday 23 April 2022.
7.30 'till late.**

An Easter Story and Activities Morning...

For: Primary School Aged Children

On: Thursday April 14th

At: The Pine Lodge, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ

From: 10am-12pm



To book and receive further details and confirmation of your place please telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 or email Sally Ann at iandennis1@btinternet.com

All are welcome!

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

It is important to keep it up to date so please could you advise Tim Darch of any updates that need to be made
(contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

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£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
Midsummer Cottage, Church Road,
Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA
Tel: 01844 278347**

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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Peter on 01865 872 611

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The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
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Please contact our booking secretary

Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details

www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/



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Photo: Flora Noble, Great Milton



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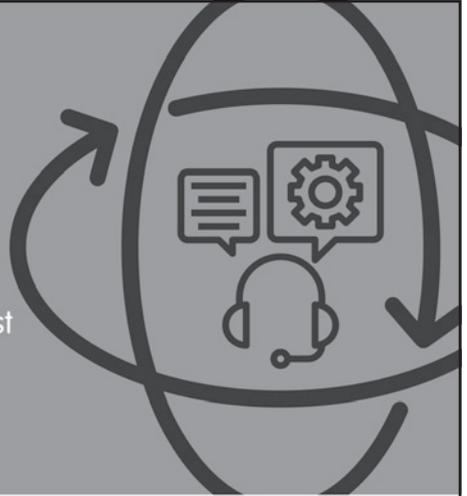


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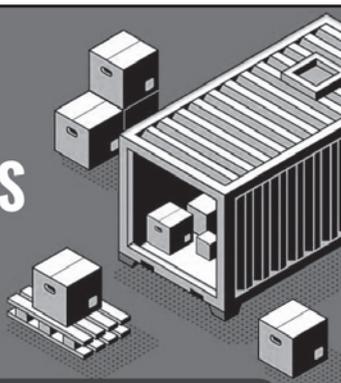
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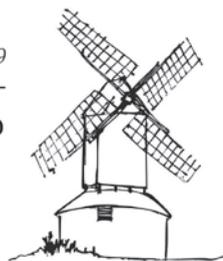
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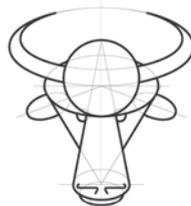
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Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:00am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- 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
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090

April

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| Thurs 14th | Easter Story and Activities at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 10:00am |
| Fri 15th | Good Friday Pilgrimage Walk starting at The Green | 2:30pm |
| Tue 19th | Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Fri 22nd | Neighbours' Hall Book Library | 11:00am |
| Sat 23rd | St. Mary's Churchyard Spring Clearance | 10:00am |
| | Great Milton Dads "Not the January Party" at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| Sat 30th | Freecycle Live at The Pavilion. Pop-Up Café at 9:30am. | 10:00am |
| | Senior Citizens Party in The Neighbours' Hall | 4:00pm |

May

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| Sat 13th | Quiz Night at The Neighbour's Hall. | 7:30pm |
| Sat 28th | Tug of War: 5 Villages! In The Recreation Ground | 11:30am |
| | Party at The Bull. Band and D.J. | 7:30pm |

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th April 2022**.

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

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

01844 278347 • contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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