

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

January 2019

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No. 538



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 |

Wolseley (6/110?) outside The Bull.
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: 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. Adam Stevenson | 01491 613223 | |
| 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 My Opinion...

Looking back I discovered to my horror that I wrote my first 'In My Opinion...' In June 2010 and realised that I have inflicted my opinion on Bulletin readers for over 8 years now. Enough, she cried!

So here's the deal:

I would like to make this first page of every Bulletin available to all the residents of Great Milton Parish to voice their opinions, on any subject that they feel is of interest to the readers. Let's make 2019 an experimental year and see how many submissions are received and what subjects are highlighted. I suggest that contributors send their pieces to the editor, Jonathan Dudley, on or around the 20th of every month and we will leave it to him to select which pieces to publish. (Please keep submissions polite, and provide your name for publication. Ed.).

In my opinion, this will provide a valuable forum for local residents to air their views (and opinions!) and hopefully elicit some response and debate from others.

Let's see how it goes, and hopefully apathy will not take over.....

Stephen Harrod, Chairman



Draft Parish Notes

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17 December were Cllrs. S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice Chairman), P Allen, G Harris, C Deacon and P Fewell, plus Tim Darch (Clerk). Apologies were received in advance from Cllr G Bennet.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th November 2018 were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings. The County Councillor's monthly report was received and is reproduced after these notes.

Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P18/S3757/LDE: Certificate of lawful development for storage and ancillary use in connection with existing vehicle repairs business (Bentley House London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU). For reference only: comments on planning merits of site not required.

P18/S2996/FUL (Lobb Farm, Tetsworth, Oxon OX9 7BE). The proposed development is for a Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility with the ability to generate up to 49.99 MW of electricity. A low carbon flexible generating facility

using gas reciprocating engines. The facility will generate electricity principally for the regional distribution network in times of generation shortfall and/or high demand.

The Parish Council has formally objected to this planning application, and SODC has expressed its concerns about its potential impact on the landscape to the applicant, who is considering next steps. Should a revised application be submitted the Parish Council will be formally consulted on it, and will have an opportunity to comment again, as will residents.

The following outstanding planning matters were considered:

Work has been undertaken on an area of grass verge opposite the row of cottages on Ives Gate Lane adjacent to Pitts Green with a view to create a parking area. The Parish Council understands that under application P14/S2675/FUL planning permission was granted to renovate the semi-derelict Coach House, the initial application for which included access from Ives Gate Lane along with a hard-standing for parking. However following representations from residents and others a revised submission was required and made. Permission for this revision was granted subject to various conditions, the most relevant being condition 6 which stated:

Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved a turning area and car parking spaces shall be provided within the curtilage of the site so that motor vehicles may enter, turn round and leave in a forward direction and vehicles may park off the highway.

After representations to the applicant work has now ceased: no remedial work is currently required, and a new planning application will be submitted in due course.

Financial Resolutions

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £432.17

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production December. £283.60

Green and Growing: November mowing. £96


Castle Water: Allotments 1 Oct- 31 March. £40.27

Village Christmas Tree purchase: reimbursement to Clerk. £35

Milton Common bus shelter tidy: £60

A full bank reconciliation was received along with the quarterly accounts and the latest bank statement signed. The reconciled bank balance as at 5 November was £28,935.64.

Budget for 2019-20

The final draft budget was discussed in detail. Expenses totalled £21,520, an increase of 10% compared with the previous year. Income from sources other than the precept was £3,510 compared with £2,540 in the previous year while the precept was 

forecast to rise 6% from £16,990 to £18,010. It was noted that the General Reserve stood at approximately £17,000. It was agreed that this level of reserves was reasonable and should be maintained. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2019-20 be accepted and approved.

Precept for 2019-20

In light of the agreed budget for 2019-20 and after discussion it was RESOLVED that the precept for 2019-20 be set at £18,010.

Parish Clerk's update of matters in hand

The bus shelter at Milton Common has been given its annual 'refresh'.

A survey of the village's trees on common land/village greens revealed no major concerns with their condition, just some minor trimming and other maintenance required.

Drainage grips on Thame Road, Lower End, Sworford Lane and The Forties will be cleared and dug out shortly.

Other matters

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway update

Two corridors are now favoured, one to the west of Oxford and one to the south. If chosen, the corridor to the south is highly likely to bring the Expressway (essentially a motorway) very close to the village, crossing Sworford Lane at some point. Village representatives recently attended a consultation meeting hosted by the Highways Agency to seek information and relay their concerns. There is still little detailed information to report at present: a selection of possible alignments is expected to be announced in Spring 2019.

There was no significant progress to report with regard to the leasing arrangements for the tennis court.

Several different options for stile replacement have been received from OCC's Countryside Access team. Replacement of three stiles has been suggested to ensure significantly enhanced accessibility. Funding sources will be explored, and discussions will be necessary with landowners to confirm arrangements for maintenance once the new stiles have been installed.

Estimates for the village mowing provision have been requested and received from three contractors. After evaluation and moderation Green and Growing will continue to mow the village greens and common land for a further two years. All potential contractors have been informed of the outcome.

The latest iteration of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan features the addition of three new sites on the outskirts of Oxford (Grenoble Road, Northfield and Bayswater Brook), all of which are in the Green Belt as it currently stands. Chalgrove Airfield remains, as does Wheatley Campus. Harrington (near M40 J7) has not been

added, though it could still come forward as a speculative application.

The potholes in the road around Pitts Green (the triangle adjacent to Milton Lodge) have been filled: the Parish Council is grateful to the local resident who arranged this. Residents around Pitts Green are to discuss the possibility of a fully metalled surface in due course.

The proposed dates for GMPC meetings in 2019 were agreed as follows:

21st January

18th February

18th March

15th April

20th May

17th June

15th July (Revision/cover possible dependent on Clerk's holiday arrangements)

No meeting in August

16h September

21st October

18th November

16th December

The meeting closed at 7.50pm. The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 21st January starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.


Tim Darch, Clerk/RFO, Great Milton Parish Council

Oxfordshire County Council December Update

Council Budget

The council's initial proposals for the 2019/2020 budget will be reviewed by the Performance Scrutiny Committee during December. A key element is the plan to invest up to £120m in roads and schools – a 'growth dividend' as more households mean more Council Tax revenue in future years. Tough decisions in the past have created a route to financial stability at a time when other councils face financial threats. There are new 'Transformation' plans being developed to completely redesign the council to reduce running costs. Making financial savings will enable OCC to support the growing number of vulnerable children and adults – more vulnerable children are coming into council care, both locally and nationally, creating financial pressures. Protecting children remains OCC's top priority.

Housing and Growth Deal Infrastructure Programme

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has published details of the infrastructure projects to receive funding in Year 1 and Years 2-5 of the Oxfordshire Housing & 

Growth Deal, signed in April 2018. The total £150 million of Growth Deal funding has been earmarked for specific projects. This forward funding is helping unlock projects that will benefit from developer contributions, delivering schemes valued at over £480 million in total, excluding costs of the major rail projects, which are still to be confirmed. The following projects will have a direct impact on this Division:

Year 1 Infrastructure Projects

Watlington relief road

Construction of a relief road for Watlington providing an alternative route from the B4009 east and B4009 west, respectively to the west and north of the parish. This will provide a long term solution to air quality problems in Watlington; an alternative route for LGVs and HGVs. This, in turn, will help create better conditions for walking and cycling in Watlington and improve bus journey times. By providing improved highway infrastructure the scheme releases capacity to support housing growth in Watlington and the surrounding area. Approximately 400 dwellings are planned and allocated through the neighbourhood plan to be delivered in the next 7 years. The project will be part funded by the development.

District: South Oxfordshire

Estimated Growth Deal spend: £1,200,000

Full cost of scheme: £12,000,000

Benson relief road

The relief road will provide traffic with an alternative route from the A4074 and B4009 to the north of the village, particularly for HGVs. There will also be capacity improvements at the A4074/Church Road junction and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities in and through Benson. The road will help unlock development sites to the north of the village along the new route, delivering around 600 new homes, with the Growth Deal forward funding enabling the work ahead of significant developer contributions.

District: South Oxfordshire

Estimated Growth Deal spend: £1,200,000

Full cost of scheme: £12,000,000

OCC Calls for Public Inquiry on Thames Water's Reservoir Plan

Residents' interests come first – that was the resolute message from OCC last month as its cabinet called for a public inquiry on Thames Water's plans for a new reservoir. The council has concerns about the size and need for the proposed reservoir to the southwest of Abingdon, between Steventon, East Hanney and Marcham. It is also concerned about the length of time Thames Water has set itself to reduce leakages. Further clarity is sought from Thames Water on whether other potential sites have

been fully assessed across the southeast region. Only when these details are provided in the form of a regional water resource plan for the south east, will the council be able to decide on whether to back the principle of having a reservoir at this location. This is the second consultation held by Thames Water – the county council and others demanded earlier this year that a further consultation should take place and Thames Water agreed to this in the summer.

Highways Defects Update

As reported last month, the county council has increased the amount of relatively small-scale work it does to put right local roads that are suffering from potholes, cracks and worn out tarmac. The number of completed defect repairs between January and October this year is 37,219.

Salting, Gritting And Snow Clearance

December 1st marks the start of meteorological winter. Live updates on gritting and snow clearing can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/salting-and-snow-clearance> Details about how community groups can request salt bins can be found here: HYPERLINK "<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/salt-and-grit-bins>" <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/salt-and-grit-bins>

Winter In Oxfordshire

OCC provides a useful guide about how to keep safe, how to be healthy and how to be prepared during the winter months. It can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/node/2782>

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

Lastly, it just remains for me to join OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth in thanking all Parish Councillors for their hard work over the last year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards

Steve Harrod

County Councillor

Chalgrove & Watlington Division

Cabinet Member for Children & Families

Oxfordshire County Council

M: 07944 077 209

T: 01844 278 068

E: steve.harrod@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Services in Our Benefice for January

| | St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton | St. James's Little Milton | St. Peter's Great Haseley |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 6th <i>The Epiphany</i> | Holy Communion BCP 8:00am | Holy Communion CW 9:30am | Family Service 11:00am |
| Sunday 13th <i>Epiphany 2</i> | Holy Communion CW 9:30am | Family Service 11:00am | Holy Communion BCP 8:00am |
| Sunday 20th <i>Epiphany 3</i> | Family Service 11:00am | Holy Communion BCP 8:00am | Holy Communion CW 9:30am |
| Sunday 27th <i>Epiphany 4</i> | | Benefice Communion CW 10:00am | |

Services in Our Benefice for February

| | St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton | St. James's Little Milton | St. Peter's Great Haseley |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3rd <i>5th Sunday before Lent</i> | Holy Communion BCP 8:00am | Holy Communion CW 9:30am | Family Service 11:00am |

The Advent Activity and Storytelling morning...

...was an enjoyable venture in November last year. We're planning to hold a similar Easter Activity and Storytelling morning in either late March or April this year. Once the date is finalised it will be widely advertised and printed in all three Bulletins/Newsletters. Pre-booking will be necessary so that sufficient activity materials can be purchased and provided for all the children who come. If you'd like to know more and/or be advised of the date please do contact any of us...

Lucinda, Lesley and Sally Ann

Neighbours Club

A number of members and friends went on our outing on the 28th November to see the Christmas Lights and Market at Kew Gardens. Even though it was a very wet

day everyone enjoyed it.

On the 6th December we enjoyed an excellent Christmas Lunch prepared for us by Jayne Clarke and her team. The carol singing afterwards was quite a laugh with some singing from different hymn sheets! Good job Simon was able to come to our rescue. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

JCP

Forthcoming Events

- Thurs 3rd Jan - Club re-opens
- Wed 23rd Jan - Pantomime Ali Baba at Corn Exchange Wallingford
- Wed 20th Feb - Skittles at Bablock Hythe
- Wed 6th March - Alternative date for Skittles at Bablock Hythe

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Canon Dr Martin Wellings on 01865 243216
Services at Gt. Milton during the Chapel renovation will be held in the Common Room, Rullers Field

| January | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Date | Time | Church | Preacher | Comments |
| 6th | 11:00am | Gt. Milton | Paul Spray | |
| 13th | 11:00am | Gt. Milton | Mike Trinder | |
| 20th | 11:00am | Gt. Milton | John Rowland | |
| 27th | 11:00am | Gt. Milton | Jane Lusty | |

A Pilot Scheme for a Car Service to Existing Bus Service 280

The 280 bus from Oxford to Aylesbury stops close to the end of Sworford Lane, but too far from the village for most bus users to be able to access. A small group from Great Milton are proposing to set up a voluntary system of lifts to and from a Wheatley bus stop so that residents of Great Milton can access the 280 bus.

What we need:

- A group of volunteers prepared to use their own cars to drive bus users from their homes to a designated bus stop and/or collect from the same place. (It need not be the same driver for both journeys).
- Two ‘contacts’ who would be prepared to take phone calls and coordinate



with the volunteers via a group email list.

How it would work.

Potential users of the scheme would ring or email one of the two contacts and say which bus they would like to catch AND which bus they would be returning on. At least 2 days' notice must be given.

The contact would circulate the details and find one or two people to make the journeys (clearly it will not always be possible for the same driver to do both journeys).

A small charge would be made to cover petrol costs (£2 per journey).

Users would complete a short registration process and agree to the following:

- The service would operate between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday. As it would be a pilot scheme to identify need, it would be easier to offer lifts only between 9 – 10 am, 12 – 1pm and 3 – 4 pm.
- The user is responsible for informing their driver if there is any change in the arrangement (e.g they miss the return bus or the bus is delayed.)
- The scheme should not be used for regular trips such as for going to work or shopping at Asda.
- Adequate notice must be given to the coordinator, Ideally a week, but a minimum of 48 hours.
- Initially the scheme would be open to users over 21 years of age. Users must be able to get in and out of the car and on and off the bus without assistance.

A pilot scheme will run from March to June, subject to volunteers and co-ordinators being forthcoming.

If you can offer to be a driver or share the coordinating role, please be in touch with:

Kate Pattinson – katepattinson@yahoo.co.uk

Warning! Please do not contact me about lifts yet until the scheme is up and running.



GREAT MILTON
HISTORY SOCIETY

Festive cheer at Great Milton History in the Community Room. A good number of people and much interest in our wells and pumps project. Also an encouraging sale of books and leaflets.

A large-scale map is being prepared to make the positioning of wells and pumps clearer. Let us have any information in your possession, so that we can produce an accurate picture of Great Milton's water supply before mains were laid.

Great Milton Singers present Winter Wonderland

On Saturday December 8th, St Mary's hosted a festive evening of music and song, courtesy of the Great Milton Singers, Great Milton School Choir and Musical Director, Kate Billimore.

The Great Milton Singers performed an eclectic repertoire with great proficiency, ranging from Britten's Ceremony of Carols to Elgar's rousing The Snow. The packed programme included memorable performances by sopranos Livy Watson and last-minute stand-in Harriet van der Vliet (thank you Harriet), as well as extraordinary solos by tenor Ian Barratt and baritone Luke Deacon.

The audience was also treated to a breath-taking solo of La Source by Hasslemanns, performed by harpist Claire Haynes, and glorious accompaniments by string quartet, Bagatelle.

The pristine black and orange outfits of the Great Milton Singers were somewhat upstaged when the young school choir stepped up with tinsel in their hair, elf hats and penguin deely boppers. As parents expertly mouthed the words and wiped away tears, Alyson Frost directed the children through their superb pre-interval performance of Noel and Believe.

A mulled wine and mince pie interval was followed by Twinkle, also performed by the school choir. Perhaps the highlight of the evening came when the men of the Great Milton Singers and Bagatelle accompanied the impeccably behaved Great Milton School Choir in the Christmas classic, The Snowman, arranged by Kate Billimore.

As well as being a festive celebration, the evening's performance helped raise money for two worthy charities: Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh) and Awards for Young Musicians.

Many thanks to all involved.

Carina Martin

Sheppard Trust

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be held in January 2019. 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 Friday 11th January 2019.

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

Your help with our appeal is wonderful!

Today the majority of people mainly keep in touch by Text messages, Emails or 'phone rather than letter writing. But, this is the main holiday and party season of the year. You will probably be inundated with Christmas cards and party invitations!

Let us all celebrate by saving all of your postage stamps to help with the costs of training the wonderful 'hearing dogs' for deaf people. This must be one of the kindest ways of recycling!

You can donate your used stamps at the Great Milton Post Office, the Great Milton School, or by popping them through the letter-box of Tinkers Cottage, The Green, Great Milton.

Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Pat Dawson

Poppy Appeal

The total collected this year was £676.72.

Thank you once again to Mr Ayton and Laura Putt without their help we would have no door to door collections.

Sue Denham.

The Neighbours' Hall Improvements Project – £140,000 already raised!

We are delighted that we have been awarded the £72,500 Grant that we applied from WREN. So we now have £140000 towards the £15500 - £160000 we need for the planned improvements.

We hope that work will commence in the spring, but we still need another £20,000 to ensure everything suggested is done. We hope that this will come from the village.

We have already been offered several thousand pounds on the proviso that the village raises a matching amount. That means that if you give £1.00 it will be worth £2.00 to the project and likewise if you give £1000.00 it will be worth £2,000. You might have some fun with the mystery donor if you give £10,000: go for it!

Please help us to raise this last amount. If you are able to give please put your

donation (cash or cheque payable to “The Neighbours’ Hall”) in an envelope and hand it in at the village post office.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Tony Jefferis

on behalf of the Neighbours’ Hall Management Committee

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Christmas Night Quiz

Yet another successful Quiz to report with £294.78 being raised for the party fund. A total of 51 formed eight teams with Team Rudolph – a very apt name – coming out on top with 61 points, followed closely by Saturday Strollers on 58 points and West London Hippos in 3rd position on 56 points.

Our thanks for your continued support of our quiz nights, with special thanks to Paul Dennis for once again acting a quiz-master.

Ann Price, Secretary

Great Milton Christmas Fair

Thank you to all of you who either contributed or came to our Christmas Fair. It was a big success, raising £1300.

There was something for everyone - christmas gifts, local beer, christmas trees and decorations, hot dogs and roasted chestnuts, children’s games, delicious teas, mulled wine, elves and even 2 goats!!

The money raised will go towards the Church Tower restoration Fund for which we need to raise £220k.... Also, people donated goods generously for the homeless in Oxford. Christine and Pat Donnelly took two huge boxes to The Porch.

Laura, Trudy, Tricia, Evelyn and Clare



Our three elves, Sophie, Steph and Lucy.

Great Milton Walkers

The Great Milton Walkers have a regular walk on the first Tuesday of every month. We go on different walks of about 5 miles with different pubs for lunch (optional) each time, led by different people. If you would like to join us, please be in touch with andrew.meynell@oxford.anglican.org.



Photo: Caroline Maynall

Little Milton WI

In December we had a festive evening of art, paper stars and of course, mulled wine.

This month on Thursday 10th January we're off to the pub for our New Year dinner. Let me know if you'd like to join us. We'll be back in the Pine Lodge in February for a Valentine's day 'Show the Love' Green heart workshop – more details next month.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 or email kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Senior Citizens Party Committee

Christmas Cake Raffle Prizewinners List

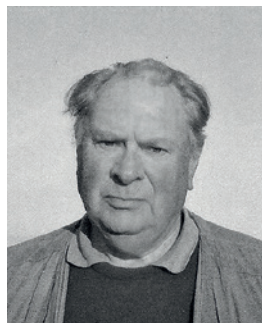
| Prize | No. | Winner | Sold at |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|
| 1 Cake | 485 | Mrs. Bright | The Shop |
| 2 Bottle of Vodka | 820 | Morgan Lloyd | The Bull |
| 3 Bottle of Prosecco | 770 | Kevin Curtis | The Bull |
| 4 Shopping Bag | 559 | Trevor Paczoska | The Bull |
| 5 Rose Wine | 654 | Mike Robinson | The Bull |
| 6 Shortbread | 42 | Sharon Rose | The Shop |
| 7 Box Cookies | 85 | Kev | The Shop |
| 8 Toiletries | 923 | Sinitra | The Bull |
| 9 Amaryllis (Blue) | 813 | Mick Kimber | The Bull |
| 10 Jigsaw Puzzle | 760 | Kevin Curtis | The Bull |
| 11 2 Boxes of Truffles | 791 | Kevin Curtis | The Bull |
| 12 Box of Biscuits | 188 | A. Pope | The Shop |
| 13 Toiletries | 41 | Sharon Rose | The Shop |
| 14 Four Lagers | 649 | Mike Robinson | The Bull |
| 15 Belgian Chocolates | 835 | Rachel | The Bull |

£104.00 raised for Annual Party Funds. Thank you for your support.

View from Views

I hope all the festivities went well for all our readers and that now all the mince pies are eaten, (not in our house as they are no favorite of mine), and you are all keeping to your “New Year’s resolutions”.

As I reflect on 2018 my mind turns first to Brexit, we should all know more about it by the time this is read, (maybe not!!) at the moment it is still a worry as to know which way we are going. The farming year has had its ups and downs but on the whole quite a respectable outcome, enhanced by the fall in the value of the pound making our commodities worth that bit more. And this was followed by an almost text book Autumn I hesitate to actually say it has been perfect but certainly suited our farm. In the last few days of November it started to rain and although not a great deal it seems to have made the land exceptionally wet and water logged.



What is of great concern is the mounting pressure being put on us, both in the media and physically, by misinformed pressure groups, making spurious remarks about what and what not, we ought to be doing, but worse than that actually in certain circumstances taking violent action. Then there are conflicting reports about Agriculture's carbon emissions, one says we must keep less livestock, then another (a report early December) says that in order to save our soils we must have more grassland and feed livestock so where do we go? Of course the Vegan lobby are making great play on the side of the great contribution we are making to Global Warming thus skewing the argument. I must make it clear that it is the rearing of livestock in yards, or feed lots, like in America, that have this great effect on Global emissions not the grass fed ones, that is why we have to be concerned a little in the free trade that David Davis is pushing for, with America as they will insist that we import their food.

Then for us here is the debate where is the Ox-Cam Expressway going to go? Which corridor, and do we need it? With the state of the traffic and lack of local public transport this can only get worse, and of course we need it as we are pushed further and further into our own transport. There is much talk locally about road improvements, seems Watlington is to get a bypass, A40 to be improved yet again, but no mention of Little Milton which also needs a bypass. Any improvements I suspect will be piecemeal, as before, and after spending millions with no real improvement when finished. Fancy coming from Witney to the Pear Tree Roundabout having to go via the Wolvercote Roundabout, and this is after at least 3 improvement schemes which have cost millions to no real effect. Then the development we will have to put up with 100,000 new homes in that corridor. This we are told is to provide more employment in this area, surely if it is employment we need to encourage then this logically should be in the north where the unemployment is high. If we carry on in this vain as some have already mentioned we will end up with very little of our green and pleasant land left for tourists to come and see.

Comments I have made with reference to lobbying or protesting, about this or that road, or development are being confirmed in letters I have read and articles in the media, where correspondents despair that the authorities take no notice, and blithely go on with their pet scheme whether we like it or not. Local plans were supposed to give us more power, but it seems that if they are not liked we have to alter them. Then alarmingly I read in the paper that and I quote "The company behind the HS2 is gaging local authorities with Non-Disclosure Agreements that keep local residents in the dark".

However it is not all doom and gloom in the Great Milton archipelago, loads of small farmland birds seem to think this is the place to be, as I have said before I am not sure exactly what they are but I think a mix of finches, Chaff, Gold, and Green',

Yellow Hammers, Sparrows, Great and Blue Tits, Corn Buntings, and recently the Fieldfares seem to have arrived. It also appears that the Deer population has suddenly more than doubled, we usually notice about 3 or 4 about but the other day another 7 were sighted, there are pluses and minuses with Deer, but non-the-less nice to see. Still very few Hares which is very sad, I have read that they are now succumbing to a form of Myxomatosis. I think it is more likely the effect of Hare coursing, as on farms where this is a problem, it would not surprise me if the owners are controlling them themselves to deter the coursers, actually here we have luckily not had a big problem.

I have recently learned that the Wheatley surgery is offering its patients an online service, so that patients can book appointments, request repeat prescriptions, and have access to their medical records. It seems to me this is a great step forward which will hopefully enhance the already good service we get from our surgery, and help the NHS in cutting costs. The only problem is for those of us who are not too conversant with the internet, is that it is something else old brains have to get round.

Charles Peers

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

At the end of October we passed the 1,000 hour mark of volunteer time this year. Thanks everyone! The library couldn't offer the service it does without you.

Dates to note:

Wednesday 6th February

Join us for a morning with Imogen Matthews, local Headington author, who will introduce her latest novel, *The Hidden Village*, set in World War 2 Holland. Imogen will discuss her career in writing, her Dutch background and frequent visits to Holland that led to her discovery of a real hidden village, the inspiration for her fiction novel.

Refreshments will be provided.

Regular FOWL events:

On-going sale of donated books

Monday morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Monday afternoon art sessions from 3-5

Monday evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

There is a small charge for refreshments

Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the extended Wheatley team.

Work starts at The Three Pigeons, and a Pop-Up Surprise

The much anticipated refurbishments at The Three Pigeons in Milton Common kick-off in the New year. By their conclusion, we'll have added a characterful events space, bigger kitchens and toilets, meeting and conference facilities, letting rooms and an up-graded garden. This, only the first phase of The Three Pigeons Inn refurbishment and extension, will be completed for Summer 2019. As you will have seen, the Pub is now closed as a result. With “dry-January” at the front end of the works - and the un-certainties of Brexit in the middle - we feel we've scheduled our pub downtime in an optimum window. But we must apologise to our regulars, our local patrons and the Thursday evening jazz crowd for the hiatus.

LASSCO – the Architectural Salvage shop – now happily concentrated in the east range of buildings and the yards beyond, will carry on buying & selling architectural reclaim largely unaffected by the works. Our shop has flourished in the past few months and looks great.

While preparations continue we are thrilled to introduce a fabulous pop-up shop in the main building: “Foster & Gane” have landed at The Three Pigeons and throw open the doors on 2nd January. The pub is transformed. Ed Foster and team are well-known exhibitors at the Battersea Decorative Antiques Fair. They bring a new flair and a more refined, curated look to Milton Common. They sell furniture and decorative antiques. Please come and see.

LASSCO (the shop) remains open Monday to Saturday 9-5pm www.lassco.co.uk. Foster & Gane <https://fosterandgane.com/> will be open to similar hours for the next three months.

How You could Benefit from Taking Part in The Arts

Engagement in the arts can be hard to accomplish. The responsibilities and challenges of adult life can leave us with a never-ending to do list. ‘Take a poetry class’ or ‘try out acting’ often end up sitting somewhere between the very last task we'll ever have to accomplish and the end of our life. In short, nowhere at all!

The benefits of creating, experimenting and playing however, are immense. The 2017 report of the government All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing, gives some hefty support to this claim:

Participation in arts activities “can help people to stay well, recover faster, manage long-term conditions and experience a better quality of life... It can help with

expressing difficult emotions and experiences... Help alleviate anxiety, depression and stress... Support healthy ageing and counteract loneliness at all ages... [and] improve the mental health of new mothers.” Basically, it can enhance health, well-being and quality of life in so many ways.

As a freelance arts-practitioner and actress, I have witnessed the benefits of creative play and practice. The impulse to create, experiment and play is hard-wired into us, so vital to our growth and learning that it exists thoughtlessly and effortlessly in children. It’s easy to lose sight of these things in modern life but there’s no reason why they shouldn’t be rediscovered.

The Arts, practiced however ‘well’ and for however long a time, are medicine for the soul. They are a place where “the self is rediscovered and allowed to flourish” (The Short Report, 2017).

Theatre Arts and Acting can increase our physical and vocal confidence, increase spontaneity and improve communication skills. They can improve fitness, co-ordination and expressivity. They can improve our observation skills and our ability to focus, as well as find interest and enjoyment in our every-day lives.

You can enjoy an outlet for your creativity through drama and theatre-game sessions designed for adults. Come along to a class! Bring a friend! Classes will be relaxed, informative and playful. You will learn some of the fundamentals of performance craft and develop skills at your own pace. Please refer to the ad for more information about when and where.

News from The Pine Lodge

Happy New Year everyone! This month we have our very popular Quiz Night on Saturday 19th, come and test your knowledge and enjoy a 2-course dinner and licensed bar.

We still need more help. Would you be interested in joining the committee or becoming an event volunteer? Volunteer roles include cooking, serving, car-parking, ticket selling, advertising, event planning - the choice is yours.

Please consider giving some time to supporting the community. No previous experience is needed. Take this chance to meet new people, make new friends and gain new skills.

Regular activities include:

Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (16 January)

Power Yoga with Hayley on Mondays at 9.15am



Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

Pilates with Lee on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am

Toddlersense, multi-sensory adventures for children on Thursdays 1015-1415

Adult Drama Club with Leone on Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm from 15 January

Upcoming events:

Quiz Night - Saturday 19 January at 7pm

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service

Community Risk Management Action Plan 2019-20

I would like to share with you Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Action Plan 2019-20. I ask for your support in reviewing our six projects outlined in the plan and also by responding to our Consultation via the following link: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultationHome>

Please may I ask you to assist us by responding to our consultation, consulting us on any comments or thoughts you may have. Feedback from our communities will help us to shape our service and deliver the best outcomes to Oxfordshire.

Kind regards

Simon Furlong, Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Safety

Dreaming of a Green Christmas...

Oxfordshire County Council can help make your wish come true

Dreaming of a green Christmas? Residents are being given some simple tips by Oxfordshire County Council to help reduce the environmental impact of festive waste.

Christmas is a busy time for Oxfordshire's bins – residents generate nearly 2,500 extra tonnes of waste over the festive period – that's the same weight as 400 elephants... or around 25,000 reindeers!

Oxfordshire County Council provides services that enhance quality of life in the community and protects the local environment.

Its Waste Recycling team works on initiatives to reduce waste and encourages

recycling. It manages the treatment and processing of household waste collected by district councils. Oxfordshire has seven Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs):

Alkerton household waste recycling centre
Stratford Road, Alkerton, Near Banbury, OX15 6HZ

Ardley Fields household waste recycling centre
Brackley Road, Ardley, OX27 7PH

Dix Pit household waste recycling centre
Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5BB (Postcode for Sat Nav - OX29 5UX)

Drayton household waste recycling centre
Steventon Road, Drayton, Near Abingdon, OX14 4LA

Oakley Wood household waste recycling centre
Old Icknield Way, Crowmarsh, Near Wallingford, OX10 6PW

Redbridge household waste recycling centre
Old Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4XG

Stanford in the Vale household waste recycling centre
Faringdon Road, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, SN7 8L

From turkey to sprouts, the county council encourages residents to put anything that can't be eaten into their food caddy for recycling.

Bones, dairy products, vegetable peelings and all other cooked and uncooked food can be recycled; used to generate electricity for 9,000 homes and fertiliser for local farms.

Unwanted presents can also be given a new home through the county council's Reuse scheme at all the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). This includes the newly launched scheme at Dix Pit, near Witney. Before placing reusable items into the skips, speak to a member of staff for advice.

Oxfordshire County Council's top-tips, to help reduce waste and recycle more during the festive period, are part of its Thriving Communities initiative. They include:

- Buying charity gifts or vouchers for events or experiences. They come without any packaging.



- Buying your new outfit for a Christmas party from a charity shop, and returning it afterwards. This will save you money, you'll be supporting a good cause, and avoid the need to throw away a garment you might never wear again.
- Many shop-bought decorations come with lots of non-recyclable packing and will have travelled thousands of miles. Why not make your own? There are plenty of online tips for anyone who isn't an arty-type.
- Home-made cards and presents are much more personal, so keep the Christmas ribbons, paper and cards you receive this year and re-use them next year as gift tags, or make them into cards again.
- Look out for Christmas trees that can be replanted, but if yours can't, take it to any recycling centre so it can be composted.
- Artificial Christmas trees that need a new home can be donated to a charity shop, or if no longer in good condition, can be taken to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- If your recycling bin is struggling to cope with all the extra bottles, cardboard, plastic and paper, put any that can't fit into the bin in a clear plastic sack or cardboard box. Place it next to your bin on collection day.

Don't forget that your bin collection day might change due to the bank holidays. Check with your district council to make sure you don't miss it!

The HWRCs will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Otherwise they will be open as normal from 8am-5pm.

Becky Kenton-Lake, from Oxfordshire County Council's Waste Recycling team, said:

"More and more people tell us they are planning to have a 'greener' Christmas this year, so we hope these tips will be useful and help to reduce the huge amount of extra waste generated during the festive period.

"Reducing how much we throw away and recycling food that can't be eaten are some of the easiest things we can all do to help the environment."

For further information about recycling over the festive period, visit the website www.oxfordshirerecycles.org.uk/christmas

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It is important to keep it
up to date so please could you
advise Carina Martin of any
updates that need to be made
(carina.martin@gmail.com)

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 360 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

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

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

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Classes at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton.
£10 per session.

Tuesdays 7 - 8.30pm.
15th January - 12th February
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For more information, a discussion about the classes and whether they're right for you, or to sign up/drop-in, please contact Leone on 07445 059 001 or info@leonewhite.com. You can also visit my website at www.leonewhite.com.

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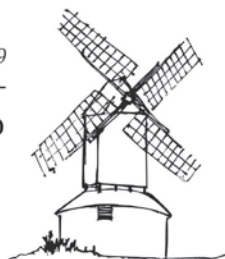
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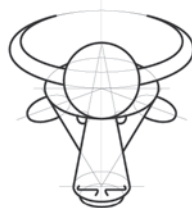
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Diary

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contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm
or by appointment
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
 Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm
contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk
- Thursday Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
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 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 Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am
For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com
- 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*

January

- 3rd Thurs Neighbours Club re-opens
- 19th Sat Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton 7:00pm
- 21st Mon Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion 7:30pm
- 23rd Wed Neighbours Club Outing: Ali Baba at The Corn Exchange, Wallingford —

February

- 20th Wed Neighbours Club: Skittles at Bablock Hythe (alt. date: 6th March) —

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