



GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2017

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No. 518



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:	Clyde 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

Snowdrops in Old Field.

Photo: Manny Stone.

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

In My Opinion...

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place. In England and Wales, local authorities can introduce public spaces protection orders, making it an offence not to clean up dog mess in certain areas. Under those orders, a person who doesn't clean up after their dog may face an on-the-spot fine of up to £80. These fines are known as fixed penalty notices. If a person refuses to pay they can be taken to the local Magistrates Court for the dog fouling offence and fined up to £1,000.



This article is targeted directly at the anti-social misfits who think it is ok to leave their dog's excrement lying on the footpaths, especially the path behind the Bull heading toward Le Manoir. It has also been reported that a dog is being allowed to foul the front lawns of houses in Oxen Piece.

In my opinion, this is just unacceptable. Dog waste is an environmental pollutant, in the same category as herbicides and insecticides; oil, grease and toxic chemicals; and acid drainage from abandoned mines. It has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million faecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhoea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans. Children are most susceptible, since they often play in the dirt and put things in their mouths or eyes.

We have dog bins all around our neighbourhood – come on people! We can do better than this!

Don't let apathy creep up on us!

Steve Harrod, Chairman

Parish Council Notes

The February meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair, County and District Councillor) Cllrs Peter Allen, Peter Fewell, Clyde Deacon and Gwen Harris in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and five members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Fox.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Planning Applications

GMPC recommended 'APPROVAL' and 'NO STONG VIEWS' on the



following planning applications received from SODC:

P16/S4256/LB – Hayesmoor Farm, Lower End Great Milton. Replace the roof, due to water ingress rotten timbers, rotten windows and no insulation

P16P17/S0322/0 – Hughendon Motors London Road Milton Common. Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of five detached two-storey dwellings with access, parking and amenity space.

Planning decision notices received from SODC

SODC granted planning permission for:

Application No: P16/S4278/HH .Application proposal, including any amendments. Proposed garage conversion. Site Location: 11 Fullers Field Great Milton OX44 7PJ

Application No: P16/S4268/HH. Application proposal, including any amendments: Single and Two Storey Extensions and Refurbishment of Existing Dwellinghouse (As amended by Drawing 040 Rev A altering the location plan to remove Blimpton Cottage from within the extent of the blue edged land denoting extent of wider ownership). Site Location: Cramner Rise The Oxford Belfry Hotel London Road Milton Common OX9 2JW

Application No : P16/S3980/FUL. Application proposal, including any amendments: Proposed conversion of agricultural building for commercial (B1) uses. As amplified by additional plans received on 07 February 2017 showing vehicle passing places along access and car parking areas. Site Location : Heath Farm Thame Road Great Milton OX44 7JD

Bridges at Cuddesdon Mill

A letter was received from Mike Mount (Clerk Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council), regarding the two bridges at Cuddesdon Mill that are regularly being damaged by traffic. Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council would like to try to reduce this damage, by discouraging larger vehicles from using the bridges. Cllr Stephen Harrod agreed to raise this matter with Oxford County Council and Highways with a proposal to erect signs to discourage lorries passing through the village and hopefully protect the two bridges from further damage.

Community Emergency Plan

Cllr Peter Allen reported to the council that a meeting had taken place on 24th January with several residents of Great Milton who volunteered to be involved with the Community Emergency Plan. The meeting was a great success and an Emergency Coordination Group was formed. The information provided at the meeting enabled the Community Emergency Plan to be completed. A copy of the completed plan was circulated to members of GMPC. The next stage is to return the plan to the Emergency Planning Unit. Thanks to all those who volunteered.

Litter Pick date

Volunteers are asked to join this year's village litter pick, scheduled on:
Saturday, 25th March from 10:00 to 12:00
Meeting outside The Old Garage, Great Milton

Co-opt new Councillor

It was RESOLVED to co-opt Malcolm Horsley as a new Councillor. The Declaration of Office was signed.

Donations

The Clerk reported that no donations have been paid out this year. The budget for donations is £150.

It was agreed to add 'Donation Requests' to next month's GMPC meeting agenda as it's the last meeting before the start of the next financial year.

Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Safe and Well visits from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan. We can also offer you advice and support to help your health and wellbeing.

During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts, along with advice to help protect you from scams and doorstep crime.

You can request a visit online at www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits.

Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There are lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on www.365alive.co.uk. Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999.

Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service

Services in Our Benefice for March

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Wednesday 1st <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		Holy Communion 7:30pm	
Sunday 5th <i>Lent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Wednesday 8th	Compline 7:30pm		
Sunday 12th <i>Lent 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Wednesday 15th		Compline 7:30pm	
Sunday 19th <i>Lent 3</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Wednesday 22nd			Compline 7:30pm
Sunday 26th <i>Lent 4</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Benefice Mothering Day Family Service 10:00am	
Wednesday 29th	Compline 7:30pm		

Services in Our Benefice for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd <i>Lent 5</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

As I write, the General Synod of the Church of England (basically the Church's parliament) has been meeting in London. As expected, high on the Agenda was a debate following from the House of Bishop's report about same sex marriage. It was a bit of a shock result but support of this report was overturned by the house of clergy

and so the Bishops have to look again. What a task! What they seem to have been doing has been a bit like trying to turn a circle into a square whilst keeping it a circle! I'm not here going to comment on any of this, nor my own personal views. Whilst this is an ongoing and important matter which needs a way forward, nonetheless it seems that once again this particular issue dominated at the expense of other matters.

This certainly happened a couple of weeks ago when the Bishops published their report. However, I looked in vain for some thoughts from any of them about what was going on in the USA at the time. Donald Trump had just signed yet another executive order, this time banning travel from seven middle Eastern and African countries (not Saudi Arabia or Pakistan though, funny that!) I had to do a bit of a google search before anything turned up, but yes I was heartened to see that many of our bishops had stuck their heads above the parapet. The media obviously did not think it worth reporting, but I do, so here is a brief selection, from one archbishop and two bishops.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said it was 'extraordinary' that any civilised country would ban anyone from receiving humanitarian protection... 'A blanket ban on any individual group is bound to undermine the fundamental principles of asylum. In Christ, we are called to welcome the stranger especially when in desperate need'.

From the Bishop of Durham, Rt Rev Paul Butler: 'Is being inhospitable to all really the best way to tackle concern about the very few? Where does showing compassion to the refugee fit with placing a blanket ban on all? How does a flourish of a signature on an executive order demonstrate to the world that democracy is a good way to govern?'

From Rt Rev Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington simply this: "I will be swift to bear witness against those who thrust aside the alien and do not fear me, says the Lord" - Not wise to reject the stranger'.

I didn't expect of course that the New President of the USA would have given any attention to comment from a bunch of bishops from a church the other side of the Atlantic! I doubt he would bother even with a source closer to home. Nonetheless this is what Jim Winkler, the general secretary of the US national council of churches said:

'It has been shown that targeting refugees from these and other countries is a fool's errand. And to enact what ultimately amounts to a 'Muslim ban' is to encourage terrorism. Further, any hint of favouritism shown towards Middle East Christians plays to Muslim fears that the Crusades are not over.'

At the moment, this ban has been suspended by the judiciary, a decision which is being upheld. When the suspension was upheld the President vowed to fight back with his tweet 'see you in court'. He has however had had other more pressing things on his mind! Let's hope the judiciary and with it the constitution of the USA holds firm.



However, at the same time as this was being played out, a little closer to home there was something very unpleasant found lurking in the woodshed. Last year the Government pledged with its 'Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme' to re-home 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees (the so-called Dubs amendment). Yes there was a scandal about this, exploited by the tabloids as it appeared that some of these 'children' weren't in fact children at all. Nonetheless, there are refugee children who have now gone feral, living rough in the woods around Calais. There are refugee children at the mercy of human traffickers. The Home Secretary Amber Rudd, behind cover of the Article 50 debates tried, but failed, to sneak under the radar the decision that in fact only 350 child refugees will be accepted (not the original 3000). All sorts of reasons were sited to defend this, including saying the scheme would 'incentivise' children to travel to Europe. I am so glad to say that she didn't get away without this sleight of hand being noticed and that there has been political fallout including from amongst those of her own party. It has also emerged that the Home Office was refusing to consider applications from people with disabilities from the beginning of January. If that is the case it was a despicable decision. Archbishop Justin Welby had this to say, drawing a clear parallel with what is going on with the President of the USA:

'We must resist and turn back the worrying trends we are seeing around the world, towards seeing the movement of desperate people as more of a threat to identity and security than an opportunity to do our duty.'

I was talking to a local friend recently who commented about children at school having to learn British values. 'What about human values?' she said. I agree, especially as it seem that now one of the British values we seem to be fast adopting is a cynical lack of compassion.

Back at General Synod, there were calls for extra debates on the child refugee issue and the implications of Donald Trump's executive order. One member of Synod Rev Canon Jane Charman wrote: 'These are matters that properly concern our synod. The recent actions of the US and UK governments have a direct impact on the most vulnerable people in the world'. She also added that the Synod was in danger of being too absorbed in internal affairs.

The Church needs to look outward to these big issues, and as a christian I believe it is so important for us to be aware and do whatever we can (but of course you don't have to be a christian to believe that). In the face of the plight of refugees in France, I am so thankful for Julian Dunn, who lives in Great Haseley, for putting words into action with his 'Calais runs' he has organised. I was thankful for our local churches and other local people who have supported these with much needed provisions. I was hugely proud when last autumn, my youngest daughter Becca took it on herself to

organise a run of her own. She collected clothes and provisions from her friends and took them over to one of the Calais distribution centres. She had too much stuff for one run, our garage was full of the overflow! Julian to the rescue, who took much of this on another of his runs.

What is happening? Where has basic compassion gone? Perhaps that would be a commendable lenten discipline. After all the good intentions to reduce our consumption of alcohol and cream cakes and chocolates, how about each of us consciously and mindfully acting with just a little more compassion? Perhaps we could call our own politicians to account to do the same?

Simon

Lent in the Benefice

There will be plenty of things going on in Lent around the Benefice.

Our Ash Wednesday service is at St James Little Milton on Weds 1 March at 7.30pm.

There will also be five short reflective compline services through Lent, each on a Wednesday at 7.30pm. March 8th, St Mary's Great Milton. March 15th, St James Little Milton. March 22nd St Peter's Great Haseley. March 29th St Mary's Great Milton and April 5th St James Little Milton.

Once again the three parishes will be hosting a lent lunch to support the work of Christian Aid. These will each be on a Friday beginning at 12.00 noon. Do come along and enjoy a light lunch of delicious home made soup and freshly baked Le Manoir bread, and of course do give generously to Christian Aid. These lunches will take place on a Friday, with Trudy Timbs at Orpwood Cottage Lower End, Great Milton, on Friday 10 March, with Anne Maloney at the Old School House, Back Way, Great Haseley on Friday 17th March and with Jane Willis at Briarwood, Haseley Road Little Milton on Friday 24th March.

As I said in last month's local publications, there will also be a Lent group beginning on Tuesday 7 March. There will be four sessions looking at a presentation Cath and I went to at Spring Harvest three years ago. In 20014 we were privileged to be led by Simon Ponsonby, the teaching Pastor at St Aldate's church in Oxford. His talks that year were dynamic and engaging, looking at the nature of God as Trinity, Unfathomable Father, Unbeatable Son and Unstoppable Spirit. For his fourth talk (which actually came third in sequence) he paused to consider the theme 'Confidence in the Bible.' This has a slightly less snappy title but was an astonishingly good talk.

We have shown these talks several times to various groups all of who have



been enlightened and encouraged by them. The Lent group will take place on Tuesdays on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March. We still plan to hold them at the Rectory, however it really will be a first come first serve event as we will have to accommodate in our lounge which has limited seating. If anyone would like to be involved please therefore let me know. (01844 278349 simon.cronk@btinternet.com)

Simon

From the Village, we remember the life of Paul Cooper and of his wife Sue and their family as they mourn Paul's loss.

We also remember the life of Stuart Hagger, his wife Hazel and their daughter and her family as they mourn Stuart's loss.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

March				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	
19th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alan Turner-Smith	
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jennifer Thompson	

Great Milton Bellringers AGM 26th January 2017

Tower Captain's Report

23 years ago the new band of Great Milton Bellringers was established, and most of the present team are with us today. Quite an achievement I think. Although method ringing is a mystery to most of us, we can ring Plain bob doubles, Grandsire and Plain Hunt reasonably.

Last year, 6 visiting bands rang at our tower, including a full peal by Exeter. The groups who visit us make a donation and the proceeds were passed to the St. Mary's Church fabric building fund.

GMB rang for 6 weddings and 2 funerals with the help of ringers from Little Milton. We thank them for their support. We remembered and rang for 3 Great Milton bellringers who lost their lives in the Great War.

Simon Cronk, our rector, arranged a visit to the bell tower for the Children of Great Milton school year 2 to see and hear the bells. We hope this will encourage them, and their families to take up Bellringing. This can be one of the skills required for a Duke of Edinburgh award. We also rang for School leavers' service.

Early May morning was celebrated with singers on the roof.

The Bells were rung to celebrate the official 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

An enthusiastic ringer cycled from east Sussex to ring with us for a Sunday morning service.

The Bellringers supported St. Mary's Church Fête with a donation.

Our subscriptions for 2017 remain at £8 and all members have paid.

I'd like to thank all of you who contributed towards the smooth running of our tower. Especially the Secretary, Treasurer and Steeple keepers!

Unfortunately lead has been stolen from the Church roof. An alarm system has been fitted. To avoid false alarms bellringers should not go onto the Nave roof without prior warning to the proper authorities.

Our annual Bellringers Bash was held on the 17th of December at the Bull Great Milton. All felt it was a great success. Due to our increase in number we may need to find an alternative venue this year.

I have updated the Bellringers Website with new photos of the team on the Church roof. You are welcome to visit our website – Just GOOGLE Great Milton Bellringers for more information about us and St. Mary's Church.

Thank You

Graham Griffiths, Tower Captain



The Neighbours Club

On the 18th January a group of us went to the Sinodun Players pantomime "Pied Piper" at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Everyone enjoyed it although most agreed it was not as good as last year.

On Wednesday 15th February it was time for our first outing of the year when 41 members and visitors went to the Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe for lunch and an afternoon playing skittles. The weather in the afternoon was atrocious but it didn't worry us as we were all indoors enjoying ourselves.

The following day – the 16th February – we had a very interesting afternoon at Club when Barry Toomey came to tell us all about the Ancient Order of Foresters. Barry has been associated with the Foresters for 48 years so has a wealth of knowledge about them. They have been in existence for 182 years and were set up as a friendly society/benevolent club and members paid £1.26 a week. Our local branch (known as a Court) was formed in 1882 in the Bull, Great Milton and at that time had a membership of 600-700 with assets of £1,722. We are known as the Ancient Order of Foresters Court Ashhurst No 6961. They have a magnificent banner 12' wide x 18' tall which is beautifully painted on both sides and which was displayed for us to admire. The Foresters support a different charity every year and last year raised £80,000.

Our next meeting is on the 2nd March when we have Ruth Thompson from Age Concern with us. JCP

Forthcoming Events - March

Thurs 2nd - Age Concern - Ruth Thompson - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 16th - Keep Fit with Yvonne - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 30th - Bring and Share Lunch - Fred's 95th Birthday - 1.00 p.m.

April - and Spring at last!

What better way to spend a Spring evening than in the company of a maverick, arrogant genius? No, not a politician, but a musician: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. From precocious child prodigy to idiosyncratic court composer, Mozart made it his lifelong mission to find ways to slip through the tight net of his boss's musical constraints. And, in so doing, composed what's become some of the world's most treasured music.

On Saturday April 1st, take a stroll down to St Mary's, grab a glass of wine and let Mozart's glorious music wash over you like a balm. Listen to his final composition for Salzburg Cathedral in 1780, before he left for the bright lights of Vienna (there to die

at the dreadfully young age of 35!).

Mozart's music is exuberant and imaginative. And these "Vespers" are full of his inventive attempts to overcome his boss's restrictions in a some way. High energy choral numbers are woven together with operatic elements and soaring, atmospheric melodies, including the well-known classic "Laudate Dominum" (you'll know it when you hear it!) - one of Mozart's absolute masterpieces.

Regular friends Angela, Shelley, Ian and Giles, the Great Milton Singers and our faithful and talented visiting instrumentalists, will also delight us with a showcase of their favourite pieces. It all starts at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks

We want to thank everyone who made Sinclair's 100th birthday such a happy occasion. He hugely appreciated the wonderful giant card signed by so many of you, and all your other cards and good wishes to him. How lucky he is to have lived in Great Milton for over 50 years with such friends and neighbours. Thank you!

From the Hoods.

Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

Fireworks on Sunday 9th July 2017

A polite note to inform you there will be a short firework display on Sunday 9th July 2017. This will take place on our field that runs alongside the A329.

The fireworks will start at 22.45 and last for no longer than 10 minutes.

Best wishes

On behalf of Raymond Blanc

and the team at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

Please Keep This Date Free - Sat. 6th May

By popular demand for the 3rd year running we are holding the Charity 60's/70's DANCE with the fabulous HIPPIY HAZE BAND.

(More info. in next months Newsletter) If you want to reserve a ticket please contact Vonnie on 01844 279205.

Oxfordshire Family History, St.mary's Church and Great Milton History

The Oxfordshire Family History Society has offered to map and record our Churchyard. This would give a detailed picture of the position of the graves, the inscription, and a photograph of each headstone - all computerised therefore easy to keep up to date. Such information is, of course, crucial to the Church, and of great interest to the History Society.

The OFHS plan to start the work in early Summer, and would welcome any help we may be able to give. This is a fine opportunity for anyone interested to join the team and become involved in this important job. A look at the OFHS website shows exactly how the scheme works. If you wish for more information, please contact either the Churchwardens, or Great Milton History.

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!

13 Dec	No 59	Mrs J Jewell
20 Dec	No 7	Janet Smith
27 Dec	No 91	Rachel Forsyth
3 Jan	No 60	Linda Sargent
10 Jan	No 64	Mrs J Jaunet
17 Jan	No 82	Emily Johns
24 Jan	No 49	Ann Price
31 Dec	No 52	Amy Scully

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser.

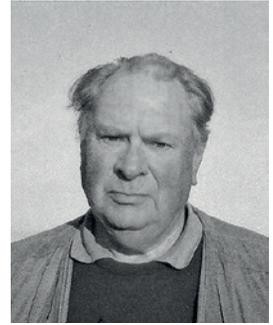
A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

Laura Putt, 100 Club Co-ordinator

View From Views

Spring is on it's way although a little late, (I am informed), Snowdrops are out and by the time you read this the Daffodils will have started to flower or at least I hope so. It seems to have been a long winter this time I doubt if it really has we have had a lot of rather dreary weather, which makes it seem longer than it has, I did say at one point I felt it was going to be a hard one, so far although we have had frosts which for the last two winters we had very little they were never that hard, as I write a lot could change as it is not over yet by a long chalk. Other than the Rape which has suffered a lot of pigeon damage, which hopefully it will recover from, our other crops seem to have fared reasonably well. On a recent trip south I could not but notice some other rape crops had not suffered the same damage as we have, must be something in our soil or water! A little galling.



The outbreak of avian flu (AV) is continuing to be a problem to poultry producers, with new outbreaks being confirmed by the week, so we are by no means out of the wood yet. The order by DEFRA to keep all free range chickens shut in runs out on the 28th of February, unfortunately as the AV is still prevalent, they have decided to alter their directive, as after 90 days producers will lose their Free Rang status. We now have a new set of rules/guidelines to follow after 28th Feb, so that we do not lose our Free Range status. As long as we are not in a restricted area, which we are not at present, we can let our hens out on the 1st March. On condition that we increase our biosecurity and do not allow wild birds access to their food or water. This is as long as we are not near an area where water-foul are prevalent, as they are potentially the worst carriers, if we were in such an area then we would have to net over the pen if we wanted to let ours out. I cannot remember if I mentioned before that there is a fine of upto £5,000 for non-compliance to this order even if a producer only has back/garden/yard birds.

At last our subsidy payment has arrived 2 months late, I just make mention of this so I can illustrate how important this is to some of our Farming brethren. Like many others we work on an overdraft system, meaning we have a planned cash flow to work out where and when we need funds. As this payment was budgeted to arrive in December, with Tax Payment Day the end of January, we had to get a bridging loan which cost us £150, in order to pay the revenue on time without incurring penalties for late payment. I know we are lucky to get subsidy at all and we shouldn't grumble, but it does have a lot of strings attached, all of which may change for better or worse after Brexit.



Talking of which so far things seem to be panning out rather positively, I also have just learnt that to get produce into the USA is not the problem everyone is talking about, as on the Radio just a few days ago the only problem in the USA is when the produce actually gets there, it's the marketing protocol not tariffs that are a problem, no Government or Trump will alter that. Of course the big problem we face in trade negotiations is that in order to get our products into other countries we might be forced to take their produce that would very likely be of lower quality than ours.

When talking of quality I am not sure how this can be defined in the case of food, I would suggest that it should mean that the food we eat has all the trace elements and nutrition in it that it should. I just wonder if we can ever achieve this nowadays as we are having to produce so much more food off less area, (because it is being lost to development etc) which to my mind must dilute these natural ingredients (vitamins and minerals) that we cannot reproduce. This is to a difficult issue to explain, in essence what the more we produce per area of land the less natural ingredients there are per tonne of food, (if an acre produces say 10 grams of a trace element and 2 tonnes of wheat, then if the same area produces 5 tonnes of wheat the land will still only have 10 grams of that element spread over the 5 tonnes). These are only my thoughts, in theory Organic production should counteract this but I don't believe it has been proved to be the case.

Still the housing issue continues, the media is beginning to highlight certain issues that throw doubt on the necessity of the governments push for all this development, I too cannot believe the housing need is as great as made out. If Charlgrove is going to be one of the chosen sites, this will not only seriously affect Charlgrove but Stadhampton as well, both with traffic and rain water, those of us who can remember Brookhampton Farm, will remember that every year, the Taylors who farmed it, put duck boards over the ground floor to keep the ground floor out of the water that used to flow straight through the house during the winter, so all the drainage from Chargrove will end up there, will the authorities do anything about that I wonder!

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

Thank you to Minna of Not2Shabby for teaching us Crochet last month. We didn't all manage to create a granny square but we had fun trying!

Our next meeting is our AGM followed by hand bells on Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm. Come along and learn all about Little Milton WI and try your hand at bell

ringing.

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.

Make joining the WI your New Year resolution!

Keep up to date with WI news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge and at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438

News from The Pine Lodge

We have a busy few months at The Pine Lodge, with our last two Quiz nights of the season on 11th March & 22nd April, continuing with our New Games Evenings on Friday 24th March & 28th April and an exciting new concert booking of guitarist Elliot Morris on 8th April. Come and join the fun, meet new people, learn new things and support your village hall - Everyone welcome.

Would you be able to help us get our name on the map? Have you booked the hall for a party or wedding reception and had a wonderful time? Find us on www.guidesforbrides.co.uk and write a review.

Clubs this month include Craft Club on Wednesday 15th, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm.

Keep up to date with news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge and at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Yesterday I spent the day in the garden continuing the cut-back and weeding. It was a pleasure to feel the warmth of the sun, albeit rather hazy. After such a long cold period, it is noticeable that only a few days of warmth have kick-started growth. Most obvious is the rapid development of bulbs. Snowdrops are looking magnificent and are being joined by the cheery yellow of aconites and the blue *Anemone blanda* 

and Scillas. If the daffodils hurry up, then we will have quite a show although even my early tulips are a long way behind and barely out of the ground.

Primroses have been flowering since November, but are now getting into their stride. I love their delicate yellow and the way they seed around so much, popping up in any situation; they are especially happy in the gravel of the drive and require virtually no care whatsoever, even growing in fairly shady places. I can recommend them without hesitation. Not so welcome is the widespread seeding of a particularly wishy-washy pink geranium which I purchased at a National Trust garden thinking it was another variety entirely. When it flowered, I should have removed it immediately; it will trouble me for many years now. The old saying that one year's seed is seven years' weeds is ever correct. One definition of a weed is any plant that is in the wrong place or is overwhelming the desired planting so there are many garden plants that readily become weeds. Two prolific seeding plants that are an endless weeding problem in my garden are *Hesperis matronalis* (sweet rocket) which has already germinated and *Verbena bonariensis* which is yet to appear. I can't complain too much as I would not wish to be without either, but their presence certainly increases my workload. Do keep up with weeding out unwanted seedlings as growth is rapid from now.

I had not appreciated just how much rain we have had until I ventured into the bottom of the field where there is standing water. Clearly, I cannot start sowing seed in my vegetable garden yet. While a cloche would allow the soil to warm and keep the rain off, it would not dry the soil very much when the water table is so high that water is lying on the surface; this is where raised beds have a very valuable role to play in raising the growing area out of the wet.

Thanks to the mild weather all the scented winter flowering plants are performing well and I was surrounded by heady fragrance as I worked yesterday; you may well smell *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postil' as you pass my garden gate and she is now so tall she can be seen over the wall!

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; you must be in good standing to vote at the AGM.

Don't forget the AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd March in Great Haseley Village Hall - all welcome. More details to follow.

Great Milton Neighbours' Club Outings 2017

All outings are on Wednesday except August

April 19th

Bourton-on-the-Water morning and lunch. Afternoon at the **Mechanical Music Museum, North Leach**, an award-winning museum with three centuries of home entertainment and self-playing instruments. Cost £22 (museum £6.30, coach £15.70).

May 17th

The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley. '300 years of history in 26 acre open-air museum – experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the past. A whole day of interest.' £25 (entrance £10, coach £15).

June 14th

Morning and lunch in **Worcester**. Afternoon at **Spetchley Park** nearby. 'Wondrous display of plants, shrubs and trees planted over 400 years. Tree peonys, irises, herbaceous borders'. 'A peaceful garden.' £21 (entrance £6, coach £15).

July 12th

Morning and early lunch at **Banbury**. Afternoon at nearby **Upton House** built late 17C 'fabulous collection of paintings, tapestries, Worcester porcelain, Chelsea figures, Shell advertising posters etc – a house full of interest and gorgeous garden.' £25 (entrance £9.50 NT members free, coach £15.50). NB: Upton House have an 80-seat restaurant and serve full lunches if people do not think Banbury is suitable for lunch.

August 10th (Thursday)

Morning and lunch at **Leamington Spa**. Afternoon at the **Guide Dogs for the Blind Training School**. An interesting 2-hour interactive presentation which has been recommended. Cost coach only £15.

September 6th

Newbury in the morning and lunch at Toby's Carvery. Afternoon on the **Horse-Drawn Boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal**. 2-hour trip, refreshments available on board, starting from Kintbury. Cost £25 (boat £10, coach £15).

October 18th

A 2-hour morning visit to **Viridor Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley, near Bicester**. Greeted with tea/coffee, introduction and tour. Highly recommended as being interesting (can be noisy). Hot lunch at Weston-on-the-Green W.I. Afternoon at Wyevale Garden Centre, Bicester Avenue if wanted. Cost £23 (lunch £8, coach £15).

November 29th

Lunch (to be arranged). Afternoon at **Waddesdon Manor for Christmas Lights and Market**.

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Can you help save the show?

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society grew out of the “Dig for Victory” campaign during the Second World War. The main event in the Society’s year has always been the Annual Produce Show traditionally held on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend in venues around the local villages. Many of you will have attended the show, but for newcomers to the area it is a friendly event crossing a country fete with a produce show held in a marquee. There are traditional competitive classes for the serious gardeners and bakers and many classes for those who would just like to have a go. We also have a large number of classes for children encouraging them to grow, bake and make things.

This year should be the 70th Show. Like many village events we are reliant on and hugely grateful to our team of volunteers for helping us organise and run the show. However, the ranks of volunteers are thinning and not being replaced by younger people and, in addition, this year a number of Committee members are taking a well-earned retirement. Thus, the remaining Committee have sadly taken the decision that unless we get more volunteers, and in particular new committee members, we will be unable to stage the show this year.

We are therefore appealing to the local community in the hope that we can preserve this tradition of village life and that the 70th show can go ahead.

If you are interested in helping please contact Louise Bird (Secretary) at ghdhs_enquiries@outlook.com or on 07989 360127.

John Howell MP writes...

As I write Brexit remains a hot topic. Last month I wrote on other issues however it is clear from correspondence and discussions that there is much confusion on just what has been happening. This month I will focus on this to try to help bring some clarity.

Firstly let me turn to the debate that was had in Parliament earlier this month. This revolved around Article 50 which was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. It allows a Member State to leave the EU and sets out a procedure for this to happen. The debate in Parliament followed the judgement of the Supreme Court that the Prime Minister must seek approval of Parliament to trigger Article

50. The short Bill presented to the House was simply to enshrine in Statute the power for the Prime Minister to judge the timing of when this should occur. This Bill will not lead to the immediate triggering of Article 50 but put the timing in the hands of the Prime Minister.

An important document that has now been published is the Government White Paper 'The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union'. This paper sets out the key priorities for negotiations in a number of areas and for the first time sets out clearly some of the critical issues. It has already proved useful in the constituency as a starting point for discussion. A further important aspect of our withdrawal will be the 'Great Repeal Bill' which will be introduced in the next session of Parliament. It will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 which marked our entry into the EU and where practical will convert EU law into domestic law. It is likely that this will mop up any unfinished business and will be the means by which we avoid falling off a cliff edge as some worry we could.

The terms 'hard Brexit' and 'soft Brexit' are widely bandied around and many have asked me just what they mean. I regret that these terms have come into the shorthand as they can be misleading. Essentially they represent the extremes and following negotiation we are likely to have neither as currently defined. For now the term Hard Brexit identifies a situation in which the UK leaves the EU swiftly, not as a member of the Single Market but remaining a member of the World Trade Organisation. In contrast soft Brexit identifies a situation in which the UK leaves the EU but negotiates continued membership of the Single Market in some way. At best the idea of a hard or soft Brexit sets the ends of the spectrum but I think that the two terms suggest something simplistic and mask the true complexity of the negotiations.

For those interested to know more or to follow developments as we progress I write regular updates on my blog (www.johnhowellmp.com/john's-blog/) and send out periodic updates in my e-briefings. If you would like to subscribe to the latter please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com.

Vale Local Plan Part Two Preferred Options Consultation

The Local Plan Part Two Consultation will go live on Thursday 9 March and will run until 5pm on Thursday 4 May 2017.

In line with our Statement of Community Involvement, we are keen to ensure that members of the public have a range of opportunities to become aware of the Local Plan and they understand the importance of giving us their feedback on the plan.

How to take part in the consultation:

A series of public events are being organised to enable members of the public to meet with Planning Officers to discuss the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan and to share their views on the proposed changes. We will be running seven Local Plan events in March and April across the district. The dates and venues will be published in our Vale Local Plan bulletin and on our website - www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building

How to comment:

There are a range of ways you can become involved in our consultation from Thursday 9 March to Thursday 4 May.

These include:

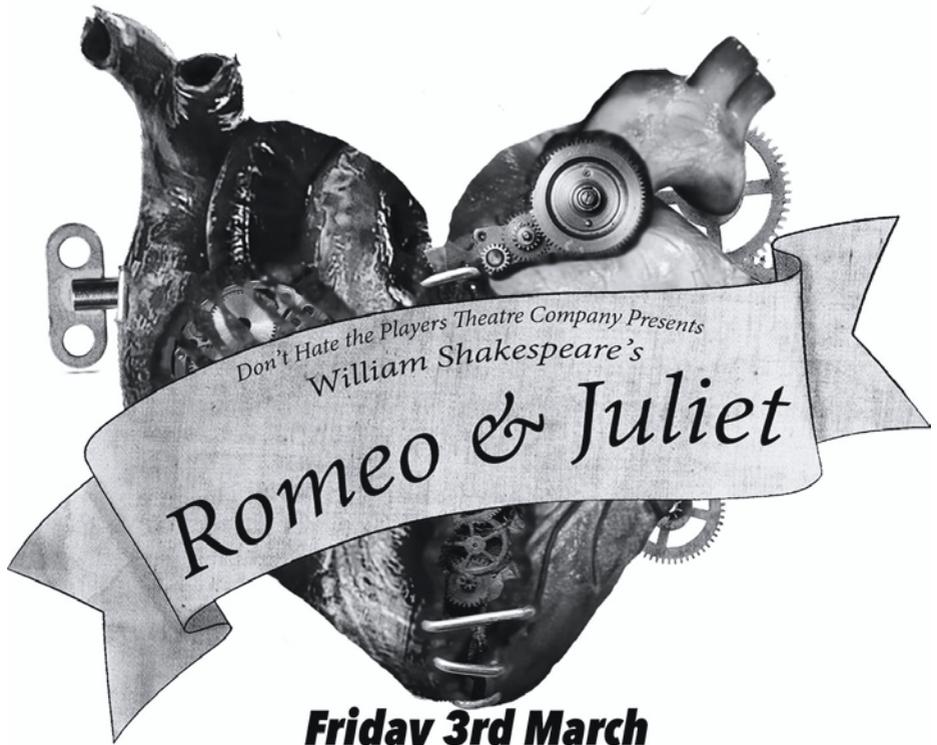
- Providing feedback at our events
- Participating in our online survey, available from our website - www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building
- Completing a paper based survey, available at local libraries and council offices
- Submitting your comments by post or email using our comments form.

All our consultation materials will be available from the consultation start date, Thursday 9 March 2017, until Thursday 4 May. They will be accessible on our website and paper copies of the plan and comment forms will be available at all Vale libraries and our council office.

We will be contacting everyone on our consultation database to invite them to take part in the consultation and to inform them of local events. Please use the contact details below if you would like to join our consultation database.

The consultation period is being extended to eight weeks (instead of six) due to the Easter Break and we hope this will encourage greater participation in the consultation.

For more information on the consultation process please contact Louise Rawlins, Community Engagement Officer at planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or call 01235 422600.



Don't Hate the Players Theatre Company Presents
William Shakespeare's

Romeo & Juliet

Friday 3rd March

7:30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

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Hall renovations.**

Neighbours Hall, Great Milton

£15 Adults, £12 Concessions

Tickets: From the Post Office

or call 01844279455





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7:30pm Saturday 1st April

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**Household Items, books, CD's
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**Items can be brought to
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Date: Saturday 25th March 2017

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Meeting Place: The Old Garage, Great Milton

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



New 'Fearsome Young Guitarist'

Elliott Morris

at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton

Saturday 8th April 7pm

Singer/songwriter and guitarist, playing a mix of folk, country & pop tinged with blues, with new material from his debut album. Absorbingly entertains and amuses with genuine guitar wizardry, tenor voice, observant and wry lyrics, fun anecdotes and audience teasing.

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Tom Robinson, BBC 6Music

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Friday 24th March

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Everyone welcome

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£15 per family (minimum age 8)

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Please contact Helen Cherry

Tel: 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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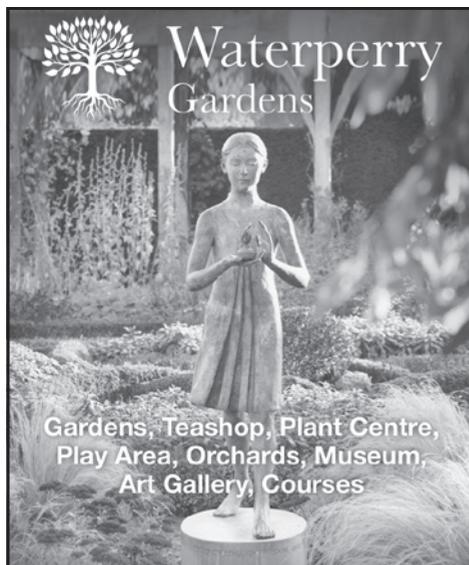
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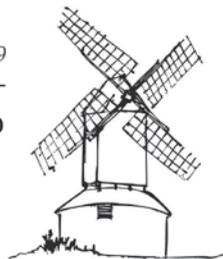
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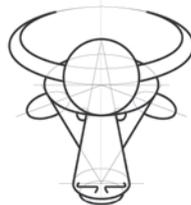
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Diary

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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*

March

- 3rd Fri Romeo & Juliet in The Neighbours Hall. Tickets from the P.O. 7:30pm
- 16th Thurs Neighbours Club: Keep Fit with Yvonne 2:15pm
- 18th Sat Great Milton History Open Day. Civil War artifacts on display. 11:00am
- 20th Mon Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion 7:30pm
- 25th Sat Village Litter Pick starting at The Old Garage 10:00am
- 30th Thurs Neighbours Club: Bring & Share Lunch. Fred's 95th Birthday! 1:00pm

April

- 1st Sat Freecycle at The Pavilion 10:00am
- Mozart: Vespers and more... in St. Mary's Church 7:30pm

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