

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

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Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	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

In My Opinion...

This is good news month!

Following my rant last month, I am pleased to say we have had an application for a new Parish Councillor and two applicants for the role of Parish Clerk! Thanks to all three of them for responding in this way.

In other news, Great Milton will soon have a weekly bus service! I have met with the County officer in charge of the Comet service, of which some of you may have heard. Briefly, this makes use of mini-buses used for home to school transport, during off times between 10h00 and 14h00 weekdays. I have provisionally booked a bus (at least 9 seats up to 16 with wheelchair access if needed) for a weekly run on Wednesdays, as shown in the following proposed timetable:



Time	From	To	Purpose
10:00am	Depot	GM Shop	—
10:15am	GM Shop	ASDA Wheatley	Drop ASDA shoppers/Oxford pax for 280
10:25am	ASDA Wheatley	Wheatley Surgery	Drop surgery users
10:35am	Wheatley Surgery	Thame Town Hall	Drop Thame shoppers
10:55am	Thame Town Hall	Wheatley Surgery	Collect surgery users
11:15am	Wheatley Surgery	GM Shop	Drop all pax
11:30am	Wait at GM Shop		
12:50am	GM Shop	Thame Town Hall	Collect Thame shoppers
1:10pm	Thame Town Hall	GM Shop	Drop all pax
1:30pm	GM Shop	ASDA Wheatley	Collect Oxford pax from 280
1:35pm	ASDA Wheatley	GM Shop	Drop all pax and return to Depot

The intention is to have tickets for sale at the village shop, at a price to be established, for use by residents of the Parish. If all goes to plan, it will provide a service to Wheatley Surgery, also linking to the 280 service from Asda for Oxford passengers, shopping at Asda, a trip to Thame and return trips back to the village shop, as shown above.

It is proposed to charge users a reasonable fare (£3-£5??) and subsidise the



Front Cover

Pooh on the road sign... Photo by Ian Melton.

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

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

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

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman: **Stephen Harrod**

Ward: Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory

Vice Chairman: **Bill Fox**

Ward: Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings

Councillor: **Peter Fewell**

Ward: The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood

Councillor: **Clyde Deacon**

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

Councillor: **Malcolm Horsley**

Ward: Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329

Councillor: **Gwen Harris**

Ward: Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary

Councillor: **Peter Allen**

Ward: Milton Common

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

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee: Michael Robinson, Michele Block

Old Field Charity: Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick

Hard Surface Play Area: Susan Read, Jon Devitt

Neighbourhood Watch: Lesley Bush, Liz Sands

Kent & Couling Charity: Cynthia D'Anger

Sheppard Trust: Ann Price, Pat Cox

balance through the Parish precept, though this requires discussion and confirmation at the Parish Council.

The service will run on a trial basis at no charge for the four Wednesdays in September (starting 6 September), and depending on the usage and agreement of the Parish Council, will then be formally adopted from October onwards.

I would be pleased to hear any comments in the meantime via stephen@wildhorn.co.uk so feel free to share your thoughts.

It is a small improvement on the current situation, but better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick, in my opinion! ALL THIS IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AND WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THE SHOP AND PUB ONCE FINALISED.

Thanks are due to the Aytons for getting this initiative off the ground.

No apathy there!

Steve Harrod, Chairman

Parish Council Notes

The July meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Bill Fox (Vice Chair) with Cllrs Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and one member of public. Apologies were received from Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor) Cllrs Malcom Horsley and Gwen Harris. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 18th September at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Planning Applications

Planning decision notices received from SODC

To review any planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.

South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is GRANTED: P17/S1643/HH – Haddon & Bannock Lower End Great Milton

Remove existing roof tiles to "Haddon" and adjoining property "Bannock" and to replace with similar synthetic tiles, in keeping with the existing roof. To repair existing shared dormer at rear of property. To replace existing render with synthetic tiles to match roof.

Financial Resolution

The Council received the full bank reconciliation.

The balance brought forward as at 30 May 2017 was £18,917.47

Receipts: £8,325.00

Payments: - £4742.57



Overgrown footpaths

A resident notified the council of overgrown footpaths, one of which he had cut back which the council thanked him for.

Parish Clerk update

The Clerk notified the council that the Annual Accounts have been submitted to BDO.

Interviews for the Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer to Great Milton Parish Council is scheduled on 31st July

The damaged bus stop at the Welcome Break Services has been fixed.

Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for August

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 6th <i>Trinity 8</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 13th <i>Trinity 9</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 20th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 27th <i>Trinity 11</i>	Benefice Communion Service at Rycote Chapel 10:00am		

Services in Our Benefice for September

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Trinity 12</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>Trinity 13</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>Trinity 14</i>	Harvest Festival 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>Trinity 15</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Harvest Festival 5:00pm	

Services in Our Benefice for October

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Trinity 16</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Harvest Festival 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

Just a couple of brief things for August, a bit of a light holiday month, (although I have already had a two week break).

We have just finished watching a BBC drama, 'Broken', about a Roman Catholic Priest, Father Michael Kerrigan serving in a poverty-stricken austerity-savaged parish in a north west city – it was filmed in Liverpool. It was written by Jimmy McGovern, who is not backward in taking on difficult social issues. Sean Bean, he of many film deaths fame (the best was definitely as Boromir in *The Fellowship of the Ring!*) was extraordinary as Father Michael, tortured by his own demons and overwhelmed by the level of need he encountered every day. I simply want to bring it to peoples attention although it made for somewhat uncomfortable viewing from the bucolic environs of South Oxfordshire. Jimmy McGovern has said that he doesn't miss God much and had few qualms about losing the Roman Catholic belief of his childhood. Certainly there were some hard hitting salvos at the Catholic church, but the way he deals with Father Michael's story is remarkable. For a man who claims to be indifferent about God, the theme of forgiveness and redemption that emerge after journeying through six gruelling episodes is compelling. I would put it on the curriculum of every theological college in the land for those training to be ordained.

The Alpha Course, Autumn 2017

Just a short note to publicise the Alpha course that once again we are hoping to run in the Autumn. The Alpha course which has now been used in thousands of churches for many years. Alpha began at Holy Trinity Brompton which is still the headquarters of the Alpha course.

Alpha is an introductory ten week course on the basics of the Christian faith. It takes place on a weekday evening and in the middle of the course there is an opportunity to spend a few hours on a Saturday to look at the person, work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

An Alpha evening begins with some refreshment, sometimes a full meal, but it can also be coffee and cake. This is followed by a video presentation and then an 

open discussion. Any question is permitted and there is no expectation that anyone who comes should have an advanced knowledge of the Christian faith. I have run and participated in many Alpha courses over the years. I can testify to how useful it has proved to equip those within the Church but also enquirers with a deepening knowledge about the christian faith. Last year we ran an Alpha Course for the Benefice, it was held in Little Milton. We had twelve of us doing the course, a number with a good precedent! People found the course helpful informative and thorough. A couple of people have told me that they want to do it again!

We used a new format last year, which I hope to repeat again. The New material was very accessible, dynamic and easy to understand.

We hope to run an Alpha course beginning towards the end of September, either on a Wednesday or Thursday evening (I am sorry to be a bit vague at this stage). The course is open to anyone to come, you don't have to be a regular church attender, or even to come at all!

Should you have questions or indicate that you would like to come on an Alpha course please do ring me at the Rectory – 01844278349 or email me simon.cronk@btinternet.com

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

August				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
6th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	
13th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Loal Arrangement	
20th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	Holy Communion
27th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Neville Shepherd	

Action for Children: Home Collection Box Holders

This year's collection boxes raised £300.32. I would like to thank everyone on behalf of Action for children for their kindness & generosity for the support you provide over the years. Many thanks.

Yvonne Cartwright

The Neighbours Club

On the 22nd June we spent a very pleasant afternoon with our scissors snipping away and doing our best at flower arranging. The winners were 1st Betty, 2nd Trish and joint 3rd Janet and Tony.

On the 6th July we spent a very enjoyable afternoon being entertained by a group of seven-year old children from our local school. As always they were delightful and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as we did.

On the 12th July it was time for our outing again – this time thirty-four of us went to Winchester in the morning and spent about three hours there exploring the city and having lunch. We then went on to Mottisfont in the afternoon; a National Trust property set in glorious grounds. We spent about an hour or so in the house and then explored the gardens. All too soon it was time to get back on the coach for Keith to drive us across country and back home. Another very enjoyable day out.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - August

Thurs 3rd: Quizzes - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 10th: Outing morning and lunch at Leamington Spa;

Afternoon at Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre.

Thurs 17th: Reminiscence - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 31st: Bring and Share Lunch - 1.00 p.m.

Harvest Festival

We would like our harvest festival to be bigger and better this year. It is on Saturday and Sunday September 16th & 17th from 2pm until 5pm at St Marys Church, and we are inviting everyone to come and view the decorations and have a cream tea.

We will also, of course, need lots of produce, fruit, vegetables, flowers, preserves, and also non perishable, tins and packets, as we will donate these to The Porch a charity for the homeless in Oxford. If you can come along on either Friday 15th or Saturday 16th in the morning 9–12am, with your donations or would like to help decorate the church we would much appreciate your help, & produce. If you are unable to come at these times, please give me a ring and I can collect donations.

Sally Orriss and team

01844 279231

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Rummage Sale

Our thanks to those who donated rummage and raffle prizes for this event – the wonderful total of £243.98 being raised for party funds. Only two previous rummage sales have resulted in higher proceeds. Looking back through the records, our first ever sale in 1977 raised £28.94!

As always, our sincere thanks to the volunteers who help on the day – without them we would not manage.

Harvest Festival

This will take place on Saturday 2nd September at The Bull Inn commencing with a short Thanksgiving Service at 6:30pm followed by the ever-popular auction of produce.

People wishing to enter produce can do so by bringing it to The Bull after mid-day – the judging will take place at 2:00pm approx.

Ann Price, Treasurer

From the Archives

The Milton Magazine, August 1870

Fever

We regret to say that there are some cases of bad fever about the parish. There is every reason to believe that this disease arises chiefly from the use of impure water. In a dry season like the present, our shallow wells are liable to become polluted by surface drainage.

Never drink or allow any member of the household to drink water raw from the well. Let the drinking water be boiled and drunk in the shape of weak tea or toast and water. The best water accessible to the public is probably that obtained from the pump near Jess Saywell's. The Vicarage is supplied from the same source, and neighbours are entirely welcome to use the pump in the vicarage stable yard.



Great Milton Cricket Club

Results

London Erratics 206 for 6 (35 overs)

Great Milton 169 all out
D. Bennett 38
A. Noble 29

Holton & Wheatley 84 all out
A. Noble 5 for 25

Great Milton 85 for no wickets
J. George 47 n.o.
A. Noble 32 n.o.

A trophy is at stake in this game – our victory saw us winning for the first time since 2013.

The Man of the Match trophy was won by Ali Noble for his excellent bowling of 5 for 25 which included four wickets in one over – backed up by his 32 n.o. when opening the innings.

Unfortunately, our final game of the season, scheduled for 30th July, has had to be cancelled because of holiday commitments.

It is hoped to arrange a T20 game together with a BBQ and Bar to finish the season off, with Sunday 3rd September being a possible date. The event will be advertised around the village in due course.

Ann Price, Secretary

Letter

I read with interest Steven Harrods letter/rant in June's Bulletin and I think it deserves a response from someone with a similar sense of frustration but perhaps with a different view. Yes, there is a feeling of apathy and the onus on the 'usual suspects' to volunteer with helping events in our village. Along with others I am 'volunteered out' just now.

Some of the problem is communication, as matters raised at meetings with the Parish Council, never seem to have an obvious result. Steven refers to the regular motorcycle races on the A329 which I have raised with the TV Police at Kidlington and was 

met with a patronising and dismissive reply that offered no solutions. (Correspondence available to see). Did the Parish Council write to the Police?

Other matters raised are the road surface in Thame Road and the need for better signage on the Green. The Parish Council do good work and possibly have done something but I have never heard the outcome.

These matters do concern villagers so maybe telling us what action was taken would lead to better communication – and less apathy. Perhaps publishing the minutes in the Bulletin would create some interest as all the Minutes aren't on the website at this time and not everyone has a computer!

What has turned many people off above all else is the bus situation which quite frankly is a shameful disgrace by all the Authorities involved. Along with many others I was very active with the big campaign to retain our 103 bus and a solid case was made to keep it but we were met with apathy, misinformation and downright deceit and our efforts were in vain. Yes, it does work both ways.

I questioned at an early stage if the withdrawal of bus subsidies was a done deal. I was told no. I subsequently heard that weeks before, staff involved had been notified that subsidies would stop and they would be relocated. It suggested that the decision was already made. Why did we bother?

I wrote to the Prime Minister on the bus situation and was told in a reply from some obscure Government Department that £800,000 had been allocated to Oxford for “Social Services” and a “bus subsidy could be found from that”. Needless to say that money went to everything but. That is another reason there is apathy to some levels of Local authority who are perceived to ignore the public they represent.

End of my rant.

Ian Melton

Blue Plaque for D'Arcy Dalton

The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board will be unveiling a plaque for W.P. D'Arcy Dalton (1893 – 1981), Champion and Protector of Public Rights of Way, at The Limes, off Lower End, Great Milton, on Friday 18 August at 11 am. All welcome to attend the ceremony.

Old Field Open Day & Barbecue

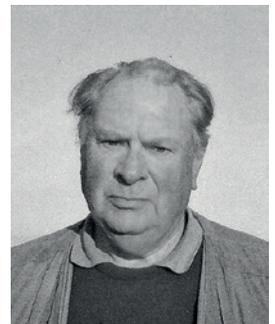


Photo: Manny Stone

View from Views

Thanks to the generosity of those that sponsored our recent Tractor Run I was able to hand over a cheque for £735 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Now we have got to look forward to the “Ride and Stride” run we do in aid of the “Oxfordshire Historic Churches fund” in September, another worthwhile charity, that helps our parish churches with necessary funds for vital repairs as and when needed, so I will again be begging for support.

Previously I have written that I thought the dry summer we had had so far had not really affected our crops since then we have had some extremely hot periods without any moisture at all, and I just do not know what affect this will have had. The 



proof of the pudding will be when we harvest as it is almost impossible to predict now how fields will yield yet. I have anxiously rubbed out a few heads but it is still very much in the milky stage with the grains still puffed up, early reports of the Winter Barley yields sound very promising though. I hesitate to make any predictions, as the Wheat suddenly turned very pale after a couple of those very hot days, was this burning off? or was it just ripening quicker than normal I just don't know, this is really very disappointing as everything looked so promising right through to a month ago. This will, or at least already has brought, the start of Harvest forward by at least 2 weeks and by the time you get to read this, if the weather stays reasonable, the winter Barley and Rape and very probably some Winter Wheat will have had a visit from the combine. On the plus side our solar panels will have been showing their worth I think in June we generated the highest monthly amount of electricity yet, and also recording our highest production for a single day so it's not all bad.

We have just cut some of our Grass margins for hay, as part of the management, the idea is to try and deplete the level of fertility, which encourages grass and nettles etc, thus depressing the wildflowers that we are trying to encourage. This operation means getting to the remoter parts of the farm, and sometimes surprises us what is around, it was great whilst turning this hay to notice we had a Barn Owl not seen for a year or two (welcome back!). On the subject of our grass margins which 2 years ago we "floristically enhanced" (planted some wildflowers), these were planted under very dry conditions, and at the time I was very sceptical that anything would grow, however some have, although not a very dense population, but all said and done the populations are improving by the year. The most important thing is that these margins are not only a buffer between what we do on the land and nature, but to provide food to encourage insects and pollinators, that others feed on. This certainly has worked as the amount of insect activity has been phenomenal, which makes one feel that we are really making a difference, always a difficult thing to judge until you can actually see the result which in many cases can be some years away.

Most readers will be aware that the research into the effect of Neonicotinoids (neonics) on bees has supposedly been found to be detrimental, I am in no way in a position to doubt these findings which means we will have to find other ways to produce our Oil Seed Rape or not grow it at all. There are 2 points in this study that I do not quite understand, one is that if we increase the areas devoted to wild flowers like our Grass margins this will offset the effect, I find this hard to understand, the other point is that these Neonics are also used on crops like cereals, and root crops that do not flower so are not visited by bees at all, so I think there is a certain amount of clarification needed. The debate over the use of Glyphosate, which is a total weed

killer available to gardeners, local councils, as well as us, for path and ground clearance etc, continues with politicians prevaricating mostly on things that they really don't understand or realise the effects of their decision making. However it seems that the decision has been made to give it clearance for the time being but one can never be sure in situations like this that it will not appear on the agenda again shortly.

I could hardly be expected not to mention Brexit, I really don't know what difference either option would make. What I do know is that it is all very important to the wellbeing of the UK, so I just wish these damn Politicians would give up this continual point scoring and agree that in the national interest we should all pull together and agree a final outcome. We all realise that it was a big mistake to call an election it has showed to me that the country needs a certain amount of guidance, not division. We have a team doing the negotiations give them support and let them get on with it and not expect them to show their hands before time, after all what card player shows all his cards until the end of the game, in any deal there has to be some form of secrecy as to what position we may or may not be prepared to accept. I am heartened though to learn how much consultation is taking place behind the scenes with various bodies, we at Organic Farmers and Growers (OF&G) have been asked for a paper on the Organic position, and I know other organisations have had similar approaches, so in spite of all the scepticism things are actually moving behind the scenes.

Charles Peers



So much for squirrel-proof bird feeders...

Little Milton WI

In July we learnt all about the charity, Mercy Ships (www.mercyships.org.uk). Several cruise liners converted in to hospital ships, manned solely by volunteers, travelling the world, bringing medicine and hope to poverty stricken Africa.

Our next meeting on Thursday 10th August will be at the Peers Centre at 3pm for an afternoon of Pimms, Puddings and a small talk on the River Thames Trust.

Dates for your diary:

- The Horticultural Show on Saturday 26th August where we will have a stall selling Accessories and Cakes at the Old Rectory, Great Haseley. Any volunteers to help on the day and/or to make cakes?
- Stadhampton village show on Saturday 2nd September. All encouraged to enter the competitions and attend on the day.

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey – 279438

News from The Pine Lodge

It's all quiet at the Pine Lodge, enjoying a well deserved Summer holiday, ready for an Autumn of quizzes, fireworks and crafts.

Would you like to become more involved in village life?

Want to feel part of the community? Could you help with village events?

Come along to village events, join a club, pop in the shop, come to church

There's something for everyone – new volunteers always welcome

In August we have Craft Club on Wednesday 16th, weekly Yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am and Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am from 26th July to 23rd August, then restarting on 13th September. The children's clubs are on Summer break until September.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey – 279438 / Linda Lovegrove – 279535

Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin

For the latest conservation news, updates on the autumn Waterblitz, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training SIGN UP to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

John Howell MP writes...

Rarely a week goes by without some story on the NHS being carried in the media. Too often we read negative stories about our health services. I was therefore delighted to see the publication of an independent report by the Commonwealth Fund which ranked the UK health service among the top performers as compared with eleven other high income countries. The research conducted for this report was undertaken to look at the US health service and made international comparisons for this purpose. The US fared badly in the report with the UK coming top in the overall ranking followed by Australia and the Netherlands in second and third place respectively.

This is good news and most of the press agreed. It was therefore sad that others were quick to try to shoot it down on the letters pages. I for one am proud of our health service. I don't pretend that there aren't any problems. I know full well that there are. I am often asked by constituents for help with specific problems and always do my best to try to help. Sometimes it is a block in the system that we can shift, at other times it may be a medical decision that is in dispute and then I do have to rely on professional opinion. I also meet regularly with health chief executives in Oxfordshire to review performance and progress on various issues of concern. It is good to know that we are doing well, but this should not stop us trying to do even better and to resolve the problem areas.

In healthcare we need to keep up with research and be willing to look at new ways of doing things. An example I have mentioned before is the new Townlands Hospital

in Henley which itself has no beds. The beds are in the new adjacent care home. Townlands uses the model of ambulatory care, which is essentially care provided on an outpatient basis and can include diagnosis, observation, consultation, treatment, intervention, and rehabilitation services. Townlands Hospital offers a wide range of well used services and seeks to keep people out of hospital as far as possible. It is now well known that our health can degenerate quickly if confined to bed, especially for the elderly. However with the care home beds there is one to hand when needed.

We also need to be mindful of our ageing population. Our population currently has more than three million people aged over 80 years old. By 2030, this figure is projected to almost double, and by 2050 reach eight million. Our life expectancy is increasing – an achievement we can all celebrate. However longevity brings with it challenges for the future and healthcare is no exception. I am pleased that NHS England is working together with Age UK to consider these challenges and to raise awareness and explore potential solutions.

The issue of public sector pay is of course relevant in the health service as in others public sector organisations. I agree that we need to review this on an ongoing basis and am pleased that this is being done by independent pay review bodies. This is the right place for these reviews to take place. They need to take into account the whole remuneration package including fixed annual increments over and above any general percentage increase which are too often overlooked, and also pensions. Review bodies are already making recommendations to the Government. The response will come later in the year when it will be planned and properly costed and funded. I await the outcome.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com

I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues. If you would like to subscribe to these please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter [@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/johnhowellmp) or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always, I am interested to hear constituent's views on the proposals before the House.



St Mary's Church, Great Milton

Harvest Festival Weekend

September 16-17th 2-5pm

Harvest Festival Service Sunday 17th 11-12

come and see our
beautifully decorated
church and enjoy a
delicious afternoon
cream tea. Proceeds to
the church.



Big Plans for the Neighbours' Hall

Everyone is welcome to come and find out more!

You are invited to a 'drop in session' to see the architect's plans on

Sunday September 17th 2017 anytime between 3-5pm

at the Neighbours' Hall – light refreshments available



The Neighbours' Hall was presented to Great Milton and neighbouring villages in 1924 by the Rev. and Mrs Percivall Pott who lived at the Manor from 1921 to 1947. As the Neighbours' Hall is a Community Hall and a wonderful asset to the village, regularly used for community events, we are keen to involve villagers in the refurbishment so we 'get it right' for everyone!

Maybe you can help with suggestions or offer practical or financial help or just wish to know more. We look forward to seeing you there. *The Neighbours' Hall Management Committee*

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)

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 470 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

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

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

Please contact Helen Cherry

Tel: 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.

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Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

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

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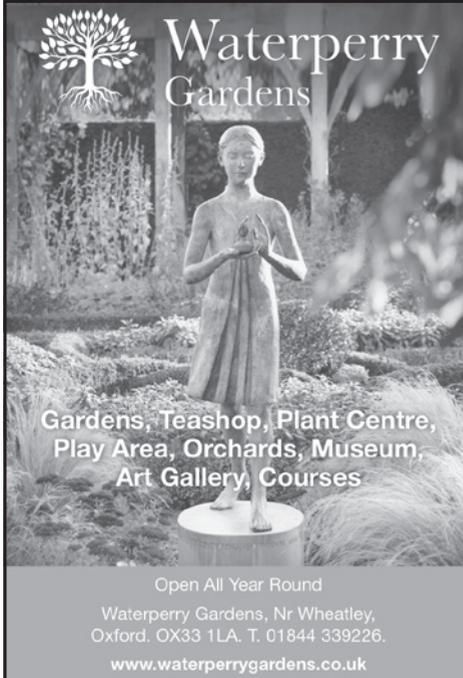
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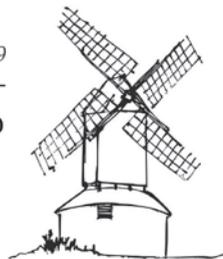
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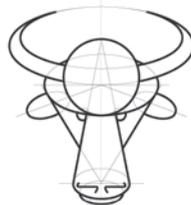
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contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Athletics Club Training, 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 – oliviahill@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*

August

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------|
| 3rd Thurs | Neighbours Club: Quizzes. | 2:15pm |
| 10th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Outing to Leamington Spa & Guide Dogs Centre. | — |
| 17th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Reminiscence. | 2:15pm |
| 31st Thurs | Neighbours Club: Bring & Share lunch. | 1:00pm |

September

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| 2nd Sat | Harvest Festival at The Bull Inn. | 6:30pm |
| 16th Sat | Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church. Also Sunday 17th. | 2:00pm |
| 17th Sun | Neighbours Hall 'Big Plans' drop-in session. | 3:00pm |
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion. | 7:30pm |
| 22nd Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall. | 8:00pm |

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

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

07554 516989 • contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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

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