

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2020

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Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme in November 2019: details can be found on the Parish Council Website at <https://www.great-milton.co.uk/freedom-of-information/>. Residents can see records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk or via the website.

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monckery 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:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: 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:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: Christmas!

Photo: Oleg Zaicev via Pexels

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		Fxmystreet.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

Parish Council meetings: UPDATE

Due to restrictions currently imposed by UK Government on indoor gatherings of more than two people, Parish Council meetings are being held virtually until further notice. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month as usual, via a virtual meeting platform. The agenda is published on the Great Milton village website no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, along with an access code for the meeting. Business is conducted broadly as per a standard meeting, with one or two small variations (cheques require two signatures so are approved at the meeting and signed the next day). All are welcome to participate in the virtual meetings: if you have any issues with access please contact Tim Darch (Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council) on 01844 278347.

The Clerk is always available should you have any queries or concerns, whether related to Coronavirus or other matters. Any necessary updates will be relayed via the Parish Council website (www.great-milton.co.uk) or via noticeboards.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Draft Parish Notes – November 2020

The meeting was conducted through a video conferencing facility. The new arrangements for the Parish Council are allowed under the following Regulation:

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020

Apologies were received from Cllr P Fewell. All other councillors were in attendance along with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and Tim Darch (Clerk/RFO). Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Monday 19th October 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman on camera.

Matters to report

Regular updates are being received from OCC and SODC and continue to be communicated to residents via the available channels as appropriate. Cllr Caroline Newton advised that the Local Plan would shortly be returned by the Inspector for consideration by SODC's Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee, at which point a vote will

be taken on adoption or otherwise.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered.

P20/S2669/LDP (Lynday, Thame Road, Great Milton). Use of existing dining room as a hair salon. No consultation is being conducted by SODC on this application: however, it is recorded here for information and no concerns were raised by councillors during brief discussion.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were reviewed.

P20/S3266/HH (Tollesbury Dale, Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7NY). Removal of existing garage/outbuilding. Single storey side rear extension. Planning permission was GRANTED for the proposed development.

P20/S3181/HH (6A Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY). Single storey rear extension. Planning permission was GRANTED for the proposed development.

P20/S3975/SCR (Land north of the A40 between Milton Common and Tetsworth).

Screening Opinion request for proposed solar farm. A planning application for a solar farm on land north of the A40 between the eastern extremity of Milton Common and Tetsworth is at the very earliest stage of consideration. This was discovered by chance: the Parish Council was not informed of the application by SODC, presumably because the site is not technically inside the Great Milton Parish Council boundary. The Parish Council has registered its concerns with the planning authority via the case officer and Cllr Newton, and will monitor developments with interest, consulting residents of London Road as and when appropriate.

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised, with cheques to be physically signed along with associated invoices subsequent to this meeting:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £498.65.

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production November. £206.50


Green and Growing. Village mowing September/October. £96

Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary. Donation in lieu of internal auditor's fee. £100

Moore. (External Audit fee). £240

Website hosting November (reimbursement to Clerk). £29.99

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were received, signed and approved by the meeting. The reconciled bank balance as at 10 November was £40,904.03.

The receipt of the External Auditor's report was noted. This raised no issues. Notices of Completion of Audit have been placed on the noticeboards and a 

scanned report uploaded to the website along with all other required documentation. Councillors thanked the Clerk for his efforts in securing this independent vote of confidence in the management of the PC's finances.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

Les Preston has offered to supply and fund the village Christmas tree this year. The Parish Council would like to sincerely thank Les for his kind and generous contribution. It has been suggested that a permanent Christmas tree could be planted: the opportunity has passed for this year, but this possibility will be discussed further at an appropriate moment.

Budget first draft 2021-22

The first draft of the Parish Council's budget for 2021-22 was considered. A small increase of 1% to the Parish Council's precept request is recommended, largely to reflect the reasonably healthy financial position. Most budget lines are to remain the same or be subject to relatively minor adjustments. After discussion it was AGREED that a budget based on the draft under consideration will be formally submitted for approval by the Parish Council at December's meeting

Requests for funding

Requests for funding have been received from the Maple Tree Children's Centre, from Wheatley Park School for their prize-giving event, from Home-Start Oxfordshire (a charity which supports vulnerable families with at least one child aged under 5) and from the Children's Air Ambulance. After discussion it was AGREED to donate £500 as usual to The Maple Tree and £50 to Wheatley Park School for their prize-giving event. The Parish Council felt unable to donate to Home-Start Oxfordshire (having already donated to them this financial year) and to the Children's Air Ambulance (given the recent policy of donating only to local charities and good causes).

The Bulletin

The Parish Council is pleased to report that full printing and door-to-door delivery of the Bulletin has resumed as of the November edition.

Flytipping of garden waste, Grove Footpath (The Bull to A329)

The accumulation of a significant quantity of garden waste on the Grove Footpath has been reported by several residents. A decision is awaited from environmental officers at SODC as to where responsibility lies for its disposal (although an SODC team has already removed a significant proportion of the material). UPDATE: the waste has now been removed.

Proposed Freecycle produce, books and toy/game exchange

There was no further discussion on this item as no contact has been received from the Freecycle Committee since the last meeting (at which the Parish Council agreed

to support a trial of the facility in Spring 2021 subject to the approval of Pat and Christine Donnelly).

Proposed revisions to Great Milton village website

The redesigned village website went live on Wednesday 11 November.

Sale of the Post Office/Village Stores

Pat and Christine Donnelly have decided to put the Village Stores and Post Office up for sale having run it for 23 years. Their firm preference is to sell it as a going concern, but in extremis, they would consider allowing the village to run it as a community amenity (as in Little Milton), subject to covering their utility costs, etc. However, as Little Milton are finding out, such an arrangement is fraught with difficulties and would only be considered as a last resort. It is likely that any sale will not be finalised until towards the end of 2021, and Pat and Christine will keep the Parish Council informed of any developments. The Parish Council is hugely appreciative of all that Pat and Christine have done during their time running the shop and Post Office, and is fully understanding of their decision.

‘Carols around the Christmas tree’

It was AGREED to nominate Wednesday 16 December as the date for the annual ‘Carols around the Christmas Tree’ event, provisional upon the lifting or easing of restrictions on congregational singing which currently apply outdoors.

A resident has suggested that children and residents should be able to hang small tags containing messages from the tree branches, and designating the tree a ‘Tree of Hope’. The Parish Council AGREED to support this idea subject to social distancing being observed when hanging messages, which should be reflected in any publicity.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

Cllr Peter Allen reported on concerns over the ongoing financial viability of the Neighbours’ Hall in light of reduced or no income for much of this year: although there are some reserves available, these won’t last forever. The Clerk will send details of any grant packages that may be helpful to key committee members as soon as possible, and the Parish Council is happy to consider providing some assistance should it be necessary in due course.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council is currently scheduled to be held virtually on Monday December 14th starting at 7.30pm.

Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Benefice Services November

	Live Service 9:00am	Virtual Service 11:00am
Sunday 6th <i>Advent 2</i>	St. Mary's Great Milton Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th <i>Advent 3</i>	St. Peter's Great Haseley Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th <i>Advent 4</i>	St. James Little Milton BCP Communion	Invitation to Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday 27th <i>Christmas 1</i>		Invitation to Zoom Communion

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun 20th December 4.00pm

Recorded service of nine lessons and carols.

Time: Dec 20, 2020 04:00 PM London - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948914653?pwd=TkoxNWpNSGMxNkE0c1hTdWdUTCtGUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 4891 4653 Passcode: 251394

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Godly Play crib service by zoom

Time: Dec 24, 2020 04:00 PM London - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85642940566?pwd=NjFueGRESUF4UVMYUFRFUkVhYmVTUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4294 0566 - Passcode: 583055

Christmas Day

10.00 am St Mary's Great Milton. Christmas morning family service in the Churchyard, with carols!

10.45 am St Mary's Great Milton. Said service of Holy Communion.

To book please email Trudy Timbs at trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk or 01844 279380

Church Clerk

Would you like to make a valuable contribution to the village and be paid for the pleasure?

Little Milton Parish Council is looking for its next Clerk, a vital role to ensure the village maintains a strong voice on local matters and keeps its amenities in good shape.

With significant planning applications being considered for new towns in Chalgrove and other South Oxfordshire locations, we need a strong and organised voice more than ever. Finding a new and capable clerk will go a long way to making sure we retain one.

The Clerk of the Council is also the Responsible Financial Officer, calls the meetings, prepares the minutes and keeps an accurate record of Council business. The Clerk uses accounting software to manage the books, prepare basic annual accounts and next year's budget. The role also manages contractor relationships (grass cutting etc.) and is often the go-to contact for villagers wishing to communicate with the Council.

The role would best suit a local resident wishing to make a contribution to the village, or someone with current experience in the role across adjacent parishes looking to add to their remit. It is the only salaried role in the Council and is now budgeted for 263hrs per annum at £11.76-£12.73 per hour - that's up to £279 per month/£3,348 per annum.

Aside from work either side and during the monthly meeting of the Council (currently held virtually but normally held at The Pine Lodge), working times and patterns can be flexible to suit the individual.

The current Councillors bring a variety of experience to the village and would like to think we are an easy and enjoyable group to work with! If you are interested in finding out more, seeing a role profile, or to have an informal chat, please contact our Chairman, Alaric Smith via alaric.smith@btinternet.com. All enquiries must be received by 8th January 2021.

The Rector's Pint

Cath received one of these funnies a few weeks ago.

IF 2020 WAS A MATHS PROBLEM

If you're walking on the ice cream at 5 ounces per toaster and your bicycle loses a sock, how much gravy will you need to repaint your Hampster?

It really has been the strangest of years, a year of fire (think of Australia) and flood, political mayhem, civil unrest and protest and of course this virus. We have seen

economic crisis, which has affected our churches. We all hope that 2021 will bring better fortunes for us all.

The Christian faith never promised that the world would be an easy place. One of the great themes of Advent is that the world would, in fact, be shaken to the core before God's final and full 'coming' would be revealed. That theme is wrapped in mystery, and hinted at in the New Testament. Some Christians too readily pick on a crisis, point to it, and exclaim 'the end is nigh!'. Nonetheless, we are in tough times.

The Christian faith points to 'Immanuel', a name used for Jesus. It literally means 'God with us' which, of course, is the great theme of Christmas, in the Christ Child, God is with us. His coming was in the middle of deeply troubled times, into a nation overrun by an occupying power, where civil liberties were unheard of, and where there was a requirement to take on arduous travel to complete a humiliating census. We have the story, mainly from Luke's Gospel which adds the little detail that there was 'no room at the inn'.

This Christmas we will not be able to celebrate the birth of Christ in the usual ways. I have decided not to host a midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, as we would not be able to see in Christmas morning with our traditional midnight carols, 'it came upon a midnight clear', and numbers would be very restricted. Rather, and only for this year, I encourage people to use the Diocesan service, which I have no doubt will be a much more impressive offering than anything I can arrange. However, we are planning a recorded carol service on 20th December, a Zoom Godly Play crib service on the 24th and on Christmas Day, if permitted, a churchyard service in Great Milton. We will be able to accommodate more people in the Churchyard than in the Church. We really hope carols will be sung, at least by a small choir. After, there will be a short said service of Holy Communion in the Church. Due to the restrictions imposed upon us because of covid 19 regulations, unfortunately you will need to book for the communion service. Please see the details of our services below together with details of who to contact.

Despite all, I do want to declare, 'Immanuel, God with us'. May you all have a deeply purposeful and happy Christmas, hopefully with those you love. As I will be taking a break from the Rector's Pint in January can I also wish you all a hope filled New Year.

Every blessing, Simon

Church Fete

Dear Parishioners,

Sadly, our Village Church Fete was cancelled this year. The Fete is a hugely enjoyable community event and is very important in financing the running of our Church. We hope we can enjoy it next year. In the meantime, people have been very supportive and have donated prizes in order that we can hold a Christmas raffle. Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons has been so generous and donated the main prize of a dinner for four people at their restaurant. We have 10 other prizes which are listed in the shop window and on the attached poster. The draw will be held on December 6th after the Church service.

We do hope you are able to support us by buying a ticket and hopefully win an excellent prize. It may be that some of you might like to make a donation in lieu of the money you would have spent at the Church Fete. All donations will be greatly appreciated, especially during this difficult time.

To buy a ticket, please place £10 in a normal sized envelope with your contact details written on the outside. Alternatively, you can post your envelope but omit the cash and transfer your payment to the PCC account, referencing it as 'raffle' so that we can cross reference it;

Great Milton PCC

Acc no: 63085703

Sort code 09 01 55

You can have more than one go but will need an extra envelope for each go. This can then be posted at Braemar, 2 doors right of the shop. The letter box can be stiff but does work! We hope to have the raffle bin outside the shop on the week-end of Nov 28/29th and on Dec 5th with our card reader, weather permitting. Otherwise, please give your envelope to any members of the PCC.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips

Trudy Timbs

Margaret Rogers

Emily Johns

Liz Isherwood

Rosamund Griffin

Jane Jefferis

Nicholas Wills

Simon Cronk

or to Kelly Wing, our treasurer.

Flytipping of garden waste on the Grove Footpath

Over the years a significant volume of garden waste has accumulated on the Grove Footpath, which runs from the Bull to the A329 and along the edge of the 'Manoir Field'. Dumping garden waste here is not only disrespectful to the village environment, it also constitutes flytipping and as a result is ILLEGAL. As you may have noticed, the waste has now been removed: this has required significant effort from the Parish Council, SODC and Biffa, and thoughts will now turn to making the area an attractive addition to the village, and ensuring that it is never again used as a dumping ground.

Please deal with your garden waste by either subscribing to the SODC garden waste bin collection service, by taking it to an OCC household waste centre or by using your own composting facility or other means of disposal. We live in a beautiful village: let's keep it that way.

Tim Darch, Parish Clerk/RFO

NITROUS OXIDE ('HIPPY CRACK') WARNING

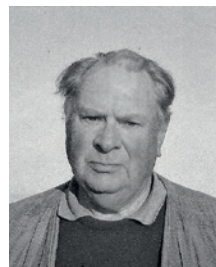
In the last month or so there have been several instances of large quantities of grey 'Hippy Crack' nitrous oxide cartridges being dumped by the roadside on Thame Road and in the Rec. near the play area.

These are in boxes marked CREAM CHARGERS, are illegal and can be a danger to young children as well as an environmental blight on the countryside.

If you know who is doing this, please pass on the message to dispose of them safely and not dump them where they can be a danger to the public as well as spoiling our village.

View from Views

After all the turmoil of the last 9 or 10 months its now come round to Christmas again and at the time of writing none of us are sure what sort of Christmas we shall have, except that it will be different. Let's be positive in our thoughts, that in 2021 we will beat this beastly virus in one way or another, perhaps the recent announcement of a Vaccine will be the light at the end of a very long tunnel. Maybe a change of US leader will make all the difference! At least the election has given us something else and amusing to think about.



As autumn strides on into winter we have managed to get our winter Barley planted but only just, by the middle of October, but rather embarrassingly not the Wheat as we actually got the planter stuck in the attempt, something we really should not have done, and known better than be on the land when conditions were too wet. (Did in fact manage to get the rest planted on the 10th November, a little later than we would like for optimum yield, but should be a reasonable crop). These conditions have presented us with another set of conundrums that often we are faced with, and the sort of situations I have mentioned before, do we or don't we. I am referring to having to alter our plans to fit into the change of circumstances that we are facing, (to save the planet, produce our food at an affordable price, to fit in with new regulations, and public perception, along with more and more rules and regulations, none of which I necessarily disagree with.) Whilst we are trying not to plough, as this releases carbon, we have to think of ways to control weeds. The simplest way to achieve this is to leave well alone and just spray off before planting, but then we have to use a chemical, problem is then we have a crop canopy that will encourage slugs, that would necessity the use of a polluting chemical to control, so we cultivate to control weeds, this then makes the ground more like a sponge, if we get a wet period like we did this year, the ground needs more time to dry out. So you can see it all makes life that more interesting, of course all made worse nowadays as we use bigger and heavier machinery.

I do not quite understand why the flooding this autumn has been so bad, yes we have had a lot of rain but once it stops it seems to take ages for the water to drain away. Is this because last winter the floods were out from about the middle of November right through to the middle of March? Could this have caused the fields to sink with the extra weight? This would be quite considerable, or is there some other suspicious action taking place that we don't know about. If anyone can throw any light on this matter please make contact I would love to know. The river being in flood has brought in quite a variety of birds and for the first time, as far as I can remember, an Egret, it looks to be too big to be a little Egret, which would make it a Great White Egret. I don't think either are that common in this country, however I did see one in a ditch by the road in Little Milton about 3-4 years ago and, I know they are at Waterstock Mill.

There is a movement at the moment suggesting that we should rewild the countryside for reasons I can understand, but needless to say do not entirely agree with, as it would affect my livelihood. I am sure in the right places it is not such a bad idea, not around here except in pockets in fact we all have small bits of our land that we leave to nature already, I am sure this helps in a little way. The problem as I see it is that if we over do this philosophy then we will have to rely on more imported food, over which we will have no control in the way it is produced, something that the public have clearly

demonstrated, in an NFU poll that they do not want, and now the Government have actually taken this on board in the current trade talks. This subject was discussed a few weeks ago in the daily press, which for once actually mentioned that development was just as guilty as agriculture very refreshing to read. This all illustrates that it is human pressure that is the problem and humans always take preference over nature. There are too many of us to feed and accommodate, so some way to control this needs to be thought of. I suppose on the brighter side of things is that the Housing Minister has been pressurised by our previous PM, into looking at the housing needs algorithm, something I have always said is out of kilter with actual needs.

Some very interesting news lately is that there is a student at Cambridge (we should not hold that against them) has got funding for research in to the effects of different systems of Farming on the environment and its ability to supply the level of food needed to feed the population, in the coming years.

All that remains to be said is to wish all readers as good a Christmas as we are allowed and look forward to better things in “21”

Charles Peers

Pine Lodge Newsletter

In compliance with current government guidelines regrettably the Village hall is currently closed. As soon as the situation changes we will contact the regular hirers to advise them accordingly. For further information please contact Linda Lovegrove. linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

Another year is drawing to a close and what a year it has been. The garden has been a joy in these difficult times and I always remind myself how fortunate we are to have outside space. Living in this beautiful rural area, we are all caught up in a bubble where most of us can get outside into the fresh air on the good days and that is indeed a privilege.

Winter is upon us already and I have been working hard to get all the tender plants into the greenhouse before the heavy frosts arrive. Some of them I overwinter as mature plants, while others I take cuttings which hopefully make it through. I was late taking the cuttings this year, but they are looking good so far, although few have rooted properly yet. Other jobs to be done include cutting off all the old leaves on the

oriental Hellebores so the emerging buds can be enjoyed as they lengthen, unfurl and open in the early spring.

Nothing illustrates the passing season more than the shoofly plant which I mentioned last month. In the garden the plants are happy and still flowering whereas on the vegetable patch they have been reduced entirely to brown mush. It is so much colder down there and, even in summer, there is a sudden drop in temperature half way down the sloping top part of the meadow. The bottom water meadow is already very wet which makes accessing the compost heap to extract the brown gold increasingly difficult. I know it's not sensible to have a vegetable garden in a frost pocket, but the soil is so wonderful down there; it is alluvial loam with a seemingly endless depth that shifts the balance in its favour. It does, however, mean that sowing autumn broad beans is a complete waste of time as they always end up as stunted brown mush by spring.

We are gradually clearing the ornamental garden and covering the soil with a good layer of the brown gold. In theory, it is better not to cover the pests with a blanket of compost for the winter, but, in practice, we do what we can when we can. If we were to wait until spring, then the weeds would get away from me (as they do every year!) and emerging bulbs would make the job much more difficult. The compost makes the garden look neat and improves the soil structure as the worms mix it into the soil over the winter, although ongoing leaf drop means more work to come. It should suppress the weeds, but, in fact, it is full of all sorts of seed not all of which are necessarily unwanted. It is very hard to get homemade compost heaps hot enough to kill all the seed that make it onto the heap even with the best will in the world.

Lots of plants are still flowering and the recent warm period has made some plants think it is spring. One regular offender in my garden is a bearded Iris which often flowers in November and my sister, who gardens in Dundee, sent me a photo of a pink Rhododendron in full flower. The problem with this aberrant flowering is that those plants will only flower next spring if they have any buds that haven't flowered now. I'm particularly pleased to see a small clump of snowdrops well through the ground; they are not an early variety and I have not seen them this early before.

I have a beautiful short, deep pink single Chrysanthemum which is at its best in November and this year has been no exception. It is tough and was given to me as a small rooted bit by my RHS tutor many years ago; it is a really good doer (he gave all of us a bit!), but I have no idea of its name so I just call it Graham's Chrysanthemum. I have a garden full of plants which I have been given by gardening friends over the years from their own gardens. Each reminds me of its donor on a regular basis and that fills me with joy and we all need some joy in the dark times.

Liz Moyses

Little Milton WI

In November, Bob Harding-Jones gave a brilliant, fun-filled interactive talk on British comedy greats on Zoom. I invited other local WIs to join us, so we had an evening full of laughter, calling out comedian names and catchphrases. We also reached out to members, who aren't so keen on meeting online, by delivering a gift of Narcissus bulbs. The idea is to nurture them to hopefully flower for the AGM in March 2021. There'll be a prize for the most beautiful specimens.

Our next meeting on Thursday 10th December is a Christmas Craft Night making tiny Xmas trees from ribbon, beads, felt and buttons. We'll be delivering a box of craft supplies to all the members shortly, so you'll just need to supply the mulled wine and festive treats! We'll be online from 7pm. Contact me if you'd like to join us. Everyone welcome, the more the merrier!

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 at 7.30pm

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

Wheatley Library Refurbishment

Wheatley Library has had a make-over!

After delays due to the pandemic we have completed the work and are back on track to an improved layout and décor in the library.

The new layout provides a more open and accessible space. The old metal shelving has been replaced with nearly new wooden shelving (previously used in a temporary Oxfordshire Library whilst the Westgate development was underway) including a dedicated wooden display unit to showcase books in a more attractive way to customers.

Moveable shelving means that the southern end of the library will be better suited to host community events, including those run by the Friends of Wheatley Library. Some other items of furniture have been replaced, including a more compact desk for staff which increases floor space, and new seating, including soft seating for the

children's area. The library has been given a fresh coat of paint and a new carpet to complete the look.

We want the library to be welcoming and open to all; a place for connections and communication, pleasure and practicalities. The library should be somewhere that everyone can come with confidence to spend time in a safe and comfortable environment.

The library refurbishment has been funded by money allocated to the library from various housing developments in the area and a contribution towards the costs of the decoration made by the Friends of Wheatley Library.

We hoped to have a re-opening date to include in this article by time of going to print but due to national restrictions during November, we are not in a position to give an unequivocal date. Keep an eye out online or at the library itself for notices about an opening date.

Mr Turrill the Village Butcher

By Nick Belcher and Geoffrey Claydon

It's around 1910 and here in the photograph we see Mr John Turrill smartly dressed in a bowler hat standing on the left. He is Great Milton's butcher and proudly looks on at his pony and trap, which is about to leave for meat deliveries.

Notes on the back of the original print say that the lady on right might be Mr Turrill's sister who is also a butcher. The chap sitting in the trap, on the right, is Mr Stephen Neail. Unfortunately we don't have the names of the others in the picture.

Mr Turrill's shop is called Tallis House, a 17th - 18th century building taken over by Mr Turrill's father in 1890. Just behind Mr Turrill you'll see another building - that's the slaughterhouse. Next door is The Kings Head pub, and many lively harvest festivals took place there.

Mr Turrill goes to Thame market

Mr Turrill was a frequent visitor to Thame cattle market where he would buy several cows and sheep. He would walk them back to Great Milton and lead them to a field behind The Bell public house.

Sometimes the job of walking back cattle to the village was left to drovers; usually



older men from Great Milton wanting to earn a few pence. The cattle would be kept in the field until they were ready for the slaughter house, which was situated behind the shop.

Great Milton's pig club

The government introduced pig clubs during the Second World War years of food rationing. Pig club members would buy a pig, and provide food waste for the pigs to eat, care for them and ultimately share the meat that was produced.

Every individual family was allowed – encouraged even – to keep a single pig for personal use and every farm cottage could have an allocated pigpen.

In Great Milton, when pigs were ready for slaughter Mr Turrill would visit club members to carry out his butchery work. Half of the carcasses were sold to the Government, to help with the rationing, and the remainder was divided between Club members, as either pork or bacon.

A Ministry of Food advertisement summed up the value of collecting household scraps and feeding a pig:

Because of the pail, the scraps were saved.
Because of the scraps, the pigs were saved.
Because of the pigs, the rations were saved.
Because of the rations, the ships were saved.
Because of the ships, the island was saved.
Because of the island, the Empire was saved.
And all because of the housewife's pail.

Source: Will Freeman, The Oldie magazine

Source: In 1967 Geoffrey Claydon's father, Edwin (Chief Ranger of the Great Milton Foresters Friendly Society) was interviewed by Sinclair Hood from the Old Vicarage and their conversation recorded on cassette tape. Edwin gave a description of village life from the 1900's onwards including details about Mr Turrill the butcher.

Find out more from the Great Milton History Society

We are gradually opening up the History Room on a Wednesday. We will be open from 10:00am to 12:30pm and only one of us will be there during that time so there will be room for one or two visitors.

Should you wish to come on any other day please phone one of us. Ian on 279489, Pat on 279300, Geoffrey on 279297 or Sally on 278992 and we can open up for you.





**Fabulous Church Christmas Raffle Prizes for 2020–
make sure you have a go for a chance to win.**

**£10 in an envelope (your name and contact details written on
outside). Deliver to Braemar (near shop)**

To be drawn in Church on Dec 6th

Proceeds to St Mary's Church

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons: Dinner for 4 guests. Valid January-June 2021
Molton Brown Patchouli and Saffron trio box set, incl. candle
Unlimited month of yoga lessons with Yoga Lizard
Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection voucher for 2 adults and 2 children (4-16 years). Valid until Nov 2021
Framed Peacock Print
Waterperry Garden: season ticket for two
Home baked Christmas cake
Stoneware 12 piece dinner set
Nspa toiletry gift basket
Cotswold Wildlife: tickets for one adult and one child
Croft Pale Cream Sherry

Thank you to all our donors

Do share your talents in the **Christmas painting competition** too. All ages, free to enter, prizes. Paintings exhibited in the Church Dec 6th.



Help us to spread some Christmas cheer

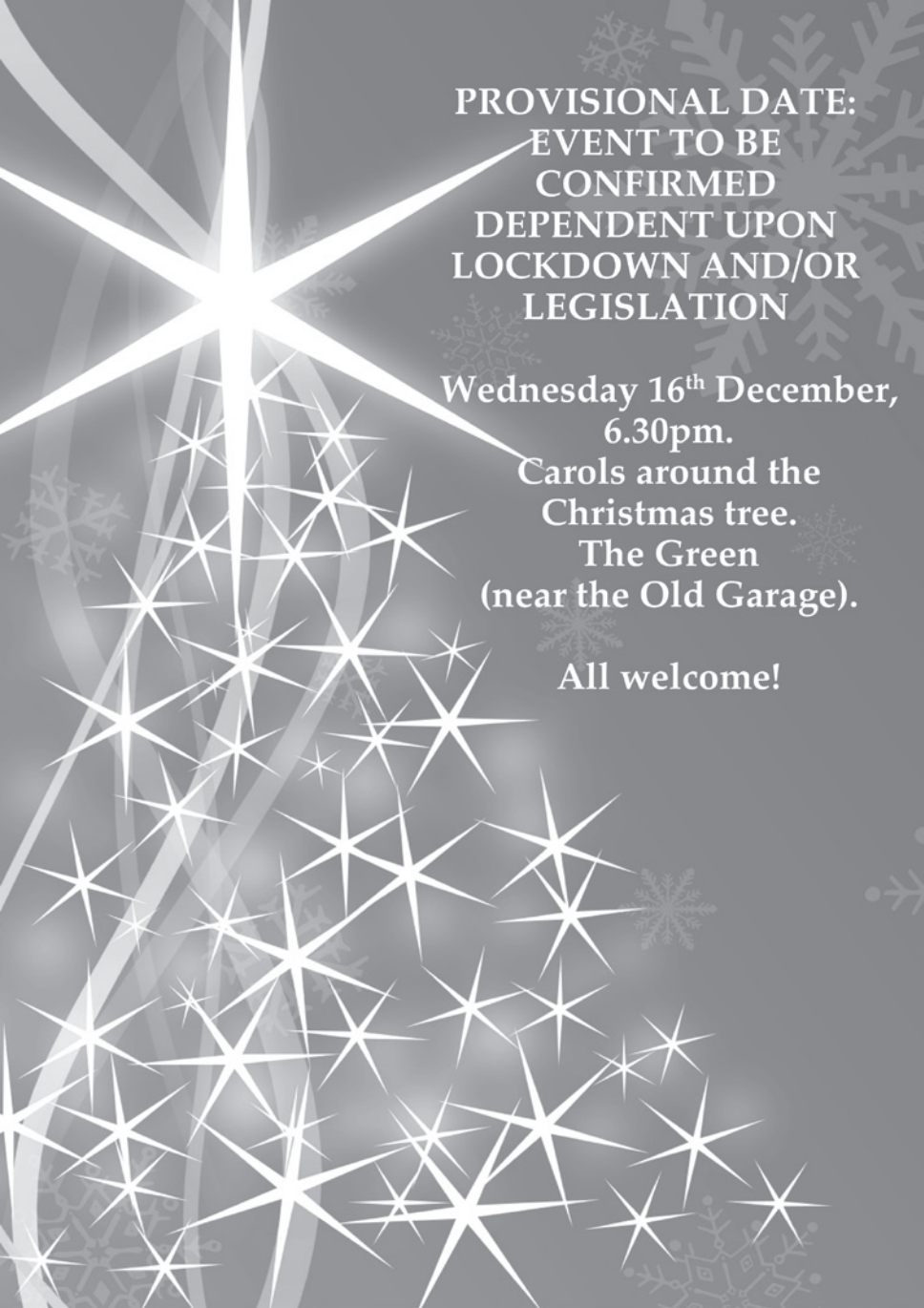
CHRISTMAS DRAWING COMPETITION!

All entries will be displayed in the
church for all to enjoy!

Please put name, age and a contact
number on the back of the picture

**ALL AGES WELCOME TO ENTER,
PRIZES FOR THE WINNING
PICTURES!**

**Please hand in to Great Milton Village
shop by the 5th of December**



PROVISIONAL DATE:
EVENT TO BE
CONFIRMED
DEPENDENT UPON
LOCKDOWN AND/OR
LEGISLATION

Wednesday 16th December,
6.30pm.

Carols around the
Christmas tree.

The Green
(near the Old Garage).

All welcome!



Christmas Tree Recycling

Under the tree on The Green, by Recreation Ground entrance

**Return your old tree here by
Monday 11 January 2021**

(Trees left after this date will not be accepted)

Trees larger than 6 ft must be cut down in size



Working
together

Christmas Tree of Hope

*Please help us to fill
this years village
Christmas tree with all
of your hopes &
wishes.*

**Simply hang your
hope or wish, drawing
or message to the
tree. You can do this
as many times as you
like**



**Please do this in a safe and
socially distanced way**

Artweeks May Festival 2021

To register for ARTWEEKS 2021 visit www.artweeks.org

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL - amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.

Deadline for registering exhibition entries: 31st January 2021

(this is an extended deadline for 2021 only)

- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st–23rd May

North Oxfordshire May 1st –9th [3rd Bank Holiday Monday]

Oxford City May 8th - 16th

South Oxfordshire May 15th – 23rd



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)



CHRISTMAS FAYRE
LITTLE MILTON



This annual village event is different this year with a Walking Christmas Market round the village on Saturday 12th December from 2-4pm.

There will be outside stalls at The Pine Lodge, The Orchard, Chiltern View, Haseley Road and Blenheim Lane. A full map will be available at the Pine Lodge on the day.



So far, we have mulled wine, jams and chutneys, tombola, bulbs and plants, a Xmas stall, children's activities, food and cakes and jewellery and pottery.

By now raffle tickets have been delivered to each house in the same way that the summer raffle was organised. As you can see there are some great prizes and a full list will be displayed in the shop.

As usual all the profits will be shared equally between the Pine Lodge, St James's Church and The Orchard.

If you would like to help in any way – making, baking, donating prizes or helping hands – please contact me.

Teresa Qusted 278922 tquested@btinternet.com


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This year is our 10th year anniversary and so we are also selling Christmas decorations. All trees are available from the 1st week of December up until Christmas Day. Any questions do not hesitate to contact us using the number above.

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Contact No:
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The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

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

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

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6.30-9.00pm
First Monday of the month

No cost. Just bring your own
materials

Any questions email:
carina.martin@gmail.com

Neighbours' Hall

A large recently refurbished community Hall with central heating and well equipped kitchen. The Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area, with garden seating, overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has ample car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations. Recently installed DMX colour changing LED lighting adds special effects for dances, live music and theatre.

Available for hire by the hour or the day.

The smaller room, The Orchard Room, can be hired separately for small groups and business meetings.

Cost for hiring

£15 per hour, £120 for the full day – costs include use of kitchen and equipment.

Please contact our booking secretary, Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details and our booking terms and conditions

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Full back page colour

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

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Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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December 2020

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Enjoy some pre-Christmas fun with the Snowman Trail* in the gardens from the 3rd Dec through to the 23rd Dec, family fun and Christmas excitement!

The spectacular British grown Christmas trees will be on sale from the beginning of December (or bring your wellies and choose your own Waterperry Grown Christmas Tree!), along with fantastic Waterperry hand-finished Christmas wreaths.

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Waterperry Gardens will be closed from 25th Dec till 1st Jan 2021 inclusive

**Please keep an eye on our website for any changes to our planned events*

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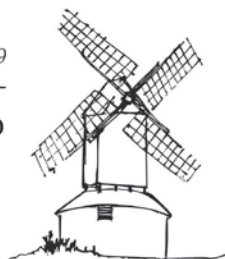
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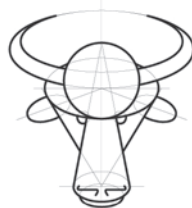
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Diary

- Monday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 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
 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 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
 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 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*

December

6th Sun	St. Nicholas Day	—
11th Fri	International Mountain Day	—
14th Mon	Parish Council Virtual Meeting	7:30pm
16th Wed	Carols around the Christmas Tree on the Green (subject to restrictions)	6:30pm
25th Fri	Christmas Day!	—
31st Thur	New Year's Eve	—

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th December 2020**.

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

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

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The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.

The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.

An abstract painting with various colors including teal, green, brown, and white, with visible brushstrokes and textures.

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1788

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