



GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

July 2018

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No. 533

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Bikes and balloons at this year's Church Fête.
Photo: Jonathan Dudley.

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

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 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:	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:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

In My Opinion...

Spring is sprung! The grass is ris!

In fact the grass is ris significantly and is diminishing the view for drivers on our narrow country lanes. The County Council Highways Department is responsible for maintaining our verges and generally take care of the vision plays at road junctions pretty well, in my opinion. However, years of budget cuts have resulted in verge maintenance outside 30mph limits being reduced to one cut a year and this will take place in July/August. In the meantime, the PC urges drivers and cyclists to take greater care, and also recommends walkers to stay on the right side of roads so that they are facing on-coming traffic and can take evasive action when necessary.

There are one or two hotspots within the parish and the PC will use its own resources to keep these safe until the main cut. If you are concerned about a particular stretch of road in the parish, please let the Clerk know so that we can try and fix it.

The PC also thanks some local landowners for their efforts in mowing the verges at some junctions which have become overgrown, despite County maintenance. This is greatly appreciated!

Meanwhile, don't let apathy rule!

Steve Harrod, Chairman



The Bull: Customer Survey

If you have not already done so, please could you use the following link to give your views in a short customer survey for the Bull:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZQXXG38>

Save The Date

Saturday, 13th October 2018

Folks! Please clear your diaries for the evening of 13th October 2018 for what will be a wonderful night of swing music and dancing as the Cutting Edge Big Band are coming to town.

Keep an eye on the Neighbours' Hall website or the Cutting Edge Big Band Facebook pages. Full info to follow in August's Village Bulletin.



Draft Parish Notes

Present at the meeting of the Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 18th June 2018 were Cllrs. S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox, P Allen and P Fewell, with Tim Darch (Clerk) and 1 member of the public also in attendance. Apologies were received from Cllr G Bennet and C Deacon.

Non-pecuniary interest was declared by Cllrs S. Harrod and W. Fox regarding the planning applications under consideration for works at The Bull public house. Given the status of these councillors as committee members of The Great Milton Community Pub Limited, the Parish Council will abstain from comment on the planning applications relating to The Bull to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

OCC's Parish Briefing for June was received by the meeting.

A complaint was received from a resident detailing unauthorised strimming of plants, and general dissatisfaction with the quality of verge maintenance and mowing in the village. Council agreed that the standard was not acceptable: the Parish Clerk will discuss the matter with the contractor shortly.

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P18/S0958/RM (Land on the South Side of London Road Adjacent to Great Expectations Milton Common). Approval for Reserved matters (Access, Layout, Scale, Appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline application (P17/S4227/O) for the erection of up to eight dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space (as amended by additional plans submitted on 31 May 2018).

Revised plans have been submitted with the houses facing the A40, each with their own drive. After brief discussion the Council stated that it had no strong views on the amended plans.

P18/S1842/FUL and P18/S1843/LB (The Bull, The Green, Great Milton). Proposed decking behind pub to provide improved external drinking/dining option.

Given that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council are also members of the Committee of The Great Milton Community Pub Company Limited, the Parish Council will not comment on these applications to avoid any potential conflict of interest. However local residents are encouraged to submit their own comments directly to SODC.

The following planning decisions have been received:

P18/S1184/HH (Demolition of an existing single-storey conservatory and erection of proposed 2-storey front and side extensions and single storey rear extension and outbuilding. Yew Tree Cottage Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NF).

Planning permission has been granted for this application.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the monthly meeting of the Parish Council (both held on Monday 21st May 2018) were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The following cheques were signed and authorised for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £416.07

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production. £269.20

Green and Growing. Grass cutting June. £630

Castle Water. Allotment supply March to May: £7.53

GM Parochial Church Council. Servicing of St Mary's Church clock 2018: £206.40

Full bank reconciliations were received and the bank statements for May and June were signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 4 June was £27,167.10.

The Parish Council's quarterly accounts were received and reviewed.

Submission of the Parish Council's AGAR return and the Exercise of Public Rights period (4 June to 13 July 2018) were noted.

Receipt of the refund of £1379.60 VAT incurred between April 1 2017 and March 31 2018 was noted.

The request to close the Santander Business Account in light of negligible interest rates was noted.

The broken bench near the school entrance has been replaced. White lines have appeared around several potholes in the village which should mean that they will be repaired shortly.

The decision to continue with full distribution of paper copies of The Bulletin has been well received. To improve the chances of sustainability much of the front page has been made available as a premium advertising space.

Footings for the new modular classroom for the school are in place and the new classroom will be delivered in July. The content of the lease has been agreed and copies are expected for signature shortly.

The Parish Council wishes to congratulate Ann Price on the richly deserved award of the British Empire Medal for services to the community in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 23rd July starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Trinity 5</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 8th <i>Trinity 6</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th <i>Trinity 7</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd <i>Trinity 8</i>		Benefice Communion 10:00am	
Sunday 29th <i>Trinity 9</i>	Benefice Communion 10:00am		Evening Service 6:00pm

Services in Our Benefice for August

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

A few random non connected thoughts this month, genuine ramblings!

I will freely confess, I watched the wedding! The one in Windsor in May. I actually compared notes and was surprised that in one or two things I have been more formal than that particular ceremony, for instance I have always encouraged the couple not to hold hands until after the blessing following the vows and then they hold hands, a bit quaint but I have always thought it makes a little point 'what God has joined together let no man put asunder'. Harry and Meghan held hands throughout. There will have been couples watching and I no doubt it will be referred to in wedding rehearsals, I won't be strict though. I am glad that the couple used the order of service I habitually use, I will be able to legitimately say, 'if it's good enough for Windsor.' That address divided opinion. Most I have spoken to loved it, personally I thought it could have been excellent but it wasn't, it should have stopped at the point where the bishop said 'I guess we better get you two married.' if he had ended there, that would have been

brilliant. I enjoyed some of the feedback in the media, from overwhelming praise to the downright snooty. The best was from the radio presenter Jeremy Vine tweeting as the Bishop preached, 'The bishop is driving 50MPH in a 30MPH zone.'

As I write, the middle of June, and so now truly summer, in the Church's year we are into something called 'ordinary time'. There are two ordinary times in the year, the first, the shorter one begins at the Epiphany (the commemoration of the coming of the Magi) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday. The second begins on the Monday after Pentecost and goes right through to the Saturday before the first Sunday of advent. The term actually comes from the Latin word *ordinalis* which refers to a number in a series. It stems from the word *ordo* from which of course we get the word *order*. There are 33 or 34 numbered weeks in ordinary time, a time after the feast of Easter has ended and before the penance of advent begins. In practice this means that there is a long season without the major festivals of Christmas and Easter and so it could be understood as being 'ordinary' in that. Whilst this is an incorrect understanding I like the idea that whilst while the big occasions of the Church impress with full congregations, it is in fact in the ordinary things of everyday life that we see God at work. 'Ordinary' reminds us that God is in every aspect of life and of time even, or especially the 'ordinary' parts.

Again as I write, once again I am confronted by a lawn that demands weekly attention. At some point in the future we will have to organise some sort of retirement housing for ourselves, there is one thing that is on the wish list, a small garden! I do however remember coming across advise for clergy with large vicarage gardens. It was to never begrudge mowing the lawn, after all the lawnmower is probably the only thing in the Parish that will move when you push it!

Finally, our fete season has ended. Once again I would like to thank all who organised and put together the Fete, and a special thanks must go to the Fete Committee, Clare Blakeway Phillips, Alex Kirkman, Mary Wakefield, Celina Bernstrom, Rachel Hutton and Graham Orriss. I would also like to thank the various stallholders and helpers, teas and refreshment makers, Beer and Pimm's providers, cake bakers, plant growers those who set up and took things down, those who helped with car parking and PA systems and those who helped with the dog show, the children's dancing and the tug of war - girl power again! I believe that about £6800-00 was raised which was a magnificent result. As importantly, it was a wonderful event which gave the Village a real treat.

Simon

We give thanks for the wedding of Norman White and Rebecca Hill who were married at ST Mary's on Saturday 23rd June

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

July				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Graham Kirby	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jennifer Thompson	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton		at St. Mary's
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Peter Honeyball	
	4:30pm	Gt. Milton	at Lime Walk	Circuit Service
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion

The Neighbours Club

On Thursday the 7th June we held our flower arranging competition and this was won by Brian with Trish coming second; £2.09 was raised for club funds.

On Thursday the 14th a group of members and friends set off on an early start for our outing to Dorney Court in Buckinghamshire. Dorney Court is a Grade 1 listed early Tudor Manor House which has been lived in by the Palmer family for nearly 500 years. The property was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. We arrived at Dorney Court in good time and were split into two groups for a 1 1/2 hours conducted tour of the house. Our guide was actually a distant relative of the family so was able to give us inside knowledge of the Court. Unfortunately we did not have time to go into the church.

We then travelled on to Savill Gardens where we were able to enjoy an excellent lunch and explore the spectacular gardens. After that we were off to the Queen's Farm Shop for tea and cake and also shopping there being a marvellous assortment of plants and meat products for sale. We eventually left for home at about 5.00 p.m.

We are now looking forward to our fish and chip lunch at 1:00pm on 21st June.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - July

Thurs 5th: School Entertains - 2:15pm

Wed 11th: Outing River Cruise to Beale Park

Thurs 19th: Swan Upping 900 year old tradition

Talk and slides by Nick Brazil - 2:15pm

Little Milton WI

In June, we had a fun evening making art with wet felting, see the photos on the Pine Lodge website and Facebook page. We also had a successful day at the Church fete, thank you to everyone who donated and bought accessories, and a big thank you to Margaret and Jake for helping on the day.

This month on Thursday 12th July at 7pm we are travelling around four member's houses in Little Milton on our Safari Supper. On August 9th we have our annual day trip, this year to Denman in Marcham enjoying a Cookery demonstration and Afternoon tea. Contact me for more details if you'd like to join us at either event.

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

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

Catering & Waitressing Service also available: Light lunches, Afternoon teas and Children's parties. Looking for help with your party or meeting? Contact us for a quote

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Thank you so much for your continued support. Your help with our appeal is wonderful!

Today the majority of people mainly keep in touch by text messages, email or 'phone rather than letter writing. But, this is the main holiday and party season of the year. You will probably be inundated with postcards and party invitations!

Let us all celebrate by saving all of your postage stamps to help with the costs of training the wonderful 'hearing dogs' for deaf people. This must be one of the kindest ways of local recycling!

You can donate you used stamps at the Great Milton Post Office, the Great Milton School, or by popping them through the letter-box of Tinkers Cottage, The Green, Great Milton.

Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Pat Dawson

Great Milton Church Fete 2018

What a great Fete we had this year. Thank you all so much for helping and or supporting it. We are extremely grateful to our donors and sponsors, including Morgan & Associates who advertised the event well and the village shop who advertised, sold raffle tickets and counted the money! As a result of all your support, we made over £6,800. Is this the best ever? The magnificent plant stall raised the most (£1,800) followed by the raffle and teas.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, the professional looking hot dog, tea and bar teams, programme sellers, car park organisers, those who set the scene with bunting, flags etc and those who organised events in the arena or displays. The cakes on teas and on the cake stall surpassed themselves this year – they looked too good to eat!

We were delighted to welcome Benoit Blin from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons to open our Fete and to judge our cake competition "Anything Royal". The exhibits were wonderful and there were prizes in 4 age categories. In the arena we were pleased the school children could show off their dancing again. The children's tug of war was once again very competitive as was the dog show! All of these were so well planned and managed. Well done to those who won any of the amazing raffle prizes or the prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and dog show.

We were also so pleased to have Hamish Ogston's hot air balloon, manned by balloon expert Robin Batchelor. This provided a colourful backdrop to the Fete as well as entertainment. It did not seem to scare our visiting sheep!

A HUGE thanks go to the three men who collected and returned the furniture/ infrastructure and to the helpers who put up gazebos in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; to the friend who put up and then took down the big notice-boards locally and to the friend who provided so many straw bales.

The Watlington Concert Band was professional as ever and helped provide a festive atmosphere. They enjoyed our fete too!

Finally, a huge thank you to our Master of Ceremonies for guiding us through the day. I suspect our two local photographers have some photos to come.

The Fete was held on the Queen's birthday so it was exciting to celebrate our own Ann Price who had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queens Birthday Honours List for her services to the community. Despite this thrilling news, she still ran the busy raffle stall as usual.

If you would like to join the Fete Committee next year, do let us know. We would welcome new ideas and support.

Thank you again for your support.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Alex Kirkman, Mary Wakefield, Celina Bernstrom, Rachel Hutton and Graham Orriss (organisers on behalf of Great Milton PCC).

Church Fête Raffle Prizewinners

Prize	Ticket	Winner
1. Le Manoir: Gift Certificate for 2 at cookery school	1384	M. Dryer, Great Milton
2. Two tickets to 'Les Miserables', West End	0177	Leanda, le Manoir
3. Oxford Belfry: 6 months gym membership	1657	Laura Putt, Great Milton
4. Oxford Belfry: 6 months gym membership	1559	Will Warren
5. Oxford Belfry: voucher for overnight, dinner and bed & breakfast	0547	Mike Buzz c/o The Bull
6. Cotswold Motoring Museum: voucher for 2 adults and 2 children	0953	Sheila Small. Thame
7. Golden ticket for Roald Dahl Museum & Story Centre	0638	Kath Hillsdon, Wheatley
8. Waterperry Garden: season ticket for 2	0421	Peter Allen, Great Milton
9. Cotswold Wildlife Park: tickets for 1 adult & 1 child	1492	Marian Mantle
10. Farol Showroom: £25 gift voucher	0885	Will Hook, Great Milton
11. Spice & nut grinder	1067	Rachel Timms
12. Asda garden ornaments	0323	Peter A.
13. Sandy Lane Farm: organic vegetables voucher	0157	Jackie Slocombe, Le Manoir
14. Voucher for The Lamb, Little Milton	1016	Sam Gillion, Great Milton
15. Hanging basket, Wheatley Farm Shop	1085	Pat Drumm
16. RCP: MOT voucher	1329	David Wise, Great Milton
17. RCP: MOT voucher	0139	?? c/o Mike Block
18. Preserve Selection	0425	Peter Allen, Great Milton

Thank you for all your support!

Photo: Paul Wakefield



Photo: Manny Stone







Photo: Paul Wakefield



Christian Aid Week 2018

Further to last month's entry, there is now a total sum raised for Christian Aid this year which you may well have seen advertised on our Thankyou Posters around the Benefice Villages!

The total sum raised this year within Great Milton, Little Milton and the Haseleys is £2,333.71 which is made up of:

	£
Three Lent lunches held in March	350.35
Three Church collections	199.00
House-to-House in Great Milton	484.55
House-to-House in Little Milton	997.35
House-to-House in the Haseleys	302.46
	2,333.71 TOTAL

£884.83 was Gift Aided so the above total includes an extra £221.21...so...Gift Aiding your contribution really does make a difference!

Thank you to all of you who supported the Lent Lunches (we plan on having four again next year...), collected house-to-house or gave money in any way...It is a great total.

S.A. Dennis

Great Milton Athletics Club (GMAC)


Update 2018

Our club along with our 18 athletes continues to develop from strength to strength. This season has seen some changes to our training nights at Horspath Sports ground, which lead to some disruptions in our training. We are now settling into a routine of senior training on a Tuesday evening and junior squad training on a Thursday evening.

Winter Cross County Season

GMAC had 4 athletes enter the Oxfordshire Cross Country league this 2017/2018 season. The standout performance came from Hugo P who finished the season 16th overall. Well done to all of our athletes who competed in these tough endurance races; Ottilie C-R, Patrick W and Max C-R.

Summer Track & Field Season

The season started with the first of three Oxfordshire Junior League matches. Five athletes competed in the first match in U13 girls, U15 girls and U20 women categories; Emma L, Esther D, Millie P, Paris J and Phoebe C. Every one of our athletes 

obtained a personal best (pb) as well as a club record in at least one of their events. Paris J achieved a pb time of 14 seconds in the 70m hurdles. Esther D cleared an extra 15 cms in the high jump to break her previous pb and club record. Whilst Emma L, Phoebe C and Millie P broke their pbs in the javelin, 300m and 1500m respectfully.

The Oxfordshire County Championships took place on the weekend of 12 and 13 May. Six athletes competed. Once again our entrants produced some amazing results with gold medals won by Jack S (100m) and Esther D (Pole Vault) and a bronze medal for Millie P (1500m). Paris J achieved another amazing pb and smashed the club record for the 70m Hurdles to 13.38 seconds achieving 4th place overall. Phoebe C achieved a pb and club record and Freddie C a club record in their events.



GMAC County Championships entrants 2018

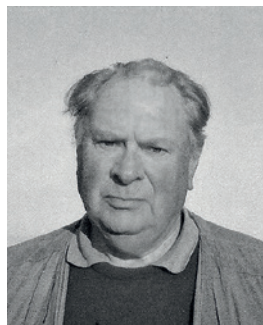
GMAC also had three athletes competing in the schools county championships on Sunday 10 June and Esther D has been selected for Oxfordshire Schools to compete in the Pentathlon. Our athletes are also competing regularly in the Open Graded Meetings at Horspath Sports ground and there are still two Oxfordshire Junior League matches to go. The final match is on 9 September, which will draw our successful summer season to an end. Our last club training night for the summer season will be on Monday 16 July when an evening of fun competitions is held for the club members. Our members also vote for the Athletes' Athlete of the year, which Paris J won in 2017.

In other news, the club continues to benefit greatly from grants awarded by the Shepherd's Trust. This year we have been able to fund two volunteers to train as Assistant Coaches. We welcome Guy Jane and Fergus Campbell to our coaching squad to work alongside Head Coach, Pat Read. This addition brings some long awaited support to Pat and to club training nights. The club has also been extremely fortunate to receive an anonymous donation this year, which we will put to good use over the coming year. The team at Le Manoir also continues to assist the club by mowing the tracks in the top Manoir field that we use for Saturday training. GMAC are extremely thankful to the Shepherd's Trust and our anonymous benefactor for their generosity as well as the support of the Le Manoir team, all which contribute to the future of our club.

The club is open to any budding athletes and we welcome all enquiries. We also welcome any enquiries for volunteers looking for experience in coaching or even officiating. Please contact enquiries.gmac@gmail.com for further information.

View from Views

This month's VFs may be a little out of date as we will be or are away for submission date, which sadly also includes both Great & Little Milton Village Fetes, which tend to be a pilgrimage for this household. Not sure what to mention about the weather except in spite of the torrents of rain over the spring bank holiday it is still nicely warm which after such a long and dismal winter is bringing most plant life back to being in sync with the time of year. What does amaze me is that the violent thunderstorm do not appear to have damaged the crops, violent storms at this time of year in the past always, as we used to say, puts the barley down, in other words the crop gets beaten down by the heavy rain, always affecting the barley worse than Wheat as its straw is much weaker. This of course will not only make harvesting more problematical than it need but, will also reduce yield, as the stem being kinked reduces the flow of nutrients to the ear so the grain cannot fill to it's full potential. However it is also said that, once the plant is in ear it will not have affect the yield. What could well be at risk is the young birds not yet fledged as, they will have perished in the nest during these heavy down pours, some will escape I guess but I bet a lot will not.



As some may have read modern agriculture, or at least the livestock sector, is under pressure from Vegan groups. So much so that life threatening threats are being made on social media, as a non-user of this form of communication I am not sure how this works. I do know that some farmers are feeling really threatened with their life, it is one thing to disagree with a system of farming but it is another to go this far as, after all we are producing what the public as a whole wants. I sometimes think these sort of people think the whole population have to agree with their thoughts, and that they, only, are right, this is not to say that the idea of rearing animals just so that we can kill them to eat is a wonderful solution but, it certainly does not say the we should stop the process because, after all we are carnivores.

I don't know how volunteered to sample the river Thame in May in the end, the results will be I assume published in due course, it will be extremely interesting to see them. I guess they will be published in the latest newsletter which can be accessed at [http://riverthame.org/rctc-\(whatever the month\)-2018-newsletter](http://riverthame.org/rctc-(whatever the month)-2018-newsletter); as usual. The problem of water pollution is becoming more prevalent and the authorities are at last thinking of taking it seriously, about time too, if we are not careful we shall build up a bigger problem than can be imagined, we must all do our bit. I also notice they have suddenly realised that all this new building that they are pushing us to accept




will need more water, something that does not seem to have been planned for.

Michael Gove our esteemed minister for the environment has just announced that he is thinking of creating some new national parks. This of course is fine as long as the areas concerned are allowed to continue the working landscape without too much restriction. This means that these businesses are allowed continue to grow as they are at the moment, as we rely on them to provide the landscape that is so valuable. I would sooner see sensible national parks created, and the use of green belts for obvious building where all the infrastructure is available, rather than being held as sacrosanct.

I thought we lived in a democracy? I read in the paper that over the vote for the third runway at Heathrow there is to be a three line whip, which I think means that any member of the party must vote with the party. I also understand that our erstwhile MP, who is dead opposed to this, (as I suspect are most of the PM's constituents) development may get the sack if he does not vote with the rest of the party so we loose another (top level)? MP not very democratic more like a dictatorship. Anyway why we are not exploring the better option of the Boris Island and, build a proper hub that we are proud of with good rapid transport links to say Reading, rather than sticking plaster solutions all the time. Far better to do this than the HS2 white elephant, and take air transport away from a centre of population, the French don't allow it so why should we. Let's do something properly for once.

Charles Peers

Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

I woke early this morning and the weather was cool and cloudy with mist and not a good mist as I don't think it will clear with the sun. Tomorrow (21st June) is the date of the summer solstice which occurs at 11.07 in the United Kingdom and I feel the weather should be brighter and more summer-like. Once this day passes I always feel that the days are getting shorter and winter is approaching. This is, of course, ludicrous as the best of the summer weather is probably yet to come and the garden is reaching its fullest point. There is barely any soil to see in our garden other than around the edges of the lawn so I suggest you take the time to look at your garden and enjoy the parts that are working and identify the bits that are not and what you might do about it; the lack of bare soil means the weeds have to work much harder to be a problem, but they do appear. The current worst offender here is the milk thistle which suddenly seems to appear among tall plants only when its flowers start to open; it is a master of disguise! The quickest way to fill gaps is with annuals which are often very cheap at this 

time of year as garden centres clear their stocks. It is also helpful to take photographs to show which areas need changing because it is very hard to remember in the winter/early spring when you are assessing the situation.

I was wandering around the garden the other day and spotted an unusual plant. I first saw it last summer and had no idea what it was and here it is again. I believe it is a species of the genus *Orobanche* and commonly called Broomrape. The species we have is growing near the edge of the lawn and at first glance resembles a brownish-purple orchid, but has no leaves or green parts. This plant is a total parasite and from my research is probably parasitic on the clover in the lawn which, to my mind, is no bad thing! Part of me feels reluctant to call it a plant as it has no chlorophyll and does not photosynthesise, but a plant it is.

Parasitic plants are not uncommon and probably the one people are most familiar with is mistletoe growing on trees (often apple) and full of associations with Christmas. Mistletoe, of course, does have chlorophyll in its leaves and stems and can photosynthesise, but most of its energy requirements come from its host tree. The other one with which you may be familiar, from seeing wildflower meadows, is yellow rattle. This occurs naturally in grassland and is generally not welcome in circumstances where the grassland is being used to produce hay for animal feed. This plant reduces the vigour of grass on which it is parasitic and therefore allows the establishment of other plants. This was our requirement when we started to establish our meadow. We initially sowed 1kg simply by broadcasting in the autumn and very little germinated so we sowed another 1kg. Eventually we achieved good germination rates and are still broadcasting our own seed around areas where the grass is still growing very strongly. I also sowed some in pots; in some pots, I mixed the seed with grass seed and in others I sowed it alone. The result was good germination in the pots with grass and no germination in the pots without grass. I suppose this is a very small number, but it is interesting. I'm not sure if it requires grass to be present in order to establish after germination, but this year we have plants growing in the drive and in the garden so I think not.

The meadow is growing strongly and the main groups of perennial plants are just starting to flower. The recent winds have badly flattened the grass which is a pity, but I still like the effect. Our main excitement is the appearance of another orchid (common spotted) in a completely different place to the one which appeared last year. Naturally occurring orchids are a joy and reward for our hard work.

Liz Moyses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact Carys Lyndsay, membership secretary. • caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

News from the Pine Lodge

After the AGM it's all change on the village hall committee with Melanie Kinghan as Chair, Kay Ward as Secretary and Alison Vallance as Treasurer. We're starting off slowly with a quiet July (no Craft club or Games night this month) but have already booked the new season Quiz dates: 22 Sept, 24 Nov, 26 Jan, 23 March & 18 May. If there are any quiz-masters out there or anyone who fancies having a go, please contact us - FREE ticket & dinner as reward!

Don't forget, the hall is a beautiful venue for weddings, parties, events & meetings with reduced rates for villagers. Children's parties are also at villager prices if your child attends Little Milton School or the Orchard. Facilities include fully equipped kitchen with serving hatch, large capacity hall for 300 standing and 120 seated banquet style and changing rooms with showers. Plenty of parking with full disabled access. Spread outside to the new children's playground, tennis & football courts and large park to the back. Contact us for more information.

Regular activities this month include;

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

Pilates with Lee on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am

Toddlersense, multi-sensory adventures for children on Thursdays 1015-1415

Adult Acting & Theatre sessions with Leone on Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm

Just Strive Fitness Class with Lydia on Tuesdays 930-1015 in the park

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Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

In May we had a very interesting and well received talk by Ruth Mancini. Ruth is a local crime author and she discussed how life events and circumstances inspire fiction. Thank you for coming Ruth! If there are other authors/poets/artists/musicians living in our area who would be interested in speaking at one of our regular events, please speak to staff at the library.

Dates to note:

Saturday July 14th – Saturday 15th

Summer Reading Challenge 2018: Mischief Makers

The Summer Reading Challenge theme for this year is Mischief Makers, based

on the 80th anniversary of the Beano comic. Mischief Makers is all about adventure, friendship, reading and fun! We'll encourage children aged 4-11 years to read six books over the summer as usual, and explore a map of Beanotown to find the mysterious buried treasure and become the ultimate mischief makers. Dennis and Gnasher, with friends Pieface, JJ, Rubi and other Beano characters will be there to help them.

Saturday 14th July

Jigsaw Swap event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap with some other puzzles.

Saturday 28th July

Ex-library stock book sale. 40p for a book or 3 for £1. Children's books are 20p each.

Wednesday 1st August

10.30 Edward Hess, owner of the Manor House in Wheatley will be speaking about the research and history of the building as per his book.

Refreshments will be provided.

Regular FOWL events:

On-going sale of donated books

Morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

There is a small charge for refreshments

A taste of our online services:

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Listen to whole discs or individual tracks of genres including classical, jazz, blues, and world music through this streaming service. Choose from over 60,000 CDs. Enter your library card number in the Passcode box at the top left hand of the page to access at home.

Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

News from River Thame Conservation Trust

Fish reach new heights on the River Thame

Fish on the River Thame can now explore parts of the river they haven't been able to reach since probably Norman times thanks to a recent project at Waterstock Mill, Oxfordshire. The River Thame Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Environment Agency have made improvements to a stone weir to help fish navigate the historic structure they were unable to swim over.

Over the centuries, humans have changed natural river systems for our own



uses, for agriculture, building developments, navigation or water supply. Watermills are a sign of a time when the river was a major source of power in the rural economy and weirs were important to help provide that power to the mills. But at the same time, weirs divided a once continuous watercourse, restricting the movement of many fish and insect species, separating them from their food sources and the variety of habitats they need to complete their life cycles. This has badly affected their survival, and in some cases, species have disappeared altogether in some stretches of river.

Major pollution incidents over recent decades have caused the deaths of thousands of fish, and blockages in the river have prevented fish and other mobile species from moving away from the pollution and being able to re-colonise after the events.

The Waterstock Mill project has resulted in the restoration of more than half a mile of river (almost a kilometre), improving the environment for fish to promote their survival. It was managed by the River Thames Conservation Trust in partnership with the Environment Agency and funded from the Thames Rivers Trust Restoration Fund and the Environment Agency. The project also had great support from the landowner who allowed the work to take place on his land.

The River Thames Conservation Trust plan to carry out similar projects in the coming years to gradually improve passage and habitats across the river catchment.

John Howell MP writes...

Over the last few months I have written on different aspects of the workings of Parliament and of the work of an MP. There is perhaps one more facet I would like to cover to round this off for the moment. This is on the mix of topics and issues before the House and before individual MPs.

If you are guided by the media you might think that MPs have talked of nothing other than Brexit for some while now. This is far from the truth. From time to time there are big debates on specific aspects of Brexit but, on the whole, it has not dominated the parliamentary agenda. Of course, there are important negotiations going on and these are being done by the team designated to do this. As with any negotiation these are not done in the public eye; no good negotiator would show their hand in such a way. When a key debate on this does come before the House I tend to receive deeply passionate pleas for me to vote in a certain way. The problem is that I receive deeply passionate pleas from both sides of any argument. It is inevitable that I am going to disappoint some.

However aside from Brexit the agenda before the House has been full of other

importance issues among which I would list Yemen, counter terrorism, abortion in Northern Ireland, Heathrow, refugees, issues around international trade, NHS issues, persecution in Nigeria – to mention but a few. I have spoken in debates on many of these issues. I know that sometimes specific issues can be very detailed and can seem remote to some people but in the wider view each debate is important.

In addition to debates in the House there are issues to lobby on, and support to give to constituents on specific matters dear to their hearts and often unknown to many. Sometimes I may just get a handful of people raise an issue, on others a campaign team has managed to rouse wider support. Such issues include problems with surgical mesh, puppy farming, HPV vaccination for boys, issues around specific medical conditions and treatments, around flooding, and welfare support. As I mentioned in a previous article, it is often the personal stories that give the detail and depth of understand on an issue that can be most helpful in directing action on behalf of others.

Given the wide range of issues raised with MPs offices it will be no surprise when I say that when the phone rings we have no idea what the call will bring. I have a small team of staff to help me and they will always listen and help as best they are able. Many of the calls and emails I receive are about issues that I am unable to directly help with, these may be commercial matters or more frequently issues that come under the devolved responsibility of the County or District Council. In such circumstances we may direct a caller to their local councillor as the elected representative on the respective council. As members of the councils they will have much more ready access to information and officers on local issues and be able to get a quicker response. I appreciate that it is sometimes difficult to know just who is responsible for what so we are very happy to advise.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk.

As always, I am interested to hear constituent's views on the proposals before the House. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons or my constituency office.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters and briefings on specific issues please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com asking to be subscribed. You can also follow me on Facebook www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire or on twitter @JHHowellUK

Oxfordshire Volunteers Celebrated

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank our volunteers and all volunteers across Oxfordshire for the difference they make every day!

Volunteering in Oxfordshire is thriving with one voluntary organisation for every 289 people in the county and around 4,500 voluntary and community organisations across Oxfordshire – that's significantly higher than the national average.



Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3000 volunteers who do an amazing job in their communities - delivering books to people who can't get to libraries, teaching children how to code, organising activities for adults with disabilities, and much, much more!

The council also works with the voluntary sector to deliver local services and support thriving communities across Oxfordshire. This includes funding Oxfordshire Volunteers - a dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire.

Councillor Mark Gray, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Local Communities, said: "Volunteering is clearly something that goes to the very core of who we are in Oxfordshire and we should definitely be proud of it and sing it from the rooftops.

"The message should go out loud and clear – thank you to Oxfordshire's volunteers, you do us proud."

Miriam Chappell from the OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action) added: "Volunteering is of great benefit to our communities, but what often goes unsaid is the benefit it also has for the individual. Volunteering can be a way to make friends, do something different, and add a fresh routine to your life.

"Volunteering offers you the chance to gain new skills – whether you're hoping to improve your confidence, develop an interest, or even change career. The wellbeing benefits of volunteering, from increased self-esteem to improved social connections, cannot be overstated."

There are volunteering opportunities to suit everyone - from volunteering for the National Trust, to whipping up your favourite bakes to sell, to driving people to appointments, to helping teach digital skills at your local library!

Get involved - visit OxonVolunteers.org

Old Field Open Day and BBQ



Sunday July 15th from 11am

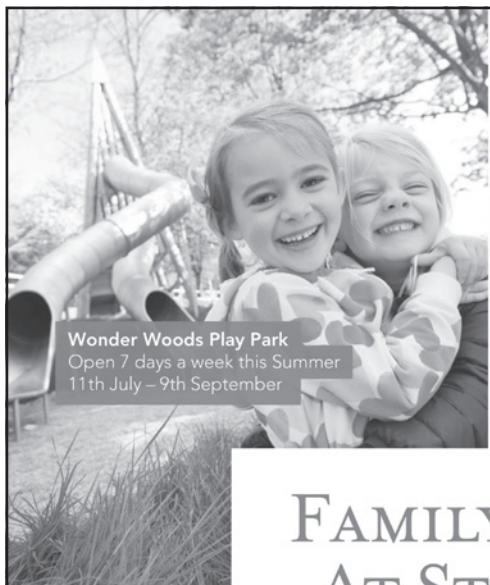
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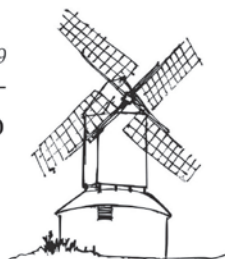
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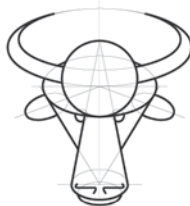
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 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
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 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
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 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- Saturday Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm
contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637
 Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

July

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| 5th Thurs | Neighbours Club: School Entertains | 2:15pm |
| 6th Fri | Quiz in The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 7th Sat | Tiddington Boot Sale in the Village Hall Playing Field | 9:00am |
| 11th Wed | Neighbours Club Outing: River Cruise to Beale Park | — |
| 15th Sun | Old Field Open Day and Barbecue | 11:00am |
| 19th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Swan Upping talk and slides by Nick Brazil | 2:15pm |
| 23rd Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion | 7:30pm |

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