

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

March 2022

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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:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 279242
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:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
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:	James Cunningham, Michele Block
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster, David Mackrory
Hard Surface Play Area:	Susan Read, Jon Devitt
Neighbourhood Watch:	Jola Miziniak
Kent & Couling Charity:	Tricia Treanor, Simon Cronk
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Cover: Sunset over the fields.

Photo: Tim Darch.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Tim Darch (Clerk)	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowden	07836 728919	
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletrecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

Draft Parish Notes – February 2022

Meeting of Great Milton Parish Council, held at the Pavilion on Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was attended by Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), P Allen, D Harms and M Horsley. Apologies were received in advance from Cllrs W Fox, C Deacon and G Bennet, along with Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC). Tim Darch (Clerk) was in attendance, along with Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo (OCC) and one member of the public. No interests were declared, and business was conducted as prescribed by the agenda.

Matters to Report

Monthly reports were received from Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (County Councillor, Chalgrove division) and Cllr Caroline Newton (District Councillor, Haseley Brook ward). Both are available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Allen asked a question about bus service funding: Cllr Van Mierlo replied that some funding is pending from central government, but probably not all that had been asked for. The bus companies are struggling financially and some service reductions are taking place in light of reduced patronage. Although the County Council has aspirations to increase public transport use the impact of Covid may influence this.

Correspondence and public discussion

No correspondence has been received this month other than that relating to matters dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered.

P21/S4878/HH (The Old Stable Yard Thame Road Great Milton). Stable buildings and concrete apron to front comprising three stables, tack room and store.

The application was reviewed by the ward councillor, who in his absence provided comments in advance for review and discussion. No issues or significant comments were raised, either by councillors or nearby residents when contacted. As a result the parish council agreed to SUPPORT the application.

The following planning decisions received and outstanding planning matters were considered.

Le Manoir planning application update

It is understood that following objections from Heritage England and SODC's landscape officer, the applicants are reviewing their plans with a view to some amendments.

Tiddington-with-Albury Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission plan

Tiddington-with-Albury's Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission plan has been

received for consideration. Having reviewed the content, Great Milton Parish Council congratulates Tiddington-with-Albury Parish Council on the content of the plan, and shares its concerns over the impact of potential development at Harrington, Chalgrove and the site of Waterstock Golf Course on local infrastructure, particularly with regard to additional traffic generation on the A329.

The minutes of the January meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 17th January 2022, were reviewed, approved and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £504.65

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production February. £335.20

Shield Solutions. Dog bin emptying January. £62.40


SLCC annual membership renewal. £112

Website support February. £19.99 (now paid by Direct Debit: authorisation of invoice only)

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

The latest monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement were received, considered and approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 7 February 2022 was £46,581.50.

Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- Airband appears to have been installing fibre-related infrastructure in the village over the last few weeks. This hopefully means that much of the village will shortly have access to full fibre broadband, though it appears that the houses beyond Oxen Piece on Thame Road and some more isolated properties may not be covered by this project. Clarification on this and on timescales and procedures for accessing services will be sought from Airband, though it appears that domestic access may not be available any time soon.
- A resident of the houses erected recently on London Road in Milton Common has reported incidences of inconsiderate parking, including on the pavement and close to driveways. Residents are politely reminded to ensure that visitors park safely and respectfully, preferably in the allocated parking spaces outside the houses if available, or in the laybys on London Road. The parish council has no powers of enforcement in this area, but the issue has been reported once again to the Neighbourhood Policing team.
- Remedial work to address the drainage issues on Lower End has now got the go-ahead from OCC, but timings are yet to be determined. Some work was 

under way in the problem area on the day of the meeting: it is hoped that this was to address the drainage issues.

COVID-19: update on village response/impacts

No significant local developments were raised with regard to the current pandemic, other than those which are receiving widespread national publicity.

20mph zone

Requests for 20mph speed limits will be fully funded by the county council. Villages and towns that have already put in applications will be bundled into two batches in summer and winter 2022. Further rounds will be planned in 2023 and beyond. There is nothing to indicate which batch Great Milton's application (submitted in January) is included in.

Issues with mail deliveries

It appears that the issues with mail deliveries reported last month have eased.

Security in the village

Security in the village was discussed in light of reports of a number of attempted and successful burglaries in recent months. A resident was in attendance representing the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. CCTV was discussed, though issues with lighting, costs and privacy were raised. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could take a more prominent role in the village in terms of providing a link between the Parish Council and the police. Cllr Van Mierlo also suggested contacting Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley) to express concerns over the apparent recent increase in crime, and particularly burglary, in the village. The Clerk will pursue this. It was also proposed that the neighbourhood policing team could be approached by the Neighbourhood Watch group with a view to attending a local event where advice could be provided to concerned residents.

Protocol for death of a senior figure: 'Operation London Bridge'

Various organisations (including Oxfordshire County Council) have encouraged local councils to once again revisit their arrangements for the death of a senior figure, and to ensure an element of coordination between parish councils, churches and other elements of the community in marking such an event. After brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council's existing protocols were sufficient, having been revisited within the last year.

Parish Clerk's remuneration 2021-22

The Clerk's remuneration for the current financial year was reviewed and discussed. Negotiations are currently ongoing between Local Government employers and the unions on the 2021/22 pay increase. The process has been protracted and there has been no agreement as yet. However, there seems to be little appetite among the union

members for industrial action: as a result it seems probable that agreement will be reached soon: the parish council will keep the situation under review and backdate any pay increment when agreed to April 2021. In the meantime councillors agreed to pay the Clerk a cash bonus of £200 in March to recognise his excellent contribution over the year, particularly during lockdowns and other restrictions.

Date of April meeting/Annual Parish Meeting

To note that April's Annual Parish Meeting and the monthly meeting of the parish council will take place on Tuesday April 19th at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, instead of on the Monday as is usual which is Easter Monday.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 21st March 2022 at the Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm.

Benefice Services March 2022

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Wednesday 2nd	Service for Ash Wednesday 7:00pm		
Sunday 6th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 13th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 20th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Wednesday 23rd		BCP Holy Communion 12:00pm	
Sunday 27th	Family Gathering 4:00pm	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	

The Rector's Pint

I haven't written one of these for some time! I am very grateful to Toby Garfitt and Tony Jefferis who have offered their thoughts and insights in my absence.

I don't want to go into the details or circumstances that led me to taking a rather unexpected sabbatical. However, I have been really touched by the many messages of greetings and support I have received. It has also been surprising how many people have told me that they have also had to wrestle with mental health issues, it is far more common than we imagine and I think that it would a good and healthy thing, not least in the Church, if we could be more open and honest about the struggles we face.

I wish I could say that my spiritual life of prayer had taken a leap forward with the time and opportunity to 'go deep'. The truth is it has been sporadic and at times very hard to pray, but I have tried. During our zoom services of 2020 and 2021 we started to engage with the poems of the priest and poet Malcolm Guite. His writings have been very helpful to me, and I particularly recommend his book, *David's Crown*. This is not a re-writing of the Psalms, rather, he has taken each Psalm and has written a response, each one of five verses with three lines. It is a beautiful and very thoughtful companion to the Psalms. I recently read Psalm 107, and I wish I had come across it earlier as it really spoke to me, it might also speak to one or two of you. It has a personal application and perhaps a bit of a wider reach, reflecting in part the times we have all been through.

Psalm 107: Confitemini Domion (Give thanks to the Lord)

My judge is still my saviour and my friend.
Time after time he finds and rescues me,
Makes a beginning where I have made an end.

I was astray and yet he came to save me
And filled my hungry soul with nourishment.
I sat in darkness, bound in misery,

Crushed by depression and discouragement,
He brought me out of darkness, broke the chain,
The complex links of my imprisonment.

When I was sick and wearied and in pain,
Afraid of pestilence in these dark days,

He sent his word and raised me up again.

So I will sing this psalm that sings his praise,
Telling of all the wonders he has done,
Whose loving kindness keeps me all my days.

(Malcolm Guite, David's Crown, Sounding the Psalms Canterbury Press 2021)

This is a wonderful book and each one of his reflections is an absolute gem.

I am now greatly looking forward to our upcoming services, and our Lent lunches in March. These have always been very popular and are a valuable experience in which we can all share.

It is good to get back to writing Rector's Pint, but I know that you have really benefited from Toby and Tony's offerings, and perhaps it is also something I can share with others now and again.

Every blessing

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

March 2022				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
6th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Liz Spain	
13th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
20th	10:30am	St. Mary's	Rev. Simon Cronk	United Service
27th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Liz Spain	

Mystery of the missing trays.

Following the Christmas Fayre two trays are missing. Both are round, Sue Denham's one is plain with a red circle design. The Neighbours' Hall one is patterned and has a sticker to identify it. Please check you have not adopted one. It is a pity when things go missing especially if they have history!

Hoping for their return.

Christmas Fayre Committee

Great Milton History in the Community Room at the Bull



At last we are able to return to 'proper' opening hours - from Wednesday March 2nd, the History Room will be open from 10.30 – 12.30 every Wednesday morning.

Come and see us – you will be surprised at all the information we have; photos, articles, maps – all sort of bits and pieces! We have booklets to sell and the famous Wells book – an amazing collection of almost 100 wells in the Village – Ian Melton's masterpiece! There are details of cottages, houses and pubs in the Village and we have a disc of the Churchyard giving names, dates, location and photos of the graves.

We have a plan for a new booklet about Great Milton after WW2 – maybe stories of men returning and what they did next – let us have your memories (we have started a file already). Looking further ahead, it would be good to have our usual talk in the Autumn – with a glass to celebrate, like we used to do!

Also remember; this room is the Community Room as well, and can be opened for small meetings (say about 8 people). Just phone 279300 and we will open up for you. The room is also ideal for anyone wanting a quiet space in which to study/read etc.

Looking forward to a busy 2022!!

GMH



Thank You

I would like to say an enormous thank you to all those who have shown me such kindness during the period I have been incapacitated.

I feel very humble that so much goodwill has come my way during what has been a difficult time.

Once again, my thanks.

Ann Price

Pub Quizzes

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who came to the first quiz for what, I think everyone will agree, was a fun evening. Many thanks also to the pub team, who provided a very nice atmosphere and Great food. We raised £320 for the Chirch Restoration Fund.

It is hoped that, going forward, we will hold a quiz night every month, details of which will be advertised in the village shop and the Bulletin

By the time you read this, the second quiz will probably have taken place, or be very near, so time to prepare for the April event. It is hoped that, by then, the weather will be somewhat warmer and we will be able to hold the quiz out on the terrace and under the awning, where there will be heaters if required – we will obviously have to decide on that nearer the time, but it is hoped that we will be able to accommodate a few more quizzers then.

finally, if anyone knows of a charity they would like to have us support, could they please let me know so that I can prepare the paperwork accordingly.

My email address is alan.pickett@outlook.com.

Thanks once again.

Alan

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Annual Party

The date of the Party this year is Saturday 30th April. this is a week later than the normal date. Invitations will be delivered during the second half of March with a RSVP date of 16th April.

Ann Price, Secretary

Neighbours' Hall Book Library

Sorry we had to cancel the open session in February – it was just too wild and windy to suggest anyone may come out in the middle of Storm Eunice! Hopefully the weather will be kinder from now on and we can enjoy the Orchard Garden for drinks and cakes. We plan to open the third Friday of each month – however some months this may change due to prior hall bookings and clash with bank holidays etc.

All are welcome to make use of the book and jigsaw puzzle library at any time you are visiting the Neighbours' Hall – just good to see people make use of this community facility. You can donate, borrow or take a book or puzzle at any time.

Our next open session will be Friday 25th March from 11am to 12.30pm. We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes for you to enjoy whilst you browse and chat.

Barbara and Hazel

The Neighbours' Hall

In February's edition of the Great Milton Bulletin the Parish Notes mentioned an email suggesting the Neighbours' Hall could be sold to the Manoir and the proceeds used to enhance the pavilion.

From many angles this is a sensible suggestion, why does a village with just over 1000 inhabitants need two public buildings, neither of which are used to capacity?

However, it is not as simple as it sounds. The ownership of the Neighbours' Hall is in the hands of the Diocese of Oxford, where it is held in trust for the benefit of the three villages, Great Haseley, Little Milton and Great Milton. If it were to be sold the funds would revert to the Diocese, they might (or might not!) allow the villages to use all or part of the funds. The funds might then be used to support the upkeep of the churches, all of whom need expensive maintenance and none would be available for the pavilion!

In addition, the Neighbours' Hall has recently been given £150,000 from public sources for its very worthwhile refurbishment: these funds have to be returned if there is a change of use of the hall.

So, let us enjoy the hall, use it for village and private occasions and plan for a village commemoration to celebrate its centenary in 2024.

Tony Jefferis On behalf of the NH Management Committee

Old Field

We were all extremely grateful for the support of all those who came out and volunteered their time for the big clear-up.

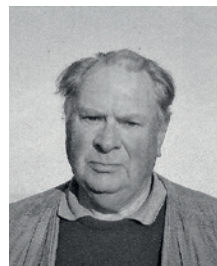
Tremendous work was carried out cutting back the brambles, clearing the pond, litter picking, as well as many other jobs. Rounded off with a coffee and a chat.

If anyone would like to volunteer on a more regular basis they will be more than welcome to join us. We meet every second Saturday of the month at 10:30am for the general upkeep of Old Field.



View from Views

After a month without any rain, and only 7.5mm by the 6th, on the 14th 12mm, floods out on the 15th something has to be wrong somewhere. We have to put up with this but no one seems to care about it. At least we don't have to suffer the severe sewage pollution other rivers have. This all points to the fact, as I have said many times before, this island of ours is at capacity.



So far this year the weather has been somewhat uninspiring. I think most of our crops think the same as there has been very little movement since I last wrote, certainly no improvement; the only dramatic change is the disappearance of a lot of rape aided by our friendly flock of Pigeons. It is suggested grazing rape with sheep could be a good practice, as this could help control the Flea Beetle, so maybe we should not be worried about pigeon damage. The other crop that has all but disappeared is our companion Clover; I reckon it is only just a winter/frost check. Everything though is looking pretty healthy on the whole, just need a little help now, with some nice clement spring weather, known to us farmers as Dr Green. Owing to the horrendous increase in the price of gas affecting the cost of fertiliser, we have had to make serious calculations of the application rates for this season, which could well have the effect of reducing the country's overall harvest. This has already affected the world price of cereals and all futures are pointing in that direction. This is fine as long as this trend continues but, if these levels decrease, then it could be a problem for us.

As we start our winter wild bird feeding to cover the hungry gap (Feb to May) small birds seem to be collecting in numbers. I get the impression there is a resurgence in Green finches that certainly have declined of late, with Yellow Hammers being more evident, as well as Starlings, all of which we believe are on the decline, along with Sparrows. This fact was disproved in the recent RSPB bird count. Of course I have not mentioned before there seems to be a lot of Sky Larks around and have been all winter. This gives us a little confidence that we are doing some good.

At the recent Oxford Farming Conferences some interesting facts were discussed; The Northern Ireland Farm Minister Edwin Poots, who has hit the headlines lately, stated, contrary to the popular view that cattle were all bad, by pointing out that in the 1950's we had a similar number of cattle as now, but about 4% of the cars and aviation. He said farming is not the problem it's made out to be (so lay off agriculture)! It was also suggested that each person is responsible for 6,000g of emissions or 20 party balloons and, if only 5% of our energy needs were met by solar, it would reduce the personal emissions by 3,000g, and if all peat land was restored to sequester carbon that would equate to a further 3,000g per person/day.

I am not sure if the information I got was correct in that the County Council was proposing that only Vegan food be on the menu at Council functions and meetings plus, possibly, school meals. Do they not represent a rural Agricultural community? As well as urban areas, are they not prepared to support rural & local industry? Do they not realise that most Vegan food is produced using product produced on land that was cleared rain forest and the import of these plants can threaten bringing in their country of origin's diseases with them; just a few points. There was a demonstration

by farmers outside County Hall which no one seemed to know about until the night before, when it took our district councillor Caroline Newton to let me know. Just hope another time, if there is to be another demonstration, we are well informed so we can be there. As it happened I could not attend as I was at a meeting of our Farm Cluster looking at the effects of our various conservation initiatives, as well as other issues we could address to improve what we could do. I doubt the areas where these foods come from take these things so seriously. I now understand from our C Councillor Mr Van Mierlo that the “CC” is promoting a plant based diet.

As I have mentioned many times before how important our food security is, the “Public Accounts Committee” has accepted the fact that, if we are not careful, we are sleep walking into major problems in the delivery of good wholesome home grown foods. This not only applies to food but a lot of other essential goods; these concerns are coming home to roost now, with Russia controlling most of European gas supplies. Putin has got us just where he wants us by making our politicians run around like headless chickens. I bet he is laughing his head off at the moment. I would not like to bet he has no intention of invading, but will milk the situation for as much as he can get. That all remains to be seen, as at the time of writing we do not know. In this day and age how anyone can justify telling another sovereign state what it can and can't do? Still, I am no politician! By the time this is read the situation will have changed. Just hope, if that is the case, politicians will have come to their senses. This just illustrates how vulnerable we can be if we rely on others for our vital supplies.

We all live in strange times

Charles Peers

Morland House Surgery

Omicron/COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

A booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is available for everyone aged 16 and over, and some children aged 12 – 15, who have had two doses of the vaccine at least three months ago.

To find out more about who can get a COVID-19 vaccine, and how you can get it, please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

NHS App

If you own a smartphone, we strongly recommend you download the NHS



App. To use it you must be aged 13 or over and registered with a GP Surgery in England. To find out more please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/> Use the NHS App to:

- Get your NHS COVID Pass
- Get advice about coronavirus
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Book appointments
- Get health advice
- View your health record
- Register your organ donation decision
- Find out how the NHS uses your data
- View your NHS number

After you download the app, you will need to set up an NHS login and prove who you are. The app then securely connects to information from your GP surgery.

Collecting Repeat Prescriptions from Wheatley Pharmacy

Several of our patients are now collecting their repeat medication from Wheatley Pharmacy. You too can do the same. Order your repeat medication as you would normally and just let one of the dispensing team know that you wish to collect from the Pharmacy. Turnaround time for medication dispensing at the Pharmacy is currently three days from submission of your repeat medication request. You do not need to wait for a text message to confirm your medication is ready before going to collect.

Blister Pack Recycling

You may be interested to know that there is a Terracycle recycling bin both in the pharmacy and dispensary to receive EMPTY blister packs. These are the foil and plastic bits of the packet left when the pills or capsules are finished. Due to the mix of plastic type, these cannot be put into household recycling. After collection, Terracycle clean and separate the blister packets by polymer type, then the material will in turn make new recyclable products. Thank you for supporting efforts to reduce waste.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about services including opening hours, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Little Milton WI

In February, we made paper flowers for friends, family or our own window sill. We also welcomed 4 visiting members from Stadhampton WI, following discussions of a

merger. Stadhampton WI are unable to continue so we have proposed to merge with them and become a new enlarged WI. If anyone can think of a new group name, let me know.

Our next meeting on Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm is the AGM, followed by a Jubilee Quiz. This will be the first joint meeting where we will agree the name of the new, enlarged WI and elect the new committee and president. Everyone welcome. Visitors £5.

We've made a meeting plan for the coming year with crafts, Scottish dancing, cookery, cocktails, yoga, talks and much more. Save the 2nd Thursday of the month in your diaries so you don't miss out.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group. Please email us if you fancy joining WI or need a lift.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 730pm in The Pine Lodge, Little Milton OX44 7PZ


Too shy to come by yourself? Contact us & we'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 01844-279438 littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

John Howell MP writes...

In my newsletter last month I wrote about the need to learn to live with the COVID virus as we move from pandemic to endemic. I know that many people have welcomed the Prime Minister's Statement which was first made on 19th January which set the path for further removal of regulations. We will hear more of later this month, probably by the time this letter is published in some magazines! In January many parents and young people welcomed removing the requirement for secondary school students to wear face masks in classrooms. However, some people were concerned that more widely face masks become advisory rather than mandatory. I understand some of the concerns but do support the view that we need to allow people to make their own judgements. I appreciate that as more regulations are set to be removed some people remain anxious, but we have come along way in the last couple of years. When all of this started, we did not know what we were dealing with. We did not know how to treat the virus and had no medicines at our disposal. Thanks to research we now have effective ways 

to treat the virus and a range of drugs at our disposal to relieve symptoms. We do, of course, also have the vaccines and it is good news that at last the Novavax vaccine has been approved in the UK too. I am aware of a number of constituents who volunteered to take part in this trial and of the difficulties that some have faced as a result of the delays to the approval. I am grateful to those who have taken part in trials without whom we would not have effective vaccines and trust that all are relieved that it is now among the approved vaccines. Moving forward with Covid we need to learn to manage it in the same way as we have always managed seasonal viruses and I trust that we will see some measures coming forward to respond to this.

In our move to live more normal lives we are seeing the economy open up again and people returning to some of the activities that have been prohibited or curtailed for many months. Alongside this inevitably there has to be an end to special funding that has been made available to try to mitigate for the negative impact of Covid. Among these is a support grant for bus companies to help bridge the gap in fare income with reduced passenger numbers. Although I fully support the gradual withdrawal of the specific Covid funding I am concerned that use of public transport has not yet reached pre-covid levels and that the removal of this grant may adversely affect our bus services. To this end I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport to raise my concerns on this and to seek continued funding to ensure that we can keep our bus services running. I appreciate that it is especially difficult in rural areas where the volume of passengers on individual routes is just not at the level of urban areas and thus the journey cost per head is prohibitive. In such cases where there is a key route for a community it has long been within the remit of county councils to budget for appropriate subsidies. It is, of course, a political decision where any administration allocates its funds. In response to both the Covid impact and in support of climate initiatives I would like to see our local council make this a budget priority especially in light of the generous Local Government Settlement this year which has given substantial increases to our local councils.

On the world stage there is great concern at what is going on to stop war between Russia and the Ukraine. This is not just a distant issue but could have a significant impact on the UK. It is a particular concern to me as a senior Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Both Russia and Ukraine are members of this Assembly - although how serious Russia is may be doubted when one senior Russian fell asleep publicly when moving an objection to an amendment in a debate I was chairing! The Council is doing all it can to help bring about peace between

the two countries and I have personally worked closely with my opposite number in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The role of the Council of Europe is often overlooked in Britain but all members of the Delegation that I lead share my concerns. It is often derided as just a human rights organisation. But while human rights are crucially important, it is much more than this and has had a key role to play in maintaining the peace in Europe since the late 1940s.

I am always interested to know the views of constituents even if we agree to differ. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way in you have access to that. My email address is [HYPERLINK "mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk"](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk) john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk.

Great Milton Website

Have you seen the website?

<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

It is important to keep it up to date
so please could you advise Tim Darch
of any updates that need to be made
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

**The Great Milton
Spring 2022 Litterpick
10.00am
Saturday 19 March**



**DETAILS OF ANY CHANGES TO
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**For more info contact Tim Darch (Parish Clerk):
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SATURDAY 9th APRIL 2022

STARTING AT 7:30pm

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It is important to keep it
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Gardens open in aid of the NGS on Sun 20 March.

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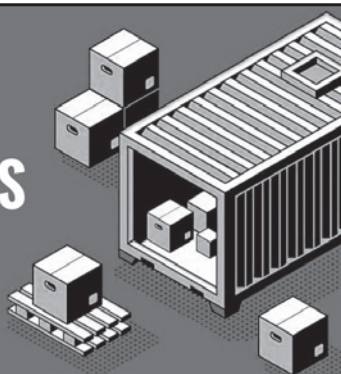
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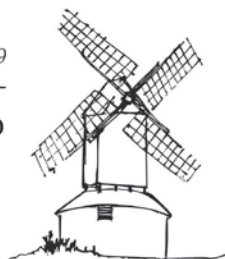
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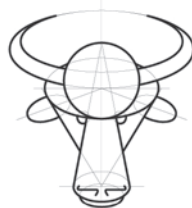
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Diary

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contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
 Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
- Wednesday Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
 GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:00am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
- Thursday 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
 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
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contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
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contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
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Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090

March

- Sat 9th Quiz Night at The Bull 7:30pm
- Thurs 10th W.I. AGM and Jubilee Quiz at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:30pm
- Sat 19th The Great Milton Spring Litterpick meet at The Old Garage 10:00am
- Tues 21st Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting in The Pavilion 7:30pm
- Fri 25th Book Library in The Neighbours' Hall 11:00am

April

- Sat 23rd Great Milton Dads "Not the January Party" at The Neighbours Hall 7:30pm
- Sat 30th Senior Citizens Party —

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

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