

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2016

Published by the Parish Council

No. 507



## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Peter Fewell</b>	<b>01844 279400</b>
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Rosalind Deacon</b>	<b>01844 278554</b>
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>—</b>
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Gwen Harris</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: 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

Silver birch at Garden Close. See article inside.

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

## In My Opinion...

Newspapers are in decline.

The Independent is now going fully online and will cease its printed version shortly.

Mainly, this is a result of a new generation of readers who get most of their news in digital format, but it is also partly due to dwindling advertising revenue.

And that's our problem too!

We need an advertising champion. We need someone, with or without experience in advertising sales, to volunteer just an hour or two a week to chase advertisers for our august publication and prevent it going the way of The Independent. It won't take much but those of us on the Parish Council are already pretty much at capacity so we are appealing for someone in the community to step up and take on this role which, in my opinion, will make a huge difference to our Parish budget. If this is something you could take on, please get in touch either with me directly or through Helen Cherry (contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk). I look forward to being inundated...

In other news, prepare yourselves for the Litter Pick which will be held on Saturday 2 April from 10h00 to 12h00. There is an awful lot of garbage lying around on the verges, especially along Sworford Lane so I hope there will be a great turnout to clean up.

Remember, don't let apathy sneak up on us!

*Stephen Harrod, Chairman*



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## Parish Council Notes

The February meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Stephen Harrod (Chair & District Councillor), with Cllrs Peter Allen and Peter Fewell in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Bill Fox, Rosalind Deacon and Gwen Harris.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

### Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

### Correspondence and Public Discussion

Councillors welcomed Jan-Paul Kroese to the meeting. Jan-Paul Kroese was appointed General Manager at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in December 2015.

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday is the weekend of 11th and 12th



June 2016. As the Church Fete is scheduled the same weekend it was suggested to combine some sort of celebration then. Cllr Peter Allen agreed to talk to the Fete Committee about this.

The concrete around the BT Green Cabinet by the green has now been fixed and the grass area around the cabinet re-seeded.

Councillor Peter Farrell attended a transport meeting at Wheatley Merry Bells to discuss the subsidised bus service 103/104. A spokesperson from Heyfordian attended as did over 100 members of the public and neighbouring Parish Councillors.

Complaints were received about Sykes Van Sales at Milton Common parking vans on the grass verge and obstructing the view at the road junction. Councillor Peter Allen notified Sykes Van Sales of complaints the council have received and asked them to move the vans accordingly so not to obstruct the view for motorists.

It was agreed to publish notes from the Police, County and District Council on Great Milton Parish Council website rather than include them in Great Milton Bulletin. The notes are attached to minutes as appendices. [www.great-milton.co.uk](http://www.great-milton.co.uk)

### **Great Milton Litter Pick**

The litter pick is scheduled on 2nd April 2016 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

### **Speed Survey Great Milton**

The speed survey is scheduled to start within the next couple of months along Thame Road, Great Milton.

### **Jenks Tree Work**

The Council was notified that Jenks are to carry-out relevant tree work, on 7th March. They are due to arrive around 8:00/8:30am to carry out work along the High Street and in the recreation ground.

*Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council*

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A meeting was held on 8th February at The Merry Bells in Wheatley between Hayfordian and representatives of eight Parish Councils as well as the public.

Without the subsidies the cost to Hayfordian is £450K per year on existing routes. They are proposing to run a reduced service, without subsidies, as per the timetable shown on the following page. However there will be some changes to ensure the first bus reaches Oxford ten minutes earlier.

Fares will increase between 10 and 20 percent and will start in early June.

A review meeting will be held on Monday 11th July at 6:30 pm at The Merry Bells.

It is up to councils and users to help stimulate awareness of the services to drive up usage, otherwise the service may be lost.

## TIME TABLE 103

N/S = NOT SATURDAY

M T T H F S MONDAYS TUESDAYS THURSDAY FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS  
W = WEDNESDAYS ONLY

## Services in Our Benefice for March

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Wednesday 2nd			Compline 7:30pm
Sunday 6th <i>Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am		Benefice Mothering Family Service 10:00am
Sunday 13th <i>Lent 5</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Wednesday 16th		Compline 7:30pm	
Sunday 20th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Thursday 24th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>		Holy Communion 7:30pm	
Friday 25th <i>Good Friday</i>			Good Friday reflection 11:00am
Sunday 27th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Family Service 11:00am

## Services in Our Benefice for April

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 3rd <i>Easter 2</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am



## From the Rectory March 2016

‘But he (Thomas) said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger in where the nails marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it”. (John 21:25)

I thank God for Thomas and his doubts. Please don't be fooled by the little white ring of theological confidence that vicars wear around their throats, we are human too and we have our doubts just like anyone else. I spend a good deal of my time preparing sermons, and then preaching them, but there are times when I ask myself the fundamental question, can this really be true? I vividly remember when training for the ministry being taken by the Vicar I was shadowing to visit an old lady just before she died. She was given the last rights and Holy Communion, which she just managed to receive. The next day she died. On the following day I was taken to see her body. I had never seen a dead body before and the experience pulled me up short. My training vicar knew that I would be preaching about resurrection, but also knew that to do so I had to face the reality of death. This was also the day after I had been present at the birth of our first daughter Eleanor, I had witnessed the birth of a new life and now I was experiencing the static, cold lifeless reality of death, and it worried me deeply. I asked myself a fundamental question could what I believed in about resurrection and eternity simply be a hollow hope?

So I thank God for Thomas, he too knew that feeling. He and the other disciples had to deal with the death of their Lord, and it had been the most horrible of deaths. And then came all those reports of Jesus being seen alive three days after he was taken down, broken and lifeless from the place of his execution. It was not surprising that Thomas thought this was all nonsense. But then Thomas experienced the risen Jesus for himself. I thank God for Jesus' response, he did not condemn Thomas, but he did challenge the root of his doubt and Thomas was transformed from a hard headed skeptic to a true worshipper.

Easter is a time when we are challenged again to look at our own beliefs about death and resurrection and ask ourselves the question ‘can it really be true?’ The reality of death is beyond doubt. But there is other evidence that death is not the end. A man who died upon a Cross, but who was seen very much alive days later, a man who confronted the worst fears and doubts of those who had deserted him at the end and transformed their doubts into faith. I do not fully understand it, but when I find myself doubting, it is the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus brings me back. ‘Alleluia Christ is risen, he is risen indeed Alleluia’. Please look at the Benefice calendar for details of our Good Friday and Easter Services.



Apologies about the misprint in the last village bulletins and newsletters (no fault of the Editors). The Special Mothering Sunday Family Service will be held at St Peter's Great Haseley on 6th March at 10.00am, not at St Mary's as was published in the February editions.

### **Good Friday Walk.**

There will be a service at Great Haseley at 11.00am on Good Friday. In the afternoon I am arranging a 'pilgrimage' walk around the Benefice, beginning at 2.30am outside the Plough at Great Haseley with a brief reading and a prayer. The route will then go across the fields, through the Wells Farm nature reserve to the triangle at the top of Haseley road in Little Milton, where there will be a second brief reading and a prayer. The walk will then move back across the fields to Great Milton, with a stop on the Green for a third reading and prayer. The walk will then pass the Windmill with its great views and end back at the plough at Great Haseley which should then be open for refreshments! The walk is of course open to all, including those with dogs, we will be taking Dylan! This might appeal to those who want to mark Good Friday in some way but for whom a more formal service in church is not their thing, or for those who simply want to have a good walk!

*Simon*

### **Lent Lunches**

Our Lent lunches are a great chance to enjoy a delicious simple lunch, meet with others, and make a contribution to others less fortunate than ourselves.

Lent lunches will be held on:-

Friday 4th March at North End Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton;

Friday 11th March at the Old School House, Backway, Great Haseley; and on

Friday 18th March at Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton

Come and join us. 12.00 to 2pm. All are welcome. Lunch is free. Donations to Christian Aid.

### **Church Spring Clean and Churchyard Spring Tidy**

On Saturday April 16th between 10am and 12 noon, we are having our annual spring clean of the church AND our spring churchyard tidy up. We will have one team working on the inside of the church, helping to keep our beautiful church clean and cared for. Another team will be working in the churchyard to help make our churchyard look as good as ever. We would really value lots of volunteers - no skills required, just a willingness to help. Gardeners bring gloves and secateurs, if you have



them. Come for as little or as long as you can. Coffee and cakes will be served to keep us all going.

You can either let us know that you will be coming (this is helpful to us) or just turn up. You will be very welcome.

*Jane Jefferis (Tel: 278743) and Clare Blakeway-Phillips (Tel: 278475).*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

March				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
6th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Lenton	
13th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Leslie Marsh	
20th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Holy Communion
27th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Spray	
	6:30pm	Gt. Milton	Wesley Memorial	Circuit Service Jonathan's Farewell

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## Great Milton Bellringers

Already we have a busy Summer ahead with five weddings booked, and two visiting bands planning to come to the Tower. **We need more ringers.** It is difficult with only nine of us, especially through the Summer. If you are already a ringer, or if you would like to learn to ring, please come and see us on a Thursday, 7.30pm at the Tower. Most people know at least 1 ringer – you would be very welcome!

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## The Neighbours Club

We held our first meeting in 2016 on the 7th January and it was quite informal. Flowers were given to Rachel Hood at Christmas as she was unable to come to the lunch. We were all very sad to hear Derek's news and wish him well with his treatment. Christmas Lunch was deemed to be excellent and it was agreed we should have the same arrangement next time. Thanks were given to Brian for the entertainment he provided.



It was our AGM on the 21st January 2016. We did not have the treasurer's report to-day because the Sheppard Trust do not meet until next Monday so we do not know if we will receive a grant from them this year nor how much it will be. We had a lovely newsy letter from Norma Walters who has settled down very well in Rotherham - she misses the Club very much as there is nothing like it in Rotherham. We were told Alan Kirby has broken his pelvis and is in hospital but hopes to come home to-day. Membership remains at 30 with an average of 18 coming to meetings each time. 25 people went to the pantomime at Wallingford and enjoyed it very much. Everyone agreed to stay in their posts for another year.

On the 4th February we held a bring and buy which raised £23 for club funds. We were told that Alan was having another operation on his pelvis to-day and wish him well. Janet is still working on the programme and making good progress. We had a quite lengthy discussion about the outings and Celia will prepare the programme.

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## **Celebrating Spring**

After a long, gloomy winter, full of grey days and damp nights, we're at last beginning to see signs that Spring's on its way. Snowdrops are peeping through, daffodils are standing proud and the lightening skies are filled with returning birds and that glorious warm glow of a later setting sun.

So let's turn our back on those winter blues and celebrate longer days, sunnier weather and the sheer joy of life. Come and help the Great Milton Singers and friends celebrate this most rejuvenating of seasons at their Spring concert in St Mary's on April 23rd.

Yet again, they've gathered together some of their most talented musical friends to offer an uplifting evening of music and song on an English theme, in honour of St George and William Shakespeare - both remembered on this day!

We'll hear words from the Bard himself, we'll hear about sleeves of green and even a nightingale in a London square. We'll honour St Cecilia (music's patron saint), we'll spread a little happiness and we'll rise from dark satanic mills to England's green and pleasant land. All through the intoxicating power of song.

It all begins at 7.30pm and proceeds will go towards St Mary's itself and towards "Children's Medical Care, Malawi". Malawi is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world and this amazing charity supports healthcare training to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for the emergency management of sick children. During the evening, you'll find out, first-hand, more about the work, and how you -

and your contributions - can help.

A thoroughly cheerful evening and a refreshing glass of wine await you. Tickets are available from choir members, from Great Milton Post Office and Stores or on the door.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

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## **SAVE THE DATE: Great Milton Church Fete: Saturday 11th June 2016, 2-5pm**

The fete is a traditional village fete with stalls of local plants, cakes and jams, books, gifts, toys, also games for children and adults with plenty of teas, ice cream and Pimms to go round.

In celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday, it will have a Royal Theme this year. We will be raising money for the refurbishment of the St. Mary's Church, including addition of a toilet.

The fete will only be a success with the help of you all....if there is any support you could offer, either with the organisation beforehand, setting up or down on the day, running or helping on a stall, anything, no matter how small, will be gratefully appreciated. Please contact Clare Blakeway-Philips ([clareblakeway@gmail.com](mailto:clareblakeway@gmail.com)) or Alex Kirkman ([alexlkirkman@gmail.com](mailto:alexlkirkman@gmail.com), or 07759 441006). We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you all in advance (and fingers crossed there is less rain than last year....)

*Alex and Clare*

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## **From the Archives**



### **Hurrah for Great Milton**

A match was arranged to be played at Cuddesdon between the Ringers and Singers of that village against the Ringers and Singers of Great Milton on the 5th of June. Great Milton won in one innings by 20 runs. The bowling of Messrs. R.Bull and J.Saywell proved very effective. After the match the party to the number of 40 sat down in the School room to an excellent supper, the liberal hospitality of the Vicar of Cuddesdon and the Rev. E.W.Gordon. A very happy evening was spent. Messrs. Eshelby, Read, Lane, Lowe and others sang some capital songs.

*The Milton Magazine, August 1866*

# From The Old 'Un

## Jean and Her Trees

Although Jean, my dear wife, died on April 18th 2015 and her friends will have many, sometimes unique, memories of her there is one of which I am probably the only custodian. Over the years Jean developed a special interest in individual trees all of which held special memories for her, usually connected with the family. I feel the need to record some of these of which I became a witness and feel that family and friends would like to know more about them.

### Tree Number 1 – The Silver Birch

First and foremost amongst Jean's trees was her favourite silver birch which she could see from her chair in the window. As you can see from the photograph it is a handsome tree. It was pulled up by me as a six-inch seedling from the pavement in front of the house in which our daughter Jennifer and her family lived in Brussels about 19 years ago. When planted in Great Milton it suddenly decided just to grow and never stopped and as with all her tree friends a relationship seemed to develop which was rather unique. Many, many, times I have seen her look out of the window and give the tree a very special enigmatic smile which always reminded me of the portrait of the Mona Lisa. Even when the dreaded dementia was overtaking her I realised there was still some happiness in her life provided by The Silver Birch.



### Tree Number 2

#### Peter's Horse Chestnut

Peter grew this from a conker; it started in a jam jar, then in a plastic pot and was finally planted by the stream on the then boundary of our property but in view of the house. It loved its' position and grew very fast and in no time Jean was noticing that it carried a few blooms. Every year she waited for the blooms to appear until



about 20 years ago it was a well grown tree and absolutely covered in blooms every spring. Jean then suggested we lopped off the bottom branches so that the cows could lie under it in hot weather. As you can see from the picture they took advantage of this – just another example of the way in which Jean thought of other creatures.

*John Davis*

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## Neighbours Club 2016 outings Programme

March 16th	<b>Stratford</b> in morning and lunch. Afternoon in <b>Cadbury World</b> , Birmingham. Cost entrance plus coach £22.
April 20th	Morning in <b>Milton Keynes</b> . W.I. lunch in <b>Stony Stratford</b> . Afternoon at <b>Tring Natural History Museum</b> – free. (stuffed animals, birds, reptiles, insects). Meal and coach £20.
May 18th	<b>Bristol</b> (town, zoo, SS Gt. Britain, shopping – your choice). Cost coach £15.
June 15th	<b>Guildford</b> morning and lunch. Afternoon at <b>Loseley Park and Garden</b> . Interesting 16th century house and lovely garden. Cost house and coach £21.
July 13th	<b>Sevenoaks</b> morning and lunch. Afternoon at <b>Chartwell</b> , home of Sir Winston Churchill. Cost house and coach about £26 (N.T. members free – coach only).
August	No outing.
September 7th	<b>Brighton</b> . Cost of coach about £16.
October 5th	<b>Tower of London</b> in morning. <b>Museum of London</b> (free) in afternoon. Cost Tower and coach about £10.
November 16th	<b>Coventry</b> (cathedral, car museum, art gallery and museum, shops). Cost coach £15.
January 2017	Pantomime at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Cost ticket and coach about £20.

Please ring me and let me know a.s.a.p. of any in which you are interested.

Mrs. Celia Cope, Woodbine Cottage, High Street, Great Milton OX44 7NF.

Tel: 01844 279459. All welcome. Thank you.

## Missing Photograph

Readers of the last Bulletin may have been aghast at the omission of the Photograph accompanying “The tale of Mr Goodenough, The Rat, The Fire, His Coat and The Cheese Sandwich”. Here it is: The Three Pigeons at Milton Common prior to the fire in 1892. This month LASSCO is thrilled to be launching “Native Feasts” a Friday and Saturday night pop-up restaurant at The Three Pigeons hosted by Michelin starred chef Chris Godfrey (formerly of the Sir Charles Napier) – phone LASSCO on 277185 for more info.)



## Senior Citizens Party Committee

### Annual Party

This year the party will take place on Saturday 2nd April in the Neighbours Hall at 4:00pm. Invitations will be delivered in early March to all those who we know are eligible. If you are qualifying for the first time – we may not be aware of this fact – and you would like to come, please ring me.

To qualify, you need to be in one of the following categories:

1. Married Couple. If either spouse is over 65, the partner is invited regardless of age.
2. Single lady aged 60 or over.
3. Single man aged 65 or over.
4. Widows and widowers regardless of age.

*Ann Price, Treasurer – 01844 279474*



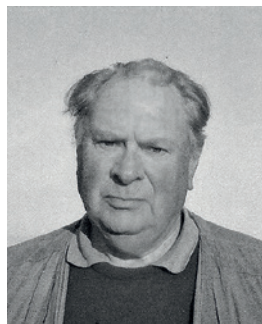
## Dog Fouling in Oxon Piece

Residents of Oxon piece are concerned about a small terrier dog which is running free and fouling on the front of properties, close to the houses. There are small children living here who could easily come into contact with the mess. Could the owner please ensure that their dog is kept secured? Thank you.

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## View From Views

Another month gone already, to start with I must explain to Great Miltonians why I did not appear in last month's bulletin, not having heard anything to the contrary, after reading our Chairman's comments in the January issue of the Great Milton Bulletin. I assumed there was not to be a Bulletin in February, only to find later, when the editorial date had past, that was not the case, at least you did not have to read my twaddle. I would also apologise to Readers from all three parishes that read these notes, for mentioning Rural Buses. I have to admit to not having done much about the impending cuts to Rural Services as I was lead to believe from local information that our buses would not be affected, who ever gave this hugely incorrect information needs taking to task. I make these comments as I recently attended a meeting organised by the Wheatley PC (I think) only to find out that not only was our bus being cancelled but that we were to suffer a savage cut in the number of busses per day. Of course I understand a service has to be viable but it would be good to know just what is going on, in cases like this it is vital that there is good lines of communication within the villages. The other problem is that in many cases the people who get the information and have to make decisions on it, like me, do not have to rely on public transport and would not have a clue as to how difficult it might be for some to just go to the Drs. We were told at the meeting that Heyfordian needs £45,000 per year to make our buses pay their way. I guess now it is down to us to find ways to make it do so, I have always had the idea that it could be better to use the Park & Ride terminuses as local Hubs with a series of smaller buses doing more runs from a smaller area direct to the Park & Rides having more city bus routes terminating etc to & from there. Perhaps there is a place to use these buses (Minibuses) to deliver parcels and groceries to lessen the number of courier vans on our narrow country lanes, whose condition is getting diabolical through over use by ever bigger vehicles. This all needs a



lot of thought but I reckon it is up to us to take the initiative to come up with some worthwhile ideas and encourage our Parish Councils to give it some thought, and involve the public more by keeping us more informed.

Sorry about the above I just thought that perhaps we all needed to have a jolt. Right now! down on the Farm our Oil Seed Rape is suffering badly from pigeon damage, one piece being so poor that you never see a bird on it as I think they all swoop first thing in the morning have a 5 minute feed being what grew the previous day then on to more luscious feeding grounds next door. I am not sure what to say about the weather it has been a bit blowy has it not, this winter seems to have been one storm or another caused by the jet stream if you listen to some, or an el-nino (not sure of the correct spelling) effect in the Pacific from others, which ever it is, is not very pleasant. We have been very lucky in our area, having said that the ground is extremely wet. One of our springs that used to supply the farm with it's water was not running when I last looked at it at the end of January, a fact I find very strange, especially as the drain that runs from that area is running practically full bore.

As part of our environmental scheme, we are now feeding small farmland birds on a regular basis, 3 days a week, and have certainly noticed an increase in bird activity in that area. What I cannot tell for reasons of eyesight and knowledge what species we are encouraging, what we don't know is how this sort of support will be affected by "Brexit", as indeed we do not know how it will affect us all in Agriculture, I heard only very recently that a journalist from the "Independent" (I think) said that he thought the EU environment schemes had done a lot of good, and that if we come out we are in danger of losing this great step forward. Now I am not in any position to clarify this as I and we the farming community just do not know.

We are all aware that daffodils have been in bloom since November, and at the time wondered what would become of them, I think at the time or soon after, I thought that perhaps they would flower right the way through until their normal time of flowering well now it looks rather as if they might. Most extraordinary seeing as how the Snow Drops are about on time, inspite of the fact most other flowers are out of cinque now, I believe they will all compensate in their own way as well.

It can't have escaped anyone that fact that the dairy industry is on it's knees, at least this is the case for those unfortunate not to have a contract to supply one of the big supermarkets. To make things worse Tesco have now decided only to draw their milk from Muller-Wiseman currently they draw from Arla as well, this means that those supplying other processors without a contract will be more at risk as there will be an even smaller market for them to supply. Net result mitigating against the smaller Farmer in favour of the bigger, so as in everything else the big get bigger and the small

go to the wall, should we care? I have just heard that pork is now under pressure being imported from China, upsetting our market and driving down the prices, when only a few years ago we were heralding the first Jumbo Jets loads of breeding pigs being sent out to this expanding market, expanding alright. At the moment, as most will know all Agricultural products are suffering from low end price, largely due to the world market being over supplied, yet there is a famine in Ethiopia, doesn't make sense really.


*Charles Peers*

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

The days are getting noticeably longer and when the sun shines there is warmth in it. Even the most reluctant of gardeners start to venture out into the garden on warm, sunny spring days. It is encouraging to see new growth at the bases of perennials and, if you have not yet done so, do complete your cutting back so that you don't damage the emerging shoots.

It is a relief to me, with my gardener hat on, to have had some frosts at last to help reduce overwintering pests, but I really do not enjoy defrosting the car. We seem to have had so much variety in the weather over the last couple of weeks with sun, frost, heavy rain and very strong winds. Our vegetable patch is under water (it is separated by fencing and hedging from the water meadow) so no work has been done there for a few weeks now. Despite this the ground there is never ending alluvial loam and is lovely to grow things in. Our garden, on the other hand, is the opposite being free draining and very sandy even though we have added a lot of organic matter over the years; you cannot change the soil you have, but you can improve its structure by adding organic matter or, on heavy clay, adding gravel will help with drainage. Plants here have a tough start and require much water in their first year. Things have improved markedly since we made the decision to always plant with our own homemade compost which has good moisture-holding properties. Plants seem to establish more quickly and require less water. I have also stopped introducing plants which require the damp conditions I cannot provide.

I have a confession to make. After all these years of being the sole gardener, assisted by my husband when he had time, I have been fortunate enough to acquire the occasional help (about once a month) of a gardener who is highly knowledgeable and works much, much faster than I do. This has resulted in things being much more in control than is usually the case and I am delighted with the result. It was a blow to my pride to share control even a little, but I am so relieved to have done so. I now 

have more time for other things. Thank you, Tamsin!

It is time to complete rose pruning and to prune most Clematis as I have noted that mine are growing rapidly. The current cold snap will slow things down and sadly damage early blossom, but some things will give pleasure for longer such as the snowdrops we are currently enjoying. The scent of winter box has been a delight over the last few weeks especially on mild days. I needed to prune a Chaenomeles (flowering quince) and I brought the completely dead-looking stems into the house and put them in water. Now, some two weeks later the flowers are beginning to open; I so nearly missed out when I almost threw them away after 10 days!

*Liz Moyses, Membership secretary*

[liz@moyses.org](mailto: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 remind other members that your subscription is now overdue and will be gratefully received; you must be in good standing to vote at the AGM.

Don't forget the AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd March in Great Haseley Village Hall - all welcome. The guest speaker will be Barrie Juniper whose subject will be Apples.

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## John Howell MP

Last month my newsletter explained more of the role of an MP particularly in relation to the work in Westminster and the Constituency. I mentioned that MPs divide their time between working in Parliament or representing parliament elsewhere and working in their constituency. This month I will expand a little on the part of the role that involves representing parliament elsewhere.

In many cases it is the Government that attends key international meetings. In addition to this there are times when other MPs represent the Government and also many different ways in which British MPs across the political parties represent our views. The underlying purpose for all of this work is to ensure that British interests are represented and that we play our part in global issues.

The negotiations with the EU and representation at the Paris Climate Change Conference are two recent examples of the Prime Minister working abroad. Last autumn the Chancellor spent time in China seeking to strengthen UK-China relations which was a concerted effort to strengthen ties with the one of the world's largest economies. Beyond these very public meetings many MPs are also engaged in international affairs.

For my part I am part of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). This delegation is made up of representatives of different political parties. It debates current social problems and aspects of international politics and makes recommendations to governments for action. One of its key roles is to appoint judges to the International Court of Human Rights. PACE meets for a week four times a year in Strasbourg.

Another example of international work is that of Trade Envoys. These are a network of MPs appointed by the Prime Minister from across the political spectrum. Trade Envoys engage with emerging markets where UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has identified substantial opportunities to promote British trade and investment. The work supports the drive for economic growth by building relations with these markets and generating long term benefits for the UK. There are currently 24 Trade Envoys covering around 50 markets. I have been appointed as the Prime Ministers Trade Envoy to Nigeria which is the largest market in Africa. This will involve working with UKTI in the UK and in Nigeria working to ensure that the Government is on track to develop policies to grow their own economy and to promote two-way investment with the UK.

There are many different roles that MPs undertake on behalf of the government and, as mentioned, many are cross party. All of the work contributes to the whole in making sure that British interests are represented on the world stage in a whole variety of ways. In fulfilling these roles MPs are working for everyone in the UK. This work augments the work in Parliament and has to be worked into the overall schedule of work in Westminster and in the constituency.

Further details of the work of Parliament including this international work is available on the parliament website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.parliament.uk"](http://www.parliament.uk) [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

If you would like to receive more information on my work I send out a regular general e-newsletter and also special briefings on an occasional basis on specific issues. If you would like to be on my circulation list for these bulletins please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com).

For more information about my work please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](http://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)



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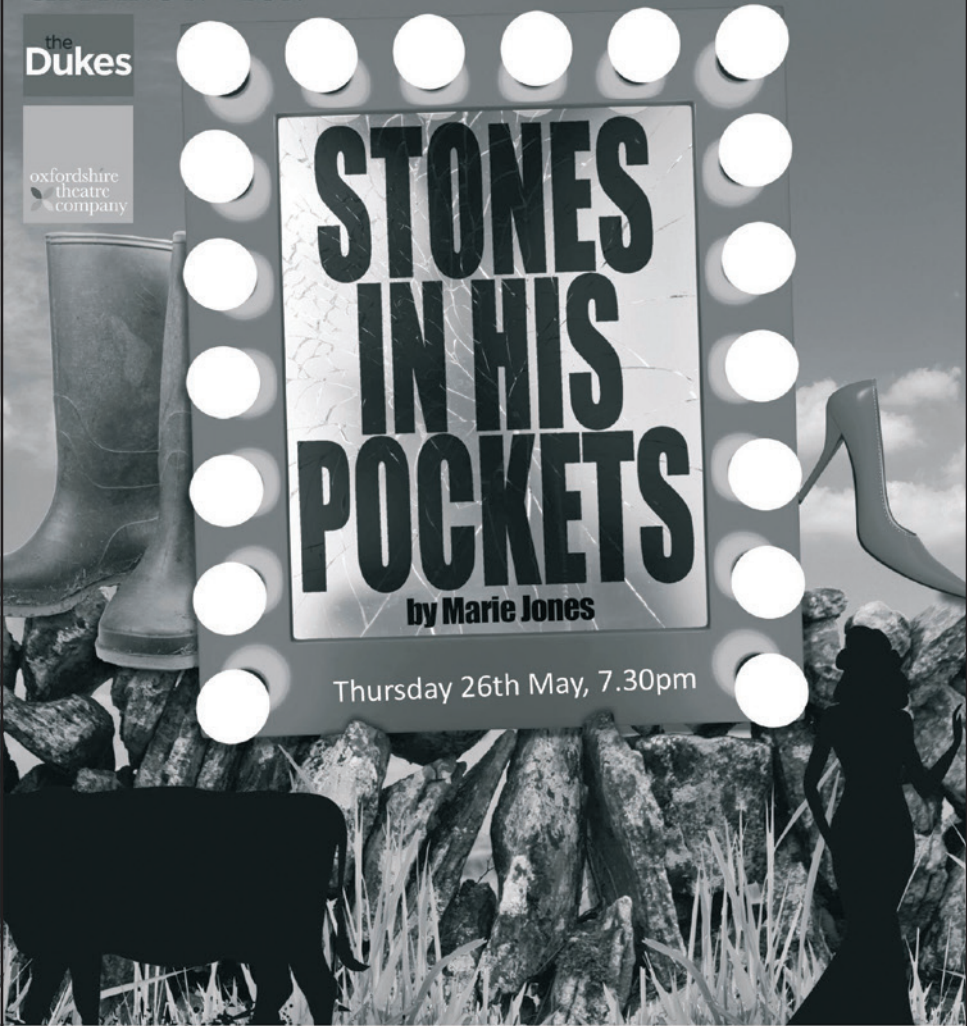




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Thurs 26th May, 7.45pm

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All equipment – litter-pickers, bags, gloves and high visibility tabards will be provided

Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Meeting Place: The Old Garage, Great Milton

For more information please contact Helen Cherry  
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk



## 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  
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*At the Pine Lodge, Little Milton*

## CRAFT CLUB

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**16th March**

**7:30 – 10pm**

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**Website: [www.jsc4kids.com](http://www.jsc4kids.com)**

# BULLETIN ADVERTISING

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

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

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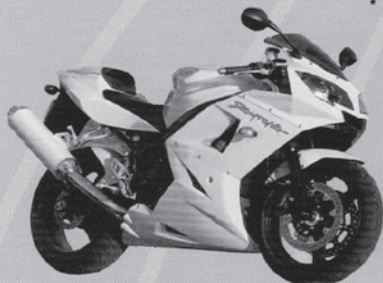
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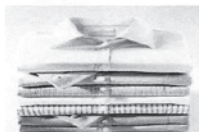
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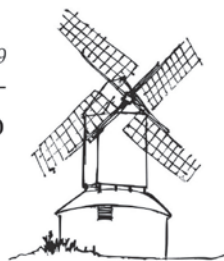
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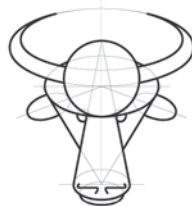
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## Diary

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>

### March

5th Sat	Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	7:00pm
16th Wed	Neighbours Club: Outing to Stratford and Cadbury World	—
21st Mon	Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion	7:30pm

### April

2nd Sat	Litter Pick	10:00am
	Senior Citizens Annual Party at The Neighbours Hall	4:00pm
16th Sat	Church and Churchyard Spring Tidy	10:00am
23rd Sat	Gt. Milton Singers: 'Celebrating Spring' at St. Mary's Church	7:30pm

### May

26th Thur	'Stones in His Pockets' by Marie Jones at the Neighbours Hall	7:45pm
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All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th March 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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The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.  
The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.