

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2017

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### **Great Milton Parish Council**

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

### **Parish Council Representatives**

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

### **Front Cover**

Merry Christmas to all our readers! Photo: [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com)

## In My Opinion...

Due to insufficient usage, I am sad to say that we will not be continuing the Comet Bus service on Wednesdays from December onwards. The service has unfortunately been poorly patronised with no more than four users on any one day, and usually one to three users. It is not financially responsible to use public money to subsidise this usage and we are therefore cancelling the contract at the end of November.



The Parish Clerk has, however, made contact with Red Rose Travel with a view to them possibly diverting their 275 service through Milton Common via Great Milton and we await the outcome of this approach.

In the meantime, the County Council is in the process of setting up a Cabinet Advisory Group to look into rural bus services and other County travel issues, including the routes of proposed new roads, though this will take some time to investigate and report back to Cabinet with recommendations.

On a happier note, remember that the village Carols on The Green will take place at 6pm (18h00) on Tuesday 19th December, led by Rev Simon Cronk, and followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Bull. Please give this traditional family occasion your support.

Finally, keep apathy at bay!

*Stephen Harrod, Chairman*

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## Draft Parish Notes

### Planning Applications

P17/S3081/FUL: Crofts Furlong Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NJ. Amendment to Full Application: construction of private tennis court (as amended by drawing P20A which has moved the tennis court 3 metres further away from the existing hedge). The Parish Council's existing position on this application (to recommend refusal) remains unchanged despite the amendment. This application will be considered by SODC's Planning Committee on Thursday 29th November.

P17/S3619/FUL: The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JW. Retention of Staff Accommodation Static Caravans. After discussion it was RESOLVED to recommend that this application should be refused. The original application was granted for a two-year period while this application seeks



## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
District and County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	Stephen.Harrod@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council Stephen Harrod (Chair) Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278068 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

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

### Transport

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

renewal for three years, which is excessive given that the caravans are unsightly and close to residential houses. However, the Parish Council will state in its comments that it would support a renewal for two years from the date the caravans were first installed (July 2017).

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that consent is GRANTED for the execution of the works referred to below:

P17/S3260/HH (Stonham, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NP). Loft conversion with rear dormer construction to create a bedroom and en suite.

P17/S3223/FUL (Swarebrook, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NJ). Amendment to existing planning application P16/S3466/FUL to include a small cellar for storage purposes only. The above ground development that was previously approved is not to change: 'Building and erection of a single storey dwelling; provision of garden and parking.'

### **Authorised payments**

Timothy Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses: £529.81

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production, October: £244.40

Green and Growing (October grass cutting): £534

OCC: 'Comet' bus provision. £252

OALC: 'VAT for Clerks' course. £42

Adam Blauza (Village Handyman): Recreation Ground hedge trim, Milton Common bus shelter refurbishment. £130 (£60/£70)

The Maple Tree Children's Centre: donation (as agreed at December meeting, minuted at Item 155/16). £1,000

Refund to Little Milton School (Full-page colour advertisement for fundraising event requested in November Bulletin, but black and white provided). £7.50

To note: unpresented cheque (1779) for £50 donation to St John Ambulance made in 2015-16 has been removed from cashbook as per BDO External Audit recommendation.

The reconciled bank balance as at 4th November 2017 was £27,412.99.

A request for a grant of £600 towards the cost of grass-cutting at St Mary's Church was received. It was RESOLVED to grant the sum requested: a cheque will be written at the December meeting.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

The Clerk reported that following discussions with a local IT consultant a budget of £500 was recommended to enable the purchase of a suitable laptop. It was RESOLVED to approve expenditure to a maximum of £500, which will be paid for from the Transparency Fund grant.



The hedge between the rear of the houses on Fullers Field and the Recreation Ground has been trimmed, and the bus shelter in Milton Common tidied up. The Chairman reported that the 'grips' enabling drainage of water from the road through the verge into the ditches at Lower End and on The Forties need clearing out: it was RESOLVED to seek a quotation for this work.

The Clerk reported that the area under discussion is highway land. It was RESOLVED to report the issue of parking on this land to the County Council as the landowner, and to seek its initial view on potential action.

Charles Peers has asked if the Parish Council wishes to make a contribution towards the cost of remedial works carried out on the bridge. It was RESOLVED to defer a decision on a contribution pending further investigation and discussion with the landowner.

The Parish Council agreed to meet to purchase the Christmas tree on the afternoon of Friday 8th December.

### **Main agenda items**

The Chairman reported that the Wednesday bus service has continued to be poorly patronised despite significant efforts with publicity, a revised timetable to give more journey options to Wheatley and no fares being charged. There are three regular users, supplemented by 3 or 4 occasional users and the odd 'supporter'. There have been no more than 4 users on any one day, but more usually 1 to 3. As a result the Parish Council is not in a position to fund provision going forward given the inequity of any contribution benefiting such a small sample of the village's population. It was therefore RESOLVED to request that Oxfordshire County Council terminate the current arrangement after Wednesday 29th November. This position was understood by those present, who thanked the Parish Council for their efforts up to now and advised that there would probably be no passengers using the bus on Wednesday 29th as a coach outing was scheduled, so the Parish Council could save money by terminating the service before then if it wished to.

The Chairman went on to report that the Parish Clerk has written to Red Rose Travel seeking their view on the potential diversion of the 275 service via Great Milton. No response has yet been received but this will be followed up. Antony and Carol Ayton have written to OCC to suggest that bus provision in the county is revisited: the Cabinet Member for Transport has responded to say that a meeting will be held with the bus companies to discuss the issue. The Chairman stated that the effects of bus service withdrawals were not only being felt in Oxfordshire but across the whole country, and that a return to the old funding model was highly unlikely. It was suggested by a member of the public that the Comet 'dial-a-ride' service could

potentially be expanded to cater for demand, but the Chairman responded by stating that there was no funding available for the necessary vehicles or staff to facilitate this.

The District Council has reported that operatives will be visiting its villages for routine maintenance work and has asked for information on locations that may need a more thorough clean. It was suggested that the verges and hedges on Sworford Lane and on Thame Road between the A329 and the 90 degree bend would benefit from litter-picking. This will be reported to SODC by the Clerk, along with a suggestion that the pavements on Church Road are also attended to.

The Clerk and Councillor Peter Allen have looked at income and expenses and will look to present a budget requiring no more than a 6% increase in the precept. The Bulletin has been identified as a significant cost which may need to be reduced (possibly by increasing emphasis on its online presence). Costs for grass cutting have increased with new areas of coverage being added and milder wetter weather stimulating growth and necessitating an additional cut this growing season. It may therefore be necessary to increase the budget for this area of expenditure. Other minor adjustments are being considered and a further iteration of the draft budget and Precept request will be presented at the next meeting.

Following discussion it was RESOLVED to request one further cut of the village's verges and common land from the contractor.

The Chairman will submit comments on the Local Plan on behalf of the Parish Council before the publicity period closes on 30 November.

It was reported by the Chairman that Oxfordshire County Council has no official position on the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, and that he has supported the Expressway Action Group in his role as County Councillor. The National Infrastructure Commission's view as an advisory body is that the Expressway should follow the route of the proposed 'East West Rail' link. The County Council is talking to Highways England to get the best outcome for the people of Oxfordshire, with the main objective to relieve pressure on the A34. An announcement on the preferred corridor is expected July 2018. It was RESOLVED to support and endorse the activities and position of the Expressway Action Group, which the Chairman will action.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th December 2017, starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

## Services in Our Benefice for December

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 3rd <i>Advent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>Advent 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>Advent 3</i>	Lessons & Carols 3:00pm	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Lessons & Carols 3:00pm
Monday 18th	GM School Service 1:45pm		Lessons & Carols Rycote Chapel 7:30pm
Thursday 21st		Lessons & Carols 6:30pm	
Sunday 24th <i>Advent 4</i>	Benefice Holy Communion 11:15pm	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Benefice Crib Service 4:00pm
Monday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>		Christmas Day Family Communion 9:30pm	
Sunday 31st <i>Christmas 1</i>	Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am		

## Services in Our Benefice for January 2018

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 7th <i>Christmas 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

## Ramblings From the Rectory

I called this piece ‘ramblings’ because I don’t always stick to an obvious theme. This month is typical of that. December is the month of Advent and Christmas, and yes I will get to that shortly. Last Month, whilst I focussed on the state of the world and

remembrance I could have talked about Martin Luther so I will do that now!

On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther a German Roman catholic monk, scholar and theologian at Wittenburg university published his 95 theses. These propounded two central beliefs, that the Bible is the central religious authority and that humans may reach salvation only by their faith and not by their deeds. In my own christian journey this discovery was key, after years of church observance, often more off than on! it was the discovery that true faith began with the acceptance that something had happened, had been done, for me, and not something that I could do for myself, it led me to Jesus Christ. One of the issues that particularly fired Martin Luther was his german contemporary, the preacher Johann Tetzel who was selling indulgences. These were documents prepared by the catholic church and bought by individuals either for themselves or on behalf of the dead that would release them from the punishment, due to their sins, in purgatory. As Tetzel famously preached, 'As soon as the gold in the casket rings, the rescued soul to heaven springs.' This was horrible stuff and absolutely contrary to the biblical truths that were emerging for Martin Luther.

31 October 1517, All Hallows Eve, is now historically understood to be the beginning of the reformation. (We know 31 October as halloween - I far prefer All Hallow Eve - the eve of the holy one's - All Saints being the following day - there I go again, rambling off!). The reformation didn't simply result in a new spiritual understanding, it was a religious, intellectual and political upheaval that splintered catholic Europe, setting in place structures and beliefs that still define the continent today. The disruption triggered wars, persecutions and the so-called counter reformation. It was a bloody time for which neither side, catholic or protestant (which came to be the collective name of the reformation movement) emerge unblemished. It also of course led to the change in direction of English and subsequently British history.

A key emphasis of the reformation was a conviction of the Bible as the word of God. In a newly reformed church of England the Bible was seen, and indeed remains, as authoritative in all matters of faith and doctrine. We declare it at our services 'This is the Word of the Lord.' perhaps though not entirely sure what we mean by that? The Bible as the word of God is however central to Christian belief. That doesn't deny the gift of reason, we are not called to be rampant fundamentalists, nor does it deny the discipline of seeking to rightly interpret it anew for each generation.

This 'word of God' is of course central in our Christmas celebrations. At our carol services I as vicar (or rector as I am known here) often have the privilege of reading the final lesson from the first chapter of John 'In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.' This is taking the understanding of 'the word' to a wholly different level. This is not simply (if it could ever be described as

simple!) about a collection of writings. This puts a whole new meaning on this word of God, that which is communicated of God to humankind, this 'word' who has now taken on human flesh; 'And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth'. It is not for nothing that the heading for this lesson is: 'St John unfold's the great mystery of the incarnation'. It is no good arguing, as I have heard some do, 'Oh well then, if Jesus is God's word made flesh, the Bible is of no importance.' Well yes it is, it is in this Bible that we see the revelation set out for us to examine, of Jesus as God's incarnate word, Immanuel, God with us.

So this year, the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the reformation, for all that resulted that was not of the spirit of that renewal, for these truths I am grateful; that the Bible is the central authority in all matters of faith and conduct. It can be hard to understand but it remains God's word to me, and I lose it's impact from my life at my peril. Also, the Bible points to this truth, that my ability to come before the living God is not in any way dependent upon who I am, my gifts, moral character or virtues. Rather knowing myself to be a fallen and flawed human being, indeed as a 'sinner', I come before God with faith in what he has done for me, and not for what I could ever possibly do for God. The heart of the Christmas story 'the word made flesh' is a central part of the story of the greatest of God's gifts to our fallen human race, Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us.

And of course we would love for you to come and celebrate with us this greatest of gifts at our carol services and our various services on Christmas Eve and Christmas day itself.

For January, I sometimes take a welcome month off from trying to come up with another inspirational piece, what with Christmas and all that to focus on! There will therefore be no ramblings in January. Can I take the opportunity now of wishing you, whatever your circumstances and whatever joys and sorrows you will face in 2018 a truly very blessed New Year. May you come to know the God who knows you and loves you so very dearly.

*Simon*

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## **Advent Group 'The Beatitudes'**

The ecumenical Benefice Bible Study Group welcome you to a short three week course on the Beatitudes...which will take place during Advent on the 5th, 12th and 19th December. The first meeting will be at Spring Cottage in the Haseley Road, Little

Milton beginning at 7.30pm. Further venues will be decided at this meeting.... A course booklet will be provided for each person who comes and all are welcome! If you want to know more do phone us on 278029 or just turn up on the 5th!

*Ian and Sally Ann Dennis*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

December				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Hannah Stammers	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Bull	Holy Communion
17th	03:00pm	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Carols
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	at Watlington	
25th	09:15pm	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	

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# Alpha 2018 invites you

## What is Alpha?

Alpha is the opportunity to explore life  
and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal  
environment.



## What happens?

We get together as a group over 10 weeks to look at an aspect of  
Christianity through video and discussion, hosted within our  
benefice and led by Simon.

**Starts week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

## Interested? Want to find out more?

**Contact Rev. Simon Cronk (01844 278349)  
or Paul & Christine (01844 278424)**

## Great Milton Bellringers

The Abingdon ringers hope to come to Great Milton and ring a full peal (3 hours non stop) on New Years Day. This has not been confirmed yet – as we go to press!

This is just a note to those who like the bells, and a warning to those who don't!!

We are allowed only one full peal each year, and it would be nice to welcome 2018 with a flourish!

*Pat Cox*

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## The Neighbours Club

We all very much enjoyed our Bring and Share Lunch on the 26th October. As always there was loads of delicious food both savoury and sweet and also as always in all disappeared like magic with very little left over.

We had to change our plans for the 9th November as Beryl Hulbert was unable to be with us on that day so ten pupils from Great Milton Primary School came along and brought lots of games with them, the idea being for us to show them what games we used to play and they in turn would teach us (or at least try!!) their favourite games which they like to play. It was a very successful afternoon enjoyed both by club members and the children.

We are now looking forward to Beryl's visit on the 23rd November and our outing to Waddesdon Christmas Lights preceded by lunch at Ashenden W.I. on the 29th November. This will be our last outing for 2017. Joyce banked the contents of our Cancer Blue Box which this time totalled £48.95. We were told by Ann that the hall is to be decorated and the floor attended to during the first week in January.

*JCP*

### Forthcoming Events

Thurs 7th Dec - Christmas Lunch - 1 p.m.

Wed 24th Jan - Pantomime Cinderella , Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Wed 28th Feb - Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe

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## Social Clubs at The Bull

Following on from the recent AGM of The Bull Community Pub, I thought it an apt time to give an update on the social side of the pub.

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At the time we acquired the pub, in April 2013, only one Aunt Sally team remained; the second team, together with the Darts team, having left for an alternative venue some years previous because of difficulties encountered at the pub. The aim was to get these teams back, and this has been achieved – the Darts team returning in 2013 and the Aunt Sally team in 2014.

Over the period since 2013, all the teams have enjoyed success. The Darts team won the runners-up trophies in the Pairs league in 2014/15. Both Aunt Sally teams won their respective leagues in 2015 with a third trophy being won by Ronnie Wade for the highest number of dolls scored in the league. In 2016, the 'A' team won the Team Knockout Competition and two of their players – Ronnie Wade and Robert Taylor – this year won the league Pairs Competition, thus keeping the name of The Bull in the forefront of the Aunt Sally world!

In 2014 we formed a Cribbage Club. We have recently gone into our fourth season. Our one moment of glory came in our second season when we reached the final of the Team Knockout Competition, only to lose 4–5. The result was particularly galling as two of our pairs won their games 2–1 but our third pair unfortunately lost 0–3. Nevertheless, we had a nice trophy to show for our efforts. This season we have reached the semi-finals of the competition, so here's hoping we can go one further than we did two years back!

The Bull also acts as a retreat for the members of both village football teams and the cricket team, together with their opponents, following games, to enable them to quench their thirsts!

Anyone wishing to join these clubs would be most welcome.


*Ann Price, Committee Member*

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## **The Blakeston Survey of Great Milton 1967**

### **New Edition for the 50th Anniversary**

In 1967 The Blakeston Survey was a snapshot of village life. Agriculture was still important, and in Great Milton there were shops, four pubs and buses. The Historical Society have just published a new edition in the form of a book, to celebrate and remember the importance of continuity to village life.

Many superb photographs, taken by Michael Dudley, show both the continuity and the changes: houses, personalities, groups and the many activities are all included. The Survey was quite comprehensive: Harvest Festival in one of the pubs, for instance was a regular annual event then – as it still is; there were 65 children on the 

village school roll, medical services are all recorded here; farms within the parish were worked by 10 farmers and 14 others employed on the land using 35 tractors between them. Craftsmen, shopkeepers, pub keepers, a 14-year-old newspaper delivery girl and a 95-year-old market gardener – they are all there.

There are interesting statistics which the survey found. Did you know, for instance, that there were 73 telephones (landlines) in the village – that is one telephone to every 2.4 houses? Compare that with the growth of mobile phones today: thirty years later (in 1996) only 16% of households nationally had a mobile, while last year this had risen to 95%. In 1967 the first and last bus service to Oxford left the village at 8.15 and 20.15 respectively, with the last bus from Oxford on Saturday night was at 22.00.

This is a fascinating glimpse into the village's social history, which many residents, old and new, whether local historians or not, will enjoy hugely.

*Andrew Meynell*

We have a reprint of the Blakeston due before Christmas. To secure your copy either email [gmmhistorysociety@outlook.com](mailto:gmmhistorysociety@outlook.com), come and see us on a Wednesday at the History Room 11:30am – 1:00pm or phone 279300,279489 or 278992.

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## The Friends of Great Milton School

### ‘100 Club’

Here is a list of all the recent prize winners of the FOGMS 100 Club – many congratulations to you all!

19 September	No 83	David Putt
26 September	No 63	Mrs M Rawlings
3 October	No 20	Mrs E Simmonds
10 October	No 14	Luci Martin
17 October	No 52	Amy Scully
24 October	No 93	Mrs J Jewell
31 October	No 61	Paula Watts
7 November	No 14	Luci Martin

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser.

A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and to Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

*Laura Putt, 100 Club Co-ordinator*

## Used Postage Stamps – A Seasonal Reminder

### Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Christmas is a-coming  
with cards and chocolate logs.  
Please save your postage stamps  
to train lovely hearing dogs.

This is the peak period for postage stamp use. Please, don't discard them. Get family and friends to pop them into an old envelope and give them, and any time of the year, to the Great Milton School, the Great Milton Post Office, or put them through the letter-box of Pat Dawson, Tinkers Cottage, The Green, which is on the corner of The Green at the end of the short one-way road.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all.

*Pat Dawson*

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### Help to Decorate St Mary's Church

Would you like to help to decorate St Mary's Church for Christmas? Volunteers of all ages, children and adults, are invited to come along on Saturday, December the 16th between 10am and midday and get the church looking festive. Bring a jam jar if you have one (we have some spares if not) and we will provide baubles and greenery for some simple decorations. Be as creative as you like! Refreshments provided.


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### Fitness & Yoga Christmas Break

The last class before Christmas will be on Thursday 21st December. Classes will recommence on MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2018. A very happy Christmas & peaceful New Year to all!

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### Cyclists Flat Out

As the late, great Humphrey Lyttleton once memorably remarked: The words “global” and “warming” go together like “goodbye” and “Norfolk”. So it seemed only appropriate that, for its week-end away this year, the Great Milton Cycling 

Association should return to the county of Nelson, Delia Smith and the Earls of Leicester (??) before it disappears beneath the North Sea.

We based ourselves in some rather splendid barn conversions in the hamlet of N Barsham, between Walsingham and Fakenham, and on a slightly damp Saturday morning, eleven of your Association's finest set forth, full of bran flakes and optimism. Two early problems manifested themselves: Paul Wakefield's rear wheel started making ominous and worsening clicking noises; and due to a faulty battery connection, Sally Orriss's electric bike proved not to be electric at all, resulting in poor Sally having to manage the whole day's cycling on an appallingly heavy bike, with no power and only 8 gears! It was a superhuman effort!

Coffee was taken at the wonderful Hoste Arms in Burnham Market, a village which can best be described as Notting Hill by the sea, with more Farrow & Ball paint than you could shake a stick at. By this time, the sun had come out, and the cyclists embarked on an idyllic section of the route, taking in a trail through the Holkham Estate (created by the first Earl of Leicester in 1728), thence through a pine forest at the back edge of Holkham Sands, and finally along a sea wall into the old fishing village of Wells-next-the-Sea. Here, lunch was taken at the cosy Bowling Green pub... and Mark Richardson discovered that he had a puncture. Mark generously suggested that we leave him to mend it and he would catch us up, but, grateful for the extended break, the rest of us decided instead to stand around and watch him, offering helpful advice...

The ride back to base, past the Shrine of our Lady in Little Walsingham, followed by a delightful stretch along a dead railway line, passed uneventfully, and we arrived back to pots of steaming tea and myriad delicious home-made cakes.

It was at this point that a number of us decided to ease our aching limbs by taking advantage of the on-site spa bath, allegedly capable of accommodating ten people. Paul sported a voluminous pair of garish striped trunks, leaving us all giving thanks for the demise of Man at C & A. But the star of the show was Malcolm Horsley. Those of you familiar with (a) his impressive girth, and (b) the Archimedes Principle, will appreciate the spectacular effect created by Malcolm's entry into the water. We believe industrial dehumidifiers are still at work in the building.

Dinner that evening followed a familiar pattern, with Steve Harrod in charge of the braai and a vat of white wine, and Cathy and Bridgett Duncan in charge of everything else. It was another triumph. After the meal, Mark took the opportunity to pass on words of encouragement from the fabled Chairman of the British Order of Locally-Organised Cycling Societies (sic), and to present a number of awards. These included a beautiful orchid and a huge tin of chocolates to Cathy and Bridgett respectively for services to catering; a single bottle of the 2015 vintage of Dreaming Squires from Gt Milton's

very own vineyard to Sally for her fortitude in the face of technology/innovation failure; two bottles of the 2015 vintage of, etc, etc to Malcolm for caning it on the first night



rendering him almost incapable of mounting his bike the following morning; and a further two bottles of, etc to your correspondent for apparently having finally grasped the basics of navigation by map.

Sunday dawned bright, and a reduced group, led by Mark in the temporary absence of your correspondent (called away on family business), headed to the delightful village of Cley-next-the-Sea. This included a gratuitous diversion down a dead-end track to Cley Point, right on the coast. Chris Duncan took this stretch at some speed, believing the “P” on his map referred to the presence of a pub. His mood darkened when he discovered it was only a car park, and the group were still some distance from the lunch stop. Mercifully, the whole misinterpretation incident was brightened hugely by the group’s encounter with a supremely jolly lady car park attendant, which helped to mitigate the general disappointment of those who felt they’d been so egregiously deceived.

After lunch at the Three Swallows at Cley Green, and an uneventful ride back, the group donned their glad rags and, in a departure from previous Sunday night catering arrangements, headed to the nearest pub, the Barsham Arms, for dinner. We then returned to base for leftover desserts and cheese, and embarked upon our standard annual booze-fuelled debate about how many years we’ve been doing these cycling week-ends (13), where we went, who was on them, and what silly things we got up to. The joy of advancing years and declining memory is that the discussion seemed as fresh as ever!

However, this one was particularly poignant in that Cathy and your correspondent announced that this was the last such week-end they’d be organizing. As the tears and plaudits flowed, the Chairman, observing from afar, leant back in his chair, steepled his fingers, and debated who to “nominate” to lead this celebrated village institution into the next phase of its evolution...

Bibo Ergo Sum

*Bill Fox*

We have been given the 1st Great Milton Scouts flag for safekeeping. The flag is in perfect condition, and we will take care of it until a new Scout/Cub group is formed in the Village.

If anyone has photos of the old group, we would like to scan them for the Archive – we have no scout photos at all at present!

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## Letter

I would like to bring to the attention of residents of Great Milton, the joyful news that Oxfordshire County Council have successfully introduced a new system to address the issue of Fly Tipping in the area by introducing a new initiative to encourage this on a wider scale. Costing the taxpayer £58 Million annually and rising, the only organisations happy with this initiative must be those entrusted with the clearing up activities.

On a recent visit to the Domestic Waste site at Old Icknield Way, Crowmarsh, I was somewhat surprised to find that a new scale of charges for some relatively normal household waste items has been introduced and the operators were cheerfully telling their “clients” to take their material away if they could not, or would not, pay the fees.

This is the same organisation that invested in introducing an ANPR system to send me an email to tell me when I have visited the site. I know, I drive the car!!

The chap in the car next to me had no wallet and left with his load intact. I am sure responsible people go home, and return with funds. Less responsible people may find an alternative repository in field gate or country lane.

I am not totally unhappy about paying my annual £3,200 Council Tax bill as this entitles me to have my domestic bin emptied each week and also contribute to the salaries of the personnel making these quality decisions. Making the round trip of 30 miles for the privilege and then paying the local authority to take scrap metal off me is a bit rich.


Oxfordshire County Council would like to reassure any of the more cynical members of the public that this is not a stealth tax, nor is it to provide employment for administrators, or to improve the financial position of the companies entrusted with clearing hedgerows, lanes and gateways of materials irresponsibly cluttered by “Fly Tippers”.

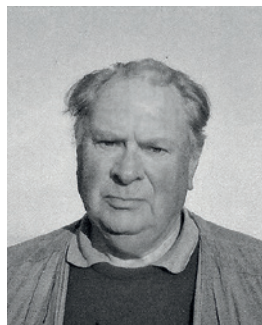
It is for our own good and Joe Public needs to be taught a lesson.

*Trevor Ford*

## View from Views

Still the weather is hardly seasonable, very mild and in spite of it appearing to have been wet it is in fact still very dry as has this year on the whole. This has given all the autumn sown crops a very good start in life, having said that we are just beginning to suffer from pigeon attack on the rape ours having been planted a little late means that any areas that did not come too well are the areas that these pests are concentrating on. We have managed to stave off the slugs, and the cabbage stem eelworm. This we now cannot control as the chemical we used has been temporally banned, and looks as if it is likely to be a permanent ban, for reasons I quite understand, hopefully we may be on the cusp of finding cultural ways of controlling this voracious pest. All in all the crops do look very well, which is more than can be said for some I have seen further north where it has obviously been much wetter than here. Whatever we have to put up with, it is nothing like the devastation in the US caused by the recent Hurricanes where whole crops at whatever stage have been completely destroyed, luckily this sort of event very rarely occurs in the UK thank goodness.

I recently received an email from a contact in Germany making the comment on how many more wild birds there seemed to be in this country, as opposed to Germany. To me a very satisfying comment, as it would indicate that some of the measures we are taking to conserve this wildlife is working. That said the movement to re-wild the country by introducing animals like Wolves and Lynxes does worry me somewhat, I realize these animals were once natives, but the population density now is such that they are not compatible to our modern way of life. Sheep farmers have expressed concerns over the risk to their flocks, I read not long ago that the milk supply from sheep for making of Roquefort cheese is at risk from Wolf attacks. The other side of this coin is that although, as I have already mentioned, times have changed since these animals were indigenous, in those days the average human being did not walk in open country like we expect to do so nowadays. This would put the average walker, if there is such a thing, at great risk of attack by these wild animals. The lynx that escaped from a Zoo in Wales did attack at least one flock of sheep, so it is not as simple as all that. Recently I attended a seminar at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), which is considered to be one of the more reliable conservation trusts, whose opinion is sort by the government over and above all others purporting to do the same work who certain, the decline in populations of certain birds is due to the prevalence of predators, and the lack of their control due to the fact most predators are now protected. 



Another conundrum for our community to ponder is that there is quite a pressure for another assurance scheme, this is for pasture fed ruminants with a demand for grass feed beef, lamb, and milk, giving the public another logo to look for on the labelling of food products, (PFLA Pasture fed Livestock Association) an Organic organisation that I am associated has been ask to carry out this inspection and Certification. This is all very well, and of course we will carry this out if required as it is another income stream for us but it will cost the farmer, may increase the value of his produce, but we are told that the grazing animal is contributing to the production of Green House gases, so whose right, and we have to decide which way to jump!

We are being bombarded at the moment with consultations on local plans using lengthy explanations as to why and where we should or should not have development, making us all confused and unable to understand the whys and wherefores. I am sure I am not alone in feeling that not only do we not need all these houses, but also that whatever we say no one will take a bit of notice of our comments meaning all these exhibitions and consultations around the district mean nothing as the authorities will do what they want whether we like it or not, just in the same way as they did over the HS2 railway where most people I have talked to agree that the money would be far better spent on the existing network, but no, they know best how to spend our money, and we have very little say. No mention has been made as to where all the domestic water is going to come from or how we think all the waste generated can be absorbed let alone how our creaking infrastructure will cope. Not long ago because of Road works in Stadhampton and Chiselhampton it took me 1 hour to get back to Great Milton from “The Golden Balls” this can only get worse. The answer to this is an Express way cut right through our countryside, if this is the case which will come first?

As my next month's offering will not be read before the New Year I would like to wish all readers all the best for the festive season and for next year

*Charles Peers*

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## **Great Milton Freecycle**

### **Team review of 2017 and looking forward to 2018**

Our team has been running the Freecycle for 3 events, this year we have manage to save 475Kg from landfill.

We've secure funding from Oxfordshire County council and the Parish Council to support the events and purchased a lovely banner which we use on the Green to advertise. Any left over items are sorted and taken to local charity shops or listed free

on Facebook free sites which we've had great success with! Only a small portion of left over items are taken to landfill.

We would appreciate if donations could be sorted before the event to ensure we only have reusable, recyclable items to avoid us turning things away, if your not sure please contact us.

There are 3 events planned for next year, we accept items from 9:30-10:30 with the event running from 10-12pm

### **Dates for your diary**

Saturday 17th March

Saturday 28th July - This event will include a Fruit / Vegetable exchange bring your excess grown fruit or vegetable or just come along and take some away

Saturday 6th October

In 2018, We plan to work with the local school to support their fundraising by adding collection of clean, quality clothes please bring along in black bags

It costs £40 an event to run the Freecycle, if you would like to support by donations or sponsorship please get in touch.

Check out our Facebook page Great Milton Freecycle

We would like to thank all the people who supported the events and my team of helpers Jan & Ian, Kate Thomas, Lucy Block, Paula Luckett, and Annette Cooper without their support we wouldn't be able to continue.

*Kelly & Darren , Great Milton Freecycle*

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## **Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society**

Over the last couple of months, we seem to have been under attack from all kinds of wildlife. The green woodpeckers are endlessly digging holes in the lawn in their quest for grubs; I guess that is providing some aeration and removing pests and they are pretty birds, but they do make quite a mess. One morning we woke to find several larger holes in the lawn and were puzzled as to their origin. They were too big for the woodpeckers, way too small for badgers and didn't really look like rabbit damage. In the end we concluded, given that the quantity of fox droppings around, this must be fox damage. We frequently see foxes in the garden and the meadow and they are very healthy-looking. This is in direct contrast to the foxes we see in North London around where our children live; those are mangy and look in terrible condition; it does seem to be better to be a fox in the countryside.

Talking about North London, when our son and his wife moved into their



home, I described the major job of clearing the tiny garden which clearly hadn't been entered for some years. This gave our son the growing-things bug and he applied for an allotment only to be told that the waiting list was 37 years! In due course, he and his wife became friends with another young couple along the road who not only had an allotment, but also found it too much and allowed him to tend part of it. This small area has given the young family fruit and vegetables grown in raised beds for several years now. This summer I was admiring his completely unprotected sprouting broccoli and asked why the birds had not destroyed the plants; the reply was that there are so many cats around them that there are virtually no birds! Amazingly, they don't seem to have much of a problem with caterpillars, either; perhaps the green spaces for growing are too far apart in urban areas for the butterflies to move around much? Suddenly, the council decided to rearrange the allotment system, evicted those not caring for them and halving the size of the resulting vacant plots. Our son has chosen the least weed-infested plot available, which is almost directly behind his garden, and started work; he even has inherited a shed which contains furniture for sitting out! There is much excitement and his three-year-old has insisted on a sign which says "Daddy and Tom's allotment".

The squirrels have finally finished their nut picking for the year. Neither of us are very fond of walnuts, but my other half sees the theft of his nuts as a personal thing and spends much time thinking up new anti-squirrel measures, none of which have worked so far. Who knew that squirrels could run at electric fencing and simply pass through without so much as a second's hesitation? The saga no doubt will continue next autumn.

We have been very fortunate with our November weather with quite a lot of sun and fewer dark, miserable days than usual. Even though we have had frosts, there are a lot of plants still flowering which means winter will, hopefully, seem shorter this year!

Liz Moyses

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

caryselindsay@gmail.com

07984250752

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## News from The Pine Lodge

Thank you to everyone who supported us in November at the Fireworks, Craft Market and Quiz and for helping us raise much needed funds for the village hall and

Bloodwise. Thanks also go to two new volunteers, Melanie and Mark, who have joined the committee. We still have vacancies, further volunteers always welcome. Could you help with village events, admin, accounts, cooking, fund-raising ideas? Would you like to become more involved in village life? Want to feel part of the community? There's something for everyone. Please get in touch.

December starts with our annual Christmas Fayre on 2nd December. Come along and start your Christmas shopping, there'll be homemade crafts, cakes, gifts, tombola, raffle, a café serving lunches and mulled wine and a new Elves Workshop with lots of fun activities for the kids. We also have WI Christmas Crafts on Thursday 14th, Craft Club on Wednesday 20th, weekly Yoga & Fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am. The village hall committee wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Like us at [www.facebook.com/Impinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*


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As the nights get colder and darker, the chances of severe weather increase. Storms, floods and other extreme conditions can cause damage to network infrastructure and disrupt your energy supply.

To Be Winter Ready, you should:

- Know your free emergency numbers – in a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.
- Prepare your home – keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. Contact your gas or electricity network to find out more. Visit [www.energynetworks.org](http://www.energynetworks.org) to find out who your network operator is.
- Keep your eyes open – keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

In recent years the chances of unplanned problems with electricity and gas supply have reduced dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, 

on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Despite this, our gas and electricity networks can be affected by natural events, with severe winter weather potentially causing significant damage. The gas and electricity network operators are urging the public to Be Winter Ready. Make sure you're prepared in case you have a power cut or gas emergency.

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## **Little Milton WI**

Thank you to Cath Cronk for teaching us to make our own icing cake toppers. Our Christmas cakes this year will now look very professional!

Our next meeting on Thursday 14th December is a Christmas Craft workshop with Liz Kidd at 7.30pm. We'll be making crackers and festive boxes, plus Liz will also be showing other crafts to try at home. Come along and join in, everyone welcome. Visitors £4, including mulled wine and mince pies.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

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

Like us at [www.facebook.com/Impinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 279438 or email [kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

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## **From the Archive....**

### **'Childrens' Christmas Outing**

I am sure that all the parents of the children, not to mention the children themselves, would like to record their thanks to the Proprietors of the Great Milton Bus Company for the very happy day they gave the children at the Oxford Zoo. From the beginning it was the happy idea of Messrs. W and B Smith to give the children this outing. They got up a dance, and raised money to pay for the entrance, teas, pocket money and elephant and pony rides – and themselves provided the transport in their luxurious buses free.'

*from the Great Milton Magazine December 1934*

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## **New Countywide Volunteering Website Launches!**

Oxfordshire Volunteers ([oxonvolunteers.org](http://oxonvolunteers.org)) is a brand new countywide volunteering website designed to link you with your perfect volunteering opportunity! Whether it's a regular weekly slot or a one-off opportunity, you'll find them all on the website. You might even want to apply for a position on a trustee board, helping to manage a local charity that you are passionate about. The website is great for groups too, who at last have one central place on the web to advertise their wonderful opportunities.

### **What do you need to do?**

If you are a volunteer: go to [oxonvolunteers.org](http://oxonvolunteers.org), register yourself using the blue 'Try Volunteering' button and start searching for opportunities. It's as simple as that!

If you are an organisation: use the 'Need Volunteers' button to register as a provider and start posting your opportunities!

This site is run as a partnership by Oxfordshire's three Volunteer Centres, funded by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire City Council and Cherwell District Council.

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## **Wheatley Library and Friends Group**

On 18th October, we had a lovely morning of poetry being read aloud. Wheatley library friends group selected a few beautiful pieces and a local actor came in to contribute his élan to the event.

1st of December was a speaker event featuring Anne Ledwith and stories about local war veterans. The event was well attended and a big thank you goes out to everyone who played a part in the success of these local gatherings.

### **Dates to note:**

Every Thursday 3.30pm

Story Times for children under the age of 6. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Friday 1st December 4pm-8pm

Book and Craft sale



1st December – 23rd December  
Children's colourings and craft

27th December – 30th December

For the first time, Wheatley Library will be open between Christmas and New Year.

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 10:30

“Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs”

Between 1997 and 2010, in collaboration with local authors, Roger Simmonds wrote and led the staging of three operas for, and by the Wheatley community.

Come and hear about the rollercoaster ride that was writing and co-producing

“The Enchanted Loom” – based on a novel by Raymond Vernède

“Letters to Paola” to a Libretto by Robert Avery

And “Poet and Plumber” to a Libretto by Kit Arnold.

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

Morning craft sessions weekly

Evening Craft sessions monthly

Drawing group weekly sessions during term time

Computer Buddy sessions fortnightly

Talks with coffee every 3 months

Book club

One of the Book Clubs based at our library still has space for a new member (or two). Please speak to staff if you are interested.

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

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## **John Howell MP writes...**

### **Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP**

As this newsletter will appear in December magazines I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

We draw to the close of what, for many, is another unsettling year with change and uncertainty. I am always pleased to correspond with constituents on issues of concern. Sharing views can help people understand different perspectives. During the course of the year I have had some very interesting and informative exchanges with people. It is good to learn and understand, even when we do not agree. Sadly at times there is less graciousness in disagreement and I hope that in this season of goodwill there may be opportunity to greater understanding across our communities.

Many people in our communities work hard to make them special for the rest of us. I know that at times this can be a thankless task. May I take this opportunity to say a special thank you to all those who work hard on behalf of the rest of us in their voluntary work. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done in 2018.

With the many and varied means of communication available to us and the mass of information shared it can be difficult to get clarity on specific issues and this itself can be a cause of anxiety. Indeed at times situation develop so quickly that it can be difficult to keep up with things. The media will choose their key stories and report them as they will but there is always so much more going on than flashes past us each day. Perhaps the speed and volume of information coupled with the lack of time and opportunity to share views in any depth encourage the often argumentative and insensitive nature of social media.

For my part, as well as personal communications, I share what I am doing and my thoughts in specific issues on my website [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues as well as writing in these parish magazines. If you would like to subscribe to these please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com). You can also follow me on Facebook [www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire) or on twitter [@JHowellUK](https://twitter.com/JHowellUK). For those who are interested in the aspects of the detailed work of Parliament this can be followed on the Parliament website where there is a specific section dedicated to what is going on in the House. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/>

I look forward to continued correspondence on the wide range of issues that are of concern across the constituency in the New Year.

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## **Make a Difference Every Day – Become a Care Worker**

Oxfordshire urgently needs more compassionate care workers to support vulnerable members of our community.



If you want a flexible and rewarding job helping other people, then care work could be for you.

You will receive all the training you need. The most important thing for employers is that you are caring, friendly and reliable.

There are opportunities across the county so you can find a job that's close to home.

You can work the hours that suit you - there are options to choose a fixed hours contract or a flexible contract.

There are lots of different roles in social care depending on what you want to do, who you want to work with and where you'd like to work. You could be supporting an older person, someone with a physical disability, autism, dementia or a mental health condition. You could be working in a care home, out in your local community, in a hospital or from someone's home.

Interested? Visit [oacp.org.uk/jobs](http://oacp.org.uk/jobs) for job opportunities and to find out more about working in care.

Anita, 46 - care worker

'I would definitely recommend this job – it's different every day, you're learning all the time and you're making a difference. You can make people smile when other people can't.'



### ***Decorating St Mary's church for Christmas***

*We would like to invite everyone, children and adults alike, to come along to St Mary's church on Saturday 16th December between 10 am to 12 noon to help decorate the church for Christmas. Bring a jam jar, if you have one, and we will provide greenery and baubles for some simple decorations. Refreshments will be served.*



# Carols around the Christmas Tree

led by The Reverend Simon Cronk



Followed by mince pies  
and mulled wine at The Bull

**6pm Tuesday 19 December**  
The Green (outside the Garage)

# GREAT MILTON CHRISTMAS FAIR



**SATURDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2 pm - 4.30 pm**  
**FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

*HOMEMADE PRODUCE, DECORATIONS,  
CARDS AND GIFTS, REFRESHMENTS,  
MULLED WINE AND ROAST CHESTNUTS*



**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**  
**INCLUDING DINNER FOR 2 AT LE MANOIR**



*2018 CHRISTMAS CARD WINNERS*  
*GUESS THE NAME OF THE SNOWMAN*  
*AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN*

**JOIN US IN THE PAVILLION on the Rec,  
AND GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!**



**We will be collecting in non-perishable produce  
for the homeless – please bring a donation.**

*THE CHRISTMAS FAIR IS IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT MILTON*

THE PINE LODGE, LITTLE MILTON

## CRAFT CLUB

20th Dec & 17th Jan  
7:30 – 10:00pm

## QUIZ NIGHT

20th January 7:00pm  
Ticket includes 2-course dinner  
Licensed Bar  
Everyone welcome – on your own or in a team

Tickets on sale at LM Shop or on door £10

Like us at  
[www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](https://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)  
Details at  
[www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

At the Pine Lodge, Little Milton

**Saturday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**11am until 2pm**

Handmade crafts and gifts  
Festive food  
Christmas raffle  
Light lunches  
Mulled wine  
Children's activity area  
& Elves Workshop

In aid of The Orchard Pre-School,  
St James' Church & The Pine Lodge



**Saturday Nights**

**At 7.45pm**

**At the Neighbours Hall Gt. Milton**

**All welcome**

**Refreshments**

**Transport available from local area**

**Bus route from local villages**

**Contact David Spiers 07702 085962**  
**or Melanie Scully 07990 985411**



**HUMAN STORY THEATRE**  
NEW WRITING. REAL ISSUES.

DIRECTED BY  
**ANNA TOLPUTT**  
MUSIC COMPOSED BY  
**ARNE RICHARDS**

AGES 14+

1 hour drama commissioned by the NHS about parenting, disappointment and middle age drinking

O&M after each performance with guest professionals from Turning Point & other organisations

**HUMAN STORY THEATRE PRESENTS**  
**DRY**  
**BY GAYE POOLE**  
**JANUARY 2018**

For tickets please visit:  
[humanstorytheatre.com](http://humanstorytheatre.com)

TOURING FOR 'DRY JANUARY' 2018

11 JAN. 7.30pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AD	19 JAN. 7.30pm	ENGLEHAM VILLAGE HALL, OX16 4QW
12 JAN. 7.30pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AD	20 JAN. 7.30pm	CHARLEBURY MEMORIAL HALL, OX7 3DW
13 JAN. 12pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AD	22 JAN. 7.30pm	THE MILLARTS CENTRE, BANBURY, OX16 5QE
13 JAN. 7.30pm	OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD, OX1 2AD	23 JAN. 7.30pm	THAME LIBRARY, OX9 3HP
16 JAN. 2pm	HIGH WINGHAM LIBRARY, HP11 2DA	24 JAN. 7.30pm	CONNERSTONE ARTS CENTRE, DOCKOL, OX11 7NE
17 JAN. 7.45pm	FERRYMANS STUDIO THEATRE, G250 1HG	25 JAN. 7.30pm	BAMPTON PAVILION, OX16 2AA
18 JAN. 7pm	THE COOPER SCHOOL, BUCKINGHAM, MK8 4BS	26 JAN. 7.30pm	NEIGHBOURHOOD HALL, GREAT MILTON, OX84 7PZ

TURNING POINT  
OLD FIRE STATION  
NHS

## Registration for Oxfordshire Artweeks

May Festival 2018 is now open

- CLOSING DATE for entries is the  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.



See [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org) or contact Jo Gilding - Artweeks Administrator [artweeks@artweeks.org](mailto:artweeks@artweeks.org) 01865 865596 for more details.

**Don't miss your chance to take part:** Artweeks is non-selective and open to all amateur and professional artists and craft makers living or working in Oxfordshire. Artweeks is also open to artists that live outside the county but are members of an established Oxfordshire based art group, society or guild. Artweeks festival is organised by a not for profit members company.

If you are new to Artweeks you may like to attend one of our free taking part events

Come and meet the festival director and hear more at our free sessions:

Cornerstone Arts, Didcot; Wed 4th Oct 2017 6.00-7.00pm  
The Jam Factory, Oxford; Monday 9th Oct 2017 7pm-8.30pm  
The Mill, Banbury; Tuesday 10th October 2017 7pm-8.30pm  
West Ox Arts Gallery, Bampton; Thursday 19th October 7.30pm-9pm

Please do let us know if you are planning to come - at [artweeks@artweeks.org](mailto:artweeks@artweeks.org) - in case there is any last minute change to the arrangements.

## Neighbours Hall

**A large, pleasantly decorated and well heated community hall with well equipped kitchen and ample parking – ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, corporate training, weddings etc available for hire by the hour or the day.**

Free use of tables, chairs and kitchen equipment

£10 per hour, £50 per ½ day, £100 per day

For more details please contact:  
Secretary, Ann Price 01844 279 474

## Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground

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

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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  
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

## **Great Milton Website**

Have you seen the website?

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

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

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**Please contact Tim Darch**

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**Email: [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

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### **Christmas Closure**

We will be closed from 25th Dec  
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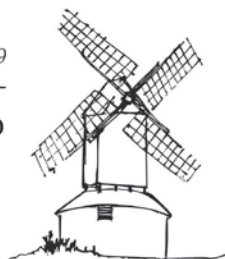
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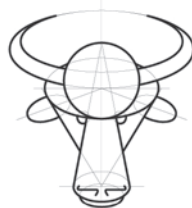
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## Diary

- Monday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays.  
*contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com*
- Saturday Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm  
*contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637*  
Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

## December

- |            |   |         |
|------------|---|---------|
| 1st Fri    | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall                                 | 7:30pm  |
| 2nd Sat    | Christmas Fayre at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton                  | 11:00am |
| 7th Thurs  | Neighbours Club: Christmas Lunch                                  | 1:00pm  |
| 9th Sat    | Christmas Fair at The Pavilion                                    | 2:00pm  |
| 14th Thurs | Little Milton W.I.: Christmas Craft Workshop at The Pine Lodge    | 7:30pm  |
| 16th Sat   | Decorating St. Mary's for Christmas                               | 10:00am |
| 18th Mon   | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                            | 7:30pm  |
| 19th Tues  | Carols around the Christmas Tree on The Green                     | 6:00pm  |
| 24th Wed   | Neighbours Club: Cinderella at The Corn Exchange, Wallingford     | —       |
| 28th Wed   | Neighbours Club: Lunch & Skittles at The Frerryman, Bablock Hythe | —       |

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

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

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Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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