



GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2016

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No. 508



Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Rosalind Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Vacancy	—
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

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

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.

Front Cover

Daffodils in Church Road.

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

In My Opinion...

It's that time of year again, when we are all rudely awakened by the seasonal booms of bird scarers, so it also time for my annual plea to landowners who employ these devices to please set them to operate at reasonable times of day – not before 07h00 please! In my opinion, earlier than that is bordering on anti-social...



We say a simultaneous farewell to one Deacon and welcome to another! Roz has stood down from the Parish Council after 5 years of service, for which I am sure you will join me in thanking her. However, she has been speedily replaced by husband Clyde who was formerly co-opted at the last meeting and we look forward to working with him over the coming months and years.

However, we still have a vacancy on the Parish Council so I am also asking for volunteers to form an orderly queue via email to Helen Cherry (contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk). All you need is an interest in helping to manage the affairs of the village and surrounds, and an hour or so once a month for the Parish Council meeting. Don't let apathy rule!

Steve Harrod, Chairman

Parish Council Notes

The March meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair & District Councillor), with Cllrs Peter Allen, Rosalind Deacon and Peter Fewell (vice-chair), Bill Fox and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and one member of the public. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday 18th April starting at 7.00pm and followed by the Annual meeting at 8:00pm in the Pavilion.

Planning Applications

The Council held **NO STRONG VIEWS** on the following application received from SODC:

P16/S0453/HH – Pitts Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton

Single storey rear extension

- extending rear second storey extension by 1 metre

- a pitched slate roof above the existing/extended two storey rear extension replacing a flat roof



- the erection of a replacement out building

VARIATION OF P15/S4075/HH APPROVED 25/01/2016

The Council held NO STRONG VIEWS on the following application received from SODC:

P16/SO475/HH – Crofts Furlong Farm, Lower End, Great Milton
Additional bay extension to outbuilding.

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

The council received an objection letter on the following planning application P15/S0865/FUL – Starbucks at Motorway Services.

Correspondence and Public Discussion

The Annual meeting is scheduled on 18th April 2016.

Representatives will be invited from the following committees to give their annual reports:

Recreation Ground Committee

Old Field Charity

Hard Surface Play Area

Kent & Couling Charity

Sheppard Trust

Financial Resolutions

The accounts showing expenditure to date compared with the budget for 2015/16 were reviewed. The bulletin advertisement was down for 2015/16 however this was offset by the reduced payments for village maintenance, bulletin production and printing and a one-off payment received from BT (£1938).

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment and effectiveness of internal controls was reviewed and approved.

Consideration of Co-opting a new Councillor.

It was RESOLVED to co-opt Clyde Deacon as Councillor for Great Milton Parish Council. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the post of Councillor was signed.

Helen Cherry

Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Easter 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>Easter 3</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the service	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>Easter 4</i>	Family Service 11:00am Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the service	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>Easter 5</i>	Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am		Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11:45am

Services in Our Benefice for May

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Easter 6</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Thursday 5th <i>Ascension Day</i>			Holy Communion 7:30pm
Sunday 8th <i>Sunday after Ascension Day</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am

From the Rectory

My mother Audrey died peacefully on 24 February in the nursing home where she had been looked after for two and a half years. I took her funeral on 7th March, a simple but moving service at Reading Crematorium. We had no hymns but included music she loved and some pieces she had written, she was a wonderful writer both of prose and poetry.

Like an increasing number of people, my mother had suffered with Alzheimer's. Cath's mother Daphne has been in a nursing home for many years now with vascular dementia. Cath's brother Marty, whose death I wrote about a couple of months ago we think also had Alzheimers. Dementia of all kinds is common, and as a family we have experienced our fair share of it.

In 2014 Cath and I attended a very moving conference in Ely about the spirituality of Dementia 'Is anyone there?'. As we entered the venue some words were displayed, I wrote them down: 'After Descartes.'

As mind and memory long since said goodbye,

'I think therefore I am' does not apply.

But there are days when I take heart, because

I think I thought, therefore perhaps I was.

It has been quite a journey, it continues to be in the case of Cath's mum. It hasn't all been bad. For both Daphne and my mother the earlier stages of their journey into dementia went through what could be called a return to a childlike joy. I know this is not the case with all but we have largely been spared the aggressive behaviour which dementia can bring and which is particularly painful to witness. I remember a family walk on the Thames near Marlow and Daphne took it upon herself to climb out on a branch to swing joyously over the river, she is ninety now, she must have been in her late seventies! In the last years of her life, at times my mother possessed a beautiful serenity which in truth I had never seen in her before. Although she had lost the ability to talk coherently, until a couple of months ago she could break into the most wonderful smile. Just after Christmas when Cath and I visited her at her nursing home, I tuned the TV in the Lounge to classic FM and then danced round the room conducting an imaginary orchestra. My mother beamed and started to join in, conducting away. It was the last time I saw her really animated and enjoying herself. After that she became more and more distant, like a light being slowly dimmed.

I don't think there had been recognition of who anyone actually was for quite some time. However, with my father I think that there was a memory of someone who made her feel safe as she obviously reacted to him more strongly than to anyone else.

Watching people we love leave us in this slow tragic way is not easy. There is a verse in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians which says, 'we walk by faith not by sight' (2 Cor 5:7). The truth is things happen to us which we cannot explain and I would be dishonest to say that at times my faith has been tested as I have asked 'what's the point of this?' It certainly teaches patience and opens up wells of love, but it is a high price to pay that my mother, or Cath's mother has had to diminish in this way so that we might grow. There is much I do not understand, 'we walk by faith not by sight'.

And this faith is a choice, it has been so with me as we have journeyed alongside my mother, and alongside Daphne and Marty, to believe that God is there and is doing something, even though we cannot understand it. One of my favourite Psalms is Psalm 139, it speaks to me of those losing themselves in the darkness of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

'If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hood me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,"
Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike'. (Psalm 139, vss 8-11).

God knows us even at those times when we might no longer know ourselves. I find these verses helpful and comforting and I offer them to those who might be faced with a similar circumstance in the hope that they will find them helpful as well.

Simon

St Mary's Church Spring Clean and Churchyard Spring Tidy

On Saturday April 16th between 10am and 12 noon, we are having our annual spring clean of the church AND our spring churchyard tidy up. We will have one team working on the inside of the church, helping to keep our beautiful church clean and cared for. Another team will be working in the churchyard to help make our churchyard look as good as ever. We would really value lots of volunteers - no skills required, just a willingness to help. Gardeners bring gloves and secateurs, if you have them. Come for as little or as long as you can. Coffee and cakes will be served to keep us all going.

You can either let us know that you will be coming (this is helpful to us) or just turn up. You will be very welcome.

Jane Jefferis (Tel: 278743) and Clare Blakeway-Phillips (Tel: 278475)

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

April				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jan Grimwood	
	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jim Hewitt	
	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Heidi Cottrell	
	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Gt. Milton	Wesley Memorial	Circuit Service Jonathan's Farewell

60'S Dance - In Aid of the Methodist Church Renovations

By popular demand we are holding the 60's DANCE again in the Neighbours Hall on Saturday 14th May, Hippy Haze band will be performing. Watch this space in the next Bulletin/Newsletter for more details but if you would like to reserve tickets please call me on 01844 279205.

Great Milton Bellringers

GMB will be ringing for the Queen's actual birthday on Thursday April 21st - for about half an hour, in the evening.

Arrangements are being made for all the bells in the country to be rung for her official birthday celebrations over the weekend of June 11th and 12th.

The Neighbours Club

At our meeting on the 18th February we were told that we had been awarded £750 from the Sheppard Trust. This is very much appreciated and it will be split between the club and the outings accounts. It was agreed that the cost of membership and the entrance fee will remain the same, i.e. £5.00 and £2.00 respectively.

On the 3rd March thanks were extended to Celia for the Treasurer's Report and for organising our outings and to Janet for organising the programme for 2016. On the

3rd March we had the two ladies from Reminiscence and their subject this time was "Woman's Work", They brought along a whole variety of items supposedly relating to woman's work but actually many of them were shared between both male and female.

On the 16th March we went on our outing to Stratford in the morning and on to Cadbury World, Birmingham, in the afternoon where we had lunch and then explored it all at our own pace. We all very much enjoyed the experience (and the chocolate) !!

On the 17th March it was our Fish and Chip Lunch plus a competition for an Easter bonnet. The winners were 1st Brian, 2nd Norman and 3rd Tony.

Forthcoming Events - April

Thurs 14th: Liz Woodley - Beer, Sausages and Marmalade - 2:15pm

Wed 20th: Outing morning in Milton Keynes + W.I. lunch in Stony Stratford.
Afternoon Tring Natural History Museum.

Thurs 28th: Chris Bazely - History of the privy - 2:15pm



GREAT MILTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Here is our new sign! Come and see us on a Wednesday (11:30am – 1:00pm) or, should you wish to look through documents, photos etc., we can easily unlock and help!

Our thanks for financial and practical support must go to the Pub Committee and the Parish Council – and extra special thanks to Tony Sinnott for the beautiful painted sign.

We have a tent at the Fete this year so come and see us – we will be concentrating on the properties in Lower End for the Building Great Milton project, so if you have any details...

GMH



From the Archives



On the evening of 23rd October some celery was stolen from the School garden. A reward of £1 will be given for such information that will lead to the conviction of the thief at the Oxford Petty Sessions.

The Milton Magazine, November 1871

The Great Milton Paper Plane Competition and Mouse Hunt

This was the first time such an event had taken place in the village and was very much enjoyed by children and parents alike! Over 20 children participated, searching for paper mice with clues placed strategically along a planned route. This led them to the Church where instructions were available on making paper planes and the chancel was laid out with a measuring tape to measure how far planes were thrown.

Homemade soup, hot dogs and home made cakes in the pavilion kept children and parents going and enabled people to linger, catch up or take part in the tombola. It was such a fun event and also raised £165.30 for the Church. Kelly Wing was the creative mastermind who organised this so well, with the help of her husband Darren, Kate Thomas and their families. Special thanks must be given too to Tricia Treanor, Pauline Kinch, Emily Johns, Laura Putt and Jane Jefferis for the cakes, teas and help and Cynthia and Tony D'Anger for the tombola.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips

May Day! May Day! Tradition Revived!

The wait is over! It's been a few years since May 1st fell on a Sunday. But, at last, the traditional welcome to the merry month of May returns to Great Milton.

And you can be a part of it!

At 7.30am (yes – am – in the morning!) the Great Milton Singers will climb to the roof of St Mary's (via the stairs – the only “scaling” will be in the music) and sing their joyful hearts out across the village and surrounding countryside.

The lucky villagers who live near the church will, of course, have a ring-side seat (there's still time to make friends with them). But anyone – indeed everyone – else can come along; stand (or sit – bring a chair!) in the beautiful churchyard and drink in the glorious atmosphere. There'll even be an opportunity to join in with one or two familiar songs and hymns.

Then, (following a short service of Holy Communion for those who wish to partake), we'll all stroll up to the green outside the village shop for the traditional “Bring 'n' Share” Breakfast (starting at about 8.30am). There'll be croissants available, but bring along a chair, a flask of tea or coffee, a mug or two and whatever else you'd like to eat or pass around and we'll continue celebrating the long-awaited arrival of Spring and, hopefully, warmer weather.

From The Old 'Un

Jean and Her Trees

Tree Number 3 – The Chile Pines (Monkey Puzzle)

These, unusually, were growing in front of Garden Close when we moved here at the end of 1961 and soon we came to realise that Garden Close was not the name known to many people because nearly everyone described the house as the 'monkey puzzle' house.

Two monkey puzzle trees planted in front of a house and nothing else is quite unusual. On the minus side they were so close to the house that they were brushing up against the old cast iron guttering and as soon as there was any wind created a horrible noise which transmitted to the inside of the house and frightened the children. We then took the drastic decision to cut them down early one Sunday morning. Jean felt quite



guilty about this and planted a miniature monkey puzzle in a pot and grew it on until it was big enough to plant out in the garden. After several years growing very slowly it suddenly started to grow rapidly and as you can see from the photograph it now adorns the entrance to Jean's Copse. She could not see it from the house but was always interested in its progress.

Tree Number 4 – The Ginkgo

I told this story to the Neighbour's Club but I am sure they won't mind me repeating it here.

One day when the children were young we went to the Kensington Museums and I drew attention to a fossil in a glass case which was described as a 2.5million year old fossil of a ginkgo tree. It is thought that the ginkgo trees in China and elsewhere in the world are probably all descended from this tree.

A few years later Jean and I were buying a eucalyptus tree from a nursery in Sussex when Jean said, look there's a ginkgo tree. I said 'how do you know?' to which she replied 'because that's what the label says'! So we bought it and planted it in what would become a prominent position in the middle of Jean's rose bed. It grew very slowly for a few years then suddenly decided it liked living in Great Milton and shot up very quickly.



In the meantime we had an extensive tour of China including some afternoon visits to courtyard gardens which were fantastically tidy and well cared for by the head of the family, usually an elderly lady who made sure every dead leaf was picked off the plants and nothing was left untidy. On the third visit of this type we realised that the elderly lady spoke extremely good English. She volunteered that she had been a Professor of English at the local university. This meant that we could easily converse so I asked her why every garden we had been to had a well grown and carefully tended ginkgo tree. Her reply was simply if you wanted to live a long time you planted a ginkgo tree.



The ginkgo in November 2015

A few years later I sat at our back door early one winter's morning to see that the ginkgo tree was changing colour from green to gold. The very next day we had bright early morning sun which happened to shine right behind this tree and it was a fantastic sight of a golden spear trying to pierce the sky. That night we had a frost and by next morning every leaf was on the ground. Our daughter pointed out that, by coincidence, on page 3 of *The Times* that day there was a picture of an enormous ginkgo with about two feet of golden leaves on the ground and a family wading through it. The caption said this tree is believed to be about 2,500 years old in Eastern China and this huge heap of leaves fell off the night before.

John Davis

Celebrating Spring. If Only...

Our hearts are singing as the days grow longer, brighter and warmer. We're looking forward to a glorious season - sunny walks with our dogs, fun sports with our children and wry smiles at the latest trends on the catwalk.

How lucky we are.

Malawi's one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Tucked away in the south east of Africa, its 45,000 square miles is home to a population of over 13 million. And as our days lengthen and smiles widen, equatorial rains and thunderstorms are reaching their peak severity in this, one of the poorest and least developed countries

in the world, where child mortality rates remain high: one in eight children here die before their fifth birthday. And most of these deaths are preventable.

Healthcare workers do an amazing job in impossible circumstances, with limited skills and equipment. But the Malawian health care system faces serious shortages of trained health personnel, essential drugs and medical supplies.

Children's Medical Care Malawi supports a WHO developed healthcare training, that's designed specifically to provide the necessary knowledge and skills for the emergency management of sick children. And already, through their "training of the trainers" programme, hundreds of health and healthcare students have been trained in paediatric emergency care. Funding the work is key and the Great Milton Singers are proud to be performing this year's "Spring" in aid of this thoroughly worthwhile cause.

So, as the amber sun slips towards the horizon and the chink of ice in your gin and tonic brings a peaceful smile to your lips, spare a thought for those children and their families who neither know nor care that it's Spring in Oxfordshire - they just want their children to survive. Then pop along to St Mary's at 7.30pm on Saturday April 23rd and share a delightfully English celebration of our musical heritage and our love of good weather. And support this amazing charity at the same time.

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!

12 January	No 97	Helen Styles
19 January	No 60	Linda Sargent
26 January	No 23	Mrs R Reynolds
2 February	No 25	Mrs M Howse
9 February	No 58	Mrs N Ind
16 February	No 75	Laura Putt
23 February	No 45	Michelle Stretton
1 March	No 56	Lesley Bush

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser.

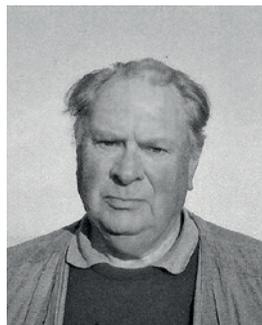
A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

Miranda Cook, 100 Club Co-ordinator

View From Views

The weather does not seem to have improved a great deal as yet, although everything is now looking like spring is on its way after a rather mild but dreary winter even though we are now well into official spring. The daffodils are still flowering, having been in flower since November, the Snowdrops as I mentioned before seem to be about in cinque, as are the Crocuses, let's just hope everything else follows more normally now, which it does seem to. The wild bird feeding we are now doing regularly seems to have had the desired effect, as there is a wealth of small farmland birds in the area that we are feeding, I cannot be specific as to the actual species present the impression is that there are, Buntings, Greenfinches, Yellow Hammers, Linnets, & certainly Goldfinches. I was very pleased to see bathing in a stream not many feet away what I think was a Goldcrest. The Pigeons are still decimating the Oil Seed Rape, if only we could get a period of warmer weather which would give the crops a chance to push ahead of this pest.



The question of Brexit is gathering momentum but still I haven't a clue which way I would vote, there is still no clear guidance as to what affect it would have on us leave alone farming, it really seems a situation of heads you win tails you loose. No one can give any clue as to what the effect will be on any one aspect of life/business/support or anything else for that matter. One thing I do know that with the number of nations involved it has proved almost impossible to get any sensible decision on any issues, quickly or b, agreed, on the other hand it is a powerful organisation when it comes down to influencing other counties. To add to the uncertainty is that all the politicians can say that if we go either way we will be able to do this or that, without actually committing to any one issue for definite, so how they can expect us to vote with any confidence or knowledge of the effect.

Some very worrying issues regarding that are rearing their heads at the moment, some dairy farmers are likely to be told that their milk is no longer required. I also read that a dairy processing plant in Essex is going to close, that the milk from there will now be processed in Aylesbury, not that that affects us in this area but it does involve extra transport, more traffic on the roads, extra pollution etc. Another nail in the coffin for British/European farming is that it is likely that the growing of Oil Seed Rape will become unviable due to the importation of Palm Oil, which is by far more damaging to the environment. (I was somewhat depressed the other day, to learn from a recent TV programme that Olive Oil is healthier than Rape Seed Oil, inspite

of the fact I always understood it was the other way round.) I have just read an article in the farming press that after some 40 to 50 years of use, Glyphosate, better known as Round Up, is thought to be carcinogenic, so its use is becoming questionable. This is particularly worrying in that we were always lead to believe this was a very benign chemical, being that it is of great use and consequently a widely used and a very useful tool in our armoury, is now under threat of restriction.

Of course there is still downward pressure on the price of all our produce whilst the cost of production, as in everything else is rising. In the farming press every week there is a market report for most of our produce, giving weekly updates on price movements, and in most cases they all show a minus and have done so in the case of cereals, being the one I watch most, ever since harvest, except for the one week when the price of the pound fell, this was very short lived. This makes me so thankful that sometime ago we decided to look for some alternative ways to earn a living, this is something that not all our colleagues can do!

On a slightly more positive side we managed to get our spring planting finished by the evening of March 8th, plus all other work that needed to be done, before that terrible wet day of the 9th. Interestingly on that particular day I had to go up the M40, and as soon as I got to between Stokenchurch and High Wycombe the rain stopped, with the road appearing not to have had any or at least not much rain, whilst we were away it turned out to be quite a respectable day even with a little sun, but on our return almost to the line we ran into rain again, it had been I gather wet almost all day.

It seems by all reports in the press that dog worrying amongst farm animals is becoming a more common occurrence, recently there was a case where 116 sheep had been on killed on one farm overnight, assumed to be dogs or a group of dogs. The Police are reporting that this sort of incident is very much on the increase, add to this the cases of dog fouling, which is also very dangerous to cattle and sheep health. This is all part of the story behind why Farmers have an anxiety over public access and has been behind some of the antagonism between Ramblers and Farmers.

Charles Peers

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Yesterday was definitely spring and, although there was a nip in the air, the sun was warm and it was delicious working in the greenhouse. I'm afraid I have been somewhat reluctant to get outside in recent weeks as it has been so cold and dark, but yesterday gave me renewed enthusiasm and so I started the task of clearing out 

the greenhouse in which I have been overwintering a variety of tender plants. I heat the greenhouse only a little to keep the temperature above zero (the electricity bills are horrific if I try to do more than that!).

Most plants in the greenhouse have survived, but sadly not a beautiful *Pelargonium* called *Splendide*; this looks very dead, but I have cut it back and won't give up on it yet as it is a very attractive plant with silvery leaves and bicoloured flowers (dark and light pink). I also cut back my *Physalis* which I grew from seed last year. The fruits are better known as cape gooseberry and are delicious so I ate the final few remaining on the bush. This plant is easy to grow and provide fruit so are fun; it is, however a member of the *Solanaceae* family and not all the varieties have edible fruit so care is required that the variety you are growing is edible. Tomatoes and potatoes are members of the same family and while tomatoes are obviously edible, the similar looking fruits which develop on potato plants are poisonous.

I planted in the greenhouse border late last summer two *Salvias* which I wished to overwinter; the result has been a greenhouse jungle full of flowers in deep purple blue and light violet along with bright red pineapple sage flowers. Pineapple sage is also a *salvia* with leaves that smell of pineapple when crushed; it is tender and flowers very late in October and, as I have found, right through the winter. The time had come to cut these plants hard back if only to help clear the rampant aphid infestation. I now need to clean down the glass and frame to try to remove as much of the residue left behind as possible. I am a rather slovenly greenhouse gardener and usually fail to complete this task, but it really is a good plan as is thoroughly cleaning all pots. The residents now all need a good feed now temperatures and light levels in the greenhouse are rising.

April is a good time for splitting clumps of perennials to increase their vigour and also produce new plants for friends and for the fete. Replant healthy looking pieces in soil which you have enriched with your choice of compost and fertiliser; I use home produced compost and pelleted chicken manure, but commercial composts and a handful of granular fertiliser will also do. I also add a sprinkling of mycorrhizal fungi which boosts growth. It is much harder to establish plants later in the year when the soil has dried out; in early spring the ground is still damp and often all you need is an initial watering to eliminate air pockets and settle the soil around the roots.

Keep on top of the weeding especially annual weeds which mustn't seed – the old adage of one year's seed seven year's weeds certainly seems to be true. It is also important to spot seedling perennial weeds such as dandelions bindweed and ground elder (very common in this neighbourhood). These weeds are easy to remove when small and I tend to keep plants I have newly acquired in quarantine until I'm sure they are not infested.

The weather today is not helping matters as it is again bitterly cold and winter appears to have returned. Perusing the BBC weather website really does not help my spirits. I am grateful for the primroses and flowering bulbs, but I really, really need some sun and warmth now!

Liz Moyses, Membership secretary

liz@moyses.org • 01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year. Thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription for 2016 and may I remind other members that your subscription is now overdue and will be gratefully received.

Little Milton WI

In March we had an enjoyable AGM and pudding evening. Thank you to everyone for coming along and supporting our happy group.

Our next meeting on 14th April is a long-awaited re-visit by Mrs Patel for her Indian Cookery Demonstration. Come and see and taste delicious authentic Indian dishes being made. Visitors welcome, only £5.

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.

No need to be shy, contact me for more information. We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Pine Lodge at 7.30pm.

Annual membership (£37.50) includes 12 meetings per year with refreshments, 10 Oxfordshire newsletters, 8 National magazines called WI Life, organised outings and discounted courses at Denman college.

Keep up to date with WI news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge See our programme for 2015/16 at www.littlemilton.org.uk/womensinstitute

Kath Stacey – 279438



TENNIS COACHING SUMMER TERM 2016

Once more we are very happy to let you know that Neil James is available for coaching this summer. Please see below:

DAY	TIME	AGE GROUP	COST	START DATE	FINISH DATE	NO CLASS (Half Term)
WED	3.30 – 4.30pm	5 – 6	£30	27/04/16	06/07/16	25/05/16
WED	4.30 – 5.30pm	7 - 9	£30	27/04/16	06/07/16	25/05/16
WED	5.30 – 6.30pm	10+	£30	27/04/16	06/07/16	25/05/16
WED	6.30 – 7.30pm	ADULT	£65	27/04/16	06/07/16	25/05/16

You **must** be a Member of the tennis club to register for a course. Please complete the relevant part of the form below or email tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com

We are a non-profit organization. Classes are offered subject to weather and sufficient demand. In an effort to give a fair chance to all, places will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. Adult classes are maximum 4 per class; Juniors max 8 per class. We are sorry that having attended previous courses does not guarantee you a place. Juniors must sign up for an entire course: it is not possible to pay on a pro-rata basis. Bookings will not be accepted without payment. If you don't get a place, your cheque will be returned.

To reserve your place, please complete the Application Form and send with your payment (cheques payable to **Great Milton HSPA**) to Nollag McGrath, 6 Colletts Cottages, Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7NX. Queries? Please contact 01844 278663 / 07903 182668 or email tennis.greatmilton@gmail.com

TENNIS COACHING APPLICATION FORM 2016

NAME	CLASS DAY & TIME	AGE (IF UNDER 16)	COURSE FEE
			£
			£
			£
			£
Annual Membership fee (compulsory)	Child / Family		£ 10 / £30 * pls circle
TOTAL NOW DUE Please make cheques payable to Great Milton HSPA			£
CONTACT DETAILS		Contact Name:	
	Tel:	Mobile for emergency:	
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* £30 – Family / Adult membership
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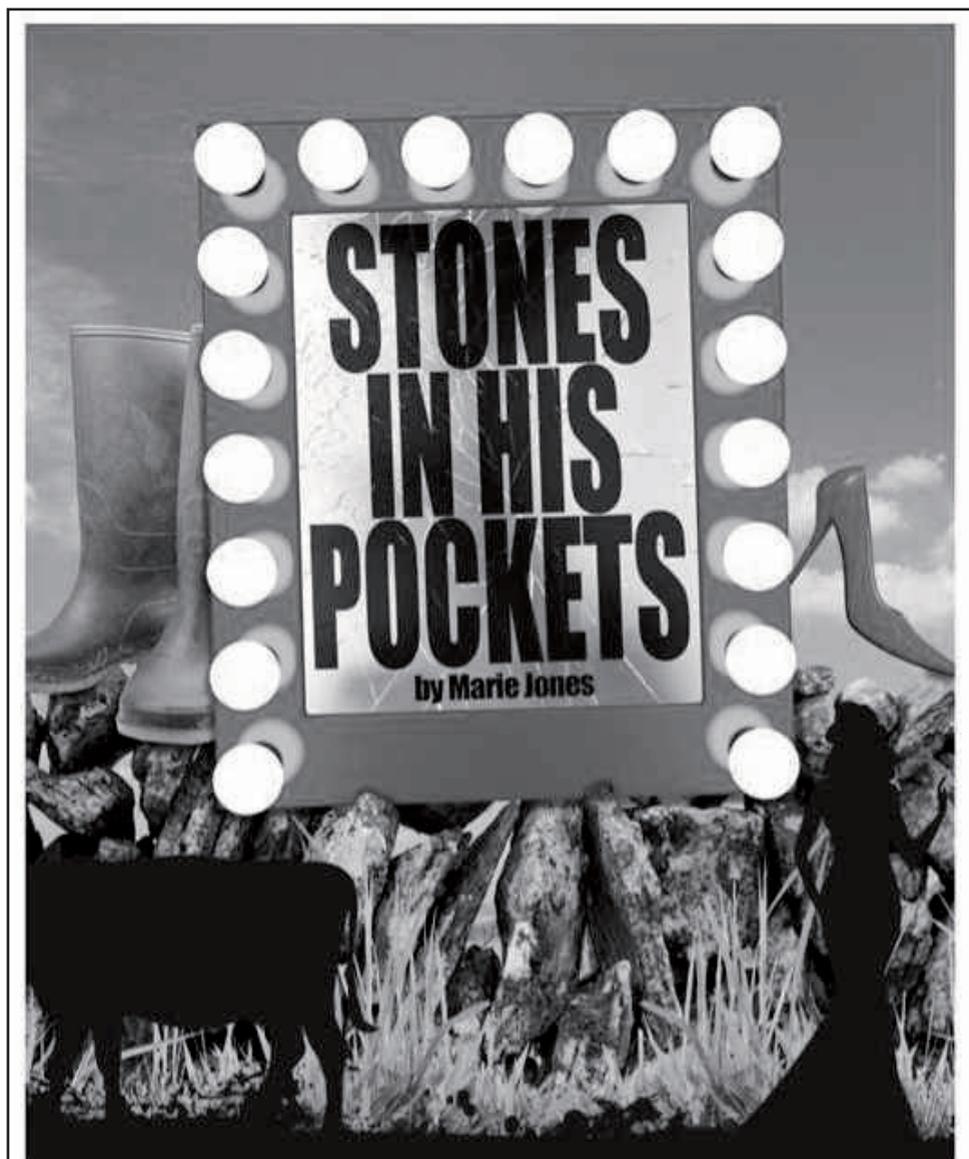
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Thurs 26th May, 7.45pm

Tickets: £10 / £8 conc / £20 family ticket

To book: 01844 279474 | www.wegotickets.com

The Neighbours' Hall, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7NZ

Great Milton Litter Pick

Join us for a Litter-pick and help make Great Milton a cleaner, safer and tidier place.



All equipment – litter-pickers, bags, gloves and high visibility tabards will be provided

Date: Saturday 2nd April

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Meeting Place: The Old Garage, Great Milton

For more information please contact Helen Cherry
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk



The Three Villages Car Service

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

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

Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
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Haseley Church Spring Fair

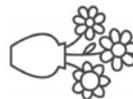
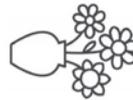
Great Haseley Village Hall

Saturday 14th May

Doors open 2:30pm

Raffle to be drawn at

4:30pm



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or on the day at Haseley Church Spring Fair



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

Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year

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

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

Please contact Helen Cherry

Tel: 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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All payments must be settled in advance. Please make cheques payable to "Great Milton Parish Council"



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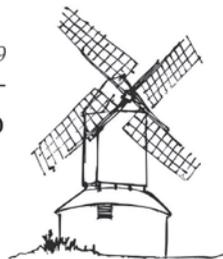
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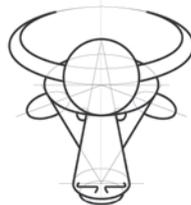
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Diary

- 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*

April

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| 2nd Sat | Litter Pick | 10:00am |
| | Senior Citizens Annual Party at The Neighbours Hall | 4:00pm |
| 14th Thurs | Neighbours Club: 'Beer, Sausages & Marmalade' Liz Woodley | 2:15pm |
| 16th Sat | Church and Churchyard Spring Tidy | 10:00am |
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting & Annual Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:00pm |
| 20th Wed | Neighbours Club: Outing to Milton Keynes & Natural History Mus. | — |
| 23rd Sat | Gt. Milton Singers: 'Celebrating Spring' at St. Mary's Church | 7:30pm |
| 28th Thurs | Neighbours Club: 'History of the Privy' Chris Bazely | |

May

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| 1st Sun | Great Milton Singers on St. Mary's tower | 7:30am |
| 14th Sat | 60s Dance at The Neighbours Hall | — |
| 26th Thur | 'Stones in His Pockets' by Marie Jones at the Neighbours Hall | 7:45pm |

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th April 2016**.

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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