

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

November 2019

Published by the Parish Council

No. 547



Parish Council Publication Scheme (*Freedom of Information Act*)

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. These records include minutes, financial information, and responses to planning consultations. Applications can be made to the Parish Clerk and documents viewed by appointment. Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	07401 399489
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	Michael Robinson, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Mushrooms at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons.
Photo: Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: 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. Adam Stevenson	01491 613223	
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

In My Opinion

Sir, the 'In my opinion' column seems quiet at the moment. I think the following items are worth a mention.

- Firstly, thanks are due to Johnny A. and Graham W. for sorting the blocked drain work near the old bridge bend on Sworford Lane.
- The other thing now coming up to its' two year anniversary is the broken brook rails in Sworford Lane, with debris still blocking the brook, waiting for its next victim!
- Gullies need cutting out near Lower End dip, (my job a few years ago) also very low tree branches need removing on the right hand side when leaving the village, if we have any heavy snow this winter it will have them down, a word in the right direction would help I'm sure.
- A mystery to solve, could you help? I have asked around but no one has an answer. What happened to the flowering almond tree that I planted some 25 years ago on the green near the old school? I suspect grass cutters were involved, but no proof, it flowered very well so was not dead.
- Potholes in Chilworth Farm Road were marked up a month ago, now all washed off so need doing again, this happens on a regular basis, what an utter waste of resources after a very dry summer!
- This is not on our patch I know but the A329 needs urgent attention due to drought shrinkage in the last two years. About three weeks ago I witnessed a near over turning going up the hill, it needs a lower speed limit until rectified, it is lethal.

Les Preston

Draft Parish Notes – October 2019

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st October were S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, P Fewell and G Bennet, plus Michele Block (Clerk, standing in for Tim Darch), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC), Gwen Harris (resigning Councillor) and 4 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr C Deacon.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th September were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Following her resignation, the Parish Council wishes to express its thanks to Gwen Harris for her valuable and enthusiastic contribution to village life during her time as a councillor. A casual vacancy has been notified to SODC and advertised locally: as

there have been no proposals for an election the post can now be filled by co-option. Volunteers are therefore sought for a new councillor to replace Gwen: if interested please contact the Clerk for more information.

The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly reports for October were received by the meeting and are available to view on the Parish Council website. Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) reported that the Chief Executive of the District Council is going to see the Secretary of State on Tuesday 22 October, as SODC are legally challenging the way that the Secretary of State intervened and prevented a debate and vote on the Draft Local Plan at the Full Council Meeting on 10th October. The outcome cannot be predicted, but all Councillors have been told that they cannot discuss the Draft Local Plan and that it is not to be used. The District Council has had to revert to the March 2013/14 Core Strategy and this is now being applied to all planning consents. This affects all planning, both for strategic sites and guidance for private planning permission. The delay in approving the SODC Local Plan means that the Harrington development will probably be pushed back for the foreseeable future, whilst the Chalgrove Airfield site remains in the balance. Homes England has bought all the land surrounding the airfield: this is thought to be as a contingency in case Martin Baker cannot be moved from the airfield site.

Correspondence and Public Discussion

A letter has been received from a young resident in Lower End, who has asked if the Parish Council can investigate the implementation of a 20mph speed limit zone in the centre of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to Highways about installing a timed 'flashing light' 20mph speed limit sign for school drop off/pick up times in the heart of the village.

A member of the public asked what influence the Parish Council has over the publication of the Great Milton Bulletin, which is supposed to be delivered on or around the 1st of the month. October's issue was not received by some until 14th October, by which time many events had been missed. Councillors agreed that production can occasionally be slower than is desirable, and volunteer distributors may not always deliver instantly. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Jonathan Dudley explaining that the PC has received complaints about the Bulletin's delayed appearance, and suggesting that the situation does need to improve. The Parish Council will review the situation in January 2020, and may need to investigate other options if consistency cannot be guaranteed.

It was suggested by a member of public that the Parish Council should write to Red Rose Bus Company and request that it re-routes one of its service 275 journeys from High Wycombe to Oxford through Great Milton. There is a scheduled bus 

that could reach the village at 10.30am to travel into Oxford and would return about 2.30pm from Oxford, which would be excellent for those without means of transport. It was discussed as to whether a financial incentive may make it more worthwhile for the bus company to re-route. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to write to Red Rose with these suggestions, although a similar question asked of them in the past elicited a negative response.

A member of the public reported that two Polish-registered articulated lorries nearly collided with him under the railway bridge at the end of Sworford Lane; they were taking up the whole road which is far too narrow for HGVs. The Parish Council agreed that they would again ask Highways to install signs showing that the M40 is straight ahead and not through the village; however as the location for the signs is on the A329 between the Pine Lodge and the Windmill Hill turnoff in Little Milton, Little Milton Parish Council will also have to be on board with this request. It was also suggested that a weight restriction sign be put on Sworford Lane.

The Parish Council acknowledged that despite requests it was yet to receive any information direct from the police about the recent accident involving a motorbike at the Windmill Lane/Forties junction. It seems that a motorcyclist coming from Wheatley direction may have cut the corner where there was a van coming in the opposite direction: a resident noted that this illustrates the need for full renewal of all white lines and SLOW markings on Windmill Hill. OCC advises that this work is scheduled and has been prioritised: 'Give Way' lines have already been restored at the Forties junction and 'SLOW' markings repainted on the Windmill Lane corner. The Clerk has once again sought an update from the police on this matter: this is awaited.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P19/S2743/LB and P19/S2475/LB (The Old Stores, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NT). Replace cracked and damaged single glazing with slim/heritage glazing in two bay windows (P19/S2743/LB) and repaint in Sage Green (P19/S2745/LB).

Cllr Fewell reported that this application was all quite straightforward and will in fact improve insulation at the property. The Parish Council deemed that this application was purely for listed building approval and agreed that it had NO OBJECTIONS.

The following planning decisions received were reviewed, along with any outstanding planning matters:

P19/S2358/HH (Brannock Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL). Removal of the single-storey ground floor kitchen and bathroom. New build replacement ground floor kitchen with utility, with new bedroom and bathroom over. Additional door to west elevation. Internal alterations. Permission has been GRANTED for the proposed

development detailed above.

P19/S2612/HH (3 Brookside Cottages Church Road Great Milton). Demolition of small brick lean to. Erection of new single storey stone brick extension with slate roof. Replacement of windows and new French doors. Permission has been GRANTED for the proposed development detailed above.

P19/S2462/FUL and P19/S2462/LB (1 Monkerly Farm Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PB). Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (EPS License), 5 (External Materials), 6 (Contamination Report) and 9 (Protected Species Mitigation Strategy) of planning permission P18/S3645/FUL for the conversion of a grade II listed barn into a dwelling. Permission has been GRANTED for the proposed development detailed above.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that SODC has imposed protection orders on 'some trees on land due west of Mount Pleasant Farm' as notified by a letter to the Parish Council dated 9th October. It was noted that the two trees in question are actually within the boundary of Mount Pleasant Farm, and not on the land itself.

The minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th September 2019 were signed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were signed and payments authorised:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses October. £436.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production October. £264.50

Green and Growing. Grass cutting September: £450

Wheatley Park School: prize-giving donation. £50

Jane Jefferis. Volunteer Car Scheme: reimbursement of fee for Public Liability Insurance. £35

Carina Martin: reimbursement for GMPC website SSL licence. £47.99

The monthly bank reconciliations, accounts and bank statements were approved and signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 October was £31,191.02.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

No flooding was observed near the railway bridge on Sworford Lane following the heavy rain at the beginning of the month, though this did return briefly this week. OCC and SODC have been informed. Many thanks to the landowner for clearing nearby ditches and culvert entrances: OCC are expected to be carrying out further maintenance in this area.

Roads have been re-lined and SLOW markings repainted in places along Windmill Hill, though not all have been dealt with. OCC has been contacted about this.



Other matters

Alyson Frost (Headteacher, Great Milton Primary School) attended the meeting with a member of the Board of Governors to deliver a progress report on measures to improve safety and reduce parking on the main road through the village at school drop-off and pick up times. Mrs Frost confirmed that recent school newsletters have reminded parents of the need for respectful parking in the village. Since the last meeting she has made a plea for volunteers to supervise a 'walking bus' through the village from specific drop off/pick up points such as The Bull Inn car park, as there are insufficient staff to supervise such a scheme. However, unfortunately no volunteers have yet come forward. Another idea being investigated is safe parking on village residents' driveways. Mrs Frost dropped off some signs which could be displayed on willing volunteers' gateposts. The Clerk will hold these for any volunteers who may come forward. Mrs Frost also confirmed that she spoke to the local PCSO in May: he walked the pavements with her but said that no one was parked illegally so there was little he could do. Councillors agreed that the situation had improved since the beginning of the year, and parents are definitely parking more considerately. The school confirmed that it would keep the pressure on regarding parking, so that parents/carers don't slip back into bad habits. The school is also encouraging children to use the free school bus which picks up from Tiddington, Milton Common and Great Haseley. On a separate matter, Mrs Frost mentioned that she would speak to 'Thunderbirds', a minibus operator the school uses for its daily outings to see if it is able to help with a village bus service to Wheatley.

Officers at OCC have been contacted with regard to an early discussion on the potential for a path to Wheatley. Unfortunately OCC does not have a scheme for a pedestrian/cycleway on or near Sworford Lane, and no funding is currently available for such a scheme, either to design one or for its delivery. The officer suggests contacting Sustrans or Greenways to see if they can help further. The Parish Council felt that this was a good idea and asked the Clerk to contact Sustrans to see if there was any help they could provide.

The Parish Council's objectives for the next financial year were considered and discussed. Cllr Fox had a couple of queries on the current budget which should be taken into consideration for next year's budget preparation. The Parish Council already appears to have overspent on the village maintenance budget with 6 months of the year remaining. However, investigations reveal that the apparent overspend is due to the refurbishment of the Milton Common bus stop (£920, of which half has been covered by a contribution from OCC) and a payment for the maintenance agreement for the defibrillator (£162, which may be better allocated to another 'line' of the budget). It

was also noted that having reached the end of the grass cutting season only just over half of the budget appears to have been used (although one payment has not yet been recorded): this is believed to be partly due to drier weather over the summer and also a reduced number of cuts needed on the recreation ground as a result of the demise of the village football team.

After some discussion it was agreed to base this year's precept on a 5% increase (it has been 6% for the past two year), this can be altered if necessary when the draft budget is presented. It was suggested that money be put aside for extensive tree surgery which will be needed in the village in the next few years. Cllr Allen will work on a draft budget plan.

It was agreed to defer discussion of the Parish Council's draft Data Protection and Freedom of Information policies to next month, to ensure that all Councillors have had sufficient time to read the documents.

Oxfordshire County Council has proposed transport measures in the 'Eastern Arc' of Oxford (which broadly encompasses Summertown, Marston, Headington and Cowley), including initiatives such as a Workplace Parking Levy, traffic restrictions (e.g 'bus gates') and bus service improvements. Cllr Harrod summarised this scheme, which looks to eventually make the Park and Ride around the city free of charge to encourage people off the road in Oxford. All the proposals including suggested parking levies are to discourage people from driving to and parking at work in Oxford. It was mentioned that the bus service would need to improve before this would work, as buses move extremely slowly in and around the city at present. However, all Councillors felt it was a positive proposal.

It was noted with regret that Great Milton Football Club unfortunately folded in September after 89 years, largely due to insufficient player numbers. All councillors agreed that this was sad news for the village, especially when coupled with the loss of the village darts team which has also recently folded due to lack of numbers.

A resident has observed and reported frequent pavement parking on the one-way section of the village green. All Councillors had looked at the photographic evidence that had been provided, and although it was felt there is no need to park on the pavement (as there is sufficient room for two cars on this section of the road around The Green) it was not thought to be a significant problem. There appeared to be plenty of room on the pavement to get a push chair or wheelchair past the car. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should send a note back to the resident thanking them for informing the Parish Council of the situation and that Councillors will continue to monitor developments over the coming months.

Oxfordshire's volunteer transport providers have been notified that 

the FISH Volunteer Centre in Sonning Common is selling its current minibus for £12,000 as a new one has been purchased. The Parish Council has been asked whether this may be of interest to the village. Councillors discussed this offer and agreed that although it would be a lovely idea, the Parish Council doesn't have the financial resources or a sufficient pool of volunteers to run a Community Bus. Additionally, previous trial schemes have shown there is insufficient day-to-day demand for such a facility. Unfortunately therefore the Parish Council is not in a position to pursue this opportunity at the present time.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18 November starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Ramblings from the Rectory

Remember Remember.....

November is a month of remembering, 'remember remember the 5th of November' as the rhyme goes, a rather curious commemoration of a plot to blow up the houses of parliament that ended with a fizzle rather than a bang!

And then of course there is Remembrance Sunday on 10th November. Please see below the details for the various services that will be held around the Parishes. Last year, in addition to the other remembrance services we held a service at Little Milton at 6.00pm to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the armistice that brought an end to the hostilities on the Western Front in 1918. This was meant to be a one off event, however by popular request we are hosting another one this year. There will however be no Holy Communion service in Little Milton that day at 8.00am.

Last month I gave advance notice of another event of remembrance which I would like to remind you of again here. It is a service of commemoration and thanksgiving for the departed. It will be a time to remember loved ones, 'Those whom we love but see no longer.' We will sing four hymns, say some prayers, hear a brief address and read out names of our loved ones and light candles in their memory. The service will be at St Mary's Great Milton on Sunday 17th November at 4.00pm. It will be followed by tea and cake!

This will a service for the combined parishes of Great Milton, Little Milton and Great Haseley. If there is an ongoing demand we will then look at rotating the service annually around each of the Churches in turn. It won't matter if the people we remember have never lived in the villages, what matters is that those of us who do

Services in Our Benefice for November

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am with Act of Remembrance at War Memorial	Service of Remembrance 6:00pm	Benefice Remembrance Service with Act of Remembrance at War Memorial 10:45am
Sunday 17th <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	Family Service 11:00am Service of thanksgiving and commemoration for the departed 4:00pm	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>Sunday next before Advent</i>		Benefice Communion CW 10:00am	

Services in Our Benefice for December

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Advent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

will have an opportunity to give thanks and commemorate the lives of loved ones who have died.

Also in November, the day before this (a busy weekend) there will be another men's breakfast at Anthony Ayton's home, Furlong Cottage in Lower End Great Milton. We have only had two breakfasts so far. These were actually encouraged by Carol Ayton. Carol is sadly no longer with us but I gave a commitment to her before she died that we would do our best to hold these occasional breakfasts. This time, I fully intend that the men should do all the cooking and clearing up! There will be a full 

English breakfast for those who want one followed by a talk for Dr Toby Garfitt about his life as an Oxford University Academic and the opportunities and challenges for his christian faith that that brought. This is an opportunity to hear someone reflect about his life through the lens of faith. We have so far had two really good presentations, the first from our own Tony Jefferis and the second from a friend of mine Chris Tyrer who reflected on his life as a judge. It would be very helpful for me to have numbers in advance so that we can cater accordingly.

Finally.....At the other end of the age range, I am pleased to say that once again at the Pine Lodge in Little Milton there will be another advent activity morning for primary school. This is organised for children from all the villages, and even further! This was really successful last year and it is back by popular demand! Please do look at the details elsewhere in this publication and book with Sally Anne Dennis.

Busy month, November....

Simon

Sunday 10th November, Remembrance Sunday.

9.30 am. Commemoration at St Mary's war memorial followed by a service of Holy Communion.

10.45 am. Commemoration at Great Haseley War memorial followed by a service of remembrance.

6.00 pm. St James' Little Milton a service of remembrance

Men's Breakfast.

Saturday 16th November Furlong Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton. 8.30am – 10:30am. Please contact me, Simon Cronk simon.cronk@btinternet.com 01844278349

Service of thanksgiving and commemoration for the departed.

Sunday 17th November

St Mary's Great Milton 4.00pm.

Advent Activity morning. Saturday 30th November.

Pine Lodge Little Milton 10.00am 12.00pm. Contact Sally Anne Dennis at iandennis@btinternet.com 01844 278029

From the Registers

We remember the family of James Henry Axtell 24th April 1934 - 16th September 2019 whose funeral was held at Oxford Crematorium on Friday 4th October.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Canon Dr Martin Wellings on 01865 243216

November				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Lenton/Afzal Gill	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanne Tulloch	
17th	11:00am	St. Mary's		United Service
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Simeon Mitchell	

The Editor would like to apologise to all for the incorrect dates printed in the October issue. My mistake.

Our Advent Activity Morning...

By popular request, we're putting on another Advent Activity and Storytelling Morning... Here are some details:

Who is it for?

Primary school aged children between five and eleven years old.

When is it?

Saturday morning November 30th, 2019.

Drop off at 10.00am.

Collection at 12.00 pm.

Where is it?

The Pine Lodge, Little Milton.

Is there a charge?

No.

Please book your place by contacting:

Sally Ann Dennis at iandennis1@btinternet.com

or by phoning 01844 278029

When you book you will receive a Registration Form to complete and bring with you to the morning.

Great Milton History

COME AND SEE US IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30th 12:00 – 2:00 MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

as well as... lots of booklets for Christmas presents, the trusty Blakeston Survey, the draft CD of the churchyard project will be available to watch. There will be the map and photographs of at least 75 of the Village wells and pumps so far discovered in Great Milton.

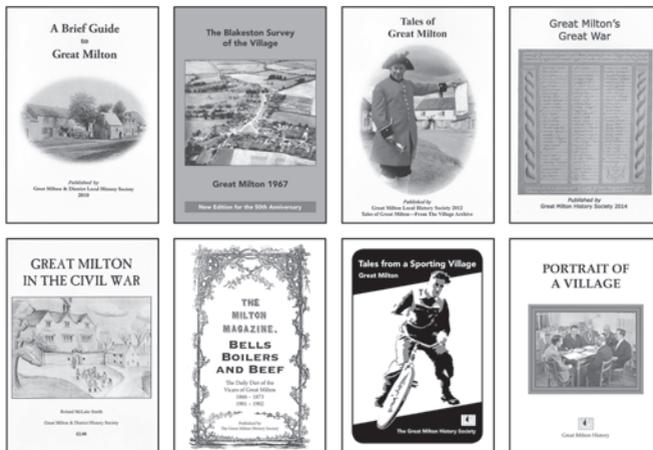
All the normal photographs and documents will be available as usual.
You will be very welcome.

We have received the attached picture and would like information where the picture was taken, when it was taken and if anyone recognises anyone in the picture.

Contact Pat on 279300 or Ian on 279489.



Great Milton History has a range of fascinating booklets for sale



**Drop in to the Community Room at The Bull
any Wednesday from 11:30am to 12:30pm**

Senior Citizens Party Committee

AGM

To be held on Wednesday 20th November at The Bull at 8:00pm. All welcome.

Quiz – Friday 22nd November

Neighbours Hall – 7:30pm

Teams of up to 8 people. Entry fee £5.00, which includes a ploughman's supper. Beer, wine and soft drinks for sale. To enter, please ring me on 01844 279474. All funds raised will go towards the Annual Party.

Ann Price (Secretary)

Great Milton Freecycle

How it all started and the events

The Freecycle was started by a group of individuals in 2012 shortly after the feedback from the survey undertaken as part of the Village Plan. Since then, the Great Milton Freecycle group have organised three events every year held at The

Pavilion in Great Milton. During the events, residents can bring their unwanted, clean and reusable items, which can then be taken free of charge by any other resident. The ultimate aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, creating a more sustainable village and county. Every item taken away is recorded and weighed. A small tea and coffee shop is also offered to create a social element to the events and provides an opportunity for residents to advertise any larger items they no longer use or need and which they cannot bring along to the event. Freecycle group members carefully sort any items left over. These items are taken to charity shops or are advertised on line or on Facebook. During 2019 three Freecycle events have been held. 126 people in total have attended and 576.45 kg have been recycled and reused.

Great Milton Freecycle comes under the umbrella of a countywide organisation The Community Action Group (CAG) Project. The CAG Project supports 65 other Oxfordshire based community groups who share the aim of climate change action by organising events and projects tackling issues including waste, transport, food, energy, and biodiversity.

The last couple of years we've been able to continue thanks to a small grant from the Great Milton PCC to cover the hire of the venue. If there are any local businesses that would like to sponsor / support our Freecycle please get in touch.

The events managed to help local charities we recently received a letter from the Shaw Trust letting us know our donations has raised £120. Even further away our Freecycle is having a positive effect for children in India local residents have taken Art and Craft supplies from the event to provide activities!

Freecycle dates for 2020!!!

Come along and support our events whether you have items to offer / take away or for a cuppa and chat.

18th January

18th April

25th July

3rd October

The event runs from 10-11:30am items can be drop off from 9:30-10:15am unfortunately we are unable to accept any items after this time as we need the people to take them away.

If you aren't available on the dates above we may be able to store items by prior agreement. We've been able to assist residents with re-homing larger items which we are happy to do throughout the year for a small donation to support the continued running of the events, get in touch and see what we could do to help!

Get involved.....

If anyone is interested in running a repair café at the event please contact me, training can be arranged.

Year ahead.....

We have exciting ideas to expand the work of the group and increase the types of waste we can reuse or recycle. It will enable the continued work to support the Village Plan but also to work towards a more sustainable village generating a focus on climate change and sustainability, which we consider is hugely relevant and poignant at this time for every resident of Great Milton.

Kelly Wing, Miranda Cook and the Freecycle Team

Contact us on greatmiltonfreecycle@gmail.com or follow our Facebook page Great Milton Freecycle.

The Neighbours' Hall

As some of you will have seen the refurbishment continues apace. The Neighbours' Hall is still being used as the building work continues. This includes the regular bookings such as Yoga, Keep Fit and Bingo and "one off" events such as the Harvest Lunch and the extremely popular Cutting Edge Big Band, a great evening out for all those who attended.

Many have commented favourably on the improvements that have already been made, though there is still plenty to do: we hope it will be finished by the end of November. We remain grateful to David Putt and his team for their meticulous attention to detail, which epitomises John Ruskin's saying that: "Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort."

So continued thanks are due to:

- David and his team, for both their work and allowing the hall to be used throughout the refurbishment, with few hiccups,
- Sarah Evans for her thoughtful and imaginative plans
- those of you in the village who have given so generously
- our big funders: WREN (formerly Waste Recycling Environmental and now FCC Communities Fund) and the South Oxfordshire District Council.

There is still scope for further donations, large or small, to make a real impact on the work. Please contact Christine Donnelly, Yvonne Cartwright, Janet Smith or myself if you would like to discuss how your gift might be used.

Tony Jefferis

Ride & Stride – A Spiritual Endeavour

Ride & Stride is an annual one-day event that has been running for many years now during which walkers, cyclists and horse riders seek sponsorship to visit as many places of worship as possible for the purposes of raising funds for Oxfordshire's wonderful historic churches.

Thus it was that on Saturday, 14 September, six hardy members of your village's Cycling Association, Gill Standing, Helga Dowie, Clare B-P, Tony & Jane Jefferis and your correspondent, set forth full of optimism, excitement... and cornflakes. The afore-mentioned correspondent had devised what he thought was a lovely route, the intention being to work our way round the beautiful S Oxfordshire countryside in a gentle clockwise arc of about 40 miles.

The navigator managed to track down the two churches in Gt Milton easily enough, but Tetsworth proved an altogether more difficult proposition despite the fact that you can see its spire for bl**dy miles. It took three attempts (all uphill) and the intervention of a bewildered local before St Giles church was finally located, and the first seeds of doubt in the leader's navigational competence were sown, not for the first time in the GMCA's glorious history!

Next stop was St Andrew's, Wheatfield, a delightful little church set all by itself in the middle of a field and which used to be within the grounds of Wheatfield Manor, owned by the Spencer family. Sadly, the main house burnt down in 1814, and now only the church and a nearby complex comprising stables and a coach house remain.

Uneventful visits to the churches in Adwell, South Weston, and Lewknor followed; but it was at All Saints at Shirburn that matters took an unexpected turn as it transpired that it had been used as the location for bits of a number of episodes of Morse and Endeavour. This information was conveyed by Helga, the former Line Producer for both series, who regaled us with stories of Morse's mother being buried in the churchyard, someone being battered to death with a car starting handle (remember that one?), and Morse and a colleague nearly being blown up. Ultimately, the only way we were able to shut Helga up was to move hastily on to Watlington.

Having eventually managed to track down St Nicholas's at Britwell Salome, we then paid our respects at the grave of Jerome K Jerome and the tomb of Geoffrey Chaucer's grand-daughter, Alice, at St Mary's, Ewelme, before heading to Benson for lunch at the delightful Chrissy's Country Kitchen, behind the Crown PH. Try it as a less frenetic alternative to the Waterfront Café.

After further stops at Dorchester, and yet more interminable stories from Helga about filming bits of Miss Marple and Poirot, we turned for home via St Leonard's at

Drayton St Leonard, St John the Baptist at Stadhampton (an object lesson in how to develop a church as a community facility), St James at Lt Milton and finally St Peter's at Gt Haseley. The tea and cakes at the Gt Haseley Garden Party could not have been more welcome!

The group visited 20 beautiful churches in all, each with their own story to tell, in glorious sunshine, and raised a not inconsiderable sum (yet to be calculated at the time of going to press) for the preservation of these remarkable buildings. My thanks to my colleagues for their forbearance, and to those of you who sponsored us. A brilliant day... despite Helga's "Endeavours"!!

Bill Fox

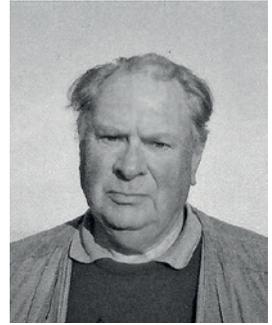


Do You Have Space on Your Drive around 8.30 and 3.30?

It's been suggested that residents living on The Green and Lower End could potentially offer up space on their drives if not in regular use at school pick-up and drop-off times, to alleviate pressure on the main road and hopefully reduce the risk of inconsiderate parking. This is one of a package of measures being explored by the Parish Council and Great Milton Primary School to improve safety and the village environment in general at these key times of day. If you feel able to offer up a space or spaces, please contact Tim Darch (Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council) on 07771 893191 for further information.

View From Views

When I last wrote we were Praying for rain now we are praying for it to stop, (maybe it will have by the time this is read), being worried that it was so dry that everything we had planted, mainly Oil Seed Rape and cover crops for winter sheep feed, would not germinate. However by the end of September, it looks more hopeful, perhaps as it had been so dry most of the seeds planted that had not germinated are now growing. The danger in a dry time that seed may have just enough moisture to germinate but then die, it remains to be seen how much will now grow. Now although the plant density is not great it should generate a reasonable crop, given a sensible growing season. All in all I think the rainfall for September was between 20-45% higher than average, with the overall total for the year so far well below average, in spite of the pundits saying it has been a wet year, they don't live here.



There is so much going on at the moment that it is hard to make any comment as by the time this is read everything could well be changed, we could be out of the EU, we could be in the middle of election fever (heaven forbid) we may have no parliament, we may have been forced to prolong the agony of negotiations for another 5 months who knows? So I think we will leave that subject as I don't know, you don't know, and if we did there is very little we could do about it anyway.

We are still being bombarded by all the do gooder's and know it all's who have a louder voice than those of us that have no good reason to stop eating red meat to save the planet, our souls, and anything else that condemns common sense. No one seems to take any notice of the few eminent professors who have countered all their arguments so we just have to soldier on just hope we get the support after Brexit that we are promised. It is I understand seriously undermining the beef industry, and taken to the conclusion they are after gone will be the green fields of England, Wales, & Scotland.

On the subject of shooting pests, I think largely this has been sorted but I am sure it will mean even more bureaucracy for us. It seems to me that this is whole issue has been instigated to silence the vocal minority, we are only talking about pests not endangered species, I cannot see a decline in any of them. I read somewhere where the species were listed, it specifically stated that it did not include feral Pigeon what is the difference between a Wood Pigeon (specifically mentioned) and a feral Pigeon, give me strength! The "Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust" (GWCT) was approached by the government for opinion on the renewal of these licences, one of the points made was

that where predators had been controlled endangered species such as Grey Partridge & Lapwings had increased. Although the “GWCT” is biased towards game shooting they are recognised as an organisation with extreme respect and unbiased views.

Not being totally up to speed with wildlife’s movement as I would have thought that Swallows, Swifts, Martins and the like would have left these shores by now but up the middle of October they were still around. I mentioned above Grey Partridge we introduced some 2 or 3 years ago to try and bolster the local population and am distressed to only have seen coveys of 6 & 4 (family of Partridge) so far this autumn. Not that I would blame any particular predator but I did read that 3 out of 4 Pheasant nests, that were being monitored by the “GWCT”, that had failed were predated by Badgers, so I guess the same could be applied to Grey Partridge, to me that is proof that they are not the lovely cuddly things they are made out to be by the vociferous know it all’s, that we all appear to be listening to.

It stated that those keeping sheep on the hill side also had an interest in managing the land as well as tend their sheep, and a lack of land management had been a contributory fact in causing the recent devastating wildfires. Now there are reports of large land owners, in the uplands, particularly Utility Company’s (who own vast tracts of that area with very little interest in the environment) are forcing out tenant farmers, so that they can employ contract shepherds to look after less flocks with more sheep, which will have the same effect as above, this is purely for financial reasons. It also illustrates that no matter how genuine farmers who care for the environment balance financial returns with protecting nature, and that big business and landowners really only care for financial return.

I cannot help mentioning in closing (sorry) the subject of HS2, which has been under discussion lately, but only of delay not cancelling it, I wonder if this is anything to do with the fact that our new PM always said before being elected that he would stop it, but now has been told this is not possible or whatever. Perhaps now they will revisit the scheme more rationally and look at ways of minimising its effect on the landscape by using bits of unused track bed that exist, following the Beaching closures. Whilst on the subject of the PM’s utterances what is going to happen at Heathrow? No one seems to listen to the public’s views on any of these issues. And hopefully they will treat those who work and live in these areas with consideration and tact, rather than the way they are at the moment.

Charles Peers

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

Dates to note:

Wednesday 6 November 10.30 Speaker event

Local boy turned author Tom Campbell comes back to Wheatley to tell us about his second novel “The Planner”

Book Description

Nick Hornby's High Fidelity for a new generation, The Planner is a brilliantly funny and provocative novel about dreams and ambitions and how they can rise and fall like the city skyline

Book review

Made me laugh more times than any book in recent times, while being in some ways colossally sad. Campbell treats the subject of modern London with an elegant, vicious wit that is hugely addictive, but also with a sort of compassion and even affection. A genuinely funny, scathing, intelligent book that manages to nail both the lunacy of modern urban living and the more general problem of being a human being (Mark Watson)

Saturday 9th November 9.30-12.30 Jigsaw swap

Saturday 30th November 9.30-12.30

Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday craft sessions weekly from 10-12, 2-4pm, and 7-9pm

First Thursday of the month, Clarinet Players at 7.30pm

Thanks all, staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library

Little Milton WI

In October we met Mary and her guide dog, Piper and learnt about the life-changing work of Guide Dogs, who support people who are blind and partially sighted. We also had an enjoyable group meeting in Stadhampton with three other local WIs.

On Thursday 14th November, we have Susie Berry from Chalgrove Flower Club to demonstrate Christmas wreath and table centre making. There'll also be a sales table with everything you need to go home and make your own.

Come and join us, everyone welcome. Visitors £5.

We'll also be helping out at the Bloodwise Craft Market on 9-10th November, 1030-1600 at the Pine Lodge. Another chance to see and buy the up-cycling of Adele

and Minna, plus Maggie's jewellery and ceramics.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

The Maple Tree

Hayley Hayle – Coordinator

Thank you to everybody that either donated to, or bid on our Silent Auction, we made a staggering £3,000. This will enormously help with our running costs.

We have lots going on at The Maple Tree this autumn:-

During half term, we have a spooky pizza making session on Tuesday 29th October – there are still spaces at 11am – just £5 per child. We also have a Halloween Party on Thursday 31st October 11.30-1.30, tickets on sale in advance at £2 per child.

From Wednesday 13th November, we are excited to announce that we will be involved in the running of a new Baby & Toddler group at Forest Hill Village Hall from 1-2.30pm. We look forward to meeting many more local families. We are always pleased to work in partnership with the surrounding villages and are open to any further partnership suggestions.

We have a special one off Fun in the Woods session on Thursday 7th November from 9.30-11.30am. We will have a camp-fire, stick bread, stick decorating and much.

We will be re-introducing our popular Sling & Buggy walk on a regular basis from Wednesday 7th November 12-1.30pm.

In the lead up to Christmas, we will be selling Christmas Trees in partnership with Wheatley Scouts. These will come from a sustainable plantation in Scotland – more details to follow.

Saturday 7th December is our Family Christmas Craft session at Holton Village Hall from 2-5pm. Come along and make wreaths, gifts and much more.

Coming soon: Maple Tree Baby Massage

See our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> for more information about any of the above or contact hayley@mapletree.org.uk

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council following a recent resignation. 14 days has elapsed with no requests for an election received by the District Council, and as a result it is now possible to look to recruit a new councillor on an informal basis.

Are you interested in serving your local community? Do you have strong views about village life? Do you have some expertise which could benefit the village? Do you want to make a difference to life in Great Milton? If so, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Please contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk) on 01844 278347 for an informal discussion and more information.

Qualifying criteria

To be a parish councillor you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
 - d. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

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News at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?
<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

It is important to keep it
up to date so please could you
advise Carina Martin of any
updates that need to be made
(carina.martin@gmail.com)

The Three Villages Car Service

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**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**



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

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

**Please contact Tim Darch
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STOP PRESS: Come & meet REAL Reindeer on Sunday 8 December between 11.30am and 2.30pm with the chance to pet and feed them!

Find Santa's Reindeer!

23rd November – 23rd December 10am– 5pm

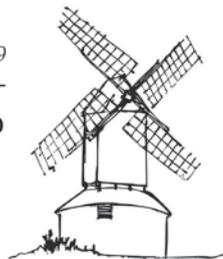
Help Rudolph find his friends lost all around the gardens and then collect your Christmas treat. £2.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult paying garden entrance fee.

Christmas Closure

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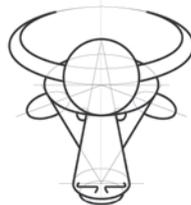
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Diary

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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
Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm
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Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
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 Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Molly Powell – 07958 396257
- 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 218345*

November

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|----------|--|---------|
| 2nd Sat | Fireworks at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 6:00pm |
| 9th Sat | Tree Walk at The Old Vicarage with Bruce Tremayne | 11:00am |
| 16th Sat | Great Milton Singers: Bach's Christmas Oratorio at St. Mary's, Thame | — |
| 18th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 19th Tue | Christmas Fair at The Oxfordshire Golf Club, near Thame | 9:30am |
| 20th Wed | Senior Citizens Party Committee AGM at The Bull | 8:00pm |
| 22nd Fri | Senior Citizens Party Committee Quiz at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 23rd Sat | Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 7:00pm |
| 30th Sat | Advent Acticity and Storytelling at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 10:00am |
| | GM History: Mulled Wine & Mince Pies in the Community Room, The Bull | 12:00pm |

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th November 2019**.

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

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