

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

October 2021

Published by the Parish Council

No. 568



## **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 Monckery 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>	<b>George Bennett</b>	<b>07482 339905</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: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto:contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)**

## **Parish Council Representatives**

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

**Cover:** The epic Tug of War.

**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	steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

### Services

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

### Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. John Anderson	01235 529563	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		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
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 – September 2021**

Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, held at the Pavilion on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.30pm. The meeting was attended by Cllrs Steve Harrod (Chair), P Allen, G Bennet, C Deacon, M Horsley and D Harms. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr W Fox. Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and two members of the public.

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

### **Matters to Report**

Reports were received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook Ward). These are available on the parish council website.

### **Public discussion**

A complaint has been received from a resident of Fullers Field about repeated dog fouling on their property. Dog owners are reminded to keep their pets away from private property, and to use a bag to clear up any mess that they generate, wherever this happens.

A resident has requested that the road markings at the junction of A329 and Thame Road should be reviewed by the County Council with a view to the consideration of double white lines (or a suitable alternative which prevents overtaking but allows turning right to and from Thame Road), backed up by 'no overtaking' signage. This is after several near misses while turning into and out of Thame Road at this location, with vehicles either approaching unexpectedly from the left on the A329 or overtaking when about to turn right into Thame Road from the A329. The correspondent reported the example of double white lines in the centre of the road (for example on the A418 at Tiddington) adjacent to a right turn, with a small passing place provided on the left for people to pass. It was agreed that double white lines present a far clearer visual deterrent to overtaking than the current markings: this is not helped by the sign marking the turn lying in the verge for several months since it was demolished. The Clerk will arrange a site visit with OCC's local highways representative to discuss the matter, put forward proposals and receive suggestions.

Steve Partington from Shield Solutions in Milton Common briefly attended to introduce himself and give a short presentation with a view to a potential multi-village dog waste collection arrangement. The Shield Group is a long-established family business focusing on local work and with a belief in community support, and who are already collecting dog waste for a number of nearby villages with further similar arrangements forthcoming. Although the waste is currently dealt with as standard

commercial waste, in the long-term the aim is to dispose of it using green methods. After brief discussion and agreement that Shield Group represent an opportunity for long-term stability after a period of considerable disruption to Great Milton's dog waste collection arrangements, councillors unanimously agreed that Shield Group should be approached to provide an initial three-month trial with a view to a two-year agreement should this prove successful.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P21/S3530/HH (Maranta Thame Road Great Milton). Hip to gable extension. Rear dormer & single storey rear extension. Cllr Fox submitted his review of this application in his absence. Cllr Fox visited the property and consulted nearby residents, one of whom was supportive while another felt that the proposed rear extension would obscure light to their property and create a feeling of being 'hemmed in'. Cllr Fox recommended support of the application, but with the proviso that the rear extension should be reduced in depth by 1 metre. Councillors agreed with this suggestion and to SUPPORT the application subject to this condition.

P21/S3680/HH and P21/S3681/LB (Milton Lodge Lower End Great Milton).

To raise the boundary walls and piers on the east and southern side of the property, to the same height as the existing piers and wall on the eastern boundary and install wooden gates.


Cllr Horsley reviewed this application. Following local consultation, one comment was received remarking on the potential visual and physical impact of the taller walls, in the context of the application site falling within in a conservation area. Councillors felt that any impact on the conservation area would be flagged up by the conservation officer, and as a result agreed to respond to the application reiterating this opinion but to flag up no additional concerns.

The following planning decisions received were considered alongside outstanding planning matters:

P21/S2278/HH (The Glass Onion Lower End Great Milton). Erection of Car Port with Solar PV Roof. Planning permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

P21/S2397/HH (Yew Cottage Lower End Great Milton Oxford). New first floor extension to replace current box dormer + two storey in fill extension. Replace all windows and doors.

Planning permission is GRANTED for the development described above.

P21/S2838/LB, P21/S2858/HH and P21/S2859/LB (Honeysuckle Cottage Lower End Great Milton). Replace existing paving with new paving, repaint 

all existing windows, side and rear doors and repaint external walls of a Grade II listed building. Demolition of existing conservatory and replacing it with orangery, widening of existing doorway to original size and lowering of cill to create new doorway to a Grade II listed building. Planning permission is GRANTED for the developments described above.

### **Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons: planning application update**

A consultation is open on an amended scheme for the proposed redevelopment of Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons. Discussions are ongoing with Belmond Group regarding methods of engagement with the community. Residents are encouraged to respond individually via the SODC website: however, you will also be able to have your say in person at the next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, which will take place at the Neighbours' Hall instead of the Pavilion on Monday 18th October starting at 7.30pm.

The deadline for responses is Friday 22 October: please note that if you have received a consultation letter from SODC with a quoted deadline of 4 October, the extension to 22 October is also valid.

Advice regarding further developments and any further meetings or other events that are arranged will be communicated as soon as possible via the usual local channels.

Link to application page:

Planning Application P21/S0343/FUL ([southoxon.gov.uk](https://southoxon.gov.uk))

The minutes of the July meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 19th July 2021, were reviewed, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### **Financial Resolutions**

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £504.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production August. £222.60

Website hosting September (reimbursement to Clerk). £19.99

McCracken and Son. July/August mowing. £402/£558

Green and Growing. A329 path strim. £120

Pet Waste Solutions. Dog bin emptying July/August. £43.20

Oxon South and Vale Citizen's Advice. Donation, £100 (cheque mistakenly not written at July meeting despite being on agenda)

Clean Slate. Donation, £100

The latest bank reconciliations, accounts and bank statements were received, reviewed, signed and approved. The bank balance as at 2 September was £43,075.15.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

- The trip hazard from tree roots raising tarmac on the path from The Green to Fullers Field has been dealt with.

- The brambles on Fullers Field which were encroaching into the road have been trimmed by SOHA: however, they could have been more aggressive with their approach. It is hoped that SOHA will return and further reduce their mass.
- The hedges and foliage adjacent to the path on the Fullers Field side of the Rec have been cut back.
- Blocked gullies close to the school have been partially dealt with but there are significant obstructions caused by tree roots. It is hoped that Oxfordshire County Council will return soon to clear the blockages.

### **COVID-19: update on village response/impacts**

No significant local developments were raised with regard to the current pandemic.

### **Milton Common speed mitigation scheme**

The installation team are reportedly awaiting delivery of materials. Road markings were being painted as of Monday 20th September: gateways should be received relatively soon, but the steel poles for the signage may have a longer lead time.

### **Milton Common parking issues: London Road**

A complaint has been received regarding inconsiderate parking outside the new houses on London Road, including pavement parking. This has been reported to the County Council (as the highway authority) and to Thames Valley Police (as the enforcement authority). A member of the local policing team reports that they will keep an eye on things and enforce when possible, on a proportionate basis initially with a view to a more long-term approach if persistent issues are observed. The officer also observed that although there may be vehicles parked on the road which may be an inconvenience, the parking is not necessarily illegal.

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, 2nd to 5th June 2022**

Discussion regarding plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022 was deferred until a later date to enable consideration alongside other community events scheduled for a similar time (e.g the Church Fete).

### **Consultations on 'Ox-Cam Arc' and the**

### **SODC/VoWH Statement of Community Involvement**

The current consultation exercises on the Ox-Cam Arc and JSIC were discussed.

The Ox-Cam Arc consultation seeks views from the public on their vision for the area, and their priorities for the Arc in the years ahead. This consultation marks the first of a three-stage process for the development of the Spatial Framework, as outlined by the Government. There will be two further consultations and other opportunities to liaise with central Government on the future of the Arc across the two-year project.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are preparing a joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), that sets out how they will



consult on planning applications and planning policy, including the joint Local Plan. Comments are invited from the public and from local councils.

On the basis that the Expressway plans have been cancelled, it is understood that the proposals for the Ox-Cam Arc are of significantly less concern to Great Milton, and as such councillors expressed no strong views on the Ox-Cam Arc consultation, nor the SCI exercise. However, residents are encouraged to express their own views via the consultation websites at <https://placebuilder.io/futureofthearc> and Statement of Community Involvement - South Oxfordshire District Council ([southoxon.gov.uk](http://southoxon.gov.uk)).

### **Grass cutting**

Discussion took place regarding the standard of grass cutting since the contract was re-awarded, in light of comments regarding cut length along with other issues such as plants being strimmed and allotment paths not being mowed. Following feedback sent to the contractor in August, those present were pleased to observe that standard of mowing seems much improved based on the latest visit on the day of the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th October 2021 at the Neighbours' Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

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## **The Rector's Pint**

I was at the hospital a few weeks ago for my monthly check on the Achilles tendon. All was going well, but the standout moment came between my appointments with the Trauma team and the Physiotherapist, whilst I was taking in a moment of sun outside the hospital's main entrance. There was a man in a wheelchair nearby. He must have been about my age, and he was a double amputee, each leg having been removed just below the knee. It looked as if this had been a recent operation. He was on the phone, and I could not help overhearing what he was saying. He was obviously asked how he was, and this was his reply: "How am I? given the circumstances I would say nine out of ten." My goodness, the man had just had two legs amputated and he gave things a nine out of ten! I was humbled and impressed. I really wanted to know his story, but of course British reserve and a desire not to offend held me back. I wondered if this had been a lifesaving operation, and so for him, it had given a sense of perspective?


The discipline of thanksgiving, counting our blessings, is such an important one. We know from psychologists that those who do this are happier people. In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians in the New Testament, we are encouraged to 'give thanks in every circumstance' as a spiritual discipline, 'for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ'. In



## Benefice Services October

	<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	Harvest Festival 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Morning Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 17th	Morning Worship 10:30am	A Service of Thanksgiving & Commemoration for the departed 4:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th	Morning Worship by Zoom 9:00am	United Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	Family Gathering A half-hour for families of all ages followed by Sunday Tea 4:00pm
Wednesday 27th	Holy Communion BCP (said) followed by a bring your own lunch 12:00pm		
Sunday 31st	United Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	Morning Worship by Zoom 9:00am	

fact, thanksgiving fills the Bible. As someone who can tend to be a glass half-empty person, this is an important lesson for me. We can't welcome every hardship, but might we find something in each difficulty for which we can give thanks? I am indebted to that man for reminding me of a very important quality to hold onto as a part of life.

There are several things to look out for in October. Firstly, following a review conducted by Tim Suter, which involved participants from all three parishes, we will be trialling a new pattern of Sunday services. My overview and the new pattern can be seen below, please note the changes in service times to 9.00am and 10.30am. Secondly, the final Harvest festival service in the Benefice will be held at St. Peter's Great Haseley. Thirdly, on Sunday October 17, at 4.00 pm we will be hosting a special Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for the departed at St James' Little Milton. 

We last held this service two years ago and many said that it was helpful to them as they remembered loved ones. Please do come if you can. The service will be followed by tea and cake!

A Service of Thanksgiving and commemoration for the departed

Sunday 17 October 4.00 pm

St James' Little Milton

Refreshments will be served after the service.

*Simon*

### **New Pattern of Services from Sunday 3rd October**

There will be two services every Sunday, at 9.00am and 10.30am. The 9.00 will be a Holy Communion, and the 10.30 am service will be a service without communion, such as we are using now.

The review group believed that the fourth Sunday of each month should be a more whole-heartedly Benefice Sunday, with a Zoom service at 9.00am, a Benefice Communion service at 10.30am (which will rotate between the churches, as now), and a Benefice-wide 'family service gathering' which will also rotate. This will be at 4.00pm on Sunday afternoon and it will be short, about half an hour. We will of course follow this with tea-time refreshments!

Whilst there will be no 8.00am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion on a Sunday, there will be a monthly Wednesday BCP at 12.00 noon, taking place in the church that would not have had a service on the previous 'Benefice Sunday.' A nice idea is to encourage people to bring their own lunch as we continue to share time together following the service. I hope that all will be clear to you in the pattern set out below!

This new pattern will be reviewed in six months to see if any small changes need to be made, and then there will be a full assessment in a year, when it will be decided whether this pattern should continue.

Should anyone want more information and a more detailed explanation than the space here allows, I would be delighted to send it to you.

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## **Church Development Project Update**

You may remember that we put an information leaflet through the door of every house in the village just before the pandemic, outlining our plans for a Church

Development Project.

We need to restore and repair the medieval church tower stonework to make it safe. As well as this, the historically significant Dormer Monument will be conserved and returned to its original setting and, in its place, a much needed kitchen and WC will be installed. We're also planning to remove some pews immediately in front of the tower so that a flexible communal space will be created. We hope these changes will help make our church more comfortable for generations to come. Further details can be found on the village website.

With the recent pandemic lockdowns, we haven't been able to make quite as much progress as we'd hoped, but the small fundraising group has recently met again to get things underway once more. The village has raised £42k but we are still a long way off the £400k+ required. As grants are scarcer now, we have broken the work into three separate projects: 1) external tower repair, 2) monument conservation and move to a more suitable location in the church and 3) the kitchen and WC, so that we can focus our fundraising on specific aspects of the work to be done. You may have spotted that the thermometer board outside the church states a target of £200k but this is just the amount needed for the external tower repairs, and prices are rising all the time!.

We have now commissioned a laser scan of the church from which our architects can draw up detailed plans and specifications. We also hope to place grant applications shortly. The fundraising activities will continue.

If any of you have expertise in writing grant applications, can offer advice or would like to be involved in any other way, we would love to hear from you.

*Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Mary Wakefield,  
Liz Isherwood, Jane Jefferis, Trudy Timbs*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

October				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Dr Simon Blainey	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mrs Liz Spain	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Dr John Lenton	
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mrs Joanna Tulloch	



## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

November				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
7th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mr David Harper	
14th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mrs Sue Barratt	
21st	11:00am	St. Mary's	Local Arrangement	
28th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion/ Advent Sunday

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## Great Milton History



### Revised Opening Hours

We will no longer be opening regularly on a Wednesday, however should you wish to come anytime please contact one of us.

From Saturday October 16th we will be open from 11 am till 1 pm, and then on the first and third Saturday of each Month.

We look forward to seeing you and will always welcome new members who wish to join us.

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## Neighbours' Hall Book Library

This is such a nice but rather underused community facility at present so we are opening up for about one hour every third Friday of the month to encourage people to come along and borrow, swap or donate a book or two - we have some jigsaw puzzles and DVDs to choose from as well. Anyone visiting the Neighbours' Hall at any time is welcome to make use of the Book Library.

Our next open session is Friday 15th October at 11am. We will be serving tea/ coffee and cakes that morning to enjoy whilst you browse. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Barbara and Hazel*

## Three Villages Tug of War 2021

Congratulations to Little Milton who won both the Ladies and Men Tug of War this year.

A huge thank you to all our tuggers, stall holders, sponsors, those who set up and down and those who cheered so loudly. A special mention should be given to Dave and Laura Putt, Rob Peers and Simon Cronk for their input. The event looked great, was well supported and raised £1,730. We will divide this between the 3 village churches.



Our generous local restaurants and pubs provided the raffle prizes.  
The winners of the raffle were:

- Le Manoir dinner for 2 - Mick and Mel Weaver, Great Haseley
- £100 voucher for La Table d'Alix - Matt Carter, Great Milton
- Meal for 2 at the Bull- Gerda Taylor, Great Milton
- Meal for 2 at The Lamb - Miranda Cook, Great Milton

Thank you to Great Milton Dads and the DJ who entertained us in the evening. A good time was had by all, despite a few aching bodies.

*The Tug of War Organising Committee*



**Photos: Nick Belcher**

## Ride & Stride – Cyclists Nearer to God

Ride & Stride is an annual one-day event organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT), whereby walkers and cyclists seek sponsorship to visit as many churches as possible, thus raising vital funds for their upkeep. Ever since its inception in 2004, the Gt Milton Cycling Association (GMCA) has supported this event, and 2021 was to be no exception.



Our cohort this year comprised the estimable figures of Tony and Jane Jefferis, Helga Dowie, Paul Wakefield, Clare B-P, Malcolm Horsley, and your correspondent, augmented (in more senses than one) by the venerable presence of one Allan Smith, a stalwart of GMCA's Denton chapter.

The first part of the ride took in churches in Gt Haseley, Chalgrove, Brightwell Baldwin (where the fashion designer and Mountbatten descendant, India Hicks had got married the day before), Cuxham and Watlington. The group then headed north to Pyrton, Shirburn, Lewknor, Aston Rowant, Sydenham and Towersey, before stopping to demolish their packed lunches in Thame's Memorial Gardens (see photo).

The GMCA's questionable approach to re-hydration has raised eyebrows in the past, although most of us eschewed alcohol on this occasion given the exertions that lay ahead. However, there was one exception. The aforementioned Mr Smith, determined to uphold the traditions and ethos of the GMCA, produced a large can of Doombar from his saddlebag, downed it... and promptly headed home!

The rest of us ploughed on to the churches in Waterstock, Waterperry and Wheatley, before ending our journey back at Gt Milton where the wonderful Trudy Timbs was waiting for us at St Mary's with open arms and refreshments.

Thus ended a memorable, and remarkably incident-free, day. We didn't get lost, no-one fell off, the weather Gods smiled... 39 miles and 23 churches. Happily, unlike last year, most of the churches were open and/or manned, and it was a delight to re-acquaint ourselves with these magnificent buildings.

To date, our efforts have raised a total of £341 for OHCT, and our sincere thanks to all those who supported us. Hopefully, more of you can be persuaded to join the fun next September!

*Bill Fox*

## To the Editor

Dear Editor,

My attention has been focussed on homelessness by the views of so many refugees from violence, war and famine. Plus, of course, those already living in this country with no prospect of a home of their own.

Which prompts me to ask whether anything can be done to requisition empty properties, so as to provide decent accommodation, if only in the short term. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking along these lines. Any offers?

Yours faithfully,

*Sally Lasson*

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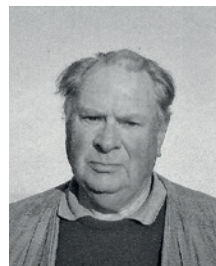
## Jazz in the Village

Thanks to all those who attended the jazz evening on 17th Sept at the Neighbours Hall. It was great to be able to get together as a community to share live music at the same time as supporting your village hall. The funds raised will go towards continuous maintenance of the building. We are hoping to hold live music events in the future.



## View from Views

What a roller coaster this year has been for farming, this time last year we witnessed the worst flooding I can remember, followed by a late spring hot and dry April a cold and wet May, then June and July Summer suddenly appeared with some very hot days, until we were ready to harvest when we had several deluges. This meant that what looked very promising crop of Barley had a very medico yield as we left so much on the ground. No sooner had we finish cutting the barley the weather turned good again so that we were able to plant our rape in good conditions then a day or so later we had a further downpour, which set it off well. We then had day after day a period of dull dry weather just when we wanted to cut the wheat with the crop just not dry enough for us to cut, getting a little desperate we decided we just had to get on and cut it, and surprise, surprise the day after we finished the sun came out and we had a very fine few days, making us think we should have been patient and waited a day. Our problem is that we have no way now of drying our crops, which is not nowadays reckoned to be a problem as the harvesting operation is so quick, unfortunately you get caught out occasionally. I should explain that that week or so of dull but dry weather nothing really dried in the field, when we did finally cut the wheat it had a 15% moisture content, this is not usually a problem for storage as it can be stored at 16%, we always use to use that as a benchmark, but now our buyers insist that it is 14% just to complicate things. Anyway "All is Safely Gathered In". But the year is not finished with us yet!



To return to the weather/year it seems as I have mentioned before it seems in spite of a cold late spring that a wet May seems to suit our farm, as once the weather warmed in June everything seemed to take off, and I thought looked really promising but of course that was not the case. Some of the effect of the late spring I think could account for shrivelled grains and with the rapid growth made the barley straw weaker meaning that the heavy rain at the end of July pushed it down to the ground so that the combine could not get under it and pick it up hence leaving a lot on the ground, probably as much as ½ a tonne to the acre and over 200 aces that is no laughing matter. It has though suited our experimental companion crop so much so that it did rather hamper the harvesting, looks good now it's cut and, I think the yield off that small area is was good as any plus we did not leave so much in the field.

What a terrible situation we have found ourselves in with reference to being let down by the Americans, over Afghanistan, mainly due to the decisions made by our old friend Mr Trump, it does though make one wonder why on earth are we falling over ourselves



to make trade deals with the US, and allowing their conglomerates take over some of our prized companies. (Notably in the retail food sector shows whose making money out of food) Of course we must make every effort to save those around the world who are in trouble, and it is great to think we welcome these poor people with open arms, can't think why they want to come to UK, it takes all sorts. But when we think 20,000 souls from Afghanistan will represent 7,000 houses it just makes you think where are they going to live? This not to mention other extra pressure on our landscape, already we are polluting our rivers with sewage as the water companies cannot cope. Now we farmers are likely to be restricted even more, and unfortunately for good reason, as to how and when we can apply waste organic products on to our land. I have said many times before this country of ours just cannot cope with this sort population growth and something has to be done about it, as the EX revolution says, "now".


We do live in a time of great contradictions and are being pulled in all sorts of different directions, sometimes for no real scientific reasoning, by those who don't really understand the whole or practical picture, or act responsibly themselves. On the same news bulletin in early September, we saw pictures of the rubbish left after the Reading Festival and XR demonstrators closing the Aylesbury Milk factory, are not these the same sort of people. Do they not realise the carbon that is used to create tents and most of their litter, or that it takes some 158 litres of water to produce plant based milk, which many are advocating as part of the solution, as opposed to 8lt for cow's milk. Another anomaly a recent report by the IPCC states that methane is not the problem we all make it out to be. Somehow we have to get some realism into this discussion and quickly, as the clock is ticking faster by the day on Climate Change, and we are in danger of sleep walking into a big problem, this will only be achieved by rational well informed discussion. Will not the authorities listen to the balanced view rather than the emotional one?

*Charles Peers*

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## Internet Upgrade Opportunity

Dear Villagers,

We have an opportunity to upgrade the quality of the internet in the village. Most of the village has Superfast internet capability which means that we have optical fibre connectivity to the grey cabinets dotted around the village. This is called Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC). Unfortunately we all have the old wiring from the cabinet to our houses. The current internet speeds are probably ok for what we all use it for 

now, however the need for more speed will come, and it will come more rapidly. More and more of us are going to spend more time working from home in the future, and the demands created by our devices will increase as we move to Ultra High Definition streaming, and immersive 3D video gaming.

The government is running a scheme where we can apply as a group to receive a voucher of £1500 per household towards the cost of having our households wired up for the future. This is called Fibre To The Property (FTTP). We do need to apply as a group. Our village qualifies for the vouchers as our speeds are typically considerably less than 100MBPS. The new speeds will be around 1000MBPS which, on average, is 20x faster than what most of us have now.

The more people we have signed up, the more likely that sum total of all the vouchers, are of covering the cost of installing fibre to our households. The two key benefits of this will be future-proofing your internet connection and saleability of your house.

Things to be considered are as follows:

- We have to apply as a village group
- We have to pledge the voucher to one supplier who will do the cabling
- After the cabling is installed we will have to sign up a contract for the internet from that supplier for a minimum of one year
- We will have to pay for a minimum of double the speed we have now (the more speed you want the more you have to pay). It will be more expensive than what you pay for the internet currently
- You may have to pay to exit your current contract if you are with a different supplier.

If you are interested, please email me, [Malcolm.horsley1@btinternet.com](mailto:Malcolm.horsley1@btinternet.com), with your address. If I can gauge enough interest, I will start the application process.

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## **Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society**

Last week we welcomed a few days of very warm sunny weather and this week we received some much needed rain. The rain had the welcome results that the water butts are full again and the plants all perked up and looked very happy!

I heard that the met office had announced a drier than usual summer when I was sure that the opposite was true here as, for the first time in the 29 years we have lived here, the lawn has remained green and lush. In all previous years the lawn becomes crisp and brown during early summer and doesn't really perk up until the autumn rains arrive. Mowing the lawn is something of a rarity in that situation and only occurs when the wild flowers in it become tall and brown or the clover gets too aggressive. I

have a number of plants of which I am fond enough to make carrying cans of water worth the effort; these plants include Phlox and my other half's tree fern. The latter plant requires regular watering and luckily it is surrounded by Helianthus Lemon Queen which is in full flower just now. When this plant looks a bit wilted, I throw a couple of cans of water over the tree fern and the Helianthus gets water too. This year the rain was enough for virtually all the summer for everything else.

Today has been another beautiful day after a foggy start. Now we are without any help whatsoever, I have begun the autumn clear up to get things tidy where areas of the garden have gone over. Fortunately, we still have enough colour to give interest in much of the garden, but I did appreciate the conditions today which allowed easy clearing to take place. There is something very satisfying about starting to put the garden to bed for the winter that I just don't get from doing house work!


I used to feel very sad in autumn at the thought of winter, but now I see autumn as the start of the gardening year. There are already signs of spring such as new buds and, on sedums, the swellings at the base of the plant which will become the shoots and flowers for next year. It is also time to plant bulbs with much anticipation. The best thing about this time of year are the Cyclamen hederifolium which are so pretty and petite and last for such a long time. In my ignorance, when I started gardening, I planted these mixed with Cyclamen coum which is a spring flowering bulb and equally pretty. Unfortunately, the flowers on coum are easily swamped by the leaves of hederifolium which persist through the winter into spring. Coum looks at its best carpeting ground under deciduous trees, particularly cherries, before they start to open. The dense canopy means little is able to grow there in high summer. On a sunny spring day they are breathtaking en-mass. Cyclamens seed very readily and only a few plants are required to produce a good effect in only a few years. I would advise buying the bulbs as growing flowering plants as, like snowdrops they are not very happy being dried out before planting; another advantage is seeing what colour your bulbs are.

*Liz Moyes*

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## Little Milton WI

In September, we had our first meeting back in the Pine Lodge. We learnt all about the charity, Project Linus UK, marvelled at all the different quilts & bought quilting supplies. The speakers sent a lovely thank you note: sincere thanks to you and your ladies for your generosity last night. It was much appreciated. All the money we receive for donations go back into purchasing wadding & fabric for Project Linus and 

helps with paying for venues and advertising. Without the generosity of the public we would have a hard time doing what we love so much.

We had a great day running the tea & cake stall at the 3-village Tug of War. We also got a mention in the Oxford Mail and the whole event raised £1,637 for the 3 village churches. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day, made cake and came along.

Our next meeting on Thursday 14th October at 7.30pm is yet to be finalised, maybe CAD gin tasting! Everyone welcome. Visitors £5 or join up for only £22.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group. Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'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 279438 or email [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## **Maple Tree Nursery**

### **A great place to grow**

Hello from The Maple Tree!

So far this year we have served 224 families and played with 289 children from Wheatley and beyond! We are now offering a full programme of sessions and activities to children under 5 and their parents and carers. We are erring on the side of caution with optional masks, a cleaning regime and adequate ventilation, and we are suggesting that families book using Eventbrite; [bit.ly/mapletreeeb](https://bit.ly/mapletreeeb). However, dropping in for all or part of a session is also acceptable. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session. We welcome everyone!

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

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

Wednesday: Maple Babies at 10:30-11:30am and 1:30-2:30pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Little Adventurers at 1:30-2:30pm

Friday: Coffee Morning with Wheatley Primary School parents at The Maple Tree Centre 8:45-9:45am and Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (both entirely drop in)

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

We are looking forward to our next fundraising event Gardeners' Question Time on 8th October at Mill View Garden Centre; details and tickets available from the Wheatley Society, Mill View and The Maple Tree.

We are looking for Volunteers! Would like to join our committed and friendly group of trustees? Or are you interested in helping with our sessions, working with young children alongside our dedicated staff team? Or fundraising? Do you have a lot of spare time or just an hour a week?

We are here to help you, if you need help, advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Check out our Website and Facebook pages for our online sessions, special events and helpful information!

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)

*Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager*

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## Morland House Surgery Newsletter

### Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update


This update was prepared on 14th Sept 2021; events may well have moved on by the time you get to read this.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

If you are aged 18 or over or are within three months of your 18th birthday, you may book your vaccine online through this website [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by phoning 119. If you are aged 16 or 17, you can visit a walk in Covid-19 vaccination site, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> for up-to-date information.

As of 14th September, guidance on the booster vaccine has not yet been announced. Please visit our website or [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) for up-to-date information. In the meantime, we will contact patients once clinics have been set up, please do not contact us to try to make an appointment before then.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Card

Patients with online access to their medical record (through the Patient Access app) can now view their COVID-19 vaccination record from the home screen of the app. This new feature will automatically be visible for patients who have already had 

access to their detailed care record and immunisations enabled by their practice. For information on how to gain online access to your medical record, please go to [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) and search 'Online Access'.

### **Important Information to keep you safe while isolating at home**

If you have suspected coronavirus and have not been admitted to hospital, you may be isolating at home. Please see this leaflet for important information on how you can manage.

<https://tinyurl.com/dpuf8wbs> This leaflet can also be accessed on our website.

### **Blood Bottle Shortage**

There is currently a shortage of blood test tubes in the UK. You can still have a blood test if you have an urgent health problem, but you may be asked to wait for your test, or rebook one for a later date, if your doctor says it's safe to do so. We cannot give an exact date for when blood tests can be rebooked, but you will get a test as soon as possible if you need one. If you are worried about your symptoms, please visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or call 111.

### **2021/22 Flu Vaccination**

Unforeseen road freight challenges have brought about a delay to the delivery of our flu vaccines. We do not yet know when we receive them. Please do not contact us to try to book an appointment, we will contact our patients once we have a delivery date.

### **Wheatley Pharmacy – Opening Up**

We are delighted to announce that Wheatley Pharmacy will be open for business on Monday 20th September, with a “grand” opening taking place on Saturday 25th September. Please do join us at 11am that morning for ribbon cutting and cake.

### **Visit Morland House Website**

For up-to-date information about our services, please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

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## **Wheatley Library**

### **Reading groups**

If you've ever read a brilliant book and wanted to talk about it with someone who's read it too reading groups are for you.

Reading groups meet regularly to discuss books.

They range from a few friends getting together to more organised groups set up in libraries. They are relaxed, informal and, above all, fun.

Search [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) to see what is available to start a reading group or to use the free reading group service if you are already in a group.

The documents available online include:

- reading group membership factsheet (pdf format, 81Kb)
- membership form (pdf format, 88Kb)
- Book list without synopses (pdf format, 200Kb) – there are more than 500 sets of books
- Book list with synopses (pdf format, 3Mb)

You can have up to three sets of books on loan to your group at any one time. If there is a title that you would like to read which is not on the list, you can recommend it to us and we will consider it for inclusion next time we refresh the collection.

Best

*Wendy Stanton (Wheatley library manager) 01865 875267*

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall.

## Wheatley Library Open Hours

**Return to regular hours**

**Tuesday 2pm-7pm**  
**Wednesday 9.30am-1pm and  
2-5pm**  
**Thursday 2pm-5pm**  
**Friday 9.30am-1pm and  
2-6pm**  
**Saturday 9.30am-1pm**

**Welcome back!**

The library is in the upper level of  
the Merry Bells Village Hall.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries  
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COUNTY COUNCIL

## 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 Tim Darch of any updates  
that need to be made

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



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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 01844 278415 for further details**

[www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/](http://www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/)



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## 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.

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#### Not the Apple Weekend

**Sat 9 & Sun 10 Oct, 10am till 4pm**

Because of an unseasonal fifteen consecutive days of heavy frost at just the wrong time earlier in the year our apple crop this year has been hit hard leading to a much reduced number of apples for sale. We have innovative plans in place to protect the crop next year so fingers crossed for a bumper crop then! Despite of this we can still offer you a great family day out where you will be able to sample and buy many of our different types of juices. Advice and information on growing, planting, apple identification and selecting trees and rootstock will be available on the day. Buy goodies at the craft and food fair. This year, for the first time, our popular guided tours of the orchards and fruit sheds will also include the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see our apple press in action (£3 per adult or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders). You can also take a tour of our Bee Hives and learn about the wonders of natural bee keeping. Take the children around the apple game in the gardens (must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies - not forgetting to keep an eye out for

our pumpkin display in the Walled Garden!  
**Waterperry Spooky Scarecrow Trail 16 till 31  
October**

Find the 10 spooky scarecrows hidden in the ornamental gardens and win a prize! A great chance for the kids to have fun and get some fresh air at the same time! £2.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.

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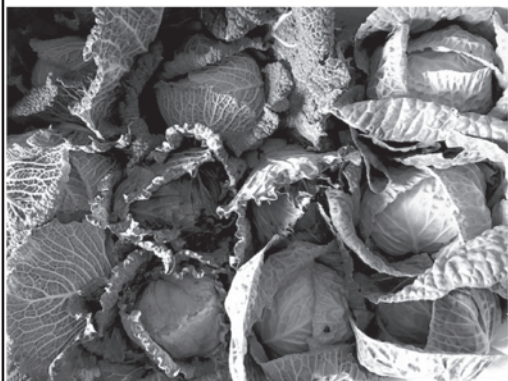
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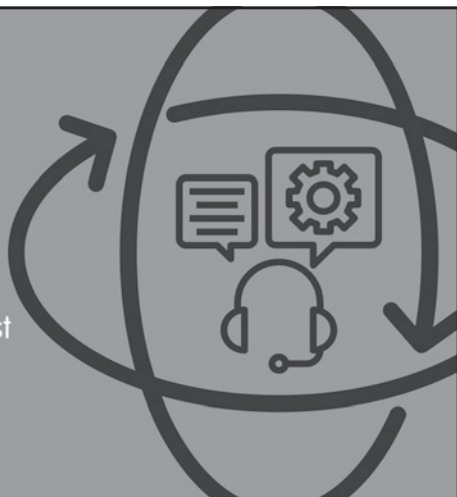
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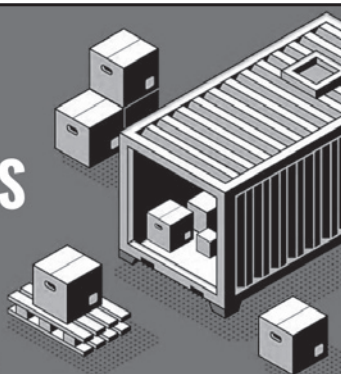
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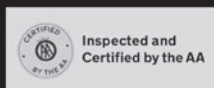
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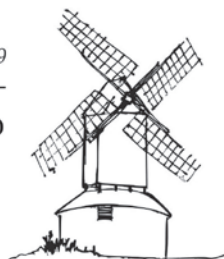
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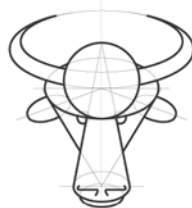
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# Diary

- Monday Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*  
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel 10:00am – Midday  
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
 Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
 Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
 Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
 Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Yoga Lizard Class – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
 Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Chrissie Wyatt – 07759 283490*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
 GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:00am – 1:00pm  
*or by appointment*  
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 281345*

## October

- |      |     |  |         |
|------|-----|--|---------|
| 15th | Fri | Book Library at The Neighbours' Hall           | 11:00am |
| 16th | Sat | History at The Community Room, The Bull        | 11:00am |
| 18th | Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Neighbours' Hall | 7:30pm  |

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