

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2019

Published by the Parish Council

No. 548



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.

Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monckery Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	Peter Fewell	01844 279400
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 278554
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	George Bennett	07482 339905
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Gwen Harris	07401 399489
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347
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:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Christmas Candles (three, not four).
Photo: www.pexels.com

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068	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		Fxmystreet.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		Carina.martin@gmail.com http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	07554 516989	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

In Our Opinion....

Apathy was definitely not ruling in November! Teamwork was definitely order of the day. Apparently there were concerns that there might not be a firework display this year but a scratch team pulled out the stops at the last minute and probably put on the best display we have seen. The professional barriers along the boundaries and having the stalls outside worked well. Erecting the whole thing and lighting so many dramatic fireworks must be hard work.

Also, the Neighbours Hall has been refurbished and looks so much better with increased useable space. This has taken much work by many (including fund raisers, Neighbours' Hall Committee and Dave Putts builders as well as generous donations from locals). There will be a chance to view it at our Christmas Fair on December 14th

All these efforts enhance our community, so many thanks.

Clare and Christine

Draft Parish Notes – November 2019

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th November were Cllrs W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, P Fewell and C Deacon plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs S Harrod (Chairman) and G Bennet.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th October were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Business was conducted in the order prescribed by the agenda: no reports from the County Councillor or District Councillor were received this month as a result of the purdah period in advance of the General Election.

Cllr Peter Fewell declared an interest in Item 149/19, and specifically Planning Application P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton). The land upon which the proposed housing will be constructed is partly owned by Cllr Fewell.

Correspondence and Public Discussion

An e-mail has been received by a resident regarding thefts at his property, and expressing dissatisfaction at the apparent lack of police response. The Parish Council will write to the Commissioner for Thames Valley Police to outline its concerns.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P19/S0677/FUL (Coach House, Milton Lodge, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NJ). Amendment : No. 2 - dated 18th October 2019 as amended by plan 22b removing the parking space and proposing a pedestrian pathway to the existing door to The Coach House. Reinstatement of parking space to grassed area (temporary low fence to allow the grass to establish to be erected around the seeded area).

Following consultation most residents are broadly supportive of this amendment, though some have commented on the proposal to fence off the parking space in its current form while the grass is allowed to re-establish itself: the applicant confirmed that this was a figurative term, rather than referring to an actual fence. It was agreed (again after clarification from the applicant that the door adjacent to the proposed footpath was a front door and has always been designated as such) that a path to the front door was entirely necessary and appropriate, and the Parish Council duly agreed that it FULLY SUPPORTED this amendment. The previous iteration of this application had been considered at the Parish Council's September meeting, and the applicant expressed concerns about the conduct of attendees at that meeting, and what he believed to be inaccurate and unfair comments posted on SODC's planning portal. His concerns were noted.

P19/S2605/FUL (Mount Pleasant Farm Thame Road Great Milton). Erection of two x 4 bedroom dwellings with double garages. As amended by revised drawing nos MPF01-PL2, MPF02-PL2, MPF03-PL1, MPF04E-PL2, MPF04P-PL2, MPF05, MPF06E- PL1, MPF06P-PL1 and MPF07-PL addressing highways concerns.

The current amendment does not address the concerns raised by neighbours or the Parish Council when this application was last considered. The Parish Council therefore agreed that it had NO OBJECTIONS to the proposed technical changes, all of which address the concerns of the highway authority with regard to parking bay/garage dimensions and vision splays. Further amendments have been received: these will be considered at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

B To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters

P19/S2743/LB and P19/S2475/LB (The Old Stores, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NT). Replace cracked and damaged single glazing with slim/heritage glazing in two bay windows (P19/S2743/LB) and repaint in Sage Green (P19/S2745LB). Planning permission is GRANTED for the works detailed above.

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses November. £451.25

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production November. £264.50



Green and Growing. Additional grass cutting tasks June/October mowing.
£270/£450

The monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 November 2019 was £30,469.62.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

Red Rose Buses has considered the suggestion to divert an inward and return trip to/from Oxford on service 275 on a trial 'use it or lose it' basis. At the time of the meeting the bus company had not yet confirmed its intentions.

Contact has been established with the police regarding the accident at the Forties/Windmill Hill junction in September. However, as an investigation is ongoing little additional information can be disclosed, other than to confirm that as is already widely known a fatality did result.

'Give Way' and 'SLOW' markings on Windmill Hill between Little Milton and April Cottage have been repainted.

The request for signage at Little Milton directing vehicles away from Windmill Hill for access to the northbound M40 has been passed on to OCC. In response to comments about near-misses with lorries on Sworford Lane an officer advises that a 7.5 tonne limit is in place in this area, and that infringements can be reported online (search 'Oxfordshire County Council weight limit enforcement').

The request for flashing 20mph signage in the vicinity of the school pick-up/drop-off times has also been passed on to OCC.

Other matters

So far two households have offered driveway space for parking at the beginning and the end of the school day. Any similar offers would be gratefully received. It is hoped that the school will take steps to ensure that the spaces offered can be used in the very near future.

Contact has been made with Sustrans with regard to an initial meeting to discuss the potential for a path from the village to Wheatley. This is expected to take place in December.

The first draft of the Parish Council's budget and precept request for the next financial year was received and considered. A 4% increase in the precept to be requested was proposed, and it was agreed that a budget based upon this figure will be formally submitted for approval by the Parish Council at December's meeting. There is little or no change necessary for the major items of expense, but an increase in the village maintenance budget is suggested.

The Parish Council's Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policies and Model Publication list and scheme were considered and duly approved.

It was agreed that the annual singing of carols around the village Christmas tree

was should take place on Wednesday 18th December, starting at 6.30pm and followed by mince pies and mulled wine at The Bull.

The suggestion that the title of 'Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of Great Milton' is awarded to recognise significant and valued contributions to village life was discussed. The suggestion was fully supported by the Parish Council, and as is required by local government legislation a special meeting will be convened shortly to formally confirm the award or awards. As usual the date of this meeting will be formally confirmed by the placing of notices on the village noticeboards.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16 December starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tim Darch. Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Christmas Wishes from John Howell

As regular readers will know I usually write a monthly newsletter for parish magazines. As Parliament has been dissolved for the General Election I am no longer in a position to do so. However having worked with you all for the majority of this year I would like to send a personal thank you for all that you do in your communities week by week, and month by month. I know that at times our community work can be a thankless task but please be assured it is appreciated, especially by me.

As this note will appear in December magazines I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

Should I be in a position to work with you again in 2020 I look forward to it. If not then my sincere thanks for all that you have done in the time that we have worked together.

With best wishes

John

Ramblings from the Rectory

There are several things that people that over the years that have been said to me. When it happens now I inevitably experience a dose inevitable weariness! Here are three of them.



Services in Our Benefice for December

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 1st <i>Advent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 8th <i>Advent 2</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th <i>Advent 3</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Monday 16th	Lessons & Carols at Rycote Chapel 7:30pm By invitation of Mr & Mrs Taylor		
Saturday 21st	Lessons & Carols 6:00pm		
Sunday 22nd <i>Advent 4</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Lessons & Carols 6:00pm	Lessons & Carols 4:00pm
Tuesday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>		Benefice Crib Service 4:00pm	Midnight Communion 11:15pm
Wednesday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	Christmas Day Family Communion 9:30am		
Sunday 29th <i>Christmas 2</i>			Benefice Communion CW 9:30am

Services in Our Benefice for January

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th <i>The Epiphany</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

1. 'But of course you only work on Sundays'. Whilst this one might be offered in some ignorance it is usually delivered as a joke. It does display though a remarkable lack of originality!
2. 'Christmas, it is your busy time of year.' This one is related to the first one above. I am never sure how to respond? 'Of course, the rest of the time I can simply lounge back and put my feet up'.

3. 'Will you be away at Christmas this year?' This one is asked every year without fail at the Church door by a very well meaning person, usually after a carol service. I try to be kind in my response! Just think before you are tempted to say this. You are speaking to the Vicar (or Rector in these parts). Where would you most expect the Vicar to be over Christmas?

I could write a much longer list but I will avoid the temptation.

It is at this time (Nov 17th as I write) that Christmas does begin to loom a little bit larger on the horizon. I do like to get ahead if possible, and at least with things Ecclesiastical, so that I will know more or less what is going on by the beginning of December. I try to avoid evening business meetings of any kind in that month and encourage others to do the same, there really is enough going on without having to have meetings! That is not going to be entirely possible with my other deanery role but it is a discipline I encourage all in the Church to try and so I do not book any Church business meetings or Parochial Church Councils. I try also to encourage the same practice in August, a whole month devoid of evening meetings, bliss!

The truth is of course that Christmas is a busy time for us all and somehow we have to pace ourselves. There is much to distract. This year I am sure that we are utterly overjoyed at the thought of a general election. It would be so easy for us to be cynical and dismissive about that. It would be easy for us to simply not bother. This is an important one and short of daring to suggest how we must vote, I will suggest that at least we must vote. Nothing can be taken for granted.

And then to Christmas itself, my busy time! Actually I have got it down to a bit of a fine art and pacing is the key. There is no doubt that it is an important season in the Church's year, a bit of a gift. Whenever else, apart perhaps than a funeral, are our churches so full?

I always wonder what motivates people to come? Is it a part of the tradition? Is it something else? Perhaps it is a bit of both. I always hope of course that there will be a glimpse of something more, of the heart of it all, Immanuel, which means God with us. And Christmas declares that God really is with us, born in human vulnerability. It is filled with wonder and hope and I hope that all who come will experience something of that wonder and hope for themselves.

I will be taking a month off from writing a rambling and so there will be nothing in the January editions of our village publications. I will therefore take the opportunity of wishing all those who might read this a very happy Christmas and a blessed New year.

Simon



This year our Christmas services will be:

Carol Services

St Mary's Great Milton. Saturday 21 December 6.00pm

St Peter's Great Haseley. Sunday 22 December 4.00pm

St James's Little Milton. Sunday 22 December 6.00pm

Tues 24th December, Christmas Eve

St James's Little Milton. 4.00pm Crib Service

St Peter's Great Haseley. 11.15 pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day

St Mary's Great Milton. 9.30 am Christmas morning family communion. Children (and others!) Please do bring an opened present.

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev John Anderson on 01235 529563

December				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Anderson	Holy Communion
8th	3:00pm	Gt. Milton	Christmas Carol Service	
15th	11:00am	St. Mary's	Martin Welling	
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mike Trinder	
25th	9:30am	Gt. Milton	John Anderson	
29th	11:00am	Watlington		

Musings from the Manse

Christmas comes but once a year....

Thank goodness, some may say. This phrase or cliché, which may appear to some to be modern, actually dates from the sixteenth century, when Thomas Tusser included it as one of his Five Hundreth Pointes of Good Husbandrie (1573): "At Christmas play and make good cheere, for Christmas comes but once a yeere." Or, in other words, take this opportunity to enjoy yourself to the fullest.

This has been reflected back to me in a number of ways. In a recent radio interview a member of the public said "We don't want to be thinking about a General Election, we want to be getting out buying our Christmas presents".

Adverts in the media bombard us with information about which perfume/cologne

makes women/men more attractive (they make me laugh – the idea that I can splash some smelly liquid on my body and I come out looking like Chris Hemsworth – yeah, right!), or which toys will keep our children entertained for more than 5 minutes.

One interesting advert on TV wasn't for a product but was encouraging us to support the smaller shops on our local high street rather than the big stores or a certain online retailer. My sister-in-law runs two gift shops on two high streets and so I know how important this time of year is to her business.

So the idea remains embedded in our collective consciousness - having a good time at Christmas implies spending lots of money (perhaps more than we can afford) on presents, food and beverages of one sort or another.

I am not a kill-joy. I enjoy getting together and spending time with friends and family, and “making good cheere”. I recognise that I am very fortunate; I have a lovely house to offer hospitality, can afford to buy presents, especially for wife, children and growing number of grandchildren, and I enjoy giving and receiving.

But my heart goes out to parents who are under huge pressure to buy the latest “thing”, or families who are having to rely on food banks and the generosity of others. I've known people who are alone, with no family or no family who cares about them. And I do what I can to support the work of the Salvation Army and other charities who try and look after the homeless, especially at Christmas.


And within all of this – who is “the reason for the season”?

Jesus, born to a carpenter called Joseph, and his young wife called Mary, who due to circumstances beyond their control found themselves homeless, and eventually found shelter in the barn at the back of the village pub.

He grew to become the one whom Christians believe to be “the way, the truth and the life”, the one whose example and teaching offer us the best way to be true to ourselves and true to each other, to live a more meaningful and rewarding life, to create a better world to be enjoyed by everyone.

The point about “At Christmas play and make good cheere, for Christmas comes but once a yeere.” in the 16th century was, I suspect, something along the lines of 'enjoy yourselves at Christmas because life for the rest of the year is hard and difficult'.

In these times, that is still true for many. The message at the heart of Christmas is about love – love that came in the form of Jesus, love that is found in following his “way”, love that needs to be offered and received in our homes and communities.

So I encourage you to find love this Christmas. Yes, in the presents you give, and in the presents you receive (even the socks you don't really want). See love in the folk who visit you and in the folk that you visit. But try and follow the example of Jesus, and share love with your neighbour, the lonely and those in need. In giving like 

this, you may well find you receive more than you expect.

Happy Christmas!

Rev John Anderson

Please come to Watlington Methodist Church on 10th December at 7.30 pm to hear the LAMPS Collective arts team perform "Bread and Starlight" which is described as "Touching on the themes of mystery and miracle, what is temporary and what lasts, Bread and Starlight combines storytelling, song and space for reflection in the lead up to Christmas.'

Great Milton Bellringers

The Bellringers meet for practise every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. As you know, we ring for Services and special occasions.

We need to recruit new members - and have experienced ringers who are happy to teach if that is required.

Everyone will know at least one of us, and you would be most welcome - so come and see us if you would like to ring, practise or learn.

See you at the Tower!

Great Milton History

Extract from 'one of our emigrants' to Canada, written on Christmas day 1870

This is a rare country for jam, every meal we have them sit on the table. They say it makes the bread and butter go nicer, and I can tell you the longer I stop here the better I like it. Jack and me went over to see Will last Sunday and he is coming to see me today. It is a beautiful Christmas morning, and he will be sure to be here. He has grown a good deal taller and is as fat as he can be. (from 'your affectionate son Jim')

Extract from the Parish Magazine December 1933

We pleaurably record work willingly and gratuitously done for the church. Awhile ago two of our young friends, G.Slater and B.Cross put some new netting on the louver windows of the belfry. This was much needed for the birds had been building nests inside



THE BOAR'S HEAD PROCESSION.

the walls. Mr and Mrs Cross have again planted the border round the Church with bulbs and plants. We hope the weather will be kinder than of late, for the cold winds of the spring and the hot sun in the summer caused some disappointment we fear. Mr Hinton trimmed and put in order the trees in the churchyard. Our best thanks we tender to each, as also Mr Pittam for his help.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!

Bach's Christmas Oratorio

Great Milton Singers and Wheatley Singers in St. Mary's, Thame

On Saturday November 16th, the Great Milton and Wheatley Singers teamed up with Cumnor Choral Society to perform Bach's Christmas Oratorio, under the accomplished leadership of Kate Billimore. The massed choirs and orchestra filled half the nave, nevertheless leaving room for a substantial audience who were in for a treat.

The Oratorio is a familiar work, telling the Christmas story in six sections, the libretto being in German, or rather "AltDeutsch", which meant this student of German was sometimes struggling. We were treated to outstanding solos, including from local treasure Angela Scott-Smith, the sublime alto Julia Hollander and the clarity and assuredness of bass Moray McConnachie and tenor and "Evangelist" Peter Willis. Bagatelle were on top form, with especial note for the trumpets, oboes d'amore, double bass and Ed Price's violin solo.

Music like this can transport one into a different world, "O schönes Morgenlicht" ("O Beautiful Morning Light"), much needed by us all in these fractious times. Kate Billimore and her Singers and musicians are to be congratulated on their ambition and aptitude in putting together this piece.

For me and for those in the audience and choir that I spoke to after the performance, this was a delightful evening and a charming prelude to Advent and Christmas.

The charities being supported were Helen & Douglas House and the Florence Nightingale Hospice, both beacons of one of the big achievements of 20th century medical care - enabling the terminally ill to "live until they die". And still funded, of necessity, up to 80% from charitable donations. On this occasion, the charitable giving was a pleasure.

Tony Jefferis

At the time of going to press accounts are being finalised, but we expect to have made £1500 which will be split between the two charities. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. - Great Milton Singers

Great Milton Fireworks

A crisp November evening on the Recreation Ground: a chance to catch up with (nearly) everyone in the village between the summer haze and the celebrations of Christmas. The Great Milton Fireworks evening is an important fixture in the calendar.

A big thanks to everyone who pitched in to keep the night on track with just over three weeks to pull it all together when unforeseen circumstances meant that the Friends of Great Milton School were unable to co-ordinate the event. The four experienced pyro-technicians setting up and setting off the wonderful display designed and supplied by Jonnie Alden from the Oxford Rocket Shop were supported by a small army of volunteers manning the gate, serving mulled wine and making sure that all was well with the fire.

The equipment and manpower provided by Greenplant made the whole event safe and well illuminated – allowing parents to relax that little bit more. Great Milton Freecycle ran a zero waste sweet stall and food was provided by Oxford Pig Roast Hire.

With time against us it was always going to be a tall order to make this year a big fundraiser but with Pat & Christine selling the tickets and some additional sponsorship from Wheatley Dental Practice we were relieved to make just over £400 on a turnover of £4000.

As promised: over half of this will be given to the school with the rest distributed to the Recreation Ground Committee, Great Milton Freecycle Group, Great Milton Athletics Club and the Old Field Committee.

The biggest thanks are due to all of the spectators who came out, had a great evening and kept the warm community spirit alive in the otherwise chilly month of November.

If you have any ideas for November 6th 2020, would like to help organize the event or clear up afterwards please get in touch by email: fireworks@brannock.co.uk.



Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel.

We have had a suggestion of starting up a coffee morning at the Methodist Chapel... therefore we have decided to start this venture on WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2020 from 10:00 - Midday. We intend to continue with a coffee morning every Wednesday morning throughout the year!! We hope that this will encourage everyone in the community throughout the parishes & beyond to come along for a slice of cake & coffee/tea but mostly for a chat!!

All most welcome!!

Vonnie Cartwright

Letter

To residents of Great Milton, I am one of the distributors for the bulletin and my October's issue was late in being delivered as I was on holiday, if the complainant would like to contact me perhaps they would like to stand in for me while I am away or even take on my delivery round.

Best wishes

Janet

Sheppard Trust

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be held on Thursday 23rd January 2020. Funds are available for distribution and applications are welcomed.

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to apply.

Applications should be sent to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or emailed to janewillis1@live.co.uk and should arrive by Wednesday Thursday 16th January 2020.

Great Milton Athletics Club (GMAC)

2019 Update

2019 has been another fantastic year for Great Milton Athletics Club. The



club is now larger than ever, with 28 members who have competed at over 20 events and matches this year split between the summer track and field season and winter cross country (XC) races.

The 2018/19 XC season ended in March 2019. Seven athletes competed in total during the season. A couple of our youngest athletes Abbie S and Laurie P competed in all five races and received their well-deserved medals for doing so.

March 2019 sadly saw the retirement of Emily Johns as our XC team manager who has been running the team and entries since the club began in 2012. A huge thank you to Emily for her hard work and dedication.

The first XC race of the 2019/20 season was on 3 November in Bicester. Five of our athletes competed, three of whom were girls entered in the U13 girls race. This was the first time GMAC has been able to enter a full complement of athletes into a race to create a team. The team consisting of Eva T, Evie F & Otilie C-R finished 21st in the team event. Two athletes, Laurie P and Abbie S also competed in the U11 girls and boys races.

The club was able to continue to compete in the league thanks to a new team manager: Louise Simpson has ably stepped into the role. Thank you Louise!

The club looks forward to the next four races of the season with the final race of 2019 taking place in December.

The summer track and field season started early on 25 March at Radley Athletics Club. We had 10 athletes competing in this event and achieved a medal haul of 10, six of which were gold. Nine athletes achieved personal best results and five club records were also attained.

We also had five athletes entering in the County Championships in May 2019. From that event GMAC athletes attained a massive 14 medals, six club records and 12 personal bests. Five of the medals achieved were in hurdle events and one athlete, Jack S achieved four gold medals. Jack has been county champion at 100m unbroken for the last five years and has been training with the club since year 5 of primary school.

In June, athletes competed in the Wycombe open with two gold medals achieved in hurdle events. Off the back of a very successful track and field season, Barnaby H was selected to represent Oxfordshire U13s in the Southern Inter-Counties Championships in July 2019. Barnaby achieved fifth place overall in hurdles and was ranked 45th in



GMAC XC runners, 3 November 2019

the UK this year in 75m hurdles.

The club also entered into the Oxfordshire Junior League for the 2019 season. This year we had 12 athletes entered into all three league matches taking place across the year in Abingdon, Banbury and Oxford.


Great Milton's youngest athletes competed in Quads Kids events throughout the year. A special mention to Gracie W and Maya R who have each collected a bagful of medals from these events: both have also beaten the U13 girls long jump club record despite being aged U11.

These results demonstrate just how successful the club has become, and we offer huge congratulations to all of our athletes for their hard work over the last year which has paid off with such tremendous results. But an enormous thank you must be extended to our head coach Pat Read without whom the club would simply no longer function. Pat runs the club's three weekly training sessions as well as other event-specific training for our athletes. Our athletes' successes in hurdling are testament to Pat's tireless efforts in training. His dedication is perfectly illustrated by driving five athletes to Stoke on Trent during the winter months for dedicated hurdles training. Our Assistant Coaches Guy and Fergus continue to support Pat, and this year Pat has introduced a scheme to encourage older athletes into coaching. One of the first tranche of athletes to join the club, Phoebe C, is now coaching the junior squad alongside Pat and Guy on a Thursday evening. The club extends a huge THANK YOU to all of the coaches.

A large thank you also goes to the staff at Le Manoir who once again have helped cut the paths in the top field for our Saturday training. The club was also very grateful to receive a further grant from the Sheppard Trust this year. This will benefit the club hugely, enabling us to purchase some new equipment and fund further training for the coaches and club committee members. The club's AGM was held on 30 November 2019, at which new members of the committee were welcomed. We welcome any new enquiries for membership or volunteering opportunities within our fantastic club. Please contact enquiries.gmac@gmail.com.

Little Milton WI

Thank you to Susie Berry from Chalgrove Flower Club for demonstrating Christmas wreath and table centre making. We left inspired and equipped to make our own and three of us won her creations in the raffle.

We've had to move the December meeting forward a week as some idiot called an election on WI night! On Thursday 5th December, we're hosting a Body Shop 

Party with product demos, mulled wine and Christmas treats. Another opportunity for Christmas shopping!

Come and join us, everyone welcome. Visitors £5.

We'll also be at the Little Milton Christmas fayre on Saturday 7th December 11am-2pm where all the village organisations have been asked to decorate individual Xmas trees. More Christmas shopping, and raising money for the Orchard Pre-School, St James' Church & The Pine Lodge.

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

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month (except December) at 7.30pm in the Pine Lodge

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Old Field

Old Field is open to anyone in the village to visit. There are team of locals who meet there every second Saturday of the month, at 10:15am, to maintain the area, promote the wildlife and have a coffee and chat. All are welcome to come along, even if it's just for the coffee chat.



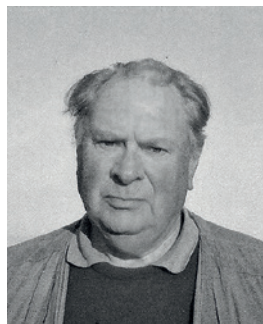
Enjoying the new table and chairs at Old Field

Do You Have Space on Your Drive around 8.30 and 3.30?

It's been suggested that residents living on The Green and Lower End could potentially offer up space on their drives if not in regular use at school pick-up and drop-off times, to alleviate pressure on the main road and hopefully reduce the risk of inconsiderate parking. This is one of a package of measures being explored by the Parish Council and Great Milton Primary School to improve safety and the village environment in general at these key times of day. If you feel able to offer up a space or spaces, please contact Tim Darch (Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council) on 07771 893191 for further information.

View from Views

What an autumn this has been, we are lucky once again with the weather, although by my calculations we had 2/3rds more rain in October than I have ever recorded. We can only thank our lucky stars that we live where we do, as most weather has exhausted itself by the time it gets here. The problem that has to be faced in worst hit areas is what to do about the flooding, it is assumed solved in the Somerset levels by dredging the water courses. Rivers years ago were dredged on a regular basis, stopped I guess as it was assumed this was upsetting the river ecosystem. Now we have to ask ourselves which is more important humans or wildlife! This is the case all over the world as in Borneo where Orangutan's habitat is being destroyed to grow Palm Oil, in Brazil the destruction of the Rain Forest to produce soya, (see picture if included) just to mention a few cases, due to demand created by the plant based diet fad.



Inspite of the weather we were able to get our autumn planting done in those few fine days we had during ½ term week it has not emerged at the time of writing, fingers crossed it will be alright. The Oil Seed Rape that was concerning me a few weeks ago is looking a little better, and am assured will be OK, although very backward at the moment, unfortunately it will be vulnerable to pigeon attack once they



get hungry, neither of which we can control. This autumn it seems there are a lot more starlings, I have heard of Field fares being about, but not seen any myself. I fancy the Swallows and Swifts seemed to be late leaving this year, otherwise I think everything is settling in for the winter.

Please accept my apologies for once again writing about red meat verses Veganism but recently I read in a daily paper, that the vegan movement were up in arms over a BBC programme that appeared to be biased against their cause, where a well-known food writer made a perfectly sound statement about the concentrated nutritional value of meat, over a plant based diet. How often is the reverse the case, when nothing is said to counter their claims? In the same paper on the same day I was horrified to read that Vegan car interiors were now becoming fashionable, even Land Rover were using them. This seems counterproductive, after all Leather is a by-product of the meat industry otherwise not used. Any plant based product would have to be grown in place of food, in a process that could be unsustainable.

It has been proved that British produced red meat produces 2.5% less carbon than other similar meat products, this is because most British red meat is grass fed. This is illustrated by the actual grazing/nutrient cycle. Grass will absorb carbon the grazing animal will digest this food then excrete the carbon in their dung, dung beetles then process this and again excrete the carbon, to do this they burrow down into the ground, which then either stores the or dissolves it (this is the part I don't know). What no one seems to take into consideration is that all this adverse publicity has reduced the demand for the product by 20% putting some beef & sheep farmers possibly out of business, the net result will be less grass land, and more intensive mono culture exactly what every person on the planet is worried about, with there being less biodiversity.

It is horrific to learn of the threats of one sort or another to women MPs, what sort of society are we living in. It seems to me that MPs or perhaps Parliament/Government, (never know which is which) in this day and age ignore the wishes of the public who have real objections to certain projects i.e. HS2, which now seems to be getting the green light, Charlgorve Airfield, Heathrow third runway, house building, when it seems that most new builds are too expensive for those that really need them and are left unsold, and so on. Is it little wonder the public are frustrated feeling that no one is listening to our wants, when after all that we pay them to represent us. They never seem able to provide us with the information we need to form our own opinions, frankly I give up. It was heart wrenching to see on the news great trees being ripped out for this extravagant project (HS2) which is not wanted by most people, when now the political sound bit is plant more trees! (There is something like 80 miles of unused Track bed from Aylesbury to Manchester, surely this could be used for this ill

thought-out project). I'll bet any money on the fact that the third Heathrow runway will go ahead. Where housing is concerned do they not realise there are too many of us in this country although housing only takes up a small percentage of land it is using up natural resources at an alarming rate rivers drying up etc. Also are they being built on a flood plain?

Recently I read in the same paper on the same day two conflicting reports, one said that there was a decline in farmland birds, the other (which I think was from the RSPB) saying that due to initiatives taken by farmers, most species were on the increase, what you make of that I leave to the reader. Climate change demonstrations have been, up to the announcement of the election, centre of our media's attention, not that I necessarily disagree with their motives, I just wonder how many of these protesters attended Firework Parties.

The River Thame Conservation Trust has just issued another Newsletter to view go to <https://riverthame.org/newsletter-autumn-2019> very interesting projects.

Have a very "Happy Christmas".

Charles Peers

Wheatley Village Archive

The Wheatley Heritage Trail is now officially launched. The Trail, funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a generous donation by Wheatley WI to commemorate their centenary, was launched by Tom Hassall. We do hope you all enjoy the Trail while furthering your knowledge of the village from the comprehensive leaflet.

The Archive History Group had its last talk of the year on 26th November on Farms and Farmhouses in the village and an interesting programme of talks and tours has been arranged for 2020 with talks taking place in the Merry Bells. Initial dates for your new calendar include 'Oxfordshire in the Civil Wars' on 7th January and 'The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire' on 4th February. Contact Michael Heaton on michael@wheatleyarchive.org.uk for details of membership or just turn up at a meeting.

Talking of new calendars – copies of the Wheatley Archive Calendar are selling like hot cakes. Do buy yours at the village Christmas Fair on Friday, 29th November, or before at the Archive room for £8.00 if you want to send one abroad.

The Archive Room is open on Thursday afternoons from 2-5pm and on the last Saturday of each month from 10-12. It can be available at other times by request.

The History Group, the Trail and the new website have made 2019 a very busy and productive year for the Archive team and we would like to thank all those who have supported us. Happy Christmas and New Year.

Steph Cox

Wheatley Library 01865 875267

Dates to note:

Thursday 5th December 15.45 - 16.15

Gadgets and Gizmos

Come and play with ozobots, turn a banana into a keyboard and create your own interactive adventure story. For children 8 years and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited so book your place early.

Friday 6th December 19.30-21.00

Friends of Wheatley Library Clarinet group

Saturday 21st December 9.30-12.30

Mince pies

Christmas and New Year closing times

Closed from

13.00 21st Saturday 21/12/19 – Wednesday 01/01/20

Re-open 2pm 02/01/20

In the New Year

Tuesday 7 January 10.00-11.00

Mapletree Children's centre hosts Rhymetime in the library

All children welcome and must be accompanied by an adult

Friday 24th January 10.30-11.30

Opera in an hour

Come along to create a story in song.

It's all in good fun.

Saturday 25th January 9.30-12.30

Book sale of withdrawn library stock

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday craft sessions weekly from 10-12, 2-4pm, and 7-9pm – there will be a break over Christmas.

First Friday of the month, Clarinet Players at 7.30pm

Book donations

We gratefully receive good quality "as-new" donations of adult fiction. If you buy books to read but don't want the clutter, please consider donating them to the library.

Thank you and happy holidays from staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library



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An Open Letter from Cllr Sue Cooper to South Oxfordshire residents and businesses

Dear Resident

The deadline for the UK to leave the EU has changed, but the country continues to prepare for this event. I am writing to you all on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council about issues related to Brexit - in particular we want to make sure affected EU nationals from countries outside the UK who live in our district know what they need to do to protect their rights to remain in the country.

The new deadline to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 at the latest, but it's still not clear exactly when we will leave or how we will leave, especially now there will be a general election in December. We share many of our residents' frustrations about this uncertainty, particularly over the future immigration status of affected EU nationals.

If you live in the UK but are a citizen of another EU country, it's very important you know what you need to do to be able to stay here after we leave the EU. You might need to apply to the government for "settled" or "pre-settled status" in the UK – if you do not do this as soon as possible, you might not be able to stay in the UK in the long term. We have put lots of information on our website to help, including links to the right pages on the government's website. You can find this at www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit.

If you don't have access to the right kind of smartphone or tablet to verify your identification documents, you can do this at the libraries in Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

Like all of our residents, you make an important contribution to our district and our communities – you are most welcome in South Oxfordshire and you have the Council's continued support.

I also want to reassure all our residents that Council officers are working hard on Brexit preparations to make sure our services are not affected.

The Council also remains committed to supporting our local economy and we are here to advise or guide any local businesses that could be affected by Brexit. There's lots of information, guidance and support on our dedicated South and Vale Business Support website at www.svbs.co.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Sue Cooper
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council

GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council following a recent resignation. 14 days has elapsed with no requests for an election received by the District Council, and as a result it is now possible to look to recruit a new councillor on an informal basis.

Are you interested in serving your local community? Do you have strong views about village life? Do you have some expertise which could benefit the village? Do you want to make a difference to life in Great Milton? If so, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Please contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk) on 01844 278347 for an informal discussion and more information.

Qualifying criteria

To be a parish councillor you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
 - d. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Under the tree on The Green, by Recreation Ground entrance

**Return your old tree here by
Sunday 12 January 2020**

(Trees left after this date will not be accepted)

Trees larger than 6 ft must be cut down in size



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The Green
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All welcome!



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Saturday 7th December
11am until 2pm

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CAFÉ with bacon sandwiches, melted white, mince pies, hot chocolate

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

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

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



The Community Room home of Great Milton History

Browse the Archive
Purchase Books
Study Old Maps
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of village Family History

Open on Wednesdays
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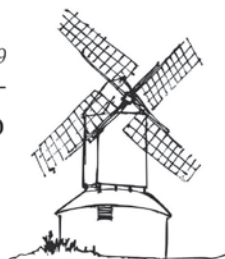
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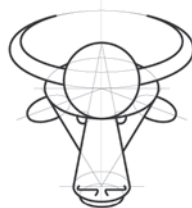
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Diary

- Monday** Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 9:15am
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 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
 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday** GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday** Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
 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** Toddler & Baby Group – The Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Molly Powell – 07958 396257
- Saturday** Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

December

- | | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| 7th Sat | Christmas Fayre at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton | 11:00am |
| 8th Sun | Christmas Carol Service at The Methodist Church | 3:00pm |
| 14th Sat | Christmas fayre at St. Mary's Church | 2:00pm |
| 16th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 18th Wed | Carols around the Christmas Tree on The Green | 6:30pm |
| 25th Wed | Christmas Day Family Communion at St. Mary's Church | 9:30am |

January 2020

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------|
| 18th Sat | Great Milton Dads and DJ Niv at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
| 23rd Thurs | Sheppard Trust Meeting | — |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th November 2019**.

Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PB.

Adverts to **Tim Darch** Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PA.

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