

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

February 2023

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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

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Nethercleft (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak, Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

**Cover:** A taste of daffodils to come...

**Photo:** Nick Belcher.

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

### Services

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance	999	
Police non-emergency	101	thamesvalley.police.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448	morland-house.co.uk
NHS non-emergency	111	nhs.uk
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	nationalgrid.com/uk/safety/
Electricity Outage	0800 072 7282	sse.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak	0800 714 614	thameswater.co.uk
Floodline	0345 988 1188	gov.uk/check-flood-risk

### Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

### Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

## Draft Parish Notes

Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Pavilion on Monday 16th January 2023 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was attended by: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), P Allen, D Harms, M Horsley, C Deacon and Cllr F V Mierlo (OCC). Apologies were received from Cllr B Fox (Vice-Chair) and Cllr C Newton (SODC). Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 1 member of the public were in attendance. No declarations of interest were received in matters on the agenda. There was no variation in order of business.

The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council Website.

Cllr Mierlo reported as follows regarding OCC matters:

Reduced bus fares for 3 months, bus passengers can enjoy a £2 cap on bus fares. Pa Anti-sewage motion passes, and there is now a live Thames Water website that updates where sewage is being discharged.

Three in four street lamps are now LED. OCC makes sure we have the warmest possible LED lights. Streetlamps will also only be installed in places they are needed. Street lamps will be turned off at times they are not needed.

Over 450 trees are being planted over the winter period.

Successful bid for children's homes: OCC has successfully bid for a £5.2m grant to part fund four new residential children's homes. The homes would provide accommodation and support for children requiring solo provision or who can only share with one other child, children with autism, and children who have had adverse childhood experiences.

The budget for children's services is going to be increased above the inflation rate to help such areas as improving EHCP speed.

There is a new CEO Dr Martin Reeves of OCC, who has previously worked for Coventry City Council.

Some schools are replacing the Oxford School Bus Partnership with smaller partnerships.

Cllrs Harrod asked about the A329 near the Oxford golf club as the road is subsiding again, Cllr Horsley noted the road needs to be dug up and remade not just resurfaced. Cllr F V Mierlo will ask Cllr K Gregory about the road.

Cllr Harrod raised the issue regarding fixmystreet not allowing fly-tipping to be reported.

P22/S2220/FUL (Dodwells Solar Farm Land north of the A40 near Cuddesdon)  
Underground cable route to connect Dodwells solar farm to Cowley substation.

(as amplified by additional information received 21 December 2022). After due consideration, the Parish Council agreed to continue to OBJECT to the application.

P21/S3915/FUL (Dodwells Solar Farm Land north of the A40 near Milton Common) Installation and operation of a Solar Farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure (as amended & amplified by information received 8 July 2022 and 21 December 2022). After due consideration, the Parish Council agreed to continue to OBJECT to the application.

Both applications were discussed at length with input from the member of the public. It was noted that an additional area of solar panels (Field 9) was now added, and this would have a significant visual impact, including glint and glare on a nearby property, with no mitigation in place. The solar panels will be going over a large area, so any mitigation against the visual impact will be very difficult.

The viewpoints taken to consider the visual impact was noted by the member of the public to have been selectively placed and did not cover how properties would be affected.

The member of the public also raised the issue of the cable being laid for the solar farm and the potential damage and disruption to wildlife the cable would cause.

It was also discussed that the distance the cables would cover and whether there would be any loss of voltage over the proposed distance.

Cllr F v Mierlo noted that OCC's role is to require a traffic plan for the proposals, but they can't stop it from happening.

The minutes of the December meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 12th December 2022, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed.

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses November: £562.72

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste October: £62.40

J M Dudley November Bulletin: £335.20

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

Hugo Fox: web support July: £19.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Church clock services: £216

Great Milton Recreation ground 21-22 maintenance grant: £400

Tim Darch domain name reimbursement: £11.98

The December bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.



## **Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

Work on the gateway features has been raised with the signing contractor. It will take a few weeks for the necessary materials to be acquired then we will be given a date of installation.

Three quotes for the Mowing contract are being found. The date for renewal is 28th February 2023.

## **Security in the village**

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incident they witness or experience to the police via the 101 telephone service or online via the [police.co.uk](http://police.co.uk) website.

## **King's Coronation plans – 6th May 2023**

To discuss any plans to put in place for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Cllr Horsley raised the question if the Parish Council should organise something for the King's Coronation. Cllr Deacon asked about issues with health and safety if the event is run by the Parish Council.

It was decided that the Parish Council would ask for volunteers to organise an event for the King's Coronation, potentially in conjunction with the local pub.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th February 2023, at 7:30pm at the Pavilion. Meeting ended 20:12

## **Dear Villagers,**

The Coronation of King Charles III is fast approaching, with an additional public holiday on the weekend of the 6th May. The Parish Council are looking for volunteers in the village to organise an event for Great Milton.

If you are interested in taking part in the celebration and helping to organise it, please contact Chris Ashworth at [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk).

We will look to set up an organising committee through February.

## Benefice Services for February

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 19th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday		Holy Communion 7:00pm	
Sunday 26th	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer 9:00am	Family Gathering 4:00pm

## Benefice Services for March

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Wednesday 1st	Compline 6:00pm		
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

## Rector's Pint

I was given a wonderful little book for Christmas 'Tales of a Country Parish'.

It is a beautifully written book, a series of daily reflections written by the Vicar of Savernake Forest throughout 2020, to stay in touch with his parishioners during the Pandemic. Reading it did make me feel a little inadequate, I find coming up with a suitable theme once a month for these pints enough of a challenge! But Colin Hever-Percy, when he is not being a vicar of four rural parishes in Wiltshire is a professional script writer, so I have forgiven myself for my lack of literary output!

He reflects on a sense of place, and the people who live there, and he brings a deep learning to his reflections, of philosophy, country lore, music of all kinds and a deep knowledge and application of the Bible and his own understanding of the 

Christian faith, it is a delightful read.

Quite early in the book he writes something that really grabbed my attention. He talks about the incident when Jesus returns briefly to his hometown of Nazareth, where “he could do no deed of power there’ (Mark 6:5). He was the Carpenter’s son, the people there don’t need to believe in him, they assume they knew him.....The people he is able to help need him, they can’t afford to question him or dismiss him..... Faith is much closer to needing than knowing. At first glance this seems to put the religious believer fundamentally at odds with the scientist, but actually it draws them closer together. Like scientists, Christians are devoted to pursuing what they don’t know. So, St Augustine warns us, ‘If you understand it, it’s not God’”.

I really like that sense of faith described as need. Some might see need as a weakness. But we all have needs and I reflect that Jesus talked in terms of needs being met in him. For instance, in the beatitudes, a part of the wider sermon on the Mount, he tells his listeners “Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 3:1), which could be understood as meaning blessed are those who know their need of God. In John’s gospel he is recorded as saying “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6: 25). Relationally, few people would have the personal resources to survive, let alone thrive, if they were living an existence of total isolation, there is something fundamental in the need for relationship and the lack of this and the loneliness that results is a real problem in our modern theoretically inter - connected world.

Paradoxically I know that I am most spiritually alive when I am aware of a deep hunger and thirst, when I know my need for God, and I am spiritually dead when I ignore that need. So here, at the beginning of a New Year (which is when I write this) I have a single, simple prayer, ‘Lord, may my need for you increase, satisfy that need in the year ahead.’ Amen.

### **Advance notice for Lent 2023: Come and See and Lent lunches.**

Cath and I will be hosting the oxford Diocesan Lent Course, ‘Come and See’ , this year looking at the Beatitudes. This will take place on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7.00pm at the Rectory in Great Milton, with the first one on Wednesday March 1st. If you are interested to come please email me at [simon.cronk@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.cronk@btinternet.com) or leave a phone message on 01844278349. The numbers will be limited to who we can get into our sitting room so if you would like to come please let me know as soon as possible.

We will also be hosting Lent Lunches again this year, with the first one to be held at Orpswoods Farm, hosted by Trudy Timbs on Thursday 2 March at 12. 30pm. The

following week the second lunch will be hosted by Sally-Anne and Ian Denis and Jane Willis at 12.30pm on Wednesday 8th March at Spring Cottage, Little Milton. Details all the lunches will follow in the March Village publications.

Simon

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

February 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Liz Spain	
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
19th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	

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## Great Milton Bellringers

A new year, a new start. Why not come down to the Tower on a Thursday evening 7.30pm and see the Bells? You may decide to join the Band and learn to ring!! Maybe you can ring already. Whichever it is, you would be most welcome!!

*GMB*

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## Notable Cyclical Events

Brigadoon: appears every 100 years... ...Haley's Comet: every 75 years... ...the Olympics and various sporting World Cups: every four years.

And, every two years (until that rotten pandemic), Great Milton Singers have been combining forces with Wheatley Singers and Cumnor Choral Society to stage a larger than usual concert in St Mary's Thame, accompanied by a sparkling orchestra and some of their favourite soloists. Most recent triumphs were Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" (can you believe that was in 2019?) and Brahms' "German Requiem" - both delighting packed houses with standing room only.

Well they're back! On Saturday March 18th (at 7.30pm), the three choirs, along with their musician friends, will once again be filling St Mary's, Thame with 

glorious sights and sounds, designed to raise the roof (and generous funds for charity), lift the spirits and thrill the attending audience. They'll be performing Haydn's tremendous - and most popular - choral work, "The Creation", and have already started their preparatory work to make sure it'll be sensational.

It's too yet early to book your tickets, but do put the date in your diary and make sure you get there early on the day to claim the best seats in the house. Look out for ticket information; and look forward to seeing you there!

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## **Neighbours' Hall Book Library**

We will continue to open third or fourth Friday mornings at 11am depending on Hall availability. Dates for the next three months:

Friday 24th February at 11am

Friday 24th March at 11am

Friday 21st April at 11am

- Come and take, swap or donate or book or two, we also have a good selection of jigsaw puzzles - all for free!
- We are providing tea, coffee and cakes in the Orchard Room to enjoy whilst you browse
- You are welcome to make use of the Library any time you visit the Hall

*Barbara and Hazel*

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## **Senior Citizens Party Committee**

### **Quiz**

Our sincere thanks to everyone who took part in the quiz on 20th January – it broke all records!

A total of 84 people made up the 12 teams – the contest was a very close affair with six of the teams scoring over 50 points.

Congratulations to the winning team Growpey Beth who scored 57.5 points, followed closely by Three Pears with 55.5 points.

Proceeds for the evening totalled £540.67 – a wonderful boost to the Annual Party fund. It doesn't need much imagination to know that the cost of the Annual Party in April will also reach a record height! Our thanks again.

*Ann Price, Secretary*

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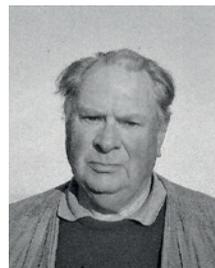
## View from Views

I don't think we realise how lucky we are in this part of the country, being in the centre we are isolated from some of the extremes of weather, being shielded by the Chilterns Cotswolds and the Berkshire downs. Our average rainfall is around the 25inches mark ,last year I recorded only 19.2 inches; in the 11 years I have been recording rainfall the highest was in 2014 (33inches) however this month (as I write in the middle of the month) already we have had about the average for January. And yet again we are encountering more flooding than is commensurate with the rainfall we have had. I mention this because I think it also applies to wildlife, it cannot have escaped anyone's notice that we have an epidemic of bird Flu (Avian Influenza or AI (not to be confused with other issues that are referred to as AI)). The fact that around here it does not seem very prevalent, we've only had one gull that must have died of AI, on the farm this winter. Talking to a friend of mine in Framlingham, Suffolk, who says he hardly ever sees birds on his bird table. nowadays I can only assume this because most migratory birds land there first and only infect the local population so it doesn't get this far.

Regarding birds, contrary to East Anglia, we seem to have an abundance around here, and most of our winter visitors have arrived great flocks of Fieldfares, AI does not seem to have affected them, even seen more Woodcock than usual, with many others I cannot identify. When the river first flooded there were a multitude of waterfowl present but they have not been seen since which seems odd, maybe it is that these species suffered more than any other. The farm seems have had the right conditions not only for breeding but also holding Partridges, as there are several good coveys around. Other wildlife seems to be flourishing Hares and Deer hardly a day goes past without seeing some of them, unfortunately Rabbits are beginning to pose a problem in one area of the farm,

It is fantastic to see how good the crops are looking after the very cold period we had in the run up to Christmas; this will have killed a lot of diseases that would otherwise have been a problem. This followed suddenly by a very mild early January has given them a real boost making them look healthy, just waiting for something else to hit them. Pigeons have just started to find the Rape so we must keep a continual lookout for them, this crop has not recovered quite so well as other crops but hopefully this will not present a problem, as it has plenty of time to recover, or at least I hope it will.

A new year in the farming calendar always brings the "Oxford Farming Conference" (OFC), which has been going since 1936, now joined by the "Oxford Real 



Farming Conference” (ORFC), in its 16th year. The difference between these two is that the “OFC” is of a more Political, scientific, and business orientated, whereas the “ORFC” tends to be more down to earth and appealing to the more practical Organic side of farming and, attracting the smaller mixed farmer, was thought of originally by the delegates of the established “OFC” as the sandal brigade, however now both conferences complement each other and share delegates.

Usually the environment minister attends, usually invited by the “OFC” as it is the most important independent farming conference of the year, this year though the environment minister decided it was more important to attend the inauguration of the Brazilian Prime Minister/President. I do not think that the farming industry took very kindly to this attitude that the minister in overall charge of this area of expertise was not present at this important time. The Farming minister did attend but, listening to him I do not believe he, or his predecessor, both of whom are farmers in their own right ,did not seem to know much of the subject or, the necessity to push their department “DEFRA” to decide on measures that need to be taken after leaving the EU, none of us have any more of an idea what the future may or may not hold for us or the direction the Government wishes us to take.

I was horrified to read that our local MPs seem to think that the water companies are only letting raw sewage into our water courses when there is excessive rain fall not sure where their information comes from, as it is made quite clear in the press that this is not the case and that it is continually in the press both locally and nationally. This is just not good enough and has to be stopped as the committed 2035 target for it is far too far in the future to be acceptable, and if nature is to survive. What must happen is an embargo on all house building until this problem is solved and, those that are profiting from development should help foot the bill as it is not fair on the taxpayer or, the water companies.

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## **Morland House Surgery News**

### **Visit Morland House Website**

In addition to providing a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit the Morland House Surgery website [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) for:

- Up-to-date information about surgery opening hours and the wide range of services provided.
- A link to the electronic consulting service eConsult. Use eConsult to ask about

your health symptoms, conditions, or treatment. You can even request things like sick notes and GP letters. From the home page click on 'Contact your GP practice Online'.

- A link to the NHS App. Download the App, or open the NHS website in a web browser, to set up and log in to your NHS Account. Owned and run by the NHS, your NHS Account is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services online.
- Up to date information on current news items including:
- Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre – X-Rays, blood tests, ultrasounds, CTs and more
- Information on the NHS 111 online service which is available 24/7
- Advice on how to stay healthy and well this winter
- COVID-19 and flu vaccine updates
- Looking after your mental health
- Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS)
- Group A strep and scarlet fever, advice for parents and guardians
- 24/7 breastfeeding support

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## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

A big thank you to the Coach & Horses pub in Chiselhampton for a wonderful New Year dinner for our January meeting. We had record numbers, 23 of us filling the restaurant with laughter and chat. The food was delicious, the staff were welcoming and attentive, highly recommend a visit.

We're back in the Pine Lodge on Thursday 9th February at 730pm with a Pilates taster class by Lee Caulfield. Some gentle exercise to shift those Christmas calories! Everyone welcome - Visitors £5.

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

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

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

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

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

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

## Maple Tree Nursery

### A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree!

We have started another exciting year – there is something for every family with young children at The Maple Tree and all our sessions are drop-in. Each session has at least one Early Years focus.

There are 7 Areas of Learning in Development Matters, which is the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance. The Prime Areas are particularly important for building a basis for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Physical Development. Then there are 4 Specific Areas, through which the 3 Prime Areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design. To find out more, why not attend one of our Play and Learn sessions?

Monday: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesday: Story and Rhyme Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesday: Baby Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday in month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm. This session is also drop-in but is generally a little quieter if you have a little one with a gentle soul.

There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more information about our special events, our programmes, and popular our First Aid classes!

For details, please go to [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

We are here to help young families, if you need advice or support:

01865 236700 or 07849 466249

Email: [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk)

Website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley)

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

*Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager*

## **Diverse, personal collection of WW2 art to go on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**

- The Art of World War II: A Personal Collection will go on show from 25 February to 7 May 2023
- Featuring original artwork produced during, and depicting, the Second World War
- A diverse range of styles and subjects, from well known and lesser-known artists
- Exhibition to tour following first show at SOFO Museum

An exhibition of diverse, original artwork, all produced during, and depicting scenes from the Second World War, will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, from 25th February to 7th May 2023.

The exhibition first went on display at the museum in March 2020, but was open for less than a week before national lockdowns were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic - meaning many will now get the opportunity to see these historic pieces for the first time.

The Art of World War II exhibition has been curated from John Noott's personal collection of artwork, gathered together during his career as an art collector and dealer for over 40 years. Drawn together, the art forms a history in pictures of the Second World War while showcasing incredibly personal perspectives which reflect a varied range of experiences before, during, and after the conflict. Through the work of artists of the time, visitors will see the war unfold 'as it happened'.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see a view of Dunkirk as troops are evacuated, painted by a nephew of Winston Churchill, John Spencer Churchill, a reflection of what he had witnessed during his own army service. The artist would return to England to inform his uncle personally of the need for boats to assist in rescuing the troops there.

Elsewhere, the plight of both evacuees and refugees is seen as artists of the time depict the many people displaced by war, such as those coming to Britain as part of the Kindertransport rescue programme in the build up to the Second World War.

The artists whose work is included in the collection range from skilled amateurs to professionals, from those already renowned at the time to those who would go on to make a name for themselves in a post-war world. A sketch by Eduardo Paolozzi, better known as a pioneering pop-artist, contrasts newly arrived American troops with a typical Oxford scene of a student cycling through the city with the famous skyline as a backdrop. The artist faced discrimination and later internment under the Enemy Aliens Act, along with many of his family, when they moved to Britain from Italy.



The exhibition also features art from Vogue fashion illustrators forced to flee Paris, and Beano cartoonists that turned their hand to cartography to aid General Montgomery in North Africa.

Collector John Noott also knows how wide-reaching the impact of the war was on a personal level, having grown up in wartime Britain. He was seven years old in 1939, and remembers clearly many nights in air raid shelters and his father's service with the Local Defence Volunteers after work (later to become the Home Guard, or 'Dad's Army'). These lived experiences inspired him to gather the collection throughout his own career. Following this first exhibition since the pandemic, John will make the collection available to hire for exhibition at museums and venues around the country as we approach the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-5pm. The county's own military history museum is located in the gardens of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, on the doorstep of Blenheim palace.

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## **John Howell MP writes...**

I agree with the Prime Minister when he said that New Year should be a time of optimism and excitement and yet many look ahead to 2023 with apprehension. There are indeed many concerns at home and abroad. The concerns that dominate for each of us will vary according to our own circumstances and needs. Over the Christmas and New Year holiday period I had several conversations on the fallout from the pandemic with many people feeling that the negative effects, particularly in relation to mental health and well-being, are still taking their toll. The nervousness at the news that China would reopen its borders is an example of the fear that lingers, not only in relation to physical health, but also over the dread that life could be restricted once again. However we must remember that we are in a very different place to where we were at the start of the pandemic with knowledge, vaccines and medicines available to help prevent such devastating measures being taken again.

For those concerned at the continued cost of living issues I was pleased to see the Government announcement of further support this year for pensioners and those on low incomes. It is also good to see the continued support in relation to energy costs for business and non-domestic customers. This is subject to on-going review in a fast-changing situation.

I know that many constituents are concerned over issues relating to Thames Water. I have written previously on my concerns on storm discharges. I have also raised a number of other specific concerns with the company over time. I was saddened, although not entirely surprised, to read in the Ofwat annual assessment of water company performance that Thames Water fell amongst the worst performers. I am in touch with the Chief Executive of Ofwat on this. He has confirmed that they are very concerned over this and advised me that Thames Water have committed to spending an additional £2bn in the 2020-25 regulatory period on top of the £9.6bn final determination to turnaround their performance. He acknowledges that there is much to be done and has confirmed that they are monitoring the situation closely. We will be keeping in touch on progress.

Another concern that also tends to arise with the new year is changes to bus services when timetables are reviewed. I fully appreciate that when bus companies make changes some people will be inconvenienced having got used to services running at particular times. Although buses are run on a commercial basis there are some subsidies available to support services in specific circumstances. These are administered by the County Council. Having investigated some of the concerns I understand that for bus companies there are many issues to consider when looking at the sustainability of services. In some cases it is simply a matter of low passenger numbers that makes a route unsustainable, and the companies need to divert resources to other routes where there is greater usage to keep these running. However sometimes the issues are wider. For example on one route up for change the bus company wanted to use double decker buses across the whole route and some of the rural roads included in the journey were not suitable for such vehicles. Whilst the Government does have a National Bus Strategy the challenges in rural areas are many. As we know all too well some routes are simply lost altogether due to lack of use.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are will rehearsed in the national media and which the government is already working to address. If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.

## WALKS PROGRAMME JANUARY TO MARCH 2023

### JANUARY

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Christmas Common, layby side of road to Northend, for a 5½ mile walk via Pishill and Northend.
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Kingston Blount Village Hall for a leisurely 6½ mile walk via Crowell, Aston Rowant and Sydenham. Shorter 3 mile option available.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 1pm** Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH, for a leisurely 5 mile railway-themed walk to visit both ends of the tunnel on the former Oxford to Princes Risborough line.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH, for a 7 mile relatively easy walk to Holton, Forest Hill and Shotover Country Park.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Christmas Common, layby side of road to Northend, for a 6 mile ramble through some of the woods above Watlington.

### FEBRUARY

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Meet at Aston Rowant, Lambert Hotel, for a 7½ mile walk via Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and Lewknor.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Meet at Stokenchurch for a 5½ mile walk to Radnage church for Snowdrop tea. Hot drinks and cakes available to buy. Usual Chilterns fields, woods and views to enjoy.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, behind King and Queen PH, for a 6 mile walk via Shotover park.
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am** Meet at Chalgrove, village car park, for a leisurely 7 mile walk via Cuxham. Lunch (pizza/pasta) at the Half Moon PH. Option to return by bus.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Ewelme (Cow Common car park) for a 7 mile walk via Brightwell Baldwin.

### MARCH

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Meet at Ewelme (Cow Common car park) for an undulating 5½ mile walk via Swyncombe Church and Swyncombe Downs.
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Meet by the church, Bledlow, for a leisurely 4 mile level walk across fields and along quiet country lanes, with coffee stop at the Peacock Country Inn.
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** Meet at the Lions PH Bledlow for an 8½ mile walk via Rout's Green, and Radnage. Bring a picnic.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Garsington, The Green opposite the Three Horseshoes PH, for a 6 mile walk through the villages of Garsington, Denton and Cuddesdon.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** Meet at Hailey (near Wallingford), King William IV PH, for a leisurely 4 mile walk with classic Chilterns scenery. Optional pub for coffee or lunch afterwards.

*All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.*

*Please check the website to confirm details as programme subject to change:*

[www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html](http://www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html)

or phone 01844 213608

*Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can also be found on the website.*

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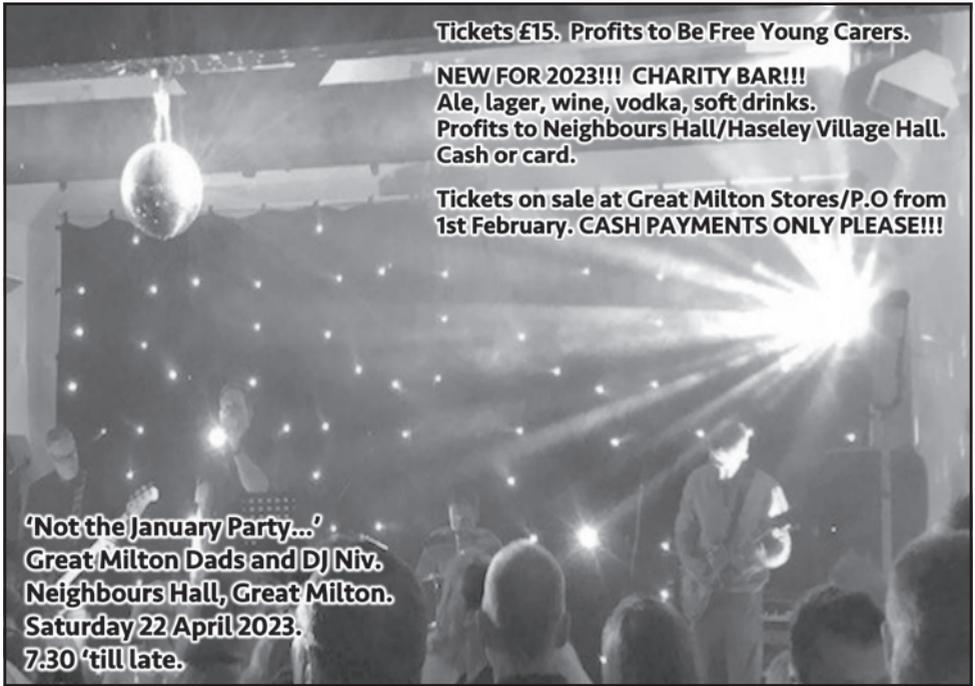
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## **Great Milton Website**

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 Chris Ashworth  
of any updates that need to be made  
**([contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk))**

## **BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 360 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

**1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year**

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**Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**

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

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

**Please contact Chris Ashworth**

**1 College Field, Cuddesdon, Oxford, OX44 9HL Tel: 07450 238474**

**Email: [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

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**Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details**

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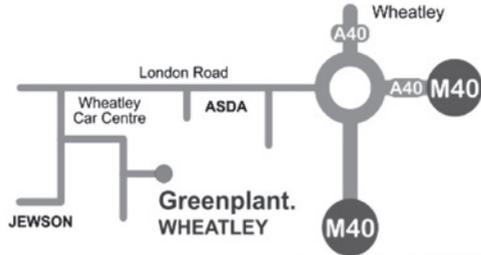
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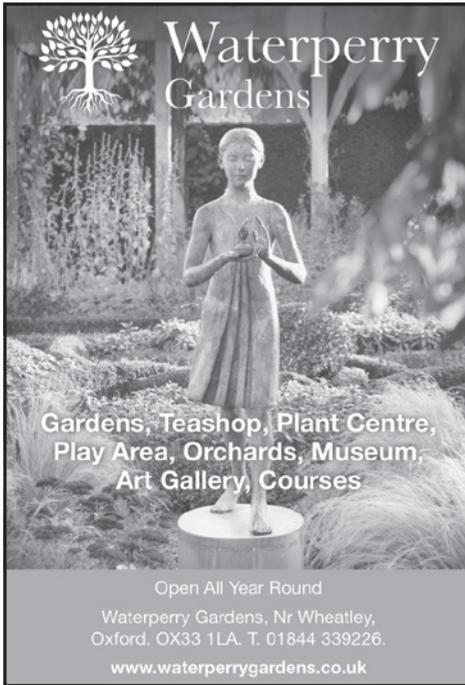
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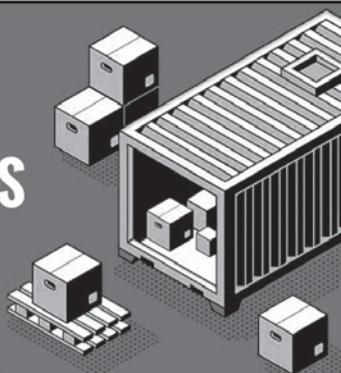
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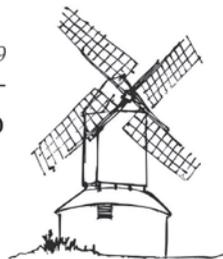
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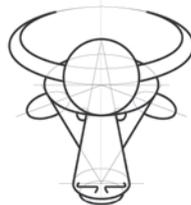
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# Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*  
Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*  
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm  
*or by appointment*  
2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday  
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm  
*contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com*
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

## February

- 4th Sat Quiz Night at The Pavilion 7:30pm  
20th Mon Parish Council Meeting at the Pavilion 7:30pm

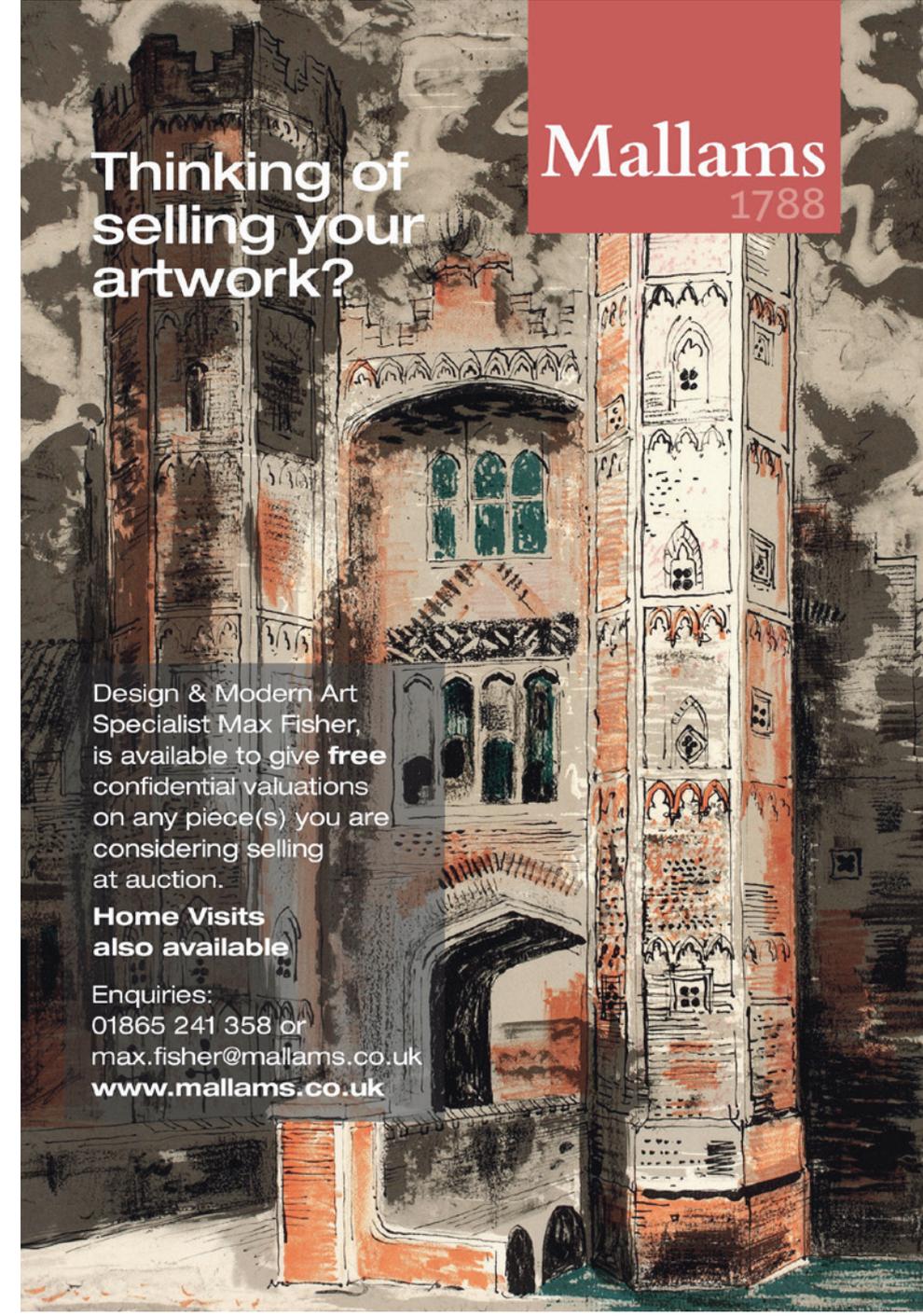
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