

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2023

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery 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:	Sarah Illingworth	07792 083549
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Sarah MacMahon	07580 581655
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: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Netherclef (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

Cover: Les Preston restoring the old well on The Green. See article inside.

Photo: Ian Melton.

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: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	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: 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	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	07970 264667	
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
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
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

Parish Council

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, 20th November 2023 at 7:30 pm. Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon, Cllr Illingworth and Cllr G Heritage (SODC) In Attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

122/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Allen and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

123/23 Variation of order of business

Item 131/23 was spoken about after 136/23.

Item 125/23 was spoken about after item 136/23

124/23 Declarations of members' interest

No declarations of members' interests were made.

125/23 Matters to report

The County Councillor and District Councillor's reports were received, reviewed, and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr G Heritage explained that her monthly report is mainly about available grants. Cllr G Heritage also told the Parish Council that some recent motions had been passed, including the real living wage with those who seek Council contracts, which ensures that all contractors are paid the living wage.

There was a special Council meeting to approve the Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr G Heritage told Councillors about a recent email regarding the Joint Local Plan and reminded Councillors that consultation for the plan will be open in January 2024.

Cllr Harms raised the Waterstock refusal, to which Cllr Harrod asked if it's likely that the plans may be tried again. Cllr G Heritage explained that she can't answer for definite as she has no more information.

126/23 Correspondence and public discussion

There was no correspondence or public discussion.

127/23 Planning applications

A The following planning applications were received and reviewed from SODC:

P23/S3459/FUL (White Ash London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU) Erection of two semi-detached properties on land adjacent to White Ash. (as amended by plan ref 21092302-3 1c, which shows the air source heat pump). Great Milton Parish Council all voted in favour of SUPPORTING the planning proposal.

P23/S3748/AG (Views Farm Windmill Hill Great Milton OX44 7NW) Erection of steel portal frame barn. Great Milton Parish Council all voted in favour of

SUPPORTING the planning proposal.

P23/S2902/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Retention of single-storey extension and its use for storage. (As amended by the agent's letter dated 24 October 2023).

P23/S2905/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Continued use of the single-storey building as storage without compliance with condition 3 of P02/N0682. (As amended by agents letter dated 24 October 2023).

P23/S2906/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) The retention of the existing building and continued use as offices (mail order company). (As amended by agents letter dated 24 October 2023).

P23/S2907/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE) Retention of single-storey building and continued use as two office units. (As amended by agents letter dated 24 October 2023).

Great Milton Parish Council all voted in favour of NO STRONG VIEWS regarding the four planning proposals for Milton Pools Fishery.


B The following planning decisions were received and reviewed.

P23/S2384/O (Land east of Junction 8a, M40 Waterstock OX33 1HT) The demolition and clearance of existing buildings and structures to allow for the construction of up to 120,000sqm of Use Class E employment floorspace comprising Research and Development units, Light Industrial units, ancillary offices, ancillary amenity buildings (up to 2,400sqm), Creche (up to 600sqm), Forest School (up to 150sqm), along with new site accesses, internal roads and footpaths, surface and multi-storey car parking, open space, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements, drainage features including SUDs and other engineering operations, infrastructure and associated works. All matters of detail reserved.

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that outline planning permission is REFUSED.

P23/S3147/HH (The Penn Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7HX) Extension and conversion of roof to create habitable room within roof void. (Amended plans submitted 17 October 2023 to show the rear balcony removed and replaced with a Juliette balcony)

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED.

C P23/S3035/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS) Demolition of twentieth-century extensions. This planning application has been WITHDRAWN. Cllr Harrod explained that this has no effect on the other planning proposals and that application PS23/S3035/FUL is superfluous and was withdrawn at the request 

of the Council.

128/23 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the October meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 16th October 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

129/23 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses November: £608.22

Chris Ashworth backdated pay increase from April 2023: £318.50

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste October: £62.40

J M Dudley: £359.00

Recreation Ground Insurance: £1,295.56

Recreation Ground Maintenance grant 23-24: £400

Green and Growing (A329 trim, Triangle shrub trim and Church Road trim): £198.00

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

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement for October were received, reviewed and approved.

130/23 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- Christmas tree recycling will be located adjacent to the entrance to the Rec. Trees must be 6ft or under or cut down to size and left by 9th January for collection on 10th January.
- The Christmas Tree for Great Milton was ordered and will be delivered on Friday, 1st December.
- Carol singing around the Christmas tree will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 6 pm with mulled wine and mince pies at The Bull afterwards.

131/23 Security in the village

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incidents they witness or experience to the police via the 101 telephone service or online via the [police.co.uk](https://www.police.co.uk) website. Neighbourhood Watch updated the Parish Council that there was one break-in incident during October, and all residents are reminded to ensure their homes are secure. The use of Medical message in a bottle were spoken about, and their usefulness. For more information, please see Message in a Bottle – Lions Clubs International or contact your local GP or local pharmacy. It was agreed an ad will be run in the Bulletin to promote the use of the medical message in a bottle.

132/23 Grass cutting in the Village

This is an ongoing issue with the quality of grass cutting completed by McCracken

within the Village. The Parish Clerk has recently managed to speak to Steve McCracken (owner of McCracken & sons) and raised the recent issues. McCracken should complete the last cut of the year soon, and the Parish Council will seek a new contractor for the following year's growing season. The contract will be allowed to end at the end of February, and a new contractor will be found.

133/23 Internet connection in the Cabin for the Great Milton History Society

Great Milton History Society has asked if the Parish Council would consider funding the cost of getting the new premises connected via a dongle. The cost would be £19.00 per month. All councillors agree that the Parish Council will cover the cost, which will be included in the yearly budget.

134/23 Planning letter for the Village

To review a planning letter for newly approved applications in the Village, which will be sent to all newly approved applications, reminding people of the impact on the Village and to be mindful. A few changes were agreed upon, which will be implemented in the draft letter.

135/23 The Well on The Green Steps

The restoration of The Well on the Green has been completed, and it has been noted that the original stone steps require attention. It was agreed that the steps do need to be repaired. As finding a stonemason can sometimes be lengthy, it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would get a tidy-up of the steps completed and then reassess the situation.

136/23 First draft of Budget 2024-25

To consider the first draft of the Parish Council's budget for 2024-25. The Parish Councillors reviewed the first draft of the budget with a few areas raised by Cllr Fox. The areas raised were whether the Clerk's salary was sufficient due to the impending change of Clerk. It was agreed that, at this time, the current level was suitable. Cllr Fox also raised that the Christmas Tree purchase should be added to the budget.

Cllr Fox asked the Parish Clerk to complete a YTD spend before the next Parish Council meeting, and it was agreed that the Clerk will ensure this will be done before the December Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Councillors discussed the current agreement that the Parish Council pay the insurance for the Recreation ground and make a £400 yearly grant. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to pay these but agreed that the £400 grant will be issued once an AGM report has been received as part of the Parish Council's APM, which is held each April.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 11th December 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 20:35.

Benefice Services for December

	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	
Wednesday 13th	Carols around the Tree 6:00pm		
Saturday 16th		Carol Service 4:00pm	
Sunday 17th	Carol Service 4:00pm		Holy Communion 9:00am Carol Service 4:00pm
Thursday 21st	Carol Singing around the village from the entrance to the Old Field Little Milton – 6:00pm		
Sunday 24th	Midnight Mass 11:15pm	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	Crib Service 4:00pm Carol Singing at the Village Hall 6:00pm
Monday 25th		Christmas Day Holy Communion 10:00am	
Sunday 31st	BCP Communion 9:00am		Benefice Family Worship 10:30am

Benefice Services for January 2024

	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

Vigil for Peace

St Mary's Church Great Milton Thursday December 7th 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Come for quiet reflection and the chance to meditate on the 23rd Psalm, in both word and music, as we think of ongoing conflicts, particularly in Gaza and Israel.


The Rector's Pint

On the days immediately following Christmas Day there are three further holy days; St Stephen on the 26th, St John on the 27th and on the 28th, the Commemoration of the Slaughtered Innocents. This is a deeply unpleasant story. Following the birth of Jesus, Joseph was warned in a dream to flee, with Mary and the baby, to Egypt. Herod had heard of Jesus' birth, thanks to the very 'unwise' men who had told him of the birth of a new king, and he planned to hunt Jesus down and kill him. To do this, he ordered that all the male children in and around Bethlehem, who were two years old or under, should be killed. The story is found in the second chapter of Matthew's gospel.

Bethlehem was not a large town; we would think of it as a village, and was probably home to no more than twenty or thirty babies and infants. The incident is not recorded anywhere else, but in a land where brutality was widespread, the murder of twenty or so children in an un-important town would scarcely have caused a stir. It is no less terrible for that, and we do know from independent accounts that this is precisely the sort of thing Herod would have done. There is a long list of atrocities associated with him, including the killing of his wife and three sons.

We are all horribly aware of another terrible 'slaughter of innocents', with the shocking and brutal atrocity committed by Hamas in Israel two months ago, and the consequences which followed in Gaza, when so many children were caught up in the conflict. I believe that we should grieve for the suffering and deaths of all these innocents, without prejudice. I am not going to try to unravel a horribly complex situation here. The truth is, the fallout has been terrible. Innocents have been slaughtered.

The Biblical story of the slaughter of the innocents, hidden away at the back of our Christmas celebrations, is a reminder that Jesus, whom Christians call 'Immanuel, God with us,' was born into a world in which acts of brutality were commonplace.

In the carol, 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,' are these words: Yet, with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long; Beneath the angels' strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man hears not the love-song which they bring. Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the Angels sing. The 

story of the slaughtered innocents is a reality check amidst the festive sentiment and excess, but year by year we can still declare this love song, this message of Immanuel. In these uncertain and troubled times, I hope that all those of you who read 'The Pint' will know the blessing of the Christ child, 'God with us' this Christmas.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

December 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th	3:00pm	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Carol Service
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Dr Paul Carter	Holy Communion
24th				No Service
25th	9:30am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	
31st	TBA	TBA	TBA	Joining Service

- Great Milton Methodist Church Carol Service this year will be held on Sunday 10th December at 3:00pm. Everyone will be most welcome to join us.
- The Service on Christmas morning will be led by Rev'd Stephen Spain at 9:30am.
- Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Scratch Beneath the Surface

You don't need to spend very long looking at or listening to the news to get a sense that we seem to be living in extraordinary times. I won't list the stories of the moment as they may well have changed completely by the time you read this. You may find the news a very difficult watch and choose to avoid it if you can. If only the news could be a little more ordinary or perhaps extraordinary, but in a good way.

We live in a culture that loves everything to be at least a little bit special. Advertisers never tire of telling me how their products will make me or my life so much more special. And at Christmas everything has to be even more special. Life will be magical and extraordinary beyond words with an M&S, John Lewis or ASDA Christmas. The adverts are often truly amazing.

It's not just the adverts that get the Christmas treatment – are you looking forward to the Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special? No? Me neither. But you know your favourite TV programme has made it if it gets a Christmas Special!

Christmas can be a special time for us, but its specialness often comes in the form of the ordinary and the familiar: the old Christmas decorations that come out every year, the annual game of Monopoly, where Grandpa always has to be the top hat, but can't remember the rules, and the comforting knowledge that Auntie Maureen will snore her way through the King's Speech even though she's only 'resting her eyes'.

The first Christmas too found its specialness in the ordinary. (OK, the star, the angels and the wise men were quite extraordinary). But at its heart is a young mum and dad, a struggle to find accommodation, straw and swaddling bands and a new born baby. Christianity is a faith that invites us to encounter the divine through the ordinary: the water of baptism, the bread and wine of Holy Communion and a baby named Jesus. God is also there to be found in the face of loved ones and strangers, and in our everyday encounters with the abundance of God's creation.

The special, the extraordinary, even the divine is not something we need to add like the angel on the top of the tree, but something that we can encounter when we simply scratch beneath the surface of the ordinary.

Have a profoundly ordinary Christmas!

Revd Stephen Spain

The churches of Watlington will be celebrating Christmas together on Thursday 21st December with a carol service at 7pm at St Leonards. At the Methodist Church we will be retelling the story of the first Christmas in word and music in our turn up and take part nativity at 11am on the morning of Christmas Eve. You are very welcome to join us.

Thank You

Janet, Martin and Family would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone for their kind words, cards and thoughtful messages conveyed to them after the recent death of Derek Earl. We saw many of you at Derek's service on 17 November. His passing is of course extremely difficult to come to terms with but the support we have had from so many people in Great Milton and the surrounding area has been gratefully appreciated and has helped enormously.

Revd. Victor Story

It is with great sadness we record the death of Victor, who was our Rector from 1999 until his retirement in 2015. He spent his last years in Chipping Norton but he never forgot his friends here in Great Milton.

Churchyard Tidy



Taking a pause for refreshment: the usual band of volunteers augmented by staff from Le Manoir.

Thank You

We at St Mary's church are most grateful to all who gave us their support in the allocation of funds from the sale of The Bull. The generous sum is much appreciated, thank you.

Simon, Clare, Trudy and members of the PCC.

GREAT MILTON HISTORY

Our new home is comfortable, warm and, although small, is perfectly formed!! For all of this we extend to Bob Hutton our sincere thanks.

GMH



Progress report: we are slowly getting our archive sorted in our new home and hope you will soon be able to visit.

We will have a new computer shortly and so will be able to answer your queries again as usual – until then, please be patient!

Very best wishes for Christmas from us all!

GMH

The Well

The well on the green in the village was the main source of water for the surrounding cottages until 1957.

In recent years it has fallen into a rather sorry state of disrepair.

Les preston has taken up the challenge to renovate the well to its original condition and configuration and, virtually single handedly, has done a magnificent job.

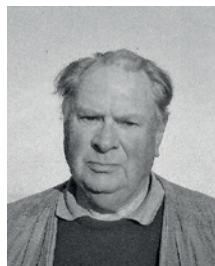
Our sincere thanks to les for a brilliant effort which we hope the village will appreciate for years to come.

GMH



View from Views

It's been a little wet of late! we have more water standing on our fields than I can remember, don't quite understand why. This I think it must be that, although we have not had much more rain than other years, but it has kept raining a little. Most crops now seem to be suffering from this continual wet, what I don't know is how much more they will stand. The wheat I told you about last month that we planted into a standing cover crop of some 18" tall, is through the ground and looking promising and, I hasten to add this is the one crop that does not seem to be suffering, it is on much drier ground. Oil Seed Rape (OSR) I fear a right off. On reflection the slug problem in the OSR may be caused by the fact that, by trying to be green we did not move the ground prior to planting, this gave the slugs a wonderful climate to breed. Lots of trash from the previous crop, plus lumps of straw left by the baler. I think this illustrates that all the great benefits of leaving everything to nature does not necessarily work under all conditions, some of the rewilding, nature friendly farming, are not always the answer, or practical, a learning curve. The jury is out nothing is plain sailing in spite of all the environmental pressure by those who do not have to pay the bill and sit in an armchair pontificating.



Periodically we are visited by a pair of Collared Doves, these birds pair up for life, over the last month or so there have only been one, I ask the question why? the survivor does look a little down hearted. Then one day, only on one occasion, there were 3 or 4 all arguing amongst themselves, now back to only one again, so we can only speculate on his/her future/demise. Most migrating birds have now left us, including the Swifts and Swallows who I thought a little late this year, we now wait for our winter visitors to return. There are some good flocks starlings, which is heartening as they are supposed to be on the decline, and many large flocks of small birds mainly tits I am informed, would really like to know what they are, I do believe that these flocks contain many different species, I would like to think these include Linnets, as I keep being asked, have you got any Linnets, to which I have to answer I haven't a clue. The great news is that we now have barn Owls in 2 parts of the farm, one seen near the village and, the other by Cuddesdon Mill, (as seen on the front of Stahampton's Village Voice). All these being accompanied an explosion in the Partridge population, also loads of Sky Larks all over the farm. It is very gratifying to us to think that some of the conservation measures we have taken could be having an effect. To add to this Hares are once again on the increase as are the Deer.

We are led to believe that our District Council, I have no reason to doubt this, is

one of the best at recycling our waste. They have a very simple system and, it is a pity the rest of the country does not do the same. It to me is ridiculous that all councils don't use the same-coloured bins for the same uses. Here in South Oxfordshire, we are told that all the green bins are sorted and recycled, and the grey bins take all nonrecyclable waste which go to be incinerated, (not ideal but at least it does generate electricity). Recently the bin men left a sticker on the lid of our Green Bins stating, use this QR code to understand what can and cannot be recycled, this is all very well and good but, not all understand a QR code, I cannot see what is wrong with a simple piece of paper that can be filed, or in our case on the kitchen notice board, for easy reference. Anything as important as this must be as simple as possible for everyone to understand.

Great news for the time being, as many by now will have heard Waterstock Golf Course has been turned down, I guess it will only be time before it is revived again, and we will have to go through the whole process again. This application was accompanied by all sorts great works that the developers were going to include as a sop for to us locals to make it look good and gender our support, like a forest school 150 sqm about the area of the penalty area of a football pitch, a creche 600 sqm not much bigger about ½ a football pitch, 120,000sqm of amenity buildings, who are they trying to impress. This just shows how developers try and show they are mitigating the impact on the area, in giving something to the community.

Recently the Aerobic digester at Cassington was hit by lightning, we learnt that this was owned by a Water Company, why does a water company own a recycling plant, nothing to do with water supply, or sewage treatment, and now we the taxpayer have to pick up the bill to make improvements to the existing infrastructure, doesn't seem right to me.

Finally I wish all readers a happy Christmas and more importantly a peaceful New Year!

Charles Peers

Neighbours' Hall Future Events Planned for 2024

Dates for your Diary

- Quiz Night - 16/2/24
- Senior Citizens Christmas Party - 6/4/24
- Sea Shanty Group - Short Drag Roger - 12/4/24
- Ceilidh band called Mouse & Trousers - Tba

We are a small enthusiastic committee who would welcome any other suggestions for events at the Hall.

Governor News Bites

School term ends on Friday 20 December preceded by various activities including Parents' Evenings and the Carol Service on December 15.

All the governors wish pupils, staff and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carpathians Swing Band Night

A big thank you to everyone who came along to this wonderful evening. Super talented musicians & a couple of lead soloists with great voices entertained us all evening. Funds raised were divided between Hall improvements & Retina UK.



A Conversation with Sir Tim Rice

On Saturday 4th November a number of us gathered in St Mary's to enjoy a glass of wine and canapes in anticipation of our celebrity guest.

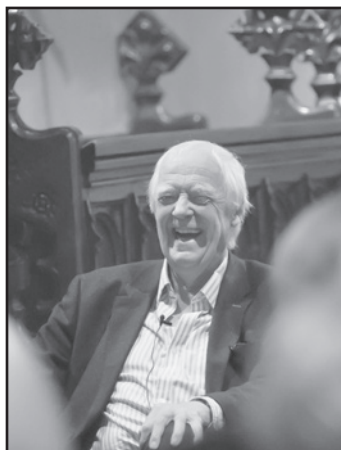
We were treated to a conversation with Sir Tim Rice; Charlie Lee Potter using her charm and skill to interview our famous, former resident.

To learn so much about Sir Tim's successful career was fascinating and his recall was remarkable. He spoke warmly of his time in Great Milton, especially of cricket matches with his team, Heartaches, which is celebrating 50 years of play!



We are grateful to Sir Tim for making time in his busy life to support our fundraising and give us such a memorable evening and to Charlie for her role as interviewer. Nick Belcher's photos capture the happy and relaxed atmosphere of the event.

Clare and Trudy



Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In November, local shanty band, Short Drag Roger entertained us with traditional shanty songs and tales of the sea, sailors and love. Thank you to Sharon & helpers for doing the teas.

In December, Melanie Dean will be demonstrating Christmas flower arranging on Thursday 14 December at 7.30pm. We will be raffling the finished pieces afterwards so here's your chance to win some beautiful flowers. Everyone welcome (men too) - Visitors £5 or join up for £23.

On Thursday 11 January, we're out for our annual New Year dinner, this year to The Lamb in Chalgrove. Let me know if you'd like to come along and I'll book your place and send you a menu to choose from.

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.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm
Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

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

Morland House Surgery

Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm. Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only. Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023 WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN.

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything. If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then please do so. Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Flu and Covid Vaccines - All eligible patients have been offered their flu and covid vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then please contact your nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find out if you are eligible, please visit www.nhs.uk and search for "Covid Vaccination". For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk. Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

Vale News

Winter focus

What to do if our waste collections are affected by bad weather

As winter begins to set in - if we get bad snow or ice in the district - it may not be safe for our trucks and crews to make their usual rounds. If we don't manage to empty your bins on your scheduled day, please leave them out for two more days and we'll do our best to come back. If after three days we haven't managed to empty them please bring them back in and we'll empty them next time they're due – if this happens, you'll be able to leave extra waste out beside your bin.

For the latest information on any disruptions and what to do please visit our website, call the Biffa call centre on 03000 610 610 or follow our social media channels.

Candlelight Concert – showcasing local young talent.

Saturday January 6th 2024, 18.00



St Mary the Virgin Church, Great Milton

Tickets: £5.00. Drinks available in the interval

We have such high calibre talent amongst our young people locally. This is an opportunity to enjoy those who are pursuing their musical passions.

The programme includes works by Bach, Chopin and Debussy amongst others.

Do join us for an enjoyable evening. Many thanks to our performers.

Tickets on sale at the door.

Any money raised will go towards church funds.





Christmas Carols

around the tree

Wednesday 13th December at 6 pm. Come join in for Carols around the Christmas Tree, followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Bull.

13th December 2023

6pm

The Green (Near the Old Garage)



Christmas Quiz at The Bull

**Thursday 14th December
at 7:30pm**

Come along and test your knowledge of Christmas in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Please note that, due to restricted space, tables of 4 only please.

Entry is by ticket only.
These are available from the village shop and cost £5 per person.

*All proceeds are for the
Children in Need charity.*

Look forward to seeing you there!

OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION
WHEATLEY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB PROJECT
Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth Workers

The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm.

The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly, we are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Childrens opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing'

Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of 2 references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV's for the role, to request an application form please contact; Martin Gillett, OPA Manager. T = 07436 270267 or E = martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk

We are Recruiting for a Catering Coordinator

Role: Catering Coordinator

Start date: ASAP

Hours: Full time - 8 hours per day

Salary: £24,000 Per annum

At Thomley, Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, HP18 9JZ
(On the Oxon/Bucks border, between Oxford and Aylesbury)



About Thomley (Charity No. 1089224)

Thomley is a place for people of all abilities and disabilities. We provide an exciting site for disabled people, their families, carers and friends. We support people at any stage of their diagnostic journey, whatever their additional needs. Thomley's site is packed with accessible activities for all ages and all abilities.

The role

To provide a catering service for our day visitors and event catering for a varied events calendar.

The role is to work in our on site cafe preparing and serving snacks, lunch meals and drinks to our day visitors. We are looking for candidates with vast experience of working in a catering environment and ideally with some experience of working with or for people with a disability. Successful candidates will thrive in a busy working environment and enjoy offering a high level of customer service. Our Catering Coordinator would deliver day services including baking, serving and cooking; plan for events and coordinate all other operational aspects of running a kitchen.

Please visit www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies for a copy of the full job description and application form.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our Service Manager, Anna: anna@thomley.org.uk

GREAT MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

LION “MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE” SCHEME

These bottles are designed to hold important information about you and your medical needs. In case of an emergency, ambulance crews know where to find your bottle and ensure you get the care you need.

The bottles are free and could save your life

All you need to do is complete the enclosed form, with details of your next of kin and any information about diagnoses, medication, allergies etc. Then pop the bottle in the shelf of your fridge door. You'll also find two green self-adhesive labels in the bottle. Put one on the inside of your front door and the other on the outside of your fridge.

Ambulance crews are trained to look for the green stickers

You can pick up your free bottle from:

Morland House Surgery
Health centres
Pharmacies

Or contact Rod Snowdon (Neighbourhood Watch)
on 07836 728919 or via the Village WhatsApp group.

It would be useful if you could let Rod know if you're using this scheme or if you find anywhere else that distributes the bottles.

Thank you.

**VACANCY
CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER
GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Location: home-based

Hours: 10.5 per week

Salary: NJC Scale LC1, scale points 7 to 17 (£10.60 to £12.92 per hour), depending upon experience, CiLCA qualification and transferable skills.

Job Description

The Clerk provides administrative and clerical support to the Council and, as the Responsible Finance Officer, is required to manage the Council's finances. Duties include:

- Managing parish council meetings, including agenda preparation, taking and distributing minutes and ensuring that outcomes are actioned.
- Managing the Parish Council's finances, including preparation of accounts and reconciliations, payroll and PAYE, payment of invoices, banking, end-of-year accounts, submission of accounts for external audit, VAT reclaim, preparing the annual budget and requesting the precept.
- Ensuring that planning applications are considered and responses submitted in timely fashion to the District Council
 - Dealing with correspondence and enquiries
 - Liaison with contractors and other service providers
- Arranging the maintenance of trees and other village assets routinely and as required
- Liaison with village representatives, including the allotment coordinator, Rec Committee, PCC and Neighbourhood Watch group
- Receiving, collating and sending copy and advertisements to the editor of the Great Milton Bulletin, and invoicing for and managing advertising.
- Updating the village website with meeting agendas and minutes, news and required financial and governance-related information.
 - Other duties as and when required.

Essential criteria

You will be required to attend the monthly parish council meeting, which usually takes place on the third Monday of each month. You must have some administrative experience and be able to maintain accurate financial records. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software (particularly Word and Excel), be capable of working independently and using their initiative, and be able to deal with a range of issues. Previous experience in local government at any level will be helpful but is by no means essential.

**For further information and an application form, please e-mail:
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or call
Chris Ashworth, current GMPC Clerk/RFO, on 07450 238 474**



THE MAPLE TREE TREASURER VACANCY

- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk.
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:

 www.mapletree.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/

Registered charity no.: 1174117

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Part time opportunities

If you are a parent looking for part time working to fit around childcare commitments or if you are a student spending the summer in the local area, and would be interested to work with us, we would love to hear from you!

We are looking for dedicated and people-orientated team members to join our award winning team. Hospitality experience is welcomed, however, training is provided and a willingness to learn and become part of our collaborative environment is more important.

We have full time hours, part time hours, evening and weekend working opportunities available in a variety of departments.

Please email careers.mqs@belmond.com who will be delighted to give you more information. Alternatively please scan the QR code below to send us your details.

Niall Kingston

General Manager





Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for **prebooked** telephone consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team for more information.

From 3rd April 2023 our new Dispensary hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

For further information, please visit our website www.morland-house.co.uk

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

Great Milton Post Office and Stores Opening Hours

	Shop	Post Office
Monday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Tuesday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Wednesday	8:00 – 2:00	9:00 – 12:30
Thursday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Friday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Saturday	8:00 – 12:30	9:00 – 12:30
Sunday	8:30 – 11:30	Closed

Bank Holidays – Closed All Day



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Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

Available for hire by the hour or the day.

**Cost for hiring
£15 per hour, £120 for the full day**

Please contact our Booking Secretary

Janet Smith on 07970 264667

GREAT MILTON

ART & CRAFTS CLUB

Join us for a monthly social get together loosely based around creative hobbies.

Whether you're a sewer, a knitter, a painter or a crafter, work on your favourite project while catching up with your neighbours.

No charge. No judgement.
Open to all ages and genders.

First Monday of every month (second Monday in January) in the Pavilion from 6.30-9.00pm

The Three Villages Car Service

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

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

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**

Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground

Ideal for children's parties, meetings, family get togethers, classes and lessons, corporate days and sports events.

Table and chair hire also available

For booking and more info, please email Caroline at carolinesmith@2redroofs.com



Book Library

at the

Neighbours' Hall

Open third or fourth

Friday of the month

Next session now

Friday 15th December

11 am – 12 noon

- Come and take, swap or donate a book or two
 - we also have a good choice of jigsaw puzzles
- We are providing tea, coffee and cakes in the Orchard Room to enjoy whilst you browse!
- Please feel free to make use of the Library at any time you visit the Neighbours' Hall

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 Chris Ashworth of any updates that need to be made
(contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

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

- 1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year**
- 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 Chris Ashworth

1 College Field, Cuddesdon, Oxford, OX44 9HL Tel: 07450 238474

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

September at Waterperry

Visit our gardens to see our famous herbaceous border in all its late summer glory as it bursts back into life with a beautiful display of Michaelmas Daisies (Asters). This is also the time of year to start thinking about bulb planting for that glorious show of colour we all look forward to in the spring.

Waterperry starts the planting season in style with an extensive variety of plants, seeds & bulbs available.

Waterperry House Open Weekend:

Sat 2 & Sun 3 Sep 10am-4pm

A chance to meet the owners of Waterperry Estate, the School of Philosophy and Economic Science.

Lectures, talks and tours. There will also be opportunities to have guided tours of the Frescoes, other areas of the house and the ice house throughout the day. Free entry. Also including a two-cello charity concert Sun 3rd Sep 4pm-5pm. There will be no upfront charge for the concert and no need to book in advance, but donations afterwards will be welcomed to help support 2 Ukrainian families living on the Waterperry estate + 2 other Ukrainian families.

**National Garden Scheme
Open Garden Sun 17 Sep**



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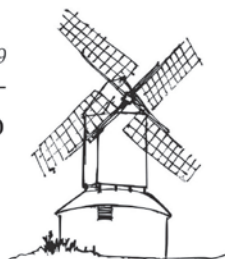
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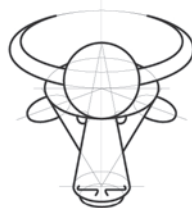
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Diary

- 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
- Wednesday 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
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 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
 Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

December

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| Sun 10th | Methodist Church Carol Service | 3:00pm |
| Mon 11th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Wed 13th | Christmas Carols around the Tree on The Green | 6:00pm |
| Thurs 14th | Christmas Quiz at The Bull | 7:30pm |
| Mon 25th | Christmas Day! | — |

January 2024

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| Sat 6th | Candlelight Concert at St. Mary's Church | 6:00pm |
|---------|--|--------|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th December 2023**.

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

Adverts to **Chris Ashworth** 07450 238474.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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Mallams
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