

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2024

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Sarah Illingworth	07792 083549
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Sarah MacMahon	07580 581655
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Amy Williams – 07958 792248
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:	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: Claire Moore, accompanied by Simon Hale "In conversation" with Jon Devitt, St Mary's Church. **Photo:** Nick Belcher. More photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBhKVq>

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: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Amy Williams (Clerk)	07958 792248	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: 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	07970 264667	
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
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
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

Parish Council News

These are the minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Present: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), D Harms, S MacMahon and S Illingworth. In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk), Amy Williams (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

27/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Allen, M Horsley, Cllr G Heritage (SODC) and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

28/24 Variation of order of business

There was no variation to the order of business.

29/24 Declarations of members' interest

No declarations of interest in matters on the agenda were received.

30/24 Matters to report

The County and District Councillors' reports were received and reviewed and are available on the Parish Council website.

31/24 Correspondence and public discussion

There was no correspondence or public discussion.

32/24 Planning applications

A The following planning applications were received from SODC and reviewed:

P24/S0675/FUL (Brimpton Grange Access To Hotel From A40 Milton Common)
Erection of six detached dwellings, creation of vehicular and pedestrian access and associated infrastructure and works. The Parish Council discussed the above application and has no strong views.

24/S0073/FUL (Common Cottage London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU)
Single dwelling.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding planning applications in the village and the way SODC processes them. The Parish Council discussed the application, and all voted in full support of it.

B The following planning decisions were received and reviewed.

P24/S0154/HH (2 Thame Road Great Milton) Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new outbuilding. SODC has approved this planning application.

P23/S3459/FUL (White Ash London Road Milton Common) Erection of two semi-detached properties on land adjacent to White Ash. (As amended by plan ref 21092302-3 1c which shows the air source heat pump and as amplified by noise impact assessment receive 13 December 2023 and as amplified by Car Swept Paths Plan received 14 December 2023). SODC has refused this planning application.

P24/S0029/LDE (Brimpton Grange Access To Hotel From A40 Milton Common)
Confirmation that a material operation contained within the development in the form of a section of strip foundation was carried out before the expiration of the permission (dated 23rd May 2017) and the permission therefore remains extant in perpetuity. SODC has approved this planning application.

P24/S0031/LDE (Brimpton Grange Access To Hotel From A40 Milton Common)
Confirmation that a material operation contained within the development in the form of a section of strip foundation was carried out before the expiration of the permission (dated 19th May 2017) and the permission therefore remains extant in perpetuity. SODC has approved this planning application

33/24 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the February meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, February 19th, 2024, were received, reviewed, agreed upon, and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

34/24 Financial resolutions

A The following cheques for payment were reviewed, agreed and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses March: £608.22

Amy Williams. Salary, Tax and Expenses March: £608.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste February: £62.40

J M Dudley (Bulletin): £359.00

SLCC Membership renewal: £144.00

ICO GDPR renewal: £40.00

Elancity (SID device): £2803.64

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

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The March bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.

35/24 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- The spring clean was a success with a small turnout, but a determined group cleared a good amount of rubbish.

- The grass-cutting tenure has been signed with Tactical, who completed their first cut on Friday, 9th March. This is on a 3-month trial period, which will move to a 2-year contract with Tactical if all goes well.

36/24 Security in the village

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incidents 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.



37/24 Speed indicator devices

New quotes have not been received. To continue this process, the Parish Council has agreed to purchase one mobile speed sign and two solar panels for the poles on Church Road and Thame Road. A further quote will be gathered for a permanent SID in Lower End.

38/24 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant Fund

The Parish Council discussed the CIL fund, and there are no projects in the village that are suitable for this fund.

39/24 Grass cutting in the playground at the Recreation ground

Tactical attended on Friday, 8th March, to complete their first cut of the village. While completing this, they found that the grass within the play area should be cut more often than monthly, as stated in our contract. They believe the grass cut at the recreation ground should include the children's play park in the fenced-off area. Due to the access restrictions, this has to be cut with a push mower. The grass should be kept lower with the involvement of health and safety in a children's playpark. The cost for this would be £37 + VAT a cut.

The Parish Council fully supported the above. The Parish Clerk will update the contract with Tactical.

40/24 Community emergency co-ordinator

The Parish's community emergency plan needs updating, and we need a volunteer to take over from Cllr Allen as the community emergency coordinator. Cllr Harms volunteered to take over the role.

41/24 Future litter picks in the Village

The Parish Council agreed we should look into another litter pick this spring. The Parish Clerk will contact the waste team at SODC to enquire about rubbish collection and use of equipment.

42/24 Parking on the verges in the Village

The Parish Council discussed the issues raised by cars parking on green verges in the village. Residents are reminded that the green spaces are not for parking but can be used for access.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 15th April 2024, at 7.30 Meeting ending at 20:05.

Benefice Services for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 21st	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Worship 10:30am	Benefice BCP Communion 9:00am	


Benefice Services for May

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

The Rector's Pint

March ended, literally with Easter Sunday, it was the last day of the month, and the clocks went forward an hour. This may well have tested the mettle of anyone who went to a sunrise service on Easter morning. I know what I am like in the early morning!

The Sundays following Easter give us a glimpse into the mindset of the early disciples and not least, Thomas, who we call 'doubting Thomas'. He is in fact my favourite disciple because he's the one who asks the awkward questions. I think that his doubts are to his credit; he wasn't going to believe in a story or a rumour without evidence. On the Sunday after Easter, his story, recorded in John's Gospel (Chapter 20) tells us that he refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without evidence: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe".

We read that Thomas had to wait a week for the evidence to present itself. We don't often get what we want when we want it! "Although the doors to the room they were in were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you". 

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe”. Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God”.

I love that story, and that Thomas, who we accuse of being the doubting one, was, in fact, the first among the disciples to declare that Jesus was Lord and God.

Anyone who has ever been at a baptism that I have conducted, will know that I always tell the visitors and guests that I do what I do essentially because I believe this to be true, that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. I believe in the truth of resurrection from the dead because of Him. I have had plenty of times of doubt over the years, about how it all works in the face of the world's complexities and sorrows, but I can't get round this, that those who wrote these accounts down believed them to be true, and that conviction has stayed with me for many years now.

I rarely recommend films that try and tell us this story, but I am very happy to do so with *Risen* which stars Joseph Fiennes as the Roman Tribute who oversaw Jesus' crucifixion and who is then tasked with finding his body when rumours circulated that Jesus had been seen alive. It takes a different and unique view on the resurrection story. It can still be found on Netflix, and I think it is encouraging and uplifting.

Christ is risen.

Simon

I'd like to let you know that all three of our churches are holding their APCM's over the coming month. These Annual meetings are open to all members of the congregation, and anyone who lives in the villages, and are an opportunity to hear about the work of the PCC and the church in our community over the year. Please come along and have a chat, or ask questions, you'll be very welcome. Great Milton's APCM is on Sunday 21st April at 11.30 in St Mary's, Little Milton's APCM is on Sunday 19th May at 11.30 in St James', and Great Haseley's APCM will be at 12.00, following the Benefice Service in St Peter's on Sunday 26th May.

Great Milton Bellringers

It was quite an emotional evening on Thursday – the Bellringers have been hit hard by illness, accidents and to add to that, one member is moving to the South Coast, and another is planning to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats! All this has decimated the Band – only 2 left to ring! Our decision is to take 3 or 4 months away from ringing – with some exceptions such as visitors, weddings and special occasions.

Hopefully the Village will miss the bells and maybe some will want to join us when we re-assemble. A special thankyou to the lady who came to hear the bells knowing it was the last time for a while. She said she stood in the moonlight near the magnolia and enjoyed the sound!

GMB

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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


April 2024				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
7th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
14th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
21st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	
28th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion

Dormer Monument Items

An assortment of items found during the recent restoration of the Dormer Monument. They represent pieces broken or damaged since the previous work over 60 years ago. All except the wooden dog (which had nothing to do with the memorial but left on top and would have been a crest to an 18C helmet) have all now been expertly restored to their rightful place. A fully illustrated record of the three week's restoration work will be added to the church's Info Point soon.



Better Weather?

Make a break in your walk – through St Mary’s Churchyard and go in the north door to find out about the church’s history. Discover the story behind the 19th Century organ, for example, or about the 8 bells in the tower. Why a photo of some 

unusual musical instruments is in the building and how did an impressive memorial to the Dormer Family come to be in Great Milton.

Just take out your smart phone, go to 'Settings'* and look for the Info Point Wi-Fi network. It is absolutely free and secure!

Scan the QR code or type:

<http://infopoint.stmarys> into your web browser and start exploring the content.

Short of time? Keep coming back as often as you wish.

Return for new content soon.

**You may need to turn off 'mobile data'*

Save the Date for the Church Fete!!!

Sat 8th June 2-4pm

Please let any of the committee (Alex Kirkman, Clare BP, Celina Bernstrom or Rachel Hutton) know if you are willing to help beforehand or on the day.

Raffle prizes or sponsorship to cover things like the band or the bouncy castle or other expenses would be gratefully received.

Please also let us know if you have any Ideas and suggestions for stalls or activities to make the day even better.

Looking forward to seeing you all (and the sun) on the day!

Thanks,

Alex

Great Milton History



What Beaunavista Did Next...

It was a mild winter day – January 30th 1974 – 'new people' arrived – a lorry driven by the Team leader drew up/unloaded and returned to base garage (Aylesbury) – only to come back to the 'haven' with fish and chips for 2! What a gallant (and handsome partner)! There was a knock on the door – the Reverend Baker had called to welcome the party to Great Milton. The fish and chips were shared, blessings were given and then the vicar went on his way. Bed beckoned for the totally exhausted 'new people'. Happy landing. Happy home for 50 years!! Thank you Great Milton.

Great Milton Athletic Club

The Winter Cross-Country Season

The 2024 Oxfordshire cross-country championships took place at Shotover on a bitterly cold day in January, and Great Milton AC athletes came away with mud and medals. The course was water-logged and boggy, with energy-sapping mud, and was amazingly testing. This was the hardest course we have experienced in over 10 years in the league, and the athletes did incredibly well to all finish, and to finish with two shoes still on their feet!

Hugo Szekely ran 1500m in his under-9s race and was third under-9 boy in the county. Yes, the county! His end-of-race grimace was immediately replaced by a huge smile when a bronze medal was hung around his neck (photo).

The under-11s also ran 1500m, and Alice Mosely was 25th in the girls' race, whilst for the boys Leo Powell finished 18th in the boys race, and Tommy Wilson 22nd.

Further glory came in the 3,000m under-13 girls' race, with Great Milton winning their first ever team silver medals (photo). They were led home by Dora Twycross 5th, followed by Abby Kirkman 11th and Grace Mosley 15th. This was a wonderful achievement – second team in Oxfordshire. Wow!

The league season finished in March with the fifth and final race at Henley. Hugo, Tommy and Alice all won participation medals from the league, whilst the U13s had club participation medals to compete for – Rufus Blanche won bronze, Dora silver, and Grace gold. The trophy for the top-xc runner (based on overall points irrespective of age group) went to Hugo.

Dora's fine performances over the winter and in the county-championships saw her selected to represent Oxfordshire in the UK Inter-counties Championships in Nottingham. She won her first Oxfordshire vest, and it was a great honour to witness her racing with 300 of the best under-13 girls in the country at Wollaton Park. Dora came 224th and Oxfordshire were 32nd team, and her magnificent achievement was a thrilling and fitting end to a wonderful season. Now, with the arrival of spring, we now turn



our attention to the outdoor track and field season.

GMAC are grateful to all the parents and friends who serve on the committee and help at training, to Le Manoir for the use of their field for xc training, and the Sheppard Trust for their support over the years.

Any new athletes interested in joining can find out more from the village website:

<https://www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/athletics/>

Litterpick

Another good haul yesterday! It baffles me that people think it's ok to toss this stuff into the verge. Is it an educational issue, or are humans inherently lazy??

Either way, thanks to the eight hardy souls who turned out to gather all this stuff up. Special shout out to Dudley Alden and Sarah MacMahon for



tackling the tip that is known as Sworford Lane! Hopefully next year we can get two dozen or so folks to do a really thorough job! See you next time...

We are going to do a follow up litter pick, just focussed on Sworford Lane on Sunday 14th April from 1100h to 1200h, followed by drinks in the Bull!

We meet at the Old Garage at 10:45h to hand out all the gear, then end up at the Bull at 1200h. Please come out in force to help us blitz what can become an eyesore, before it gets too overgrown to be practical.

Post-Pick drinks are on the Parish Council (well, first drink is.....) but you will need to bring your litter-picker and yellow vest as proof of participation! (You can leave the litter at the tree by the entrance to the Rec). See you there...

Steve

Great Milton Primary School News

Welcome to the 5th School Governors' News Bites

As many know school had an OFSTED inspection early in February, (the previous one was in October 2018). We are delighted to share the report result with you now. "Great Milton C of E Primary School continues to be a good school." Of course, we knew this already, but it is a wonderful, official affirmation of the hard work put in by Ms Frost, the head and her team of whom we continue to be very proud. You can read the full report on the OFSTED site. Here are a few salient points about the process:

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and has taken that into account in this evaluation of the school.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, deputy headteacher, SENCo and pastoral lead. The inspector also had discussions with the early years team, members of the governing body and representatives from the local authority and diocese.
- The inspector carried out deep dives in these subjects: early reading, mathematics and art and design. For each deep dive, they held discussions about the curriculum, visited lessons, spoke to teachers, talked to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. They also listened to some pupils read to a familiar adult. The inspector considered the school's curriculum in some other subjects by looking at curriculum maps with leaders and talking to pupils.
- The views of staff, parents and pupils were gathered using Ofsted's surveys. The inspector also talked to pupils around school and at breaktime, and with staff as they went about their work.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspector reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.

The report contains many positive comments about the school, too many to include here so here's just one : "The way that the school embraced the arrival of refugees and their families a couple of years ago is impressive. While they have all moved on now, the legacy of empathy and the depth of pupils' understanding about what they experienced is inspirational ".

The next inspection, will be ungraded & will happen in about 4 years.

On behalf of our parents the Governors would like to congratulate the whole school team on the outcome of the inspection. We are all aware that this can be a stressful and taxing process. The whole team has worked extremely hard. We can all take satisfaction knowing that our children are receiving the standard of education they are due.

School Pupil Council

Hello, we are the Pupil Council representatives for Great Milton C of E Primary School.

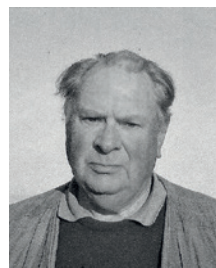
This year we are taking part in OxTrail, which is very exciting and will raise money for Sobell House Hospice. We have started fundraising and have our own ox to decorate. During the summer it will be part of a large herd across the county! We are really proud to be joining the OxTrail and raising money for Sobell House Hospice.

Great Milton Neighbours Club Outings

The next outing opened to non-Club members is a Round Trip Cruise on the River Thames from Caversham to Mapledurham preceded by some time in Reading. Exclusive use of the Thames Rivercruise boat 'Caversham Lady'. Cruise through Wind in the Willows Country. With scenery from the Forsythe Saga. Cost inclusive of coach travel is £35 per person. Collection from various point in the area. Bookings must be made by 1st May. For further details and booking form please email fred.cubbage@btinternet.com.

View from Views

There is an old saying that mentions “February Fill Dike” certainly true this year, looking at my monthly rainfall records covering the last 10 years or so, we have exceeded our average of 50mm, by 100%, having recorded 101. This is interesting as it seems the February average can vary from 4mm last year to 99.5 in 2020. Never known it as wet as at present, we can speculate as to the reason, Global Warming, but more likely the intensive development along the Thame valley. It is this over development that is causing not only this flooding but also the pollution of all water courses. If we are to stop this unacceptable situation, we must halt all development until proper mitigation action is taken. I have seen pictures of the chalk streams (the Test) in Hampshire, having sewage pumped into it this must stop, enough is enough, and to note the state of our flooded meadows when the floods recede, is beyond belief. Moreover I note that Southern Water have stated that they are to continue to extract water from these streams, during dry periods, probably until 2035



having agreed to 2027. These are just more examples of us human pressure on nature.

By the end of the first week of March, at last it looked as if we might soon be able to do some field work, first operation was to put on the first dose of fertiliser, which we did manage, now that could well be in the river. The next task will need to be attack weeds which do not seem too bad, I guess due to the inclement weather, then of course disease will be the next problem just beginning to show. The condition of the crops is still presenting us with conundrums, we are still not sure what we should do with the Barley, much more of it looks as if it could produce a half decent crop, than it did this time last month. The Wheat is fine, if readers can remember one field we planted straight into a standing crop that had been killed the day before and, was still standing at 18" tall, this is a much better looking piece than the crop in the adjacent field planted on the same day. Now with more rain everything is back on hold.

Needless to say many water birds have benefitted from the floods, being constant visitors mostly gulls but, also Egrets. March is the month of the "Mad march Hare" luckily, I can report that the population of this wonderful creature is on a path to recovery. Grey/English Partridge continue to increase here, although they are thought of as a game bird and this many would think of little importance, nearly become extinct due to the introduction of the "Red legged/French Partridge" as they are more prolific therefore, better bet to introduce for game shooting. The "Greys", I am told are not so savvy as the "Reds" so need more nurturing, so it is somewhat of an achievement to be hosting them. The traditional Blackthorn Winter has seemed never ending, with it flowering over a very extended period this spring.

There is a debate around food security and, use of homegrown crops to produce green energy, this is an argument which is difficult to answer. How about years ago we used to grow oats to feed draught horses which gave us the power to plough, so what is different to now producing fuel from crops to power our tractors.

The PM recently attended the NFU annual conference, very rare for a PM to do this but, of course it is an election year. He did though make some very reassuring noises leading us to believe that he understood our problems, it remains to be seen what happens as we have heard it all before. Recent news on the subsidy schemes makes us believe that they are not only becoming more user friendly but also set at more realistic rates all very encouraging. Having said that there did not seem much for us in the budget. Not that anyone could expect much as the country is on it's knees financially, as we cannot, repair the roads, support the NHS, or the Police, Railways are in disarray, and Education, all needing more investment, to mention just a few. The country has to recover financially somehow from being devastated by covid and, now Ukraine.

Last month I mentioned the M & S building in London, where quite



rightly Michael Gove said it should not be pulled down, for all sorts of very good reasons one being the waste of perfectly usable materials, but he has been overruled, by someone or system that has no regard for our valuable raw materials. Whilst on the political front, I understand that our previous district councillor is to stand as an MP for this constituency, all I can say that if she looks after us in the way she did as a councillor, then we will have an excellent MP.

Next Month sees us yet again partaking in the “Chiltern Vintage Tractor run”, 19th June in aid of the “Air Ambulance”, and this year we are fielding 4 tractors between us. Last year we collected £1782.50, which of course does not include those who donated to a communal “Just Giving” fund. Obviously, I ask as many who can to give generously, either directly or, for this most worthy of charities, via my “Just Giving” page:-

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In March we held our AGM and revealed the 2024-25 programme. This was followed by a talk from Alex Pyle about SODC Waste & Recycling. SODC are the best performing council for recycling in England with nothing going to landfill, it's either recycled or incinerated. The biggest problem is contamination such as dirty pizza boxes or tin foil.

The impromptu theatre club is also taking off with eight of us going to see The Drifter's Girl at the New Theatre in March. A very clever show with just 6 actors taking on many roles, following the story of one of the first African American women to manage a band, plus great music.

On Thursday 11 April we're running a Block Printing workshop with Karen Fido, making cards, wrapping paper, present and tote bags. Everyone welcome, men too! Visitors £5, or join up for £48 (2024-25).

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 OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm
Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.
Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Pine Lodge website: www.lmvh.org.uk

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Morland House Surgery

Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only. Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

The NHS launched the Pharmacy First Service (PFS) on 31st January (see NHS Pharmacy First Service (PFS) | NHSBSA) Appointments can be booked directly with participating pharmacies for the treatment of 7 common health conditions namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

Pharmacists can offer advice to patients and supply NHS medicines where clinically appropriate. This will help reduce the pressure on Morland House Surgery. As an example, appointments with Wheatley Pharmacy can be booked (often the same day) by phoning

01865 874047 or via the website www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book

Group Consultation Clinics – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

John Howell MP writes...

Issues around the environment are never far away as there are so many important issues to pay attention to. As I write this month it's The Big Plastic Count. From 11th-17th March I'm joining lots of people across the country counting the single use plastic that I use this week. It will be interesting to see the data for this year to see how we are doing in moving away from single use plastics. It does take time to change our habits and indeed the manufacture of products. Since the introduction of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England in 2018



significant progress has been made to address plastic pollution, including a ban on microbeads and restricting the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, plastic-stemmed cotton buds, plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The figures that lead to these bans are staggering. I understand that in England 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery and over 700 million single-use plates used to be used in a year with only about 10 per cent being recycled!

Many of the things that we seek to tackle are on issues where we have become more aware of practices that used to be unknown. Just as the need to reduce our plastic has become more commonly known, and action taken towards it, so too are concerns on the testing on animals of chemicals used as ingredients in cosmetics. The Government has recognised the public concern around this and has recently introduced measures to ensure that no new licences will be granted for animal testing of chemicals that are exclusively intended to be used as ingredients in cosmetics products. This is more good news. The Government does need to look at these things over time. It is always important when introducing new measures that relevant industries are able to respond without undue detriment. Hence the Government is actively committed to supporting and funding the development and dissemination of techniques that replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in research.

As Spring arrives we are all more aware of our gardens and the countryside around us. Another concern raised with me recently is for our hedgerows which are an important part of our farmed landscape; a landscape with which we are very familiar. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is moving forward on several fronts on this. There are schemes to encourage farmers, for example through the Countryside Stewardship schemes, where Ministers are supporting farmers to maintain and restore existing hedgerows and also to plant more across the country. Defra is also supporting farmers in assessing the condition of hedgerows, and to manage them in a way that will work for wildlife and improve biodiversity. However, it's not all about business. There are also plans in progress for domestic hedgerow regulations which will, among other things protect nesting birds in the season.

Another area which I know is of interest to constituents is the growing dependence on new technology and the risk of alienation that this can lead to for some people, especially older people. We live in an increasingly online world and, although for some this is a regret, it is not going to change. This means that digital skills are important - from the basics that people need to make the most of online connectivity, to the skills needed in every job, to the high-level skills for the growing number of specialist jobs in the economy. The Government is committed to helping those who need support to acquire basic digital skills. The Government is also working to remove barriers, and to ensure that online services are as inclusive as possible by making public sector websites accessible to as many people as possible. This is all part of its broader strategy to reduce digital exclusion and very welcome.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

QUIZ NIGHT @ THE BULL

Thursday 11th April @ 7:30pm

Our next village quiz will be at the Bull on the above date and will be to raise funds for the Old Field improvements, including the completion of the pebble footpath.

Tickets are available from the Shop and cost £5 pp. Due to limited space, the number of participants is restricted to 9 tables of 4 people please.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Great Milton
Spring 2024 Litter Pick part 2
11 am
Sunday 14th April



BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES
All other equipment provided
Meet at The Old Garage @ 10:45

For more info, contact Chris Ashworth (Parish Clerk):
E-mail contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Followed by a drink at
The Bull



Neighbours' Hall Great Milton

Friday 12th April - Start: 19.30

Join Oxfordshire's own shanty crew Short Drag Roger for an evening of traditional shanties, more modern sea songs and self-penned numbers.

Tickets £10 available from Great Milton Village Shop or contact the crew to reserve a seat.

Part proceeds to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Bar available.

Neighbours' Hall – Church Rd, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PD



www.shortdragroger.co.uk
info@shortdragroger.co.uk



Wheatley Library

Happy New Year! ☺



In the spirit of the new year, there are a few new initiatives occurring in the library over the next few months.

We have a new Digital Helper session on alternate Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30p.m. for anyone who needs help with a specific computer or online query. Please contact us to book a Digital Helper session or speak to a member of staff in the library for further details.

A new Storytime session will begin soon on alternate Saturday mornings for children ages 4 – 7, so keep an eye out for specific dates and times that will be posted in the library and on our website at bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary.

Here's a reminder of our regular events:

- Rhymetime: *free* & every Friday, 10:30 a.m. for kids up to 5 yrs old
- Digital Helper: *free* & alternate Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: first Saturday of each month, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Art Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Fibre Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 2 – 4 p.m.

For news and event updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page. Our Wheatley Friends Group would benefit from additional members so if you'd like to join, please visit wheatleylibrary.org or send a Facebook message.

We recently recruited several fantastic new volunteers to work in the library so please keep your eye out for those new faces, who we are very happy to have on board!

For library queries, please email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 875267.

Hope to see you soon!

Wheatley Library
The Merry Bells
High St
Wheatley
Oxford
OX33 1XP



WELCOME to St Mary's Church

Come inside and access our new **Info Point** to appreciate every aspect of this historic building



It is impractical to keep this South Door open all the time but please go around to the North Door, which should be unlocked during normal daylight hours, and use your mobile 'phone, scan the QR code which is displayed inside, and explore your way all around the Church

Find out about:

- ❖ The architecture.
- ❖ The Dormer Monument.
- ❖ The unusual organ.
- ❖ Unique features.
- ❖ The font.
- ❖ The bells
- ❖ The empty external niches etc, etc.....



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7-8PM

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LITTLEMORE, OXFORD, OX46JZ

TONY SNELLGROVE

LADIES

TUESDAY
6-7PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

CAROL PHILLIPS

UNDER 12S

SATURDAY
10:30-11AM

REC FEILD OUTSIDE
VILLAGE HALL

HEIDI BATES

UNDER 11S

THURSDAY
5:30-6:30PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

RYAN UNDERWOOD

UNDER 9S

BOYS AND GIRLS

MONDAY (TERM TIME)

17:30-18:30

ON THE MUGA DURING WINTER.
ON REC FIELD FROM APRIL

DARREN GILL

WALKING

WEDNESDAY
6:30PM
FRIDAY
10AM

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The bottles are free and could save your life

All you need to do is complete the enclosed form, with details of your next of kin and any information about diagnoses, medication, allergies etc. Then pop the bottle in the shelf of your fridge door. You'll also find two green self-adhesive labels in the bottle. Put one on the inside of your front door and the other on the outside of your fridge.

Ambulance crews are trained to look for the green stickers

You can pick up your free bottle from:

Morland House Surgery
Health centres
Pharmacies

Or contact Rod Snowdon (Neighbourhood Watch)
on 07836 728919 or via the Village WhatsApp group.

It would be useful if you could let Rod know if you're using this scheme or if you find anywhere else that distributes the bottles.

Thank you.



THE MAPLE TREE TREASURER VACANCY

- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk.
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:



www.mapletree.org.uk



www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/

Registered charity no.: 1174117

OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION
WHEATLEY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB PROJECT
Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth Workers

The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm.

The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly, we are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Childrens opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing'

Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of 2 references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV's for the role, to request an application form please contact; Martin Gillett, OPA Manager. T = 07436 270267 or E = martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk

LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS

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If you are a parent looking for part time working to fit around childcare commitments or if you are a student spending the summer in the local area, and would be interested to work with us, we would love to hear from you!

We are looking for dedicated and people-orientated team members to join our award winning team. Hospitality experience is welcomed, however, training is provided and a willingness to learn and become part of our collaborative environment is more important.

We have full time hours, part time hours, evening and weekend working opportunities available in a variety of departments.

Please email careers.mqs@belmond.com who will be delighted to give you more information. Alternatively please scan the QR code below to send us your details.

Niall Kingston

General Manager





Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

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Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for
prebooked consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

Dispensary:

Note that our dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescriptions.

Please visit www.morland-house.co.uk for lots more information

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

Tickets £15. All profits to Sobell House Hospice.

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Ale, lager, wine, fizz, spirits, soft drinks
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Neighbours Hall, Great Milton.
Saturday 27 April 2024.
7:30 'till late.



**Saturday 18th May – concert
St Katherine's Church,
Chiselhampton**

7pm for 7.30pm start

£10 ticket (inc drink & nibbles)
– fundraising for St K's (massed
fiddles – jigs, reels, airs from UK,
Ireland, USA) - parking – follow
signs on day

Contact Moyna de Sélincourt
moynades@hotmail.com
07710074015



**Book Library
at the
Neighbours' Hall**

Open third or fourth
Friday of the month

Friday 22nd March 2024

11 am – 12 noon

- Come and take, swop or donate a book or two
- we also have a good choice of jigsaw puzzles
- We are providing tea, coffee and cakes in the
Orchard Room to enjoy whilst you browse!
- Please feel free to make use of the Library at any
time you visit the Neighbours' Hall

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The Three Villages Car service
exists to help people who are having
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appointments.

If you have to get to your GP
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Contribute to the collection
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Open on Wednesdays
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[http://www.great-milton.co.uk/
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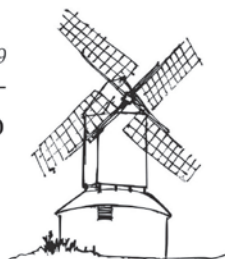
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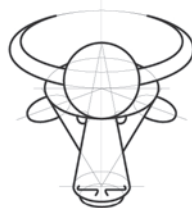
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01844 279761 07721 457035

JONNY@ORODRUI.CO.UK

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
- Wednesday 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- 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*

April

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| Sat 6th | Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Neighbours' Hall | — |
| Thurs 11th | Quiz Night at The Bull | 7:30pm |
| Fri 12th | Short Drag Roger at The Neighbours' Hall | 7:30pm |
| Sat 13th | Churchyard Clear-Up | 10:00am |
| Sun 14th | Litterpick No.2 at The Old Garage | 10:45am |
| Mon 15th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Sat 27th | Not the January Party at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |

June

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Sat 8th | Church Fete at The Recreation Ground | 2:00pm |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--------|

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th March 2024**.

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

Adverts to **Chris Ashworth** 07450 238474.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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