

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

July 2016

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No. 511



Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Vacancy	—
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	Michael Robinson, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Hazel Hand, Niki Patrick
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Lesley Bush, Liz Sands
Kent & Couling Charity:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Parish Council Publication Scheme (*Freedom of Information Act*)

Residents of the Parish can see the records of the Council held by the Parish Clerk or learn where they may be accessed. These records include minutes, financial information, and responses to planning consultations. Applications can be made to the Parish Clerk and documents viewed by appointment. Any copies required will be charged at 10p per page.

Front Cover

Trudy Timbs enjoys the Fête in her fabulous fruity crown.

Photo: Amanda Garrett.

If you have any photos of the village or events, we would love to include them!

In My Opinion...

I write this half an hour before the polling stations open for the referendum so who knows what the country will be doing by the time this gets published! Let's hope sanity prevails...

Whatever the outcome, life will go on and we will have to cope with local matters regardless. One of the issues facing us is the change to our bus services which will come about on 21 July. The good news is that the 103 bus will continue to serve our community, albeit on a reduced schedule and Heyfordian deserve thanks for retaining this. There will however be gaps in the service outside of peak hours and there are a number of options for us to try and plug these. A possible promising initiative is being tested by County Council in a pilot scheme to utilise the council's fleet of mini-buses used for school and old folks transport. This fleet is idle for much of the day and may be made available to county residents on an ad-hoc or even scheduled basis to make up for some lost services following the subsidy cuts in July. We will be watching this trial with interest as, in my opinion, this could well be a viable alternative. Failing this, other options will be looked into in due course.

Thanks to everyone for their support of the village fete which was a great success. The Pimms tent was inundated and eventually ran dry thanks to the thirsty mob!

Whatever happens with the referendum, don't let apathy rule!

Steve Harrod, Chairman



Draft Notes from the Parish Clerk

The June meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Peter Fewell, with Cllrs Peter Allen and Clyde Deacon in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and four members of the public. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday 18th July starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Planning Applications

It was RESOLVED to hold a separate planning meeting to review the following applications received from SODC:

P16/S1848/FUL – Heath Farm, Thame Rd, Great Milton OX44 7JD

Demolition of tin workshop and erection of barn for hay storage



P16/S1816/FUL – Heath Farm, Thame Rd, Great Milton OX44 7JD

Proposed new grain store and demolition of redundant building

There were no planning decisions to review.

Correspondence and Public Discussion

- a) New Director appointed - Citizens Advice in South Oxfordshire and the Vale – Jon Bright
- b) Liz Sands and Lesley Bush are both stepping down from the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. The new contact will be Jola Miziniak
- c) Letter from the Chair Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum - Protecting your local public rights of way and planning applications. The letter outlined areas that Parish Councils may wish to consider whilst reviewing planning proposals.
- e) After publishing the recent speed survey report a resident asked if another speed survey could be conducted along Lower End, Great Milton. It was RESOLVED to wait until the Clerk had clarification of what traffic calming measures would be available to Great Milton and the costs involved.

Great Milton Parish Council Insurance

Revision and Confirmation of Insurance Arrangements

Three insurance quotes were received from Aviva, Hiscox and Ecclesiastical

It was RESOLVED to take advantage of the 3 year long-term agreement from Ecclesiastical at a cost of £327.09

Financial resolutions

Mr Hale (Internal Auditor) presented the Internal Audit Report for the year-ending 31 March 2016 to the council.

Great Milton Parish Council Asset Register Review

It was RESOLVED to approve the asset register.

Parish Clerk and Cllr's update of matters in hand (Action update)

Great Milton Website – Transparency Grants for Councils

Update regarding whether GMPC would be eligible to apply for a grant. One of the criteria was if GMPC had limited access or control to post its own information. Carina (website developer) was invited to the meeting and confirmed that the website could upload any document the council so wishes and is not restricted to certain document sizes. Carina also confirmed that the electronic version of the bulletin has now been uploaded to the website. Therefore GMPC are not eligible to apply for a transparency grant.

Great Milton Grass Cutting Contractor

The council were informed of Countrywide Grounds Maintenance decision to give a months' notice to terminate their contract. The councils' view was to ask a contractor to carry out the work on an ad-hoc basis through the rest of this year and put the two

year contract out for tender in December 2016/January 2017.

Community Emergency Plan

It was proposed whether Great Milton would like to consider producing a Community Emergency Plan to help prepare for any emergencies that could affect the community. It was RESOLVED not to produce a plan.

Please note that confirmed minutes will be uploaded to Great Milton Parish website <http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council

Services in Our Benefice for July

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd <i>Trinity 6</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 10th <i>Trinity 7</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 17th <i>Trinity 8</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 24th <i>Trinity 9</i>		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am	
Sunday 31st <i>Trinity 10</i>	Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am		Evening Service 6:00pm

Services in Our Benefice for August

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James' Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7th <i>Trinity 11</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

That was quite a marathon! Three village events organised by and on behalf of the three village churches. As the only person that has to go to all three (very willingly, I love events like these) I thought that I would therefore reflect on them, at least during my first year here. The Great Haseley Spring Fair came first in May and this year it was a bit of a risky departure, being held as it was in the Village Hall. The risk paid off, it was a lovely occasion with a great village atmosphere. It coincided with an opening of the Windmill, it was wonderful to see people streaming up from the Village to visit it, many, or most of whom also visited the Spring Fair.

The Great Milton Church Fete also turned out to be extraordinarily good, a real traditional village fete. The skies brooded but the rains held off and there was a wonderful English summer carnival spirit. The Watlington Concert Band were brilliant, our dog Dylan won third prize in the agility class at the dog show, and should have won first prize as the loudest and most persistent barker! Little Milton proved to be as good, but different, in the beautiful setting of the Old Vicarage Garden, a real village garden party, it drizzled a bit during the morning setting up, but the weather was kind in the afternoon, and the Watlington Concert band showed up again. Thank You so much George and Joyce Inge for hosting us and for all the work to make the garden look so beautiful. Can I say a big thank you to all who worked so hard to plan and organise these events and the extended network of volunteers who did so much to make them the success they were. Can I also say a big thank you to the all who came and spent your money, which raised vital funds for all three Churches!

What though is the Church about? For me it is very simple, it is primarily about the declaration, and demonstration of the Good News, which of course is what gospel means, of Jesus Christ. It is about the proposition that in our bewildering confused and often very scary world there is a purpose to the universe and that we matter, each one of us. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we see a demonstration of the whole involvement of God in our world, right into the very heart of evil, suffering and death, and we see a declaration of overwhelming hope in the resurrection. The Church is a community coming together based on these propositions, and living our lives in the light of them. But the Church is not a closed institution, Jesus called his followers to be salt and light in the world, adding flavour, bringing illumination and guidance in the world. It is about bringing people together to celebrate, and sending them out to serve, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ, Amen,' we say after our regular gatherings for Holy Communion.

Yes the Churches benefit financially from the giving of all who come to these village

events, but I think they are about so much more. Firstly they are about building good communities, bringing people together. Secondly they are about service, the organisers work extremely hard to plan events which really do enhance the sense of belonging for all who come. Thirdly it is about connection. I wish that more people would 'get it' and see regular worship in their local church as a part of their lives, of course I do. But I have met many people here who, while they might see themselves as being more distant from what lies at the heart of the Church nonetheless want the churches to thrive and are prepared to help and give to make this so. The heart of the matter though came to me following the Great Milton fete. We were invited to a post - fete social. My brother in law is called Chris and he was staying with us. I somehow haven't organised turning off predictive text on my emails and so I sent the response to the invite 'we'd love to come, can we please bring Christ?'

Yes indeed, who better to come along to the party? At the heart of all we do as the Church, whether it is coming to the heart of all things in our worship, demonstrating the truth of the message in our lives or simply enjoying the experience of the Church fete, if all is done in his name, Christ is there.

Advance notice: It will take some planning, so more details to follow next month, but I am delighted that The Christian writer, poet, thinker and humourist Adrian Plass will be coming with his wife Bridget and some members of Searchlight theatre company to St Mary's in Great Milton on Thursday 22 September. This is the last night of a nationwide tour and we will be very privileged to host them. Whilst many reading this might not have come across them Adrian and Bridget are well worth coming to hear, and the Searchlight theatre company will be very good value. Below is how the evening is advertised and at the bottom is a link to one of Adrian's by now well known pieces, Anglican notices. For anyone (like me) who has ever had to grapple with giving out the notices in church this has an uncomfortable ring of truth. I found it very funny.

**Frightened and Fearless, Resolute and Reluctant, Known and Unknown,
In Every Age They Step Up!**

An evening of theatre, humour, music and story telling celebrating Heroes and unsung Heroes - in the Bible, history and today. It will give you the chance to explore what made these people's words and actions so special, as well as looking and laughing at our own attempts to follow in their footsteps.

With Adrian & Bridget Plass as well as Anna & Andreas Andersen from Scargill House, the first half will feature a mixture of sketches, monologues, poems and songs and after the interval we will be honouring some local unsung Heroes in your community. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1K_YTzKefw

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

July				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Lenton	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Alan Turner-Smith	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Graham Kirby	
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
31st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Andrew Maisey	

Senior Citizens Party Fund Committee

Quiz Evening

Our sincere thanks to all who supported the recent quiz evening – a total of 11 teams comprising of 70 people. Special thanks to Paul Dennis for once again taking on the role of Quiz Master. The proceeds of the evening totalled £383.49 – a wonderful boost to the party fund.

Last but not least congratulations to the winning team; 8CV.

Ann Price, Treasurer

Great Milton Cricket Club

Headington Quarry
204 for 6 (35 overs)
Joe Turner 2 for 33

Great Milton
125 All Out
Ali Noble 31
Chris Boyle 31
Mike Block 26 n.o.

Fixtures for July

3rd London Erratics	Home
10th No fixture	
17th Headington Quarry	Home
24th Holton	Away
31st Sydenham	Away

Christian Aid Week 2016

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

The total raised this year within Little Milton, Great Milton and the Haseleys is £2273.81 which is made up of:

	£
Three Lent lunches and Little Milton School Collection	450.37
Noah and Isaac's Toy Sale in School	26.00
Three Church Collections	185.12
House-to-House Collection in Great Haseley	104.50
House-to-House Collection in Great Milton	399.44
House-to-House Collection in Little Milton	1108.38
Total Raised	2273.81

of which £939.72 collected was gift aided so the total above includes the extra £234.93. Thankyou again to all of you who gift aided your contributions as it does make quite a difference!

This total is about £400 more than 2015 so huge thanks to all of you who came to Lent lunches, collected house-to-house or gave money and in any other way and particularly to Noah and Isaac who decided – following the School Christian Aid Assembly – to create and sell toys to their friends in order to 'help make a difference'.

S.A. Dennis

Neighbours Club

On the 18th May it was time for our outing to Bristol. We were all filled with dread when we listened to the weather forecast – it was going to be very wet and strong winds all day! However as we got nearer to Bristol the skies cleared and by the time we arrived the sun was shining. Some people opted to spend the day at the zoo, others went round the town and shops and some of us went to see the SS Gt Britain. Afterwards we came back into the town on the ferry and made our way up to the cathedral which is absolutely magnificent. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and the weather was certainly kind to us with only one or two showers during the day.

On the 9th June it was a day for quizzes and Lin set us the hardest ever. It was all about sweets and should have been easy but it certainly was not!



To-day, the 15th June, we have been on our outing to Guildford and then on to Loseley Park, an interesting 16th century house and lovely gardens; also the home of the luxury icecream. Guildford is a charming town with lots of interesting buildings to visit and the red brick cathedral standing proudly on the top of the hill overlooking the town. There is also a castle surrounded by immaculate grounds. Our only disappointment was coming home on the M25 where we sat for 1 1/2 hours.

At our next meeting on the 23rd June we are holding a flower arranging competition.

Forthcoming Events - July

Thurs 7th - School entertains - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 13th - Outing to Sevenoaks and Chartwell home of Sir Winston Churchill

Thurs 21st - Afternoon tea - 2.15 p.m.



GREAT MILTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Twelve members of the Tempero family came to Great Milton in May searching for more information about their relatives. Some were from Australia and America, as well as from all over the UK. Temperos lived in the Village from about 1730 to 1860 - working as 'victuallers and shopkeepers'.

It was a good day for the Tempero family, and for GM History!

Thank you to everyone who came and visited us at the History tent at the Fete. We had a really good day, lots of questions, lots promises and lots of fun!!

We are at the History room every Wednesday 11.30 - 1.0pm so come and see us, or if that time is awkward, just give one of us a ring and we can open up!!



Great Milton Church Fete 2016

In Honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday

Thank you so much to all of you for helping make our Church Fete such a success. We are also very grateful to our sponsors and donors. The weather held out and although we had much competition from other events that day, we had a good turn out and much fun. We are pleased to say we made £5,700 which is the most we have ever raised.

Special thanks must be given to the efficient stall holders who displayed their goods so well, the wonderful hot dog, tea and Pimms teams (delicious), programme sellers, car park organisers, those who set the scene with bunting, flags etc and those who organised events in the arena. The crown competition raised a smile(!) the school children's singing was delightful, the children's tug of war was very competitive (well done girls), as was the dog show! The raffle ticket team were stars with so many raffle tickets to fold (raising £1,600). Those that won prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and shooting seemed delighted!

Special thanks go to the gallant team too who collected furniture and put up gazebos in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; to the friend who put up and then took down the big notice-boards in the district; to Morgan Associates for their excellent advertising boards; and to the friends who provided so many straw bales.

The Watlington Band were professional as ever, providing us with stirring music and our local audio expert managed our sound system without a hitch.

Finally, a huge thank you to our local celebrity, Claire Moore, for opening our Fete and our Master of Ceremonies for guiding us through the afternoon.

If you want to see a snap shot of the Fete, Nick Belcher has made an excellent short video which can be seen on the village website.

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

Thank you again for coming and/or contributing.

Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Alex Kirkman
(organisers on behalf of Great Milton PCC)







The Rector and PCC of St Mary's want to say a very heartfelt 'Thank you' to Clare Blakeway-Phillips and Alex Kirkham. Clare and Alex did all the planning, organising and delegating for the fete this year between the two of them. This is a huge task, and they did it with skill, creativity and a huge amount of time and energy. 'Thank you' seems inadequate; we are truly grateful to them.

Simon and the Great Milton PCC

Church Fete Raffle Prize Winners

Prize	No.	Winner
1. Le Manoir: Dinner for 2	681	Malcolm Horsley, Gt. Milton
2. Champagne Tea: Waddesdon Manor	791	Emma Trundle, Aylesbury
3. Gifford Circus: Family Ticket	1850	J. Dudley, Gt. Milton
4. Waterperry Gardens: Season Ticket for 2	597	Sue Barratt, Gt. Milton
5. Cotswold Wildlife Park: 1 adult, 1 child	856	G. Macginnis, c/o M. Horsley
6. Belfrey Hotel: Spa Day for 2	1622	R. White, Gt. Milton
7. Farol: £50 Voucher	1227	C. Gilham c/o Alex Kirkman
8. Crocodiles of the World: 1 adult, 1 child	144	Trudy Timbs, Gt. Milton
9. Brothers, Thame: Haircut & Blow Dry	980	Helen Booker, c/o Rita Booker
10. Sandy Lane farm: Organic Veg Box	1	Tony Jefferis, Gt. Milton
11. Revival: Carpet Cleaning Voucher	91	E. Spence c/o Liz Isherwood
12. Illuminated Canvas	1174	C. Hazard c/o Mike Block
13. Mary Berry Cookery Book	1813	Sarah Forsyth
14. Asda Goody Hamper	464	Jamie, The Bull
15. John Deere Toy Tractor	102	J. Anderson c/o Liz Isherwood
16. Toiletries	1546	Helen Belcher, Gt. Milton
17. Jewellery Set	1590	Stephen Kirby, Gt. Milton
18. Powder Room, Thame: £20 Gift Voucher	1259	Mrs. Allen, Gt. Milton
19. Flower Basket	1086	Rachel Hutton, Gt. Milton
20. Cheese Board & Knives	1311	Sue Cooper, Gt. Milton

Thank you for your support!

Neighbourhood Watch

Liz and I are ending our role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. Jola Miziniak is replacing us. Her number is 07917 676463.

Lesley Bush.

The Friends of Great Milton School

‘100 Club’

Here is a list of all the recent prize winners of the FOGMS 100 Club – many congratulations to you all!

3 May	No 36	Tasha Groves
10 May	No 30	Kelly Wing
17 May	No 7	Mrs P Waugh
24 May	No 49	Ann Price
31 May	No 80	Mrs S Jewell
7 June	No 80	Mrs S Jewell
14 June	No 56	Lesley Bush
21 June	No 81	Mrs R Wade

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser.

A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

Miranda Cook, 100 Club Co-ordinator

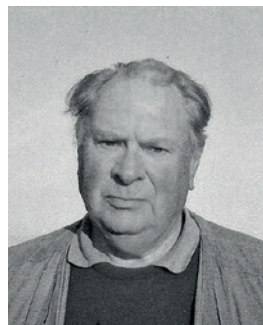
Thank You All

I would like to thank all, far too many to do so personally, who so generously sponsored our Vintage Tractor run, especially Christine and Pat at the Great Milton PO Stores, Alison and the volunteers at Little Milton Shop, Des & Ian at the “Lamb”, and Doug at the “Bull”. I still have not got a final figure but it is just over £1300, which is great thank you all so much, we shall be after you again in September for the Churches Ride and Stride and again in May for the Air Ambulance.

Charles

View From Views

I think now we can justifiably say summer has arrived what with warmer weather and heavy showers being the order of the day. What an extraordinary year this has been I measured more rain in the first half of May than the whole of April, (116 in May & 56 in April) then it suddenly warmed up, and my how things have grown since, I can't remember seeing so much growth before, especially grass which is smothering everything else. This early May wet period delayed the planting of all our conservation plots but when things did dry out and the land got to the stage of being ready to plant, everything came right and some seeds after planting were showing green in a matter of days, (usually 2 weeks on average) now looking really quite promising, I guess a flush of weeds will change all this optimism in a week or so. The conservation plots we planted last year, inspite of my being worried that we had got it wrong do look reasonable with a good show of the variety of plants that we wanted, probably not as good as they could have been, and certainly a lot grew than we planted which will add to the diversity.



Now is the time of year when we start to notice all the ills of the season, this is when all the unwanted weeds start to show in the crops, especially what we call Blackgrass, this is evident by the tinges of brown that are showing in a lot of Winter sown Wheat. Blackgrass is a weed that has become resistant to most of our control measures, leaving us with possibly no alternative but to go back to some of the old fashioned less viable methods, such as rotations that we have had to move away from due to the financial pressures we all face. Other than this most crops in this area are looking quite promising, travelling around the country this does not appear to be the same in all areas.

I think this is a wonderful time of year with that the countryside is looking at it's best, having been in Devon for a few days and seeing the roadsides with their variety of wildflowers, makes us realise the beauty that nature can provide on it's own. As an illustration of the way our industry is pushed and pull in one direction or another and expected to respond, and publically criticised if we do not, there has been reports in the media criticising the species we are encouraged to plant in these conservation areas as not being indigenous to the area, and therefore not natural, we can't win! What we did notice whilst in the West Country was how much more attention the Councils are paying to road safety, by keeping the corners cut so as to improve the vision, also the road signs trimmed out so they can actually be seen, rather than leaving them, not to mention the state of the road surface, one would presume to save money. (not that I am in favour of wholesale verge cutting but surely we should take notice of road safety)

By the time this is read we will know if we are in or out, for whatever reason, having been told that we can manage without others, as we are supposed to be one of the 5th richest countries in the world. If this is the case why cannot we keep our roads in good shape, afford to educate our children properly, or give our Health Service the support it needs, leave alone our rural bus services which are vital to many country folk who don't have access to their own transport, I could go on forever on that subject but we have got something wrong somewhere, we really need to pull our socks up and start caring for other things rather than just looking at the financial aspects of life. (Perhaps we should be demanding those on fat salaries take less, or how about asking us if we would rather have a local bus or a free bus pass).

It is now common knowledge that "Amazon" are moving into the food market, this is because it is perceived that it is the most lucrative market to be in. All I can say is it maybe for the retail end of the market, and it will bring price benefits to the consumer, but not to the prime producer who is struggling to make a living. It is likely to create even more pressure for the farming industry to find even cheaper ways of producing the food we eat, not necessarily a good thing for food quality. The other spin off will be even more decimation of the High Street with many more small retailers going out of business, and worst of all many more white vans clogging up our roads, leave alone the pollution this will cause. Add to this that most of these vehicles will be Diesel fuelled, which we are told is the worst fuel for particulate pollution that we now realise creates the worst problem, and any measure that HM Government will take to cure this will be by increasing the cost of fuel, which will in turn increase the delivery costs.

I feel I must just correct a point I made in the past about Broad Band, at some stage I thought I had read that the Government said that they could not afford to roll it out in the country areas, I think I must have been misinformed somewhere along the line as this does not now seem to be the case.

It is devastating to read about Tata Steel and BHS and all those poor souls likely to be out of work I am glad to see that the Government are prepared to help out where they can. This is the same sort of situation where sometimes in the past they have stepped in to help Agriculture. I hope this will dispel the thought that we are the only industry that gets or seeks the help of the taxpayer.

I am constantly reading in the farming press cases of dogs worrying livestock, with some owners it is not my dog he/she is well behaved if off the lead. All I can say to that is maybe, they do a lot of damage to wildlife without any knowledge to the owner/handler, in that they will disturb any ground nesting birds, of which many are at risk, this can be just by a dog sniffing around, it is a real problem as more and more of us are taking to walking in the countryside.

Charles Peers

Great Haseley And District Horticultural Society

Last night my other half and I set off in pouring rain to visit Greenfield Farm at Christmas Common where Andrew Ingram was opening his extensive wild flower meadows to the public which he does once a year. I had visited before with our society one wet evening several years ago and so simply checked the date and time on the NGS website. I failed to click the button marked 'more' which would have told me that it was a guided tour starting at 6pm so we were late and only joined the group at about 6.30pm. There were only five visitors including us which I imagine was a result of the weather, but in fact we did not get wet at all!

From my last visit I remember there are about 100 acres of meadow altogether and the project started in 1996 when 10 acres were prepared by removing top soil completely to reduce fertility and by controlling perennial weeds. A custom mix prepared for the chalky area was sown and the result now after 20 years is nothing short of spectacular with a complete carpet of around 100 different species of wild flowers; there is only a very little grass nearly all of which is quaking grass (*Briza media*). I was amused to discover that the major Christmas tree part of the farm enables Andrew to fund his wild flower habit! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and my other half had the rare opportunity to drive off-road which made him very happy! I will be there again next year without doubt; the very sight of the first 10 acres is most definitely food for the soul. Thank you very much, Andrew, for sharing your enthusiasm and passion with us.

I now, of course, have meadow envy! Our meadow (previously written about in this column) which we have worked so hard at for so many years is a very poor copy indeed. We have had a number of obstacles the most significant being the very fertile soil some of which is very deep alluvial loam and really not suited to growing wild flowers; this area also floods in winter. Crucially, we did not strip off the top soil before we started which would have greatly reduced the fertility thus weakening the grasses and allowing the flowers to proliferate; achieving this seemed insurmountable to a pair of amateurs. Initially the ground was about 50% covered in thistles and nettles which we have almost eradicated using some glyphosate, mowing and simply pulling out the thistles just prior to flowering (plenty of nettles remain around the edges for butterflies). During the winter the meadow is grazed by alpacas keeping the grass down, firming the flower seed into the ground and allowing us to identify patches of nettles, docks and thistles for removal after their departure (alpacas are also very appealing animals!). Sadly, the grass remains very strong and the recent very heavy rain has knocked a lot of it flat so it looks rather scruffier than usual. Even a meadow on

Andrew's farm which has had no preparation and has simply been left uncut is many times more floriferous than our meadow, this being a reflection of the underlying soil; however, ours is a labour of love and each year we are seeing improvement. Parasitic yellow rattle has got a grip now (it should have done with the quantity we have sown) and is weakening the very strong coarse grass so the flower count increases. We now have around 30 different varieties of flower although mostly in only small colonies, but many of these we have not sown so either the seed was already in the soil or it has blown in. Every year we are hopeful that we will see orchids, but they have not arrived yet, but, we learned last night, they should do eventually and this cannot be hurried. We also learned that mowing the stronger patches of grass in the spring will help to give the flowers a head start. In the meantime, we will continue to work at it and enjoy it immensely.

Liz Moyses, Membership secretary

liz@moyses.org • 01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year. Thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription for 2016 and may I tactfully remind those few who have yet to pay that, although they will be sent a copy of the show schedule, they will be unable to enter any classes unless they are in good standing with the society.

Little Milton WI

In June we decided to go to the pub for dinner instead of our safari supper. Great night and good company, thank you to the Lamb for squeezing us in and cooking! We also had fun at the fete with our haberdashery & craft stall - thank you to everyone who came along and supported us, and the village. If you missed us, we'll be 'open' again at the horticultural show on 27th August (more details next month).

Our next meeting on 14th July is back at the Pine Lodge with a talk by Ian Jones Forty years in bomb disposal & still 10 fingers!

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.

No need to be shy, contact me for more information.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Keep up to date with WI news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Kath Stacey 279438

News from The Pine Lodge

Our AGM has highlighted that we are really short of committee members, so if there are any villagers out there who would like to join us, please don't be shy! We have one meeting per month, where we discuss maintenance, events and bookings. Our main events are Quiz nights, fireworks night, the Christmas fayre, the occasional concert and village parties. We would welcome anyone who can help us with catering, organising, new ideas... What would you like to see at the village hall?

This month we are running the monthly craft club on Wednesday 20th July and our last ever cinema club on Thursday 21st July. There's also weekly yoga and fitness on a Monday morning, a post-natal circuit taster session on Wednesday 6th July and the monthly WI meeting on Thursday 14th July.

Keep up to date with news & events at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge and at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438

We're on the Look-Out for Volunteers to Join Our Team

CalAid needs your help to ensure we can do our best to support refugees and displaced people for as long as possible. We're also looking out for exceptional teachers or youth workers to take part in an exciting summer project. Take a look at the opportunities below and please get in touch if you want to get involved.

Fundraising and PR team

If you have experience in fundraising and/or PR and communications and would like to make a difference for those living in refugee camps across Europe and into the Middle East then please get in touch. We're especially looking for:

- Those able to give at least the equivalent of a day a week each week
- If you've got experience in helping make fundraising events a success
- People with professional communications and PR experience

If you would like to offer your time, then please email your CV to info@calaid.co.uk - or get in touch if you would like to know more.

Youth Project Greece

We are looking for teachers and youth workers to help deliver an education project in Greek refugee camps this August. CalAid's Youth Project Greece aims to establish

regular activities for young people aged 10 to 16 years, ultimately run by residents of the camps or long term volunteers. We're especially looking out for:

- Qualified and experienced teachers and youth workers
- Those experienced working amidst a range of cultures, ages and languages
- Adaptable people, singled out for their teamwork skills

Accommodation, stipend and equipment will be provided, as will insurance as a CalAid volunteer. Flights, other costs and travel insurance will not be covered.

All team members for the project will need to provide a CV, two references and will need to complete a DBS check. Team members will also need to be available for a training day on Saturday 2nd July.

For a full role description or to put yourself forward please email youthprojectgreece@calaid.co.uk - if you are applying to join the team then also please explain briefly why you would like to be a part of the project.

Orchestra of St John's

Prom concerts at the Ashmolean Museum Oxford

Tuesday 11 July 7.30
Angell Trio - violin, cello and piano
Katherine Broderick soprano

Tuesday 4 October 7.30
OSJ with Wagner Moreira tenor
Latin American songs

Tuesday 15 November 7.30
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Sunday 18 December 7.30
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Old Field Open Day and BBQ



Saturday July 9th from 11am

Learn about the field, the animals and plants who live there and what we do to maintain it.

Activities for Adults and Children :
nature trail and natural crafts

Tickets - FREE,

Contact Alex Kirkman (alexlkirkman@gmail.com)
for further information or to advise of attendance - not necessary but preferred!

Go Active Gold
Tai Chi for the over 60's



Tai Chi for the over 60's will be taking place in **Great Milton Pavilion on the Recreation Ground**. Tai Chi is a form of gentle exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance. Tai Chi has often been described as "meditation in motion", but it might well be called "medication in motion".

Starts, Wednesday 15 June 2016

Time, 2pm – 3pm

Price, £5

Where, Great Milton Pavilion

Go Active Gold

What other activities that will be taking place in Great Milton

Walking Football for 60+. A great social activity with many benefits including an improvement in aerobic fitness, co-ordination, balance and strength.

Start date yet to be confirmed

Senior Circuits. Improves strength, flexibility, balance, co-ordination, bone density and aerobic fitness. The class will involve doing a circuit of exercises which will involve music and a social aspect to enjoying exercise.

If you would like to register your interest or book on to a class

Email, Conor.Grogan@southandvale.gov.uk

Number, 07717 326660

At the Pine Lodge, Little Milton

CRAFT CLUB

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20th July

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21st July 8pm

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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.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

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The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 470 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

- 1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year**
- 1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm) £10 or £100 per year**
- Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**
- Full back page colour £35 or £350 per year •**

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

Please contact Helen Cherry

Tel: 07554 516989

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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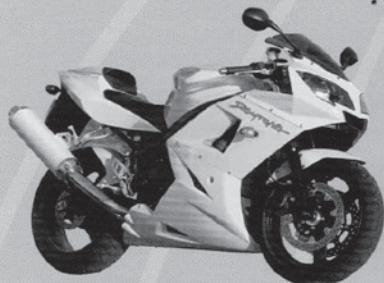
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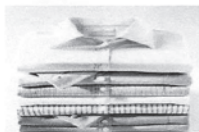
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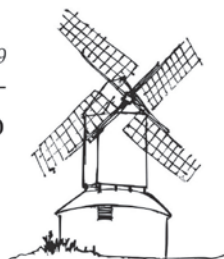
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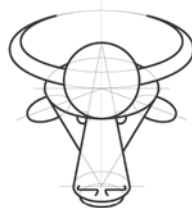
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Diary

Monday	Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm <i>contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205</i>
Tuesday	Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Ann Price – 01844 279474</i>
Wednesday	History Room Open at The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Evening. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i>
Thursday	The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. <i>contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm. <i>contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net</i> Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm <i>contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198</i> Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm <i>contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com</i>
Friday	Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am <i>For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com</i>
Saturday	Athletics Club Training. Year 9-4. Morning. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm <i>contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637</i> Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm. <i>Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090</i> Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact David Spiers – 01844 218345</i>

July

1st Fri	Wheatley Park School Summer Arts Show in The Old House plus Evening Concert on the terrace • All Welcome!	5:30pm 7:30pm
7th Thurs	Neighbours Club: School entertains	2:15pm
9th Sat	Old Field Open Day and Barbecue	11:00am
13th Wed	Neighbours Club: Outing to Sevenoaks and Chartwell	—
14th Thurs	Little Milton W.I. meeting at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	7:30pm
18th Mon	Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion	7:30pm
20th Wed	Craft Club at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	
21st Thurs	Neighbours Club: Afternoon Tea Cinema Club – The Last One! at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	2:15pm 8:00pm

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th July 2016**.

Adverts to **Helen Cherry** 21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

07554 516989 • **contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

Paper copy to **Jonathan Dudley**

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