

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2022

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## **Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme in November 2019: details can be found on the Parish Council Website at <https://www.great-milton.co.uk/freedom-of-information/>. Residents can see records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk or via the website.

## **Great Milton Parish Council**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery 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>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Clyde Deacon</b>	<b>01844 279242</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>		
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Peter Allen</b>	<b>01844 278334</b>
Ward:	Milton Common	

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **Parish Council Representatives**

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

**Cover:** One of the wonderful Great Milton Christmas cards, available at The Shop.

**Photo:** Nick Belcher.



## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

### Services

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

### Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

### Transport

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



## **Draft Parish Notes**

Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Pavilion on Monday 21st November 2022 at 7:30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, C Deacon, D Harms, and M Horsley. Apologies were received from Cllr S Harrod (Chair), Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC) and Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC). Chris Ashworth (Clerk) was in attendance. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website along with the District Councillor's. No correspondence was received in matters not otherwise covered on the agenda.

### **Planning**

P22/S3601/LB (3 Priory Bank, Church Road, Great Milton, OX44 7PA) New chimney pot to extend height above the ridge to current regulatory height for a wood burner. Permission has been GRANTED.

P22/S0163/FUL (Bentley House, London Road, Milton Common, OX9 2NU) Demolition of existing car repair workshop and erection of replacement commercial building comprising 4 units, with associated works including access, parking and landscaping. Amendments to planning approval P20/S3158/FUL to reduced permitted eaves height to 5.4m and install 1.8m high fence and landscaping enclosure to the front of the site. Details submitted to reword conditions 3,4,5 and 6 of P20/S3158/FUL to allow development to be undertaken in accordance with submitted details and to remove condition 11 relating to construction being undertaken in accordance with BREEAM excellent standard. (As amplified by information received 1 August 2022). Permission has been GRANTED.

The minutes of the October meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 17th October, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses November: £523.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste October: £62.40

J M Dudley November Bulletin: £311.40

McCracken & Sons Grass Cutting: £402.22

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

Hugo Fox: web support July: £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Jenks Tree works: £1632.00

Wheatley Park School: £50.00



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

The reconciled bank balance as of 8th November 2022 were £44,079.49

The first draft of the Parish Council's budget for 2023/4 was reviewed. It was approved subject to some further work on salaries and, possibly, grass cutting.

### **Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

Work on the gateway features has been raised with the signing contractor. It will take a few weeks for the necessary materials to be acquired then we will be given a date of installation.

The Great Milton Christmas Carols around the tree on the green, followed by mince pies in the pub, will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 18:00.

### **Security in the village**

Residents are encouraged to please continue to report any incident that they witness or experience to the police via the 101-telephone service or online via the [police.co.uk](https://www.police.co.uk) website.

### **Cllr Malcolm Horsley to update us on the Harrington situation**

Cllr Horsley attended the Consultation report back from Summix's consultants. Prior to this he also attended a meeting with Haseley Brook Action Group (HBAG) who had also invited the chairs of Little Milton, Great Haseley, Cllr F Mierlo (OCC) and the Lib Dem candidate for the next SODC election. Harrington is being promoted as a sustainable and green town. The main argument is that we have two choices: continue to extend Thame or build a whole new settlement on the proposed Harrington site. In the presentation from JTP (Summix's consultants), they presented the results of consultation with local residents on three days. In most of the workshop photos it was apparent that many of the participants were from JTP. At no point in time did JTP indicate how many residents had been present. The presentation highlighted some of the concerns, but the main message is that it will be the best solution to all SODC's housing needs. At the presentation, again most of the room seemed to be the very large delegation of JTP consultants.

HBAG are well organised and in 1989 they engaged with around 130 local parishes, and they are looking to engage with local communities again. Harrington is currently not in the Local Plan, and there is a widely held belief that it won't get into the revised Local Plan that will begin development next year. Cllr Horsley suggested that the village should not be complacent and that the Parish Council and local residents should engage with HBAG and register their views once SODC undertakes the correct consultation process, as opposed to the Summix led one.





## **Warm welcome campaign**

To discuss putting in place an initiative for the warm Welcome Campaign. Unfortunately, no one from the warm welcome campaign. Residents are asked to keep an eye out on vulnerable people and help out where they can.

## **Thame food bank initiative**

To discuss the potential of setting up a food bank donation point within the Parish, which will be collected by Cllr Caroline Newton. We are hopeful Cllr Newton will be able to attend a future meeting to discuss this further.

## **Staff salary NALC revised cost of living**

The Parish Council agreed to the NALC revised cost of living salary scale for the Clerk for 2022/23 and the amount backdated from April 2022.

## **Check the mowing areas for 2023**

The mowing areas are all still correct and agreed upon. Parish Clerk will gather quotes.

Meeting ended at 19:57. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th December 2022, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion. The Parish Clerk remains contactable in the event of any issues or queries.

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## **The Rector's Pint**

I have been ordained for 30 years now, and for 26 of them, since becoming a vicar, I've been responsible for producing some thoughts to be published in parish newsletters at Christmas. I am very grateful that this was done by Toby Garfitt, last year when I was ill.

This is a difficult year in which to write such a letter. We have a 360 degree view of what can sometimes seem to be unremitting bad news! I don't need to list the issues many of us are aware of as we approach Christmas 2022.

What is Christmas about? For me, I think the reading we hear every year at our carol services sums it up. It comes from the first chapter of the Gospel of John: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

There have been many attempts to date the birth of Jesus, but nothing is conclusive. No date is given in the Bible, so why do we celebrate December 25th? Some speculate that December 25th was near the winter equinox, so marked mid-winter in the Northern Hemisphere. The Romans thought that this also marked the festival of Saturnalia which honoured the Roman God, Saturn, and that Christians merely 'appropriated' the date as a celebration of Christ's birth, so rather than the 'sun god', it was a celebration of



## Benefice Services 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 4th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion 9:00am Carol service 6:00pm	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 18th	Family Worship 10:30am	Carol Service 6:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am Carol Service 4:00pm
Saturday 24th		Crib Service 4:00pm	Midnight Mass 11:15pm
Sunday 25th	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am		

## Benefice Services for January 2023

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st		Holy Communion for New Year's Day 10:30am	

the birth of 'God the Son'. In fact, the earliest recording of Christmas being on 25th December was not until 336AD, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine, acknowledged as the first Christian Emperor. Personally, I think this gives weight to the story about the date being taken from a Roman festival, and it also suits that the Northern Hemisphere would have experienced midwinter at that time of year, with shorter days and longer nights, which would have emphasised this idea of the light shining in the darkness. This certainly works at our carol services, as the churches are lit by candlelight with the darkness outside.





But the words of John are not a comment on the time of year! They are a comment on the world in which we live, and God coming among us, as one of us. The place in which Jesus was born was deeply troubled, a small nation at the eastern end of an a repressive and often brutal empire. It was a dark and dangerous world. Let us not pretend that things are easy, they are not, but let us look again at the stories we celebrate each year. I believe that if we do, we will be able to see, once again that the light that shone still shines, or rather, He still shines, Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us.

Therefore I wish you all the Peace of Christ this Christmas.

*Simon*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

December 2022				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
11th	3:00pm	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Carol Service
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
25th	9:30am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	

## Great Milton Chapel Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning at Great Milton Chapel will be held on Wednesday 14th Dec at 10:00am – 12:00noon. Everyone is most welcome!

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## Beyond words

Just a couple of weeks ago the COP27 climate change talks were in the headlines. Heads of State, other leaders and campaigners from across the globe had descended on Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt for the annual UN conference on climate change. Each year these summits are the focus for much of the world's anxiety about the changing climate. And this year has been another one filled with extreme weather events: droughts, floods and extreme temperatures, including a new record temperature of 40.3°C in the UK.

The COP talks are also a focus for hope. Each year we hope for agreements that will slow, stop or even reverse human induced climate change. We also hope for agreements



that will bring about justice sharing of the burden between countries that have largely caused the problem and those who are suffering the most.

Unfortunately, all too often there is a significant gap between what is hoped for and what is actually agreed, and between what is agreed and what actually happens in practice. Last year, the campaigner Greta Thunberg criticised the COP26 talks in Glasgow for being just 'blah, blah, blah': just a talking shop full of empty words. What is needed for real change is for countries and corporations to get beyond words to significant actions; to embody what they say in the way they act.

We are now in the Christian season of Advent, a time of hope filled waiting and expectant activity. It is a time of hoping and waiting for God to speak and to act. We wait for Christmas to arrive.

What arrived that first Christmas was not simply words from God, not even action from God. God goes beyond words and beyond actions. God's Word becomes flesh, embodied in a human life. The word we use is incarnation. But what happened that first Christmas goes beyond the words and language that we have to satisfactorily explain. The Gospel writer John reaches for poetic language to try and express what is almost beyond our comprehension.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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.

Our waiting ends and our hope is fulfilled in the coming of God's Word as a fragile and vulnerable baby. In the coming of Jesus the world is transformed and will never be the same again, because God's word has become flesh.

We will be celebrating Christmas with a carol service at Great Milton Methodist Church on Sunday 11th December at 3pm. You are very welcome to join us. May you know the transforming love of God, who's Word comes to us in the form of baby Jesus.

*Revd Stephen Spain, Great Milton Methodist Church*

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## Save the Date

Table Top Sale, Neighbours Hall, Saturday 21st January 10:30am – 12:30pm more details in next months edition.



# Changes to your waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period

Christmas and New Year 2022/23

Normal collection day		Revised collection day	
Monday	26 December 2022	Wednesday	28 December 2022
Tuesday	27 December 2022	Thursday	29 December 2022
Wednesday	28 December 2022	Friday	30 December 2022
Thursday	29 December 2022	Saturday	31 December 2022
Friday	30 December 2022	Tuesday	3 January 2023
Monday	2 January 2023	Wednesday	4 January 2023
Tuesday	3 January 2023	Thursday	5 January 2023
Wednesday	4 January 2023	Friday	6 January 2023
Thursday	5 January 2023	Saturday	7 January 2023
Friday	6 January 2023	Monday	9 January 2023
Monday	9 January 2023	Tuesday	10 January 2023
Tuesday	10 January 2023	Wednesday	11 January 2023
Wednesday	11 January 2023	Thursday	12 January 2023
Thursday	12 January 2023	Friday	13 January 2023
Friday	13 January 2023	Saturday	14 January 2023

Please remember that we suspend garden waste collections over the holiday period to concentrate on Christmas waste collections. Collections resume in January 2023. For more information, please see our garden waste page on our website.

Find out more about recycling tips and waste collections over Christmas and New Year on our website [www.morerecycling.co.uk](http://www.morerecycling.co.uk)

We will post information about any disruption to waste collection services on our websites and social media sites.

Our call centre is open for queries from 9am – 3.30pm on 23 December, 9am - 5pm on 28, 29 and 30 December on 03000 610610.



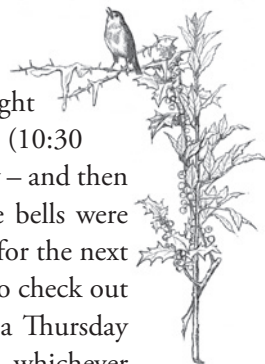
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## Great Milton History/Great Milton Bellringers

As we have a least 2 bellringers in GM History, we thought you might like to come and see us on a Wednesday morning (10:30 – 12:00) in the Community Room, and just glance at History – and then talk bells! We could show you the Ringers album when the bells were retuned together, cleaned, mended and generally made good for the next 100 years. We thought this may be a more comfortable way to check out the bells – rather than a dark walk down to the Tower on a Thursday evening! Of course you are welcome to do that if you prefer – whichever way, you would be most welcome.

Hope to see you soon. Happy Christmas from us all!



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## Great Milton's Wells

The Great Milton History have just produced a fascinating book, edited by Ian Melton, cataloguing all known wells in the parish and explaining how we all managed our water supply before the water main came to the village in 1957. The book, with many excellent pictures, illustrates how most houses had their own well, with those that did not having to use the communal well near the pub.

As Bernard Miles said in his monologue, *Over The Gate!*; “Council water in pipes, I don’t like it me’self. They say my old well water is not safe to drink, it’s full of Microfob’s and minute Hanimal Horganisation’s. I relied on them to eke out the meat ration. I’ve drunk it all me life never did me no ‘arm”.

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## New Years Eve

### The Neighbours Hall from 8pm onward

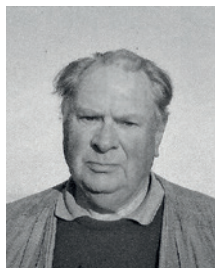
It has not been a great year but say goodbye & welcome the New Year in at the Neighbours Hall – come & join us for the village community event – bring your own drinks (& glasses), snacks etc. We will provide music so we can dance the night away & let’s enjoy that Great Milton community spirit. NO entrance fee, dressing up is optional, hopefully there will be fireworks courtesy of Le Manoir at midnight.

*On behalf of the Neighbours’ Hall Management Committee*



## View from Views

I don't think I can remember such a good autumn planting season, with everything planted without a hitch and, as I said last month, everything planted in ideal conditions, and now the whole farm looks a picture. Just how long this lasts depends on what the weather throws at us in the next few months, or actually between now and next Harvest. It really would be extraordinary were it to continue for the next 10 months, that would be too much to ask or expect. Nor do we know where the market for our produce will be in that time, with Putin playing games with the rest of the world. Looking at our rape recently, there is an area that is obviously not so good. This is where 2 years ago it was set-aside for conservation. Also it is the area that last season the Barley was exceptionally good. Why is it doing so badly this time I ask myself? Is it that the good crop took more out of the land or is it that because the previous crop was so good leaving more crop residue which is taking up nutrients in order to break it down, starving the growing crop. Probably only a soil analysis would give us the answer, just another one of the conundrums we have to face.



Good to see many more Hares about; must have had a good breeding season, I managed to see some 20 on one field (only on one day) plus many sightings of a Kestrel. These, once a feature on this farm, have not been seen for a few years now. Many of the small unidentified birds are around in abundance, even a solitary Blue Tit that has taken up residence inside our front door, with the hoot of Tawny Owls often heard at night. I also saw a Stonecat on the next door farm.

It will not have escaped the notice of many interested in the countryside that there is a strong movement to Regenerative farming (Regenag) or Rewilding, and some may be confused between this and Organic Farming. My take on this issue is that Regenag does exactly the same in mainly improving the soil structure, by the use of Chemicals, whereas Organic Farming produces food without the use of chemical aids. Regenag uses Glyphosate to control weeds etc and Artificial Fertiliser, whereas Organic uses cultivations, which uses Fossil Fuel to do so, but no Artificial Fertiliser. For those concerned they have a choice: if they are worried about the planet and Carbon then Regenag is more attractive but, if they are more interested in what the put into their stomachs, then I would suggest that Organic is more attractive. Both have their ifs and buts. We have to remember that we are all now looking at conserving our soils' structure as it is this that sequesters Carbon.

Now for some figures. I have been preaching, as has the NFU, that food security is so important. Of course these birds have now come home to roost, due to Mr Putin.



I read a report issued by the US Dept of Agriculture which gave some very interesting facts about China's food situation. As China's Government, having witnessed severe starvation in the past, have aggressively been stockpiling food with, I can only presume, food security in mind. Having now amassed 69% of the world's corn reserves, this has of course helped push up world prices of this 60% is rice and 51% is wheat. Data shows that rice imports were up 53% and wheat 50% last year. China has 20% of the world population and only 7% of the world's arable landmass, with only 13% now able to produce crops. Apparently, they do produce 95% of their wheat & rice needs with yields 50% more than the US average. In spite of this they are still the world's greatest importer. Another little nugget, the above isn't all the information. In 2013 they leased 4 million hectares from Ukraine for 50 years. I am not quite sure how they view Mr Putin's war with this in mind!

We still read about the food waste scandal, not only in the retail sector but in the field as well. Most of the field waste is said to be down to the lack of labour. To a naive old Farmer like me we are over run by immigrants with nowhere for them to go. Why cannot they be employed picking this produce that is said to be going to waste? Most of the farmers who need this sort of labour have accommodation as well. I am sure it is not as simple as that, but it ought to be. They must be costing us a fortune. There seems nothing we can do will stop them coming onto our shores, and like the proposed development this island has not the capacity to cope with this number of humans, as I have mentioned many times before. Add to this that the children of these refugees are taking places away from our local population, certainly at the expense of our local children, at a time when Head teachers are having to cut back on their expenses, possibly cutting down on teachers. I think it is wonderful that our country has opened its arms to these unfortunates, especially those from Ukraine, but we have also to think of those who are having to pay for it. Now we are expected to welcome a new development of 6,000 houses that will overload the sewage plants and the Haseley Brook, let alone the Schools and Doctor's surgeries, all of which are overloaded as it is; not to mention taking more land away from nature. I understand from those who attended the publicity events that they were asked to fill in a questionnaire. I assume their feelings on the development, it contained questions with answers that would be stilted in the direction of the writer, being in favour of it giving a very false impression, in their favour; in other words a con.

*Charles Peers*



## Kent and Couling Trust

A brief update from the Kent and Couling Trust, the small village charity which began 90 years ago after a bequest from Mr Charles Couling. In 1972 the Couling charity came together with another village charity to form the Trust which continues today. In 1912 the stated aim of the charity was to help villagers keep warm in winter by supplying bags of coal. Things have moved on, but needs remain. In 2022, we provide cash donations direct to the recipients. These are not large amounts, but in times of difficulty every little can help, especially with Christmas coming up. Anyone can apply. All donations are treated in the strictest confidence. If you find yourself in the position of needing a little help then let us know. You can send an email to the Rev Smon Cronk at [simon.cronk@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.cronk@btinternet.com), tel 278349, or trustees Tricia Treanor at [tricia.treanor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tricia.treanor@hotmail.co.uk), or Susan Denham at [susandenham15gmail.com](mailto:susandenham15gmail.com).

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## Wheatley Library

Top floor of the Merry Bells Village Hall  
The High Street, Wheatley, 01865 875267

### Regular events

#### Rhymetime

Every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Bring your little ones along for songs and fun.

#### Storytime

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Starts September 17th.

Digital Helper Sessions (one-to-one support with technology)

Available by appointment on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

### Wheatley Village Archive for Family History and Local History sessions

Every Thursday afternoon 2.00-4.30

Wheatley Village Archive meets in the library and their volunteers are available to help with queries pertaining to local and family history.

The library service also has subscriptions to Ancestry and Find my past which you can be accessed in libraries. The 1921 Census is now available through the library subscription to Find My Past

Best wishes,

*Wendy Stanton (Wheatley library manager)*



## Morland House Surgery

The Surgery and the Patient Participation Group (PPG) would very much like to thank the many volunteers who assisted with its vaccination programme over the past two years.

### **eConsult**

We are pleased to introduce eConsult. eConsult is an online form which patients can complete to contact the surgery instead of making a phone call. You can use it to get help with an administrative matter (e.g., fit for work certificates, insurance forms, referral letters or requests for copies of records, have a prescription enquiry or wish to ask a GP or nurse a question). eConsult was created by GPs for GPs and will ask you questions appropriate to your query to make sure that we have all the information we need to provide the help you need. You will find the form on the home page of our website [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

### **Enhanced Access**

From October 2022, Morland House has been offering additional Enhanced Access hours to patients at various times during the week. Appointments offered include GP appointments, blood test appointments, travel clinics, NHS health checks and more. Please speak to a receptionist or book your appointment online via your NHS log in.

### **Visit Morland House Website**

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 vaccine, a link to the NHS App and opening hours, please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

The website also provides access to a large amount of information and advice on managing your health and wellbeing, including a large range of conditions, symptoms, treatments, and medicines.

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## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

In November, Yvonne Gilding showed us how to make a variety of homemade Christmas cards. We all came away inspired with lots of cards to post to friends and family. We also welcomed new member, Sarah and daughter Alison.

At our next meeting on Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm we are celebrating Christmas with Cocktails & Carols. Come along for a sing-song, drinks & festive nibbles.

Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or join up (2022/23 membership £22).

In the New Year (12 January), we will be going out for our annual New Year





dinner, venue to be decided. Let us know if you'd like to join us.

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

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge at 7.30pm

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Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

---

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

Having been through a rather turbulent period I am pleased that we now have Rishi Sunak as our Prime Minister. He has had my support over the months, and I believe that he will be the person to get to grips with the key issues that we face.

It is interesting to reflect on the issues that have been before us in recent months and also the reactions that come forward in the media and indeed in the many emails that I receive. Understandably there are strongly held views and in this time of Remembrance it seems to me that there is plenty of room for shared understanding, moderation and mutual tolerance.

Take for example the attendance of the Prime Minister at COP27. Within a few days of taking office, at a time when there are huge national issues to address, his initial response was that he could not attend due to needing instead to focus on the immediate issues before him. He faced a backlash on that and, once he had been able to assess the workload on his desk, agreed that he could go. However rather than this being seen as a decision based on assessment of the situation it was dubbed as a U turn. If politicians 'stick to their guns' they may be accused of not listening. If they give serious thought to an issue and have a change of heart they are accused of a U turn. Either way there is an accusation to face.

It is good that the Prime Minister has pledged to return to the 2019 manifesto. This is the mandate which was supported through the General Election. It promised an ambitious environmental programme with robust action on climate change and nature loss. It is important to note that protecting our environment does not mean sacrificing economic growth. It is not 'either or' but 'both and'. Green measures can reduce the cost of living, create employment, investment and export opportunities,



and safeguard our long-term prosperity and security. It is also important to ensure that measures taken are affordable and encourage people to make environmentally friendly decisions. There is indeed an urgency in tackling the global issues on climate change and in stopping action that irreparably damages our environment. However at the same time it is important that people can live without constant worry about providing for their needs and that of their family. The climate targets that leading nations have set through successive conferences are not that far into the future in terms of our ability to do something meaningful. However for someone struggling to make provision for today or tomorrow they are way distant. We have to do our best to make things genuinely possible.

It is precisely this need to bring people with us that protest groups overlook. People who are in a position to take time out to stop others getting on with their lives leads to focus on the disruption rather than the issues. I fully appreciate that people have strong feelings on certain issues, but it is simply not fair that in making their voices heard they prevent others from getting to work, business from operating and indeed cause people to miss things such as long-awaited hospital appointments. It also puts pressure on policing which diverts officers from other important duties. It is not about who shouts loudest or makes the grandest gestures but about how we work together to resolve the important issues of our time.

Let us also consider the issue of storm discharges where untreated sewage is released into rivers. I completely agree that sewage pollution is not acceptable but when these discharges of untreated sewage are released into a river it is when water levels exceptionally high and there is risk of flooding to properties. If you live in a property which, as things stand, would be flooded with raw sewage if these discharges were not made this might have a strong influence on your view and the realistic timescales for improvement.

In seeking to work together we need to get beyond the headlines. There will always be differing views on important issues and often some conflicting approaches to similar ends. There is rarely, if ever, a perfect answer. It is good to discuss issues, and sometimes discussion may be heated, but when disagreement turns to abuse and protest causes genuine difficulty to others we have lost our democratic compass.

If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.



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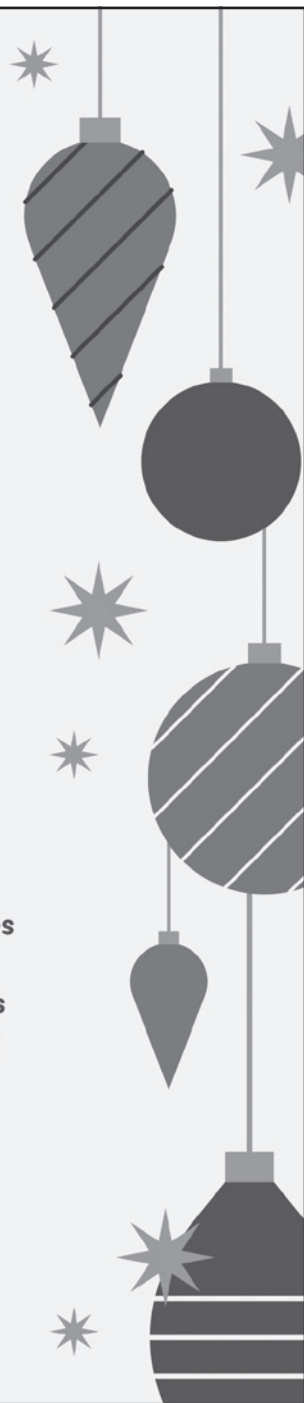
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All welcome





**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December,  
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**The Green  
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Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas



Pictures by Nick Belcher



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**Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details**

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Don't miss out on the chance to visit our **Christmas Market** on 3 & 4 Dec, gorgeous handmade crafts and delicious food!

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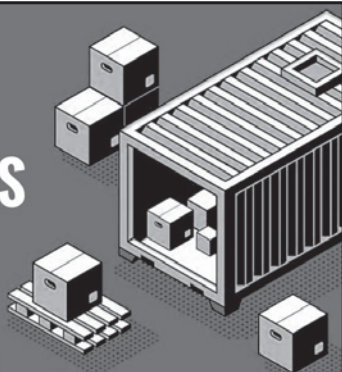
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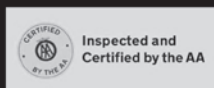
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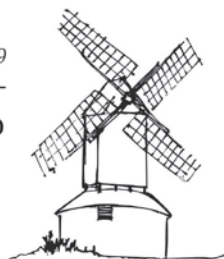
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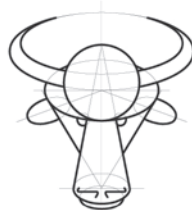
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## Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*  
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm  
*or by appointment*  
 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday  
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*
- Saturday Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*  
 Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

## December

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| Sat 10th | Great Milton Christmas Fair at The Pavilion                            | 1:00pm  |
|          | Storytime with Father Christmas 1:30, 2:15 and 3:00pm                  |         |
|          | Christmas Fayre at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton                       | 2:00pm  |
| Mon 12th | Parish Council meeting at The Pavilion                                 | 7:30pm  |
| Tue 13th | Carols around the Christmas Tree on The Green                          | 6:00pm  |
| Fri 16th | Neighbours Hall Book Library. Drinks and festive snacks as you browse! | 11:00am |
| Sun 25th | Benefice Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church                           | 11:30am |
| Sat 31st | New Year at The Neighbours Hall.                                       | 8:00pm  |

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