

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

August 2021

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

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## **Great Milton Parish Council**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Clyde Deacon</b>	<b>01844 279242</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>George Bennett</b>	<b>07482 339905</b>
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Peter Allen</b>	<b>01844 278334</b>
Ward:	Milton Common	

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **Parish Council Representatives**

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

**Cover:** What a difference a day makes...

**Photo:** Trudy Timbs.

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	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. John Anderson	01235 529563	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

### Transport

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

## **Draft Parish Notes – July 2021**

Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, held at the Pavilion on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs Steve Harrod (Chair), W Fox (Vice-Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, M Horsley and D Harms. Cllr C Deacon was absent. Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with two members of the public.

### **Peter Fewell**

Prior to the beginning of the meeting Cllr Harrod paid tribute to former councillor Peter Fewell. Great Milton Parish Council was very sad to hear of Peter's passing, and a moment of reflection was observed prior to the commencement of the meeting by way of remembrance.

No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda and no correspondence of note has been received.

### **Matters to Report**

Reports were received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook Ward). These are available on the parish council website. Cllr Fox raised a potential issue with a sub-5-year land supply, which may leave the way open for speculative development. Cllr Caroline Newton will be contacted for clarification.

### **Public discussion**

Two reports of incomplete mowing of the allotment paths have been received. These have been referred to the contractor, and the situation has subsequently improved.

A resident raised concerns over an overgrown area of brambles on Fullers Field. Cllr Fox confirmed this: the Clerk will refer the matter via the Fix My Street web portal or arrange for it to be dealt with if necessary.

The same resident reported that tree roots have broken through the tarmac on the alleyway from The Green to Fullers Field. Councillors agreed with the resident concerned that it represents a trip hazard: the issue will be reported via the Fix My Street portal.

Overgrown brambles on the path to the side of the Recreation Ground were also reported. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk should arrange to have this dealt with as soon as possible.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S2278/HH (The Glass Onion Lower End Great Milton). Erection of Car Port with Solar PV Roof. Councillor Horsley reviewed this application. A neighbouring resident in attendance reported concerns that the planned car port was even taller

than the existing storage container currently occupying the location of the proposed carport, and which was clearly visible from their property, two trees have been removed which may have TPOs upon them, and that there will be a negative impact on the view from their property and on the visual amenity of the footpath, which was reported as well-used despite the applicant suggesting otherwise.

Councillor Horsley reported some objections from near neighbours, but also some support from other residents. It was suggested that a condition should be proposed for the use of non-reflective solar panels to minimise reflections and visual impact, and that concerns with the height of the structure raised by residents should be reiterated to the case officer. After discussion and taking all the evidence presented into account, 5 councillors agreed to recommend OBJECTION to SODC based upon the various factors outlined above, plus the general principle of the proposed development not being in keeping with the area. One councillor abstained as he was not fully aware of the development site. Councillors requested that SODC should investigate the felling of two trees as part of the development which may have TPOs on them and/or which may have been afforded protection as part of the application process.

P21/S2555/LDP (Maranta Thame Road Great Milton. Remove existing rear porch and conservatory. New single storey rear extension. Hip to gable extension with rear facing dormer. For reference only: consultation responses not sought by SODC due to 'lawful development' status.

P21/S2838/LB (Honeysuckle Cottage Lower End Great Milton). Replace existing paving with new paving, repaint all existing windows, side and rear doors and repaint external walls of a Grade II listed building. After brief review and discussion, all councillors agreed to SUPPORT the proposed development.

P21/S2858/HH and P21/S2859/LB (also Honeysuckle Cottage Lower End Great Milton). Demolition of existing conservatory and replacing it with orangery, widening of existing doorway to original size and lowering of cill to create new doorway to a Grade II listed building. Cllr Horsley reported an objection from a neighbour to the proposed development on the grounds of it not being in keeping with a Grade 2 listed building, but after review and discussion all councillors agreed to SUPPORT the proposed development.

The following planning decisions received were considered alongside outstanding planning matters:

P21/S1841/HH (Priors Gate Church Road Great Milton). Roof over outside dining area. Planning permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st June 2021 were received, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. 

## **Financial Resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses July/August. £508.85/£498.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production July. £229.80

Website hosting July/August (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99/£19.99

McCracken and Son. June mowing. £894

Green and Growing. Grove Footpath strimming. £120

Pet Waste Solutions. Dog bin emptying June. £43.20

Castle Water. Allotment water supply April-September 21. £17.60

Oxon South and Vale Citizen's Advice. Donation. £100

Gillett and Johnston. Annual clock service. £428.46

Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary. Donation in lieu of Internal Auditor's fees. £100

Oxfordshire County Council. Initial speed reduction works in Milton Common. £8,003.16.

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements for June were reviewed, signed and approved. The reconciled bank balance as of 6th July was £53,564.45.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

The dog bins now seem to be being emptied as scheduled. The Parish Council will therefore continue its arrangement with Pet Waste Solutions for two-weekly emptying until further notice.

### **COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

No significant local developments were raised with regard to the current pandemic.

### **Milton Common speed mitigation scheme**

Oxfordshire County Council is in the process of scheduling the first phase of the works in Milton Common. These will hopefully get under way before the end of the summer.

Request for donation: Clean Slate

Clean Slate provides long-term emotional support for survivors of abuse in Oxfordshire and aims to encourage individuals to explore their own mental health needs and adopt coping strategies for long-term recovery. It was AGREED to donate £100 to support the work of Clean Slate at the next meeting in September.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th September 2021 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm. There is no meeting in August, but the Clerk remains on hand to deal with any issues or queries.

*Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council*

## Benefice Services August

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	MW/Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	MW/Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th	MW/Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd	Zoom Service and Reflection 9:00am (A short 20-minute service for those who cannot attend the Benefice Service) 5th Sunday Benefice Service at St. Mary's, Great Milton 10:00am		
Sunday 29th	4th Sunday Benefice Service: CW Holy Communion 10:00am (A special service that takes place once a year in the beautiful and historical surroundings of Rycote Manor Chapel)		

## Benefice Services September

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 5th	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	MW/Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	MW/Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 19th	MW/Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 26th	Zoom Service and Reflection 9:00am (A short 20-minute service for those who cannot attend the Benefice Service) 5th Sunday Benefice Service at St. Peter's, Great Haseley 10:00am		

From the 1st Sunday in August, we will be starting once again back in our churches, returning for the time being to the pattern we had before the pandemic forced changes upon us. However, we will be reviewing this pattern in the Autumn. For the time being our services in August and September will be:

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship, a contemporary form of worship

MW / Fam = Morning Worship / Family

## **The Rector's Pint**

The beginning of August will see a return to the regular pattern of worship that we had before the pandemic. We are though committed to a review of this which will take place in the Autumn. Of course, as we return to some kind of 'normal', we will need to continue to be considerate of others, which is absolutely correct and rather a good principle to live our lives by!

While there can be no guarantee that restrictions will not return, we all hope that this will not be the case. I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have journeyed with us through this time, those who have joined in with the zoom services or who have responded to some of the material that has been sent out every week as well as those who have returned to our simple Church services Sunday by Sunday. It has been a huge privilege to share in these. As far as the zoom is concerned, Cath and I have sat at the study desk with everyone on 'gallery view' and there has been such an extraordinary sense of connection. I have also really enjoyed the simplicity of our church services. Through it all I believe that God has been there, giving us new opportunities, and encouraging us to continue to support each other. For our online service, I have really enjoyed hunting for new and different pieces of music as well as finding versions of the old and familiar, who can forget our wonderful Russian with his huge beard singing 'O the deep deep love of Jesus.' And of course, there has been Malcolm Guite, with some of his extraordinary poems.

As we return to some kind of normal, it won't be without a sense of loss, at least for me, and a gratitude, paradoxically for some of the high points of the last eighteen months.

A huge thank you to you all. In the middle of all the difficulties, it has been a real joy.  
*Simon*

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## **Bellringer Shortage!**

Great Milton desperately needs more ringers. Due to the virus, and the sheiding - we were unable to ring for the Christmas services, normal services, special events, and more recently a local wedding. We are having our first practise this week, after almost 18 months. There are only 8 GM ringers and we are not as young as we were, however we can teach and we can help new ringers to learn and enjoy the bells. You don't need to be particularly strong, and you don't have to be musical - come and give us a go - you would be very welcome!

*GMB*

## Action For Children

### Thank You

On behalf of Action for Children I would like to thank everyone for your support by continuing to hold an Action for Children home collection box. The total this year was £437.06. Thank you again for your support it is very much appreciated.

*Yvonne Cartwright*

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## Great Milton Bellringers

### News from the Tower

We held our first practise for 18 months - all windows open so lots of fresh air!

Everyone was pleased to be back and to prepare for the wedding in August.

Sad news is that Mike O'Brian has died - he left GM about 10 years ago and went home to Scunthorpe. He was a clever, gentle member of the Tower, and wrote 4 short pieces for the band to ring - he called it the Four Seasons. He used to play his guitar in the pub sometimes, and also the piano. He was a keen supporter of the darts and Aunt Sally teams. We will ring his Four Seasons for him later in the year, and we will remember a kind and popular ringer.

On a happier note, Hazel Hand was presented with her Guild Certificate, so is now a fully qualified member of the Guild. She joined the band before lockdown, and then has had a long wait until now for her certificate. A very welcome and happy ringer!

After such a difficult time, we are all looking forward to regular practises and ringing for all the events as usual.

*GMB*

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## St Mary's Churchyard

For centuries our churchyard has had a special place in our village; it is where those who have died in the faith have been buried and where they can be remembered. It is a place of quiet contemplation and remembrance, as well as, for many, tender feelings and painful memories.

Over the past 10 years we have been fortunate that Peter Alden has managed the churchyard, personally putting in many hours of work, being supported by Stuart Gray and Geoffrey Payne who have diligently mowed the grass. Peter also organised 

a churchyard clear-up twice yearly, which was well supported by many from the village. He has stepped down from his role and we shall miss him. We are all most grateful for the way in which he has cared for the churchyard.

I have been asked to take over, and am conscious that I do not have the skills that Peter has, so I shall need help both in the week by week maintenance and advice as to the best way to manage the churchyard.

So, I am looking for advice and support on the following:

- There are many church yards which are developed as wildlife havens: should we do the same? If so how might we develop this?
- We generate a huge amount of biodegradable material from the church yard. How might we best manage this?
- The regulations stipulate that graves and memorial stones should adhere to certain criteria, not all of which we meet. These can be found at

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Churchyard-Regulations-2016.pdf>

To extract a few of them: plantings over the grave (severely restricted) plastic trappings (not permitted) shiny memorial stones (not permitted). How do we apply these regulations, with a gentle, supportive and sympathetic hand?

And a final two questions for your consideration: the bins: like most dwellings in the village, there are three bin types, grey (general waste), green (general recycling) and brown (garden waste). On the top of the brown bin it states “Please do not put plastic or wire into this bin”. Today, less than 24 hours after last inspecting the bin I removed a plastic bag from one brown bin, several plastic bags from the other. (1) Why is this happening? (2) How might we prevent this?

If you have comments on any of the above, please let me know.

Best wishes to you all and I look forward to welcoming you to an autumn’s clear up in the churchyard, later this year.

Tony Jefferis – [afjefferis@btinternet.com](mailto:afjefferis@btinternet.com) – 01844 27874

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## **Internet Upgrade Opportunity**

Dear Villagers,

We have an opportunity to upgrade the quality of the internet in the village. Most of the village has Superfast internet capability which means that we have optical fibre connectivity to the grey cabinets dotted around the village. This is called Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC). Unfortunately we all have the old wiring from the cabinet to our

houses. The current internet speeds are probably ok for what we all use it for now, however the need for more speed will come, and it will come more rapidly. More and more of us are going to spend more time working from home in the future, and the demands created by our devices will increase as we move to Ultra High Definition streaming, and immersive 3D video gaming.

The government is running a scheme where we can apply as a group to receive a voucher of £1500 per household towards the cost of having our households wired up for the future. This is called Fibre To The Property (FTTP). We do need to apply as a group. Our village qualifies for the vouchers as our speeds are typically considerably less than 100MBPS. The new speeds will be around 1000MBPS which, on average, is 20x faster than what most of us have now.

The more people we have signed up, the more likely that sum total of all the vouchers, are of covering the cost of installing fibre to our households. The two key benefits of this will be future-proofing your internet connection and saleability of your house.

Things to be considered are as follows:

- We have to apply as a village group
- We have to pledge the voucher to one supplier who will do the cabling
- After the cabling is installed we will have to sign up a contract for the internet from that supplier for a minimum of one year
- We will have to pay for a minimum of double the speed we have now (the more speed you want the more you have to pay). It will be more expensive than what you pay for the internet currently
- You may have to pay to exit your current contract if you are with a different supplier.

If you are interested, please email me, [Malcolm.horsley1@btinternet.com](mailto:Malcolm.horsley1@btinternet.com), with your address. If I can gauge enough interest, I will start the application process.

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## **Neighbours' Hall Book Club**

This is such a nice but rather underused community facility at present so we are opening up for about an hour every third Friday of the month to encourage people to come along and borrow, swop or donate a book or two - we have some jigsaw puzzles and DVDs to choose from as well.

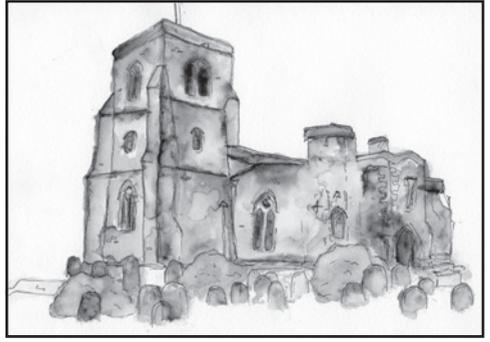
Our next open session is Friday 20th August at 11am. We will be providing teas and cakes outside in the Neighbours Hall garden that morning so come along and enjoy a browse and a cup of tea! We look forward to seeing you there.

*Barbara and Hazel*

## Local talent

Jane Goddard's wonderful collection of cards she painted during lockdown made well over £500 for church funds. We are so grateful to her and to Jonathan Dudley who printed them.

Now we have another card for sale, this time painted by talented 12 year old Maya



Roach. Maya won the art competition at our Great Milton Street Fayre with this beautiful painting of our church. These are for sale for £1.00 each (including envelope) and can be purchased in the church or from Clare B-P

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## Great Milton History

Here's a piece of Village history to keep you going!! – we will be back to normal opening by the end of July – see you then!!

We are planning an occasional item featuring characters of the village in the past. Should you wish to suggest or submit a tribute, let us know at GMH!

**From the Great Milton Bulletin, September 1982**

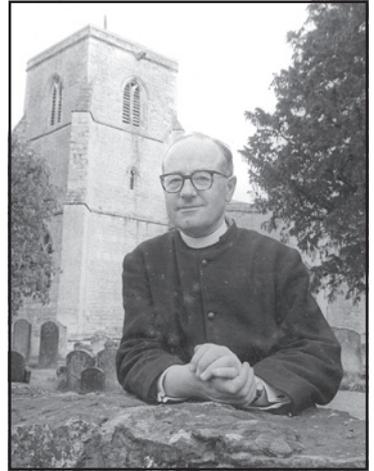
**Eric Paul Baker**

**Priest**

**14/9/06 – 29/8/82**

As everyone in Great Milton must know, our previous Vicar came back to the village from his retirement home in Oxford on Sunday 29th August, enjoyed lunch and tea with some of his former parishioners, and collapsed and died of a heart attack as he was bicycling back along the Marston Ferry Road. It came as a great shock to all of us when we heard, and yet we cannot but feel that it was just the way he would himself have wished to go.

So many memories of his personality come to mind. Over all the years he was with us, he never failed to call, with his bicycle (as his predecessors would have done with their horses), on every new arrival; he welcomed them to the village, though never during those visits would he have dropped any hints about the services in his church.



There can be few places besides Great Milton where the boys and girls who sang in the choir or helped in other ways were rewarded afterwards by the gift of a “study” which more often than not was an illustrated Christies catalogue (unless the recipient happened to be a philatelist when it would be some foreign stamps instead). He used to go to the School twice a week during term time, singing the forthcoming hymn to himself as he cycled there; in consequence he was well known to all the younger generation too, and it hardly came as a surprise to many of the older parishioners to discover how good he was with these young people – perhaps it was because he always treated them as adults. It was never Christian names, always Miss This or Mr That though they were only ten years old or so.

Even with those of his own age, people whom he had known for half a century, he never ventured to progress to Christian name terms. And if he should pass one in the road, on his bicycle of course, it would be “Happy Ninth Sunday after Trinity to you” or whatever Feast was appropriate. The wireless set and the internal combustion engine: this was how he referred to the machines which many of us have for some years called radio and cars.

Many of us will miss him, and not only those friends in the village whom he used to visit regularly each week, and those who had moved away but were still inside cycling distance of Great Milton. The length of the list of contributors to his leaving present, and the number who came to his funeral are a sure proof of that.

### **Memories**

In the ‘70s, on a Saturday morning, the Reverend Baker would visit Sylvia Preston’s mother for a small sherry and would stand in front of the open fire, coat tails hoisted – sometimes definitely scorching! Les Preston.

My mother Jean would often recall how the Reverend Baker would cruise down the hill outside Harrington House on his bicycle, legs outstretched, with a long and joyous “Wheeee...”. Jonathan Dudley.

It was a cold January night in 1974. We had just moved ourselves to Pippins with a hired truck, and were settling (exhausted) in to a quick fish and chips supper and bed. There was a knock at the door and a vicar came in, welcomed us to Great Milton, and shared our supper. It was the Reverend Eric Baker!

On one occasion, in the Church porch, I saw the Reverend Baker examining a notice on the noticeboard. “Out of date and a little frayed around the edges. How like our own dear Church of England” he commented.

Our five year old, Jo Summers was very taken with the Reverend Baker when he used to visit Little Milton School. A deep (and unlikely) friendship developed. On his death, she asked if she could attend his funeral. “No Flowers” said the 

invitation. “But they won’t mind wild flowers, will they.” And so it came to pass that, as the coffin processed solemnly and sadly to the grave, a little posy of buttercups was balanced unsteadily on top.

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## View from Views

I think I have mentioned before that our field margins where we have planted wildflowers didn’t seem to have so many flowers this year, this is certainly the case but what I have noticed an increase in many other species and many beneficial plants that don’t necessarily have flowers, the other observation I have made is that where we have run or walked over any area this has also reduced this sort of growth illustrating my point that it is important to be careful where we tread. It is wonderful at this time of year to be able to not how just by letting nature take it’s own course how such a variety of plants appear, we left a small part of our lawn uncut just to see, it has already got Scabious, Knapweed, wild geranium, yarrow, plus plantains and that’s just 3 months of no cutting. It’s good to see the roadsides where Little Milton has adopted this action, where there are already many species flourishing, pity other councils don’t do the same, here in Great Milton there are many areas that could benefit by being left, and save the Parish Council budget, as they always seem to find it difficult to fund other items around the village.



Another observation I have made whilst looking a Deer early one morning that was walking down one of the tramlines. Let me just explain a tramline as some readers may not quite understand the terminology, these are the wheel makings that are obvious at this time of year. These are set out by programming the seeder, at the time of planting, to miss a row or two at a specified distance to suit the fertilizer spreader and sprayer, so that the operator knows exactly where to drive without running on too much crop. Back to the point, many years ago it was very annoying to see the damage that Deer would do to a crop that now does not seem to occur, it dawned on me as to why this does not happen anymore and I is because we have these tramlines which is easier for them to walk through that a standing crop, so another plus to technology.

I don’t think I have ever seen so much growth as there has been this year. This weather has certainly suited this farm, which tends to be on the dry side, not that you would think it last winter, our Barleys look amazing where there is some, I fear that we could have a problem in storing it all. About half of the Barley looking like I have never seen before with loads of straw and good looking ears the other ½ although

looking good there is nothing in the bare patches where the winter had its toll. The Wheat is looking average, which is all very reassuring as usually at this time of year we are worried that our crops are in danger of drying out no chance this year.

When I last wrote the news of the Australian trade deal had only just hit the press and I did not have any details to hand, in order to make comment. Now however I have a clearer picture and I'm sure most of you will understand why we farmers are somewhat concerned, and basically the Australian farmers have the lower costs of production, due mainly, to the fact that they are allowed to use methods which have been banned in the UK, some for very good reasons of health, & animal welfare, and also I get the impression the cost of their land, being a lot lower than ours to start off with. As all legislation relating to our production methods have been driven by public opinion it seems bizarre that HM Gov and the trade secretary seem to have ignored this fact. We were led to believe by our vociferous PM that our food production methods would be preserved at all costs, to which end the Government installed a commission to monitor this sort of deal, but so far have not appointed its chair, which sort of begs the question who means what, or what do we believe. Basically it has to be good for the country as a whole, and good to be dealing with a country that is more related to us than the Europeans, and as long as things are labelled as produce of wherever, in understandable labelling it should not be a problem, then if the public want that produce then we know not to care for our animals or the countryside or global warming!!! Otherwise the comment that the Government has "thrown the farming industry under a bus" starts to ring through.

I often refer to the conundrums we have to face, we laugh at Jeremy Clarkson when he refers to them but here is an example as printed in our this month's union journal. The Police are advising s to create barriers around our property to deter criminals from hare coursing joy riding committing wildlife crimes etc., on their land. The union warns us that we should before digging ditches or creating earth bunds, check that this does not contravene existing rules regarding our various payment rural support schemes. We should also consider if our land is an "SSSI", or a "special area of conservation" also does it cross a footpath, or interfere with a "scheduled monument", where is the earth for a bund from, does it need a waste disposal licence, and is free of all contaminants?, and so on.

*Charles Peers*

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## Little Milton WI

In July, we all met in Jane's garden for a Summer Celebration Garden Party with lots of tea, cake and Prosecco. It was also an opportunity to display our handmade WI bunting, see the LMWI archives and meet the WI advisor. Thank you to Jane & Mark for hosting and to everyone who came and made it a memorable afternoon.

Our next meeting on Thursday 12th August is a Day Trip - hopefully to the Oxford Botanic Gardens. Contact me if you're interested in coming along, Our plan for the future is to be back in the Pine Lodge in September, everything crossed!

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. Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month

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

Like us at [www.facebook.com/Impinelodge](https://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge)

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

Kath Stacey 279438 or email [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## News from The Pine Lodge

The Annual General Meeting for the Hall was held on 13th July which included a summary of the limited activities over the last year and an update on the Halls finances. During lockdown the kitchen in the hall was renovated replacing the almost 20 year old cooker and improving the cleaning capabilities (glasswasher, etc), plus putting up serving screens. Financially the hall was profitable last year having received several grants awarded by the government to closed halls.

A date for your Diary - On Saturday 28th August we plan to hold two events, one in the afternoon, and a second in the evening in the village under the banner "Little Milton Unlocked".

In the afternoon starting at 1 pm until 5 pm there will be a village Fair on the Recreation ground for adults and children. There will be Live Music, a children's Fun Run, childrens Craft Activity tent, a Bird Show, a Classic car and Agricultural vehicle exhibition, several free children's Rides, and several Stalls.

At the Hall in the evening we are hosting Celebrity Big Band, a 20 piece 1940's Swing Band with a bar and space to dance. Doors open at 6:30pm. For those who have

not got a ticket yet they are on sale at the Village Shop.

Regular activities at the Hall include:

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am (y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

Yoga with Alice on Tuesdays at 9:30am and Thursdays at 6.30pm

Advanced Textile workshop on Wednesday 9:30am with Amargeet (amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Yoga and Pilates Friday 9:30 with Lee (lee@grahamcaulfield.co.uk)

Please contact the organisers to confirm their current schedules and availability as the number of participants are currently limited. For enquires please contact linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com. For more details about the Hall please go to <https://www.hugofox.com/community/the-pine-lodge-7832/home>

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## **Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society**

Earlier this month I read an article in The Guardian by James Wong who some of you will have seen on television. It struck a chord with me as it was entitled 'Break the rules and you'll be a happier gardener'. The previous day my daughter had shown me a plant and asked me if it was a weed. I have long subscribed to the idea that a weed is simply a plant in the wrong place. It may also be a plant you dislike, but would usually be considered an ornamental plant. It was a pretty little wild Geranium with a relatively large pink flower so I asked her if she liked it and she said she did. Therefore, we agreed it should stay where it was as it was doing no harm. There are a number of plants in my garden which I hate, but can't get rid of, and top of the list is *Acanthus mollis* which is a rather statuesque plant and is normally very well-behaved staying in one clump. In my garden it has spread and seeds freely so I now have multiple plants. It is unresponsive to weed killers and cannot be dug out. All I can do is make sure I catch all the seed or new seedlings. Never plant this unless you are going to love it forever!

The discussion of breaking rules reminded me of my early gardening days when I learned a huge amount from a neighbour who was very knowledgeable and very definite about what she did and didn't like. I used to worry about whether she would approve of my planting, particularly as I had a garden centre habit. Another neighbour consoled my husband saying that he ought to be glad I didn't have a Bond Street habit! One day I saw on TV an interview with the late Christopher Lloyd who owned the famous garden, Great Dixter. The interview concerned his digging up of the rose garden which had been planted by his parents many decades before. This was clearly

considered a very bad thing by the great and good. The roses had been replaced by a tropical garden which included many plants which might have been tender, but in the courtyard setting did very well. When asked why he had done this, he simply said “I don’t like roses”.

This interview changed completely the way I gardened. From that day on I chose and planted the plants I liked because it is our garden and I don’t need to consider what anyone else thinks other than my husband. It felt like freedom not worrying whether I was doing the right thing. Of course, I often suffered casualties for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes it was my inexperience or lack of knowledge and sometimes choosing the wrong place. Probably the only rule I follow is not to plant acid loving plants in my alkaline soil and even that is broken with a raised bed which contains sentimental plants from my previous garden and those which came from my mum’s garden. I’m fond of Phlox which do not do well in our sandy soil and have to be watered, but most other plants just have to get by with little additional water.

So, go ahead and break the rules, and grow what you like even if other people might consider them are weeds; it’s your garden.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the current sunny hot weather. For me it is too hot to do much gardening other than watering my pots, the vegetables and new plants!

*Liz Moses*

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## Wheatley Library

We are delighted to be able to expand our opening hours a little with further increases planned in mid- August and early September. This also means we will be able to restart some of our usual events before long. To keep up to date with news about Wheatley Library follow Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook.

If you are interested in volunteering within the library please come in and chat to us. A variety of roles are available.

*Wendy Stanton*

*(Wheatley library manager)*

**Amended Wheatley  
Library Hours**

**Interim Open Hours**

**Tuesday 2pm-5pm**  
**Wednesday 9.30am-1pm and  
2-5pm**  
**Thursday 2pm-5pm**  
**Friday 9.30am-1pm and  
2-5pm**

**Welcome back!**

The library is in the upper level of  
the Merry Bells Village Hall.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

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**Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details**

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#### Moonrakers: 1 Aug, 6pm

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For further info please visit [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)  
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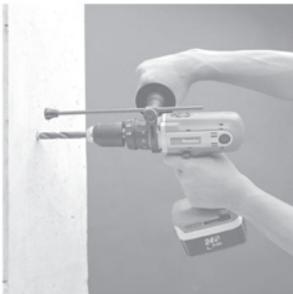
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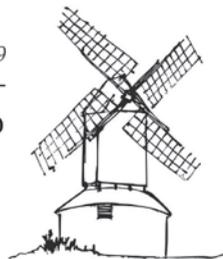
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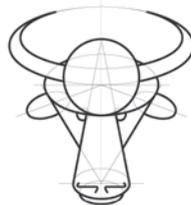
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# Diary

- Monday Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
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Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday  
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
*or by appointment*
- Thursday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
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*  
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 Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490*
- Saturday 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 281345*

## August

- 12th Thurs Little Milton W.I Day Trip to Oxford Botanic Gardens —
- 20th Sat Neighbours' Hall Book Club 11:00am
- Little Milton Unlocked – Little Milton Village Hall 1:00pm

## September

- 20th Mon Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion 7:30pm

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th September 2021**.

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

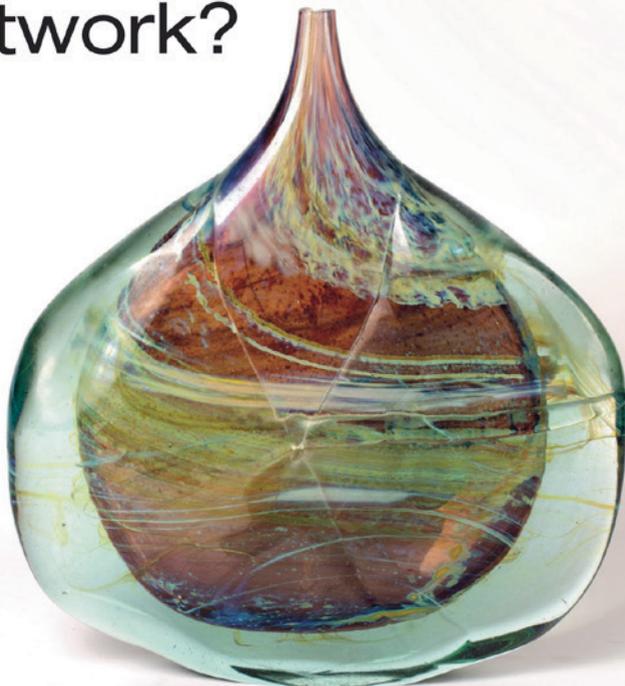
Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.

01844 278347 • [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

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