

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2023

Published by the Parish Council

No. 595



## Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

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## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Sarah Illingworth</b>	<b>07792 083549</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Sarah MacMahon</b>	<b>07580 581655</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:	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:** Kris Zykubek, Senior Conservator at Cliveden Conservation, working on the Dormer Monument. **Photo:** Fred Cubbage.

## 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: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@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: 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	07970 264667	
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

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday, 19th February 2024 at 7:30 pm. Present: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), M Horsley, S MacMahon, S Illingworth and Cllr G Heritage (SODC). In attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk), Amy Williams (Future Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

### **13/24 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from B Fox (Vice-chair), P Allen, D Harms and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC)

### **14/24 Variation of order of business**

Item 26/24 was spoken about before item 15/24.

Item 23/24 was spoken about before item 19/24.

### **15/24 Declarations of members' interest**

No declarations of interest in matters on the agenda were received.

### **16/24 Matters to report**

The County and District Councillors' reports were received and reviewed and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr G Heritage raised the new grant scheme: The community levy grant fund. For town and parish councils that have infrastructure projects, the grants range from £75k to £250k.

Cllr Horsley asked whether it could be applied for broadband to areas of the village that haven't yet been connected.

Cllr Heritage also raised that there will be financial support available for flood victims with SODC at this time, collating a list of details for those who need to apply.

### **17/24 Correspondence and public discussion**

Neighbourhood Watch raised the recent issues of what happened during a discussion on the village WhatsApp. Cllr Harrod went on to explain an overview of the details of what happened to inform Councillors who were unaware.

We had a member of the Recreation Ground Committee attend the meeting, and they said that recently, some members of the Committee had been approached about the fact that some dogs have been seen off lead within the Recreation Grounds. The long-standing rules are that dogs are to be kept on leads at all times while on the Recreation Grounds. A member of the Recreation Ground Committee reiterated the above rules in the village WhatsApp. The Recreation Ground Committee is reliant on the dog-walking community to adhere to these rules.

Cllr Horsley stated that the rules can be enforced as with more recent laws regarding Public spaces. It is now law that dogs must be kept on leads at all times (Public Spaces Protection Orders).

Cllr Harrod wanted to ensure the main outcome of this discussion was to ensure

that antisocial behaviour in the Village is dealt with and doesn't become a long term issue. Along with the profanities used during the WhatsApp discussion, there was a recent incident of three white roses stolen from a grave in the Church Graveyard. Cllr Harrod questioned where this recent behaviour is coming from.

Cllr Harrod then read out a statement he had drafted for the Parish Council to discuss for publication in the Bulletin. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Harrod would redraft the statement and send it to all Councillors for approval before it was issued.

Cllr Illingworth suggested that any issues such as the above raised on the Village WhatsApp should be redirected to the relevant forum from the WhatsApp chat. The Recreation Ground Committee member in attendance told the Parish Council that the signs stating these rules will be moved to more visual places and at eye level, and the Recreation Ground Committee will reiterate these rules within the Village.

### **18/24 Planning applications**

A The following planning applications were received from SODC and reviewed:

P24/S0313/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS) Alterations to existing car park. All Councillors fully support the proposal.

P23/S2616/FUL (Land adjacent to The Yard Thame Road Great Milton)

Erection of a new dwelling. This application was responded to in September 2023. There are now amended plans and additional information.

Cllr MacMahon reviewed this planning proposal and spoke to some local residents who raised concerns regarding lights from cars.

B The following planning decisions were received and reviewed.

P23/S3048/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout (Bat roost assessment, tree protection, and plan to make changes to car park layout received 13 December 2023). Refusal of Planning Permission.

P23/S3051/LB (The Bull The Green Great Milton) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout. Refusal of Planning Permission.

### **19/24 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the January meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 19th January 2024, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.



## **20/24 Financial resolutions**

A The following cheques for payment were reviewed, agreed and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses February: £608.22

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste January: £62.40

J M Dudley (Bulletin Jan): £335.20

J M Dudley (Bulletin Feb): £359.00

Gillet and Johnston (church clock maintenance): £216.00

Castle Water (For the period 21 Sep 2023 - 31 Mar 2024): £60.72

Christmas Tree purchase: £250.00 (Re-issue of cheque)

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

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

B The January bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were reviewed and approved.

## **21/24 Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand**

- The annual spring clean litter pick will take place on Saturday, 16th March 2024, and will be advertised in the March bulletin, online and within the Parish.

## **22/24 Security in the village**

Recent antisocial behaviour as raised in item 17/24.

Neighbourhood Watch also raised one more incident regarding graffiti in the village, which was reported to Thames Valley Police. Several councillors questioned if the youth club is still running and is successful as it seems to be a good way to help combat the recent antisocial behaviour. The Parish Clerk will find out about the youth club and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

## **23/24 Grass-cutting contract 2024/25**

The three quotes given for the grass-cutting tenure for the forthcoming season were reviewed by the Councillors. At the meeting, Henry Matthews from Tactical spoke about what his company can offer the Parish Council in regard to grass cutting. He recommended that the frequency of the cuts be increased during the growing season (March – November) compared to what the Parish Council had previously sought. With 18 cuts during the growing season in any areas that are used such as the Recreation ground. Verges are to be cut Monthly during the growing season.

Cllr Illingworth asked whether the days the grass cutting would be completed could be communicated to the village. Mr Matthews noted that they always give one week's notice to the Village before attending; this way, if any events are happening, they can work around these and ensure the village is in the best condition possible. The Parish Clerk will ensure that once a cutting day is advised, it is advertised on the Village website and WhatsApp to ensure villagers are aware and can take any precautions

needed. Mr Matthews also confirmed that if the Parish Council feel more or less cuts are needed, Tactical will be able to adapt to our requests.

The Parish Council voted in favour of going ahead with Tactical for the grass-cutting tenure.

This will be on an initial 3-month trial basis, which will give both the Parish Council and

Tactical time to work out any queries. The Parish Clerk will be in contact with Tactical to arrange the contract.

### **24/24 Parking issues in the village**

The Parish Council discussed parking within the Village, especially down Thame Road, which is becoming more of a problem. Cllr Horsley noted that the parking has recently improved after the issue was spoken about on the Village WhatsApp. Cllr Harrod also spoke to Le Manoir, who will ensure staff are aware of parking safely and considerately in the village.

### **25/24 Speed indicator devices**

The Parish Council reviewed the two quotes given for the purchase of the SID for use in the Village, and now the poles have been erected. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would go with the quote from Elancity, with one extra solar panel unit ordered on top of the two in the quote. The Parish Clerk will begin the arrangements to get the units ordered.

### **26/24 New Clerk/RFO**

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome Amy Williams to the role of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer starting 01/03/2024. The current Clerk will be employed until the end of April 2024 to allow time for a full hand-over. Amy's contact details will be updated in the Bulletin and other local information sources in due course.

The following Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 18th March 2024, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Meeting ended 20:31

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## **Anti-social Behaviour in the Village**

Two recent incidents of extreme anti-social behaviour in the village warrant a formal response, namely the theft of flowers from a grave in the churchyard the day before Valentine's day, and the appalling diatribe of profanities witnessed on the village WhatsApp group during a (heated!) discussion on the pros and cons of allowing dogs off the lead on the Recreation ground.



In our opinion, this sort of behaviour cannot be tolerated or tacitly condoned and is unacceptable within our community, or any other for that matter.

Firstly, the theft of the three white roses from the grave is quite simply despicable. It is tragic that we have to consider installing CCTV in the churchyard to protect the sanctity of the graves of our loved ones. There is a vague hope that the perpetrator may read this and feel a twinge of remorse at the additional grief they caused to the family of the deceased from whom those roses were so thoughtlessly taken.

As for the outrageous string of obscenities inflicted on the 162 members of the village WhatsApp group, what can be said? We believe we speak for the majority of the members of this community in saying that we will not tolerate this in our society. There need to be consequences in order to discourage this sort of behaviour, or this incident will simply repeat itself, and we understand that the individuals concerned have been removed from this group forum.

Mutual respect is a prerequisite for harmonious co-existence, and should be evident in all our interactions, in public, in private and on social media.

Your Parish Council does not wish to see this community descend into a morass of uncontrolled anti-social behaviour such as we have witnessed in the past week, and we call upon all like-minded residents to join us in the public condemnation of these acts and a point-blank refusal meekly to accept their commission.

*The Great Milton Parish Council*

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## **The Rector's Pint**

Easter this year may coincide well with the Spring daffodils, and that is because Easter is relatively early, on March 31st. The dating of Easter is taken from the Gregorian calendar, and it can occur on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th, a wide parameter. The Eastern Orthodox Church has a different dating system, taken from the Julian calendar. Here, I'm confining myself to the Western Gregorian dating. Over a 500-year period (from 1600 to 2099) Easter will most often be celebrated on either March 31st or April 16th, so we are spot on this year!

Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, the full moon that occurs after the Spring Equinox. In the Christian story, the Last Supper, the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before his crucifixion was a Passover feast, itself one of the principal festivals that was always celebrated on, or near, the time of a full moon. That is the theory at least, that the dating of Easter links us to the Jewish lunar calendar, but there are plenty of well-qualified commentators 

## 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>
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Wednesday 6th			Compline 6:00pm
Sunday 10th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Wednesday 13th		Compline 6:00pm	
Sunday 17th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th <i>Palm Sunday</i>		Benefice Family Worship 10:30am	BCP Holy Communion 9:00am
Thursday 28th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>			Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7:00pm
Friday 29th <i>Good Friday</i>		Reflection Service 11:00am	
Saturday 30th <i>Easter Eve</i>			Easter Eve Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 31st <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Easter Sunday Family Communion 10:30am		

## Benefice Services for April

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 7th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

who say that in practice it has not always worked that way!

Whatever its origins, there have been many calls to standardise the date of Easter over the years, not least from within the Church. In 2016, our present Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said he believed that the date would be fixed by 2026 to either the second or third Sunday in April.

For many, perhaps most people, the significance of Easter has primarily become linked to cute bunnies, fluffy chicks and chocolate eggs. But for Christians, Easter Sunday is a celebration of the claim of the actual and physical resurrection from the dead of a man whom his followers very quickly came to believe was God. I do the job I do because I believe that claim to be true.

I suppose it might make practical sense and would be convenient for us all to fix the date of Easter as a part of the school holiday and as the centrepiece of a set bank holiday weekend. However, in a world in which everything is directed towards our own convenience, and in where so much is standardised, I think it is wonderful, however impractical, that we have held onto a tradition which is not simply for our convenience and there is nothing standardised about Easter! It is a reminder that God does not follow our agenda, but that we are invited to follow his, however 'inconvenient' that might be.

In this, I remain a traditionalist, although in the event of change I wouldn't fight too hard against it. The meaning, not the date is the most important thing, and every Sunday is a 'Little Easter,' the Commemoration of the Resurrection.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*Simon*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

March 2024				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alistair Jackson	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev John Anderson	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	LA/Rev Stephen Spain	11:30 Holy Communion

## Churchyard Clear Up

Every six months a group from the village helps with clearing the St Mary's Church yard. This spring it will take place on Saturday 13th April 2024 between 10 and 12.30.

Tasty and energising refreshments will be available at about 11.15.

No particular gardening skill is required, just cheerful enthusiasm, but if you can please bring chain saws, trowels, hoes, secateurs, rakes, forks and your latest gardening gadget.

Everyone, that is everyone, is welcome.

If you need more information please contact Tony Jefferis on 07813 790678

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## Great Milton History



### The Well On The Green. How Things Change.

Looking at the fantastic job Les Preston has done restoring the old well to its former glory, reminds one of the story told by villagers that sometimes the bucket tipped over and came unhooked from the chain when it reached the bottom. Young boys were called in to go down the well hanging on the chain & rewarded with a few pennies for their efforts. Cries of “don't kick the bucket” were heard when they hooked the bucket back on.

Imagine the same thing happening these days. Firstly the youngsters would want a couple of computer games to do the job. Secondly a posse of 'elf & safety officials would be rounded up from their 'home offices' to carry out a risk assessment.

How things change.

We are planning a booklet about the school, and would like to include your memories, ideas and stories. Sue Denham and Jane Jeffris are leading the plan – so any information to them would be appreciated.

We will now be meeting every Wednesday at 10:30am from March 6th – come and see us!!

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## Date for Your Diary

Date for your diary - Sea Shanty band called 'Short Drag Roger' are coming to entertain you at The Neighbours' Hall on Fri 12th April. Tickets will be available at the shop shortly.

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## Haseley Brook

A reminder that the consultation closes on the 26th February. Go online and express your support. See below for guidance and the link

The latest proposals from South Oxfordshire District Council for housing in our area is very good news for those who support Haseley Brook Action Group.

### **The draft Local Plan both:**

- Removes Chalgrove airfield from the list of possible sites; and
- Does not include ‘Harrington’ on the list of possible sites.

The Emerging Joint Local Plan which aims to identify sites for housing in our area for the next 20 years is open for feedback via a consultation until 21st February.

To help ensure that this Draft Plan progresses to an Agreed Plan for South Oxfordshire we all need to go online and express support.

### **Responding takes as little as 5 minutes and the link to follow is here:**

<https://theconversation.southoxfordshire.gov.uk/corporate-services/jlp-preferred-options-consultation/consultation/>

### **Below we provide guidance on how to best respond.**

As many of us as possible should enter responses online. It is important that we collectively register our support, as other stakeholders will push for changes to this plan that would undermine the excellent work to reach this updated set of proposals.

### **Importantly - you don't need to answer every question.**

#### **HBAG encourages you to:**

1. Strongly Agree with the main elements of the Plan;
2. In Chapter 6 questions on Housing: Strongly Agree with the majority or all of these proposals;
3. In Chapter 8 Strongly Agree with deliverable sites such as Grenoble Road, Culham and Berinsfield;
4. Also in Chapter 8 (AS10) Strongly Agree with removing Chalgrove airfield from the Plan and using your own words reference:
  - Unsuitability of the airfield site
  - A ‘New Town’ in Chalgrove being undeliverable
  - Location not being adjacent to the housing need in Oxford
  - Poor transport provision for accessing Oxford.
5. Contribute to other questions and topics of personal interest and using your own words consider referencing:
  - Support for developments adjacent to Oxford that will serve the city;
  - Strong commitment to carbon reduction principles within the Plan;

- Need for affordable housing as part of the Plan.

6. Submit your response by pressing “FINISH” having also added your contact details.

This 5 minutes of your time will have a meaningful impact in supporting HBAG and protecting our beautiful rural area of Oxfordshire.

*Haseley Brook Action Group; January 2024*

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## **Quiz Night**

**Neighbours' Hall, 16th Feb**

Thank you to all those who attended the Quiz night at the Neighbours' Hall on Friday 16th Feb. The money raised was £467.50 and will go towards maintaining the hall to a high standard. Improvements to the toilets is high on the list. Thank you once again for your support.

*Neighbours' Hall Management Committee*

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## **Great Milton In Conversation**

A fantastic opportunity to hear from a soprano and actress with a wonderful career in many West End musicals, opera and film ...

Claire Moore is well known for her leading roles in Miss Saigon and Phantom of the Opera, she also starred on stage with Richard Harris in Camelot, in Little Shop of Horrors, and many other west end shows. Her career has spanned 40 years and she is still working.

Claire will be interviewed about her life and career by Jon Devitt, a journalist previously with the BBC. They both live locally.

**\*\*As an extra special treat, Claire will also be singing pieces from well known West End musicals\*\***

### **Event details as follows:**

SATURDAY, 16th MARCH, 6.30 pm

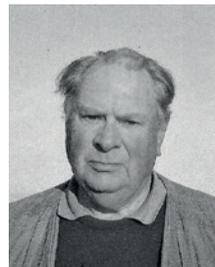
in St Mary's Church, Great Milton

Drinks available from 6.00 pm, event starts at 6.30 with 8 pm close.

Tickets £10 on the door.

## View from Views

Typical/sods law we have just participated in the “Big Farmland Bird Count” parking ourselves on 3 successive days in a spot that ,whenever we walk past, 2 to 3 times a week, there are usually birds of all species flying around ( Greenfinches, Yellow Hammers, Jays, woodpeckers, fieldfares, to name but a few) but on the 3 days nothing except the normal birds we see every day, Blue & Great Tits, Dunnock and Chaffinch, and not really many of these. I mention 3 successive days as the first day it was late in the day, usually more bird activity in the morning. The second day dull and, the third day as it was really nice and sunny, we thought this would be the day, but no. The only redeeming factor was that on the third day, a Yellow Hammer decided to perch not 10 yards from us and, stayed for at least 10 minutes just resting or just doing things that a yellow Hammer does. Of course, by siting ourselves by a hedge we missed the many Skylarks and Buntings that, are most found in open fields, of which we seem to have a plenty.



Last month I stated I would not mention the weather well, this month I feel I must, as a lot of happenings/decisions had to be made and, previous decisions altered for the coming season, due to crop failure, as we thought. After a long period of rain over the winter towards the end of January we were beginning to feel the worst was now over and we began to make plans for the spring then, once again on the 6th/7th/& 8th February the heavens opened once again dumping a further 40mm of rain over already saturated land. I have never in all my life known such flooding, our river meadows have been more or less underwater since the beginning of November, save a respite of two periods amounting to about 10 days in all. It seems that the Wheat crop is surviving except in the odd places where it has been under water for a period, the Rape has all but disappeared, and the Barley that we thought had also disappeared, actually looking as if most will recover, so plans we had made may now have to be rethought.

I think the reason that this flooding has been so bad this season, is because, after a wettish late summer followed by at least 100mm more rainfall between November and the end of January, than the same period last season. Our main issue this winter, has been to find the drains that obviously were not running as they should, to cope with all this extra moisture. These were laid by our predecessor in the 60's, to take water from the various springs that are plentiful hear. Anyone who knew dear old Gilbert Pickett will have heard him say Gt Milton was built on springs. One particular area of the farm has been extra wet and, on examination of the above drains it was evident they were not running as they should, were found to be full of matted roots, which would have let some water flow but not this year, in some instances we extracted a sausage of these some meters long. It seems odd as to why these roots get into the drains in this particular area, I think there could be two reasons, one we have planted trees and a

hedge over them, two I reckon that during the very dry periods we have had these plants would be searching for moisture and the obvious place is a drain, as drains in other areas don't seem to suffer in the same way.

We are participating in one of the first initiatives to be involved with as a farm cluster member, in conjunction with the "River Thames Conservation Trust", to monitor the river for mink prior to the introduction of the native Vole, who have been forced out of existence by foreign Mink, emanating from the release of the animals from Fur farms many years ago, by activists against the trade and, irresponsible individuals. The fur trade has now been banned.

On the brighter side of things, we learn that Michael Gove has announced that there will be encouragement to build on greenfield sites, and redundant Offices and shops for housing. Interestingly this initiative is now holding up the planning on a M & S store in London, there is good reason for this as, it seems to me to be a scandalous waste of materials to continue to pull down perfectly good buildings and, throw the debris away, all the carbon used to build etc. Like our own Council in Oxford now want to move the county office and presumably do the same with the existing buildings to be replaced by some other useless buildings that will add to the destruction of our lovely city centre. Another sanctioned expenditure is the electrifying of the buses, a worthy cause, but is it necessary in one hit. They can afford to spend money on these, but not on the upgrading of our "jerry" built schools, or provision of school minibuses to the extent that disabled children cannot access our study centre, when we are expected to provide disabled facilities.

If anyone is interested, it is worth accessing Rick Stiens programme BBC 2 14/2/24 and see the way agriculture may be going.

*Charles Peers*

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

In February we had a fun night making and eating pancakes, including gluten-free ones, and made Mardi Gras masks. Thank you to the kind people who donated and lent us hot plates. We held a special raffle for an Afghan girl who lives with a host family in Stadhampton in the school holidays. She would love to visit her mum and the rest of her family in a refugee camp near Munich so hopefully we've helped towards achieving her dream.

Eleven of us also went for dinner at the Westgate, then onto the theatre to see the Oxford Operatic Society's Oliver. A wonderful night and stunning show.

On Thursday 14 March hear all about our year and future plans at the AGM, followed by a talk from Alex Pyle of SODC about Waste & Recycling. Everyone welcome, men too! 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 OX44 7PZ 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](http://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)

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## **Morland House Surgery**

**Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only. Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

The NHS launched the Pharmacy First Service (PFS) on 31st January (see NHS Pharmacy First Service (PFS) | NHSBSA ) Appointments can be booked directly with participating pharmacies for the treatment of 7 common health conditions namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.

Pharmacists can offer advice to patients and supply NHS medicines where clinically appropriate. This will help reduce the pressure on Morland House Surgery. As an example, appointments with Wheatley Pharmacy can be booked (often the same day) by phoning

01865 874047 or via the website [www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book](http://www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book)

Group Consultation Clinics – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>



# Kelly's Marathon Fundraiser

**IN AID OF SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE**

**Live music from Rhythm & Blues band The Junco Shakers  
DJ Niv • Food • Auction • Heated marquee**

Kelly Wing, from Great Milton, is running the London Marathon to raise funds to say a big thank you to Sobell House Hospice for the amazing end of life care they gave her husband, Darren.

**Help Kelly reach her target of £10,000**

**6pm till late, Saturday 23rd March  
The Bull, The Green, Great Milton, Oxford, OX44 7NS**

**Adults £20 Under-16s £10  
100% of this ticket price will go to Sobell House Hospice**

**Tickets available from:** The Bull, Great Milton Post Office,  
Monkey Puzzle Coffee Shop in Thame.  
For further information email [hello@thebullgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:hello@thebullgreatmilton.co.uk)

**Kelly's  
JustGiving  
page**



**The Great Milton  
Spring 2024 Litterpick  
10.30am  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March**



**DETAILS OF ANY CHANGES TO  
ARRANGEMENTS WILL APPEAR ON  
THE VILLAGE WEBSITE**

**BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES!!!  
All other equipment provided.**

**Meet at The Old Garage.**

**For more info contact Chris Ashworth (Parish Clerk):  
e-mail [contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk) or tel. 07450 238474**

# Quiz Night

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

At

THE NEIGHBOURS HALL  
GREAT MILTON

**Time: 7:30pm**

Teams of up to 8 people

Tickets £6 each

With a ploughman's supper

To book a team, please contact

Ann Price – 01844 279474

10 TABLES AVAILABLE

Beer/ Wine & Soft Drinks for Sale

All funds raised will go towards the  
Senior Citizens Annual Party Fund

# CHILDREN'S CRAFT MORNING



MAKE YOUR OWN EASTER GARDEN ON A TRAY

## **ST PETER'S CHURCH, GREAT HASELEY**

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

10.00 – 12.00 (REGISTRATION FROM 9.30)

**PLEASE BOOK AS SPACE IS LIMITED: TEXT OR WHATSAPP  
TOBY GARFITT ON 07941 164038**

COST: £5, TO COVER ALL MATERIALS (LET ME KNOW IF THAT'S A PROBLEM). PAY BY CASH OR CARD, ON ARRIVAL.

THERE IS PLENTY OF PARKING, AND THE CHURCH HAS TOILET FACILITIES



SHORT



DRAG



ROGER



# Neighbours' Hall Great Milton

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Start: 19.30

Join Oxfordshire's own shanty crew Short Drag Roger for an evening of traditional shanties, more modern sea songs and self-penned numbers.

Tickets £10 available from Great Milton Village Shop or contact the crew to reserve a seat.

Part proceeds to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Bar available.

Neighbours' Hall – Church Rd, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PD



[www.shortdragroger.co.uk](http://www.shortdragroger.co.uk)  
[info@shortdragroger.co.uk](mailto:info@shortdragroger.co.uk)



## Wheatley Library

Happy New Year! 😊



In the spirit of the new year, there are a few new initiatives occurring in the library over the next few months.

We have a new Digital Helper session on alternate Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30p.m. for anyone who needs help with a specific computer or online query. Please contact us to book a Digital Helper session or speak to a member of staff in the library for further details.

A new Storytime session will begin soon on alternate Saturday mornings for children ages 4 – 7, so keep an eye out for specific dates and times that will be posted in the library and on our website at [bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary](http://bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary).

Here's a reminder of our regular events:

- Rhymetime: *free* & every Friday, 10:30 a.m. for kids up to 5 yrs old
- Digital Helper: *free* & alternate Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30p.m.
- Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: first Saturday of each month, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Art Group: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Fibre Group: 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon, 2 – 4 p.m.

For news and event updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page. Our Wheatley Friends Group would benefit from additional members so if you'd like to join, please visit [wheatleylibrary.org](http://wheatleylibrary.org) or send a Facebook message.

We recently recruited several fantastic new volunteers to work in the library so please keep your eye out for those new faces, who we are very happy to have on board!

For library queries, please email [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01865 875267.

Hope to see you soon!

Wheatley Library  
The Merry Bells  
High St  
Wheatley  
Oxford  
OX33 1XP



## WELCOME to St Mary's Church

Come inside and access our new **Info Point** to appreciate every aspect of this historic building



It is impractical to keep this South Door open all the time but please go around to the North Door, which should be unlocked during normal daylight hours, and use your mobile 'phone, scan the QR code which is displayed inside, and explore your way all around the Church

### Find out about:

- ❖ The architecture.
- ❖ The Dormer Monument.
- ❖ The unusual organ.
- ❖ Unique features.
- ❖ The font.
- ❖ The bells
- ❖ The empty external niches etc, etc.....



# COME JOIN IN



**FOOTBALL FOR ALL**



## TRAINING TIMES



### MENS

**TUESDAY**  
7-8PM

OXFORD ACADEMY, SANDY LANE WEST  
LITTLEMORE, OXFORD, OX46JZ

TONY SNELMGROVE

### LADIES

**TUESDAY**  
6-7PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

CAROL PHILLIPS

### UNDER 12S

**SATURDAY**  
10:30-11AM

REC FEILD OUTSIDE  
VILLAGE HALL

HEIDI BATES

### UNDER 11S

**THURSDAY**  
5:30-6:30PM

CHALGROVE MUGA

RYAN UNDERWOOD

### UNDER 9S

*BOYS AND GIRLS*

**MONDAY (TERM TIME)**

17:30-18:30

ON THE MUGA DURING WINTER.  
ON REC FIELD FROM APRIL

DARREN GILL

### WALKING

**WEDNESDAY**  
6:30PM  
**FRIDAY**  
10AM

CHALGROVE MUGA  
LUKE ALLEN



07770841414



CHALGROVEFOOTBALLCLUB.COM

# GREAT MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

## LION “MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE” SCHEME

These bottles are designed to hold important information about you and your medical needs. In case of an emergency, ambulance crews know where to find your bottle and ensure you get the care you need.

### **The bottles are free and could save your life**

All you need to do is complete the enclosed form, with details of your next of kin and any information about diagnoses, medication, allergies etc. Then pop the bottle in the shelf of your fridge door. You'll also find two green self-adhesive labels in the bottle. Put one on the inside of your front door and the other on the outside of your fridge.

### **Ambulance crews are trained to look for the green stickers**

#### **You can pick up your free bottle from:**

Morland House Surgery  
Health centres  
Pharmacies

Or contact Rod Snowdon (Neighbourhood Watch)  
on 07836 728919 or via the Village WhatsApp group.

It would be useful if you could let Rod know if you're using this scheme or if you find anywhere else that distributes the bottles.

Thank you.



# THE MAPLE TREE TREASURER VACANCY

- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk).
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:

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

 [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/)

Registered charity no.: 1174117



**OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
**WHEATLEY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB PROJECT**  
**Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth Workers**

The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley.

The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm.

The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly, we are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Childrens opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing'

Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of 2 references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV's for the role, to request an application form please contact; Martin Gillett, OPA Manager. T = 07436 270267 or E = [martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk](mailto:martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk)

# LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS

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## Part time opportunities

**If you are a parent looking for part time working to fit around childcare commitments or if you are a student spending the summer in the local area, and would be interested to work with us, we would love to hear from you!**

We are looking for dedicated and people-orientated team members to join our award winning team. Hospitality experience is welcomed, however, training is provided and a willingness to learn and become part of our collaborative environment is more important.

We have full time hours, part time hours, evening and weekend working opportunities available in a variety of departments.

Please email [careers.mqs@belmond.com](mailto:careers.mqs@belmond.com) who will be delighted to give you more information. Alternatively please scan the QR code below to send us your details.

Niall Kingston

General Manager





**Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm  
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for  
**prebooked** consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

**Dispensary:**

**Note that our dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023**

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescriptions.

Please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) for lots more information

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

**Tickets £15. All profits to Sobell House Hospice.**

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Cash or card.

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1st February. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY PLEASE!!!**

**'Not the January Party...'**  
Great Milton Dads and DJ Niv.  
Neighbours Hall, Great Milton.  
Saturday 27 April 2024.  
7:30 'till late.

## **Neighbours' Hall**

**A large recently refurbished community Hall with Wifi, central heating, new lighting and well-equipped kitchen.** The

Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

**Available for hire by the hour or the day.**

**Cost for hiring  
£15 per hour, £120 for the full day**

**Please contact our Booking Secretary**

**Janet Smith on 07970 264667**

**GREAT MILTON**

# **ART & CRAFTS CLUB**

Join us for a monthly social get together loosely based around creative hobbies.

Whether you're a sewer, a knitter, a painter or a crafter, work on your favourite project while catching up with your neighbours.

No charge. No judgement.  
Open to all ages and genders.

First Monday of every month (second Monday in January) in the Pavilion from 6.30-9.00pm

## **The Three Villages Car Service**

The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

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

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

## **Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground**

**Ideal for children's parties, meetings, family get togethers, classes and lessons, corporate days and sports events.**

**Table and chair hire also available**

**For booking and more info, please email Caroline at [carolinesmith@2redroofs.com](mailto:carolinesmith@2redroofs.com)**



## Book Library at the Neighbours' Hall

Open third or fourth  
Friday of the month

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

11 am – 12 noon

- Come and take, swap or donate a book or two  
- we also have a good choice of jigsaw puzzles
- We are providing tea, coffee and cakes in the Orchard Room to enjoy whilst you browse!
- Please feel free to make use of the Library at any time you visit the Neighbours' Hall



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[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)

### March at Waterperry

The Gardens at Waterperry are springing back into life with the daffodils in bloom in the meadow and with the national collection of Saxifrages at their best during March, spring is the perfect time to visit the gardens

### Mother's Day Sunday 10th March

The Gift Barn has some lovely Mother's Day gifts and for a special Mother's Day. Treat mum to freshly prepared home-cooked food including hot and cold lunches and a fantastic selection of afternoon tea treats. Afterward, enjoy a stroll around the gardens with a half-price entrance for all mums on Mothering Sunday!

### National Gardens Scheme Tuesday 12th March

Entry Fees to gardens for the day are donated to various UK-based charities.  
[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)



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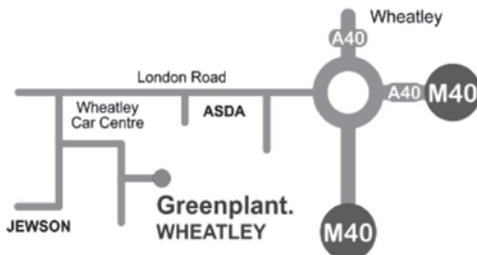
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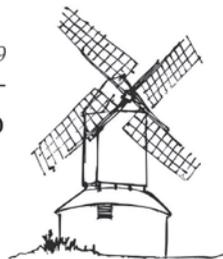
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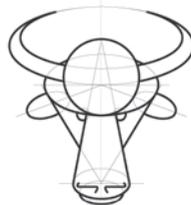
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## Diary

- Monday 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*
- Wednesday 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*
- Saturday Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*  
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*

## March

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| Sat 9th  | Great Milton Litterpick at The Old Garage              | 10:30am |
| Sat 16th | Claire Moore in Conversation at St, Mary's Church      | 6:30pm  |
| Mon 18th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                 | 7:30pm  |
| Fri 22nd | Quiz Night at The Neighbours Hall                      | 7:30pm  |
| Sat 23rd | Children's Craft Morning at St. Peter's, Great Haseley | 10:00am |
|          | Kelly's Marathon Fundraiser at The Bull                | 6:00pm  |

## April

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| Sat 6th  | Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Neighbours' Hall | —       |
| Fri 12th | Short Drag Roger at The Neighbours' Hall                 | 7:30pm  |
| Sat 13th | Churchyard Clear-Up                                      | 10:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th March 2024**.

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