

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

November 2023

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey 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:	Sarah Illingworth	07792 083549
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:	Sarah MacMahon	07580 581655
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: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Nethercleft (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

Cover: Laying the path in Old Field.

Photo: Morgan Lloyd..

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: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	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: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
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		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
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
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

Parish Council

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting they held at The Pavilion on Monday, 16th October 2023 at 7:30 pm. Present: Cllrs B Fox (Vice-chair), P Allen, D Harms, M Horsley, S MacMahon and S Illingworth and Cllr G Heritage (SODC) In Attendance: Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 2 members of the public. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr S Harrod (Chair) and Cllr F Van Mierlo (OCC). No declarations of members' interests were made.

Matters to report

The County Councillor and District Councillor's reports were received, reviewed, and are available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr G Heritage (OCC) raised the community grant scheme: £5000 over the ward. The deadline for any requests is before 1 December 2023. Cllr G Heritage (OCC) urged the Council to apply if they have any relevant projects.

Correspondence and public discussion

There was no correspondence or public discussion.

Planning applications

To consider the following planning applications received from SODC:

P23/S3048/FUL & P23/S3051/LB (The Bull The Green Great Milton OX44 7NS) Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations, dormer window to rear, with alterations to existing parking layout. P23/S3035/FUL (The Bull The Green Great Milton) Demolition of twentieth-century extensions.

Cllr Harms spoke to the properties in the immediate vicinity of The Bull pub. Upon speaking with several residents close to the property, most were supportive of the plans. The only concerns raised were around the impact on parking in the village, noise and additional lighting when hosting external events. Great Milton Parish Council has previously discussed these potential issues with Mr Hutton at the previous GMPC meeting on Monday, 19th September and is happy with the measures put in place on the plans to minimise these as much as possible while still running a pub.

All the Councillors voted in strong favour of support for the planning applications for The Bull Pub.

P23/S3147/HH (The Penn Thame Road Great Milton) Extension and conversion of roof to create habitable room within roof void. Cllr MacMahon spoke to the adjacent properties, which raised no concerns. Great Milton Parish Council voted in favour of supporting this application.

P23/S2209/FUL(Garages at Holloway Farm Milton Common Oxfordshire)

Conversion of existing garage outbuilding into two 1-bedroom flats. (Additional details received 3 October 2023 and amended red line plan and certificate of ownership received 4 October 2023.)

This application lies on the outside reaches of the parish. Great Milton Parish Council have no strong views.

There were no planning decisions to review.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the September meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday, 19th September 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Financial resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

Chris Ashworth. Salary, Tax and Expenses October: £562.72

Chris Ashworth laptop reimbursement: £454.08

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste September: £62.40

McCracken and Sons (To carry out Cuts No.5 to main Verges and Thame Road & To carry out Cut No.5 to Recreation Ground): £463.20

Moore external audit: £252.00

J M Dudley: £382.80

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

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Castle Water: £254.62 (*Cheque was signed by Cllr Harrod and Cllr Allen on 26/09/23 to avoid any late payment fees*)

The bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statement for September were received, reviewed and approved.

The receipt of the External Auditor's report was received, which raised no major issues. Notices of completion have been placed on the notice boards and uploaded to the website.

Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

- A new laptop has been purchased at the price of £454.08
- At this time, there has been no response via email or phone from McCracken. The Parish Clerk is sourcing quotes from other companies to take over the grass-cutting duties when the contract ends with McCracken at the end of February 2024. The Parish Clerk will check the details of the contract to ensure it will end in February 2024 and if any notice is needed to be given.
- The vacancy for a Parish Clerk has been listed on Indeed and within a group for Parish Clerks in Oxford. Cllr MacMahon has listed the post on 'Next- 

door'. It has also now been posted on the Great Milton Facebook page.

Security in the village

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any incidents they witness or experience to the police via the 101 telephone service or online via the police.co.uk website.

Speeding in the Village – Speed indicator display update.

Members of the Parish Council met with Jon Beale to discuss the location of VAS/SID poles in the village. Two locations originally agreed upon at the time of the Village Gateway features planning process will be used along with a further pole along Church Road. The location of this pole was discussed at length between Cllrs Harrod, Fox, Illingworth and Jon Beale (Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety). It has been agreed by the Parish Council to install this third pole along the verge outside The Old Vicarage. It will be as unintrusive as possible. Cllr Harrod spoke to the residents who would be within eyesight of the pole along Church Road, with a few small issues raised. Cllr Fox said that after speaking to Jon Beale, the location was the optimum location for the pole and the impact the SID would have in the Village.

It was agreed that the next steps to get the poles installed and the SID device purchased would begin with the Parish Clerk contacting Jon Beale.

Steps down to Rec from Fuller's Field

It has been raised to GMPC that the steps down to the Recreation Ground from Fullers Field need some work to ensure they can be used safely. Cllr B Fox and the Parish Clerk visited the steps to check the condition. It has been agreed by the Parish Council that the greenery around the steps will be tidied up to make the rails more accessible, but the overall condition of the steps is good, and no further work is needed.

Dates for 2024 meetings

The dates below have all been agreed upon for the 2024 Great Milton Parish Council meetings. All the meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month, with meetings at 7:30 p.m.

- Monday 15th January
- Monday 19th February
- Monday 18th March
- Monday 15th April
- Monday 20th May
- Monday 17th June
- Monday 15th July
- No meeting in August
- Monday 16th September

- Monday 21st October
- Monday 18th November
- Monday 16th December

Check it before you chuck it. SODC campaign

SODC urges residents to ‘Check it before you chuck it’ as part of a drive to increase the amount and quality of recycling in the district.

This autumn, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will place stickers on all green household recycling bins to encourage people to ‘Check it before you chuck it’. The sticker features a QR code for people to scan to help them check and a reminder that all items in the green bin should be clean, dry and loose.

To find out which bin an item should go in, please ‘Check it before you chuck it’ at southandvale.gov.uk/checkit

The Parish Council agreed that this item will be added to the Bulletin to ensure people are aware of the project.

Changes to Schedule 1 of S101 Grass Cutting Agreement with OCC

The changes were reviewed with the changes involving the OCC Verge and Vegetation Policy. The new agreement was signed by Cllr B Fox.

Planning letter for the Village

The planning letter for newly approved applications in the Village, which will be sent to all newly approved applications, reminding people of the impact on the Village and to be mindful, was reviewed by the Councillors with a few changes to be made by the Parish Clerk.

Budget plans for 2024/25

The Councillors discussed any main areas for the budget plans for the 2024/25 financial year. The main area that was discussed was the budget for grass cutting in the Village, for which an initial figure has been agreed of £7,000 for the year.

Cllr Horsley then spoke about the possibility of purchasing a large TV screen/projector and screen for the Pavilion as it will soon have Broadband. These would allow members of the public to attend meetings virtually, and the item could also be used by external groups using the Pavilion. Cllr G Heritage (SODC) said this is the sort of project that can apply to the Community Grant Fund. Cllr Horsley has agreed to research the prices of the equipment so that an application can be made.

Meeting ended 20:08

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 20th November 2023, at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion.

Benefice Services for November

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th	Service of Commemoration 4:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 12th	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by Holy Communion 9:00am	Remembrance Service 4:00pm	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by dedication of the memorial to the American Airmen in the churchyard, concluding with a service in the church 10:50am
Sunday 19th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Saturday 26th	Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am	Book of Common Prayer Communion 9:00am	

Benefice Services for December

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

The Rector's Pint

Contributed this month by Toby Garfitt.

Where were you on 9/11 (11 September 2001) when you heard about the Twin Towers disaster? I was walking down the High Street in Oxford when one of my students ran up to tell me what was happening. And I know exactly where I was and what I was doing that evening in November 1963 when the news came that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

There are some events that burn themselves into our very being. Other anniversaries

may be harder to remember, and we may need something to help us. The poem “Remember, remember the fifth of November/ Gunpowder, treason and plot” (apparently based on a poem written in Latin by John Milton – who knew?) has made that date unforgettable, if not the actual year (1605). But are you good at remembering your wedding anniversary, or family birthdays?

When a child is christened (baptised), Simon always asks the parents to bring out the special baptismal candle each year on the anniversary of the ceremony. As the child grows up, that will help them to connect with their baptism, and perhaps to ask questions about what it means. A recent baptism took place on the couple’s wedding anniversary, so that should make both events easier to remember!

November is always a month for remembering. Not only “gunpowder, treason and plot”, but also the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, with Armistice Day (the 11th) and Remembrance Sunday (the nearest Sunday to the 11th) being widely observed. This year in Great Haseley the usual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial will be followed by the unveiling of another memorial, to the ten American airmen who died near Latchford on 13 November 1943 when their B-17 Flying Fortress crashed in appalling weather. Members of at least four of the families will be coming over from the United States for a very special time of remembering and giving thanks. These young men, and many like them, volunteered to come and help defend our freedom, and they lost their lives tragically in the process. We owe it to them to honour their memory.

Remembering those who have died helps to anchor our own existence, to give us a sense of where we have come from and where we are all heading. For Christians there is the added assurance that we are held in God’s loving embrace, from before the cradle to after the grave. November traditionally begins with All Saints Day, on the 1st, and All Souls Day, on the 2nd, both of them lifting our eyes from this world to the next, and reminding us of future joyful reunions.

Our own tradition in recent years has been to hold a special Service of Commemoration at which the names of loved ones who have died can be read out, and a candle lit in their memory. This year it is on the afternoon of Sunday November 5th (before the fireworks!), in Great Milton. All are most welcome on this lovely occasion.

Remember well!

Toby

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

November 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev Jean King	Holy Communion
19th	10:30am	Gt. Milton	Liz Spain	
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Andrew Jackson	

Senior Citizens Party Committee

AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th November at The Bull starting at 8:00pm.

Ann Price – Secretary

Ragwort

Can I draw attention to the infestation of ragwort that it is in and around the Village on verges and in gateways. It has been established in Old Field for sometime. I have remarked on it's existence. I have seen it in gardens etc. The only explanation must be that people do not know what it is. It is an attractive yellow and brown flower – insects love it. It is about 3' tall on a single stalk. It is deadly to stock when in a dry state such as hay. Stock avoid it when it's green and growing. It is fatal especially to horses. Never touch it with bare hands, always with gloves. It should be dug up or pulled up and burnt. Don't compost it – it produces thousands of seeds from one head.

About 4 years ago, I lost a dear friend, a fellow Welsh Black breeder in Wales. He had been pulling ragwort in his pastures, and unbeknown to him, some leaves and half a flower head went down into his Wellington boot. Some months later he had a foot problem, his foot was amputated and then his leg. Two years later, he passed away – all due to ragwort.

Another sad thing is that Highways do nothing now to control it. Do not let children pick it – make them aware it is poisonous.

Les Preston

PS. You won't find it now – it has gone over. Keep an eye open for it next year.



History on the Move

As most people know, we are moving out of the Bull – moving on to pastures new. The Community Room at the Bull has been our home for more than 10 years, over which time we have made many friends; here in the Village, in the County and as far away as Australia!

We want to say thank you to all who have helped us along the way – the Pub Committee, all the landlords and landladies, the Sheppard Trust, Steve Harrod, Colin Chadbone, Les Preston, Victor Storey and many, many others.

Our farewell Open Day was a surprisingly quiet affair, nevertheless we appreciated the support on the morning – thank you all for coming. And now we look forward to the move to our new quarters. Thank you all.

GMH

The Sheppard Charitable Trust

The Trustees received quite a few applications at their last meeting, and six grants were made. These included The Old Field, to enable them to continue maintenance work on the paths around the Old Field, hire of venue assistance for Great Milton Arts and Crafts Club, and support for Noah Reeve and William Peers in their World Challenge fund raising. Great Milton Freecycle received help towards insurance costs, and The Rec Ground Management Committee and St Mary's Church for their ongoing projects.

The Trustees had supported Lizzie Lawrence with her fund raising to enable her to attend the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in Korea. Please do read Lizzie's report, which hopefully you will find somewhere in this edition of the Bulletin!

The Trustees will next meet on Wednesday 15th November, and there is money available for distribution! As you know, they can only support groups and organisations based in Great Milton, and which benefit the citizens of Great Milton. If your organisation comes under that umbrella, please do make an application.

Applications should be sent to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or by email to sheppardtrustGM@gmail.com to arrive by Friday 10th November.

The Trustees are looking forward to receiving your requests.

Jane Willis

World Scout Jamboree

I attended the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in August this year. I was lucky enough to receive a grant from the Sheppard Trust.

Our journey began at two am as we eagerly awaited our coach for the hour or so drive to Heathrow. When we arrived at a deserted terminal two, we found out who had stuck to the weight limit and luckily all of us

scraped through so we boarded our first flight to Paris. After a couple of hours sitting in Charles-de-Gaulle, we got on the plane. Fifteen hours, lots of delays and countless movies later, we were in Seoul! The next challenge was to hunt down our bags, and then find the metro station. We decided to push on and get to our hotel to unpack. That night we explored our local market and went to a theatre to enjoy a dance show.

Over the next few days, we went to Seoul tower, the demilitarised zone between South and North Korea, a folk village, a palace ,where we all tried on korean traditional dress, and had free time to explore markets and the city. After a few days of exploration around Seoul, we checked out of the hotel and got on our coach to the jamboree site. 4 hours later we arrived and everyone was buzzing with excitement as we started to unpack and luckily our neighbours from Nepal helped us put up the tents so we made it in time for the opening ceremony. We were sitting near units from Japan, Finland and Brazil which was really cool. It started with formalities and speeches but ended with

fireworks and music! The opening ceremony had set a great first impression of the Jamboree. The next day, we had activities at the jamboree site which involved some water activities and other bushcraft activities. We ate our lunch with some



Italian and Chilean scouts. The following morning, we went off site and visited a temple for the day and when we returned we went off to various discos and campfires to enjoy the evening with a unit from Germany. Unfortunately, we were called back to camp at about 7pm and told that it was no longer safe for us and we would be leaving the next morning. After a long embrace, we all went and enjoyed our last night at the jamboree.

After packing down our campsite, we got back on the coach and headed back to the capital. In our week in Seoul, we had much more time to discover interesting things about the city and also the wider culture. We explored everything from Haribo world to the Olympic park and even got a bullet train to Busan on the other side of the country! On our penultimate day in Seoul, we went to the closing ceremony which had been relocated to the World Cup football stadium. We enjoyed an evening of amazing music and fun before heading back to the hotel for our last day. Our journey back was a much more subdued affair, everyone was in shock that it's over. Our coach arrived with cheers from the crowd of parents but the tears of realisation that our journey as a unit had finished flooded down every unit member's face.

Although many aspects of my trip didn't go to plan, as a unit we made the best of every situation and all have made amazing memories and friends that will last for years. I am very grateful for the donations and support from everyone who supported me and granted me an unforgettable experience that I am very thankful I was able to have.

Lizzie Lawrence



Dogs on the Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground Committee have received several complaints recently regarding dog poo on the grass, both in the open field but also in the children's play area at the recreation ground. Although well behaved dogs on leads are allowed on to the recreation ground, dogs are not allowed into the children's play area. Some new signs will remind all users of this.

Dog poo is a health hazard and is unpleasant for all. Please clear up after your dog.

There are 2 red dog poo bins available for you to use – one to the right of the gated entrance to the rec, and one at the entrance near the concrete steps to Fullers Field. These are emptied on a regular basis by SODC.

If you see someone allowing their dog to foul the rec and then not clearing up after their dog, please feel free to call this out and direct the dog owner to the bins provided.

The Recreation Ground Committee

Welcome to the 5th Great Milton School Governors' News Bites

Team Sports

Congratulations to our Y5 netball team (pictured), who won all of their games at a recent netball festival in Bicester. In PE the children learn a variety of team sports. Clubs wise (which includes those played competitively with fixtures against other schools) this includes rugby, run by Chinnor RFC, football as well as netball. There is a multi sports club which changes termly. School mainly competes in the Wheatley partnership events and sometimes through School Games which is the wider Oxfordshire area.

Keeping children safe in education - filtering and monitoring.

Your school fulfils a statutory



safeguarding duty, protecting your children in their online lives and interactions, as much as offline. Your Governors work closely with the leadership team to ensure these safeguarding duties are fulfilled, but children need protecting in all their digital spaces. Many see the school teacher's role as standing at the front of the class room, marking work, and attending parents' evenings. But teachers' responsibilities (and Governors') extend beyond this to providing a safe environment to learn and work in, including when online.

Filtering and monitoring are important parts of safeguarding pupils (and staff) from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. This can include adult content, child sexual abuse material, cyberbullying, online scams, self-harm and suicide sites as well as terrorist content. Teachers and governors must also bear in mind the digital resilience of our pupils, whose risk profile can vary greatly (for example, due to their age range, or special educational needs and disability (SEND) etc).

To manage the workload of the governing boards, roles are delegated. As such we have one Governor dedicated to Filtering & Monitoring, helping ensure that standards are met and that the online environment is safe; and who is there to support the school should issues arise, letting the IT service provider maintain technical responsibility.

As we all spend more time than ever online, we need to have regular conversations with our children about the power of the internet and how to nurture a healthy online/offline balance. The importance of communicating face to face with friends and family, as opposed to doing so online, cannot be underplayed. Promote active mediation when it comes to the use of the internet so that your child knows it is OK to come to you to talk about what they are experiencing online, whether at school or at home. A safe online environment is paramount, again whether at school or at home.

We are planning an online safety briefing for parents next term and online safety workshops are booked in for the children in February.

New Instagram

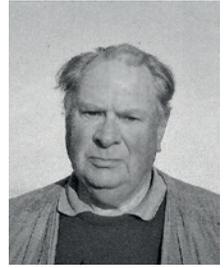
School has a new Instagram account. Please click on the QR code below to follow for regular news and information.



@GREATMILTON2023

View from Views

Last Month I mentioned the lack of growth in our Oil Seed Rape (OSR) crop, we now discover that the problem is two-fold not only is it suffering from Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle but also slugs. Again, we are not the only ones to have suffered this fate, as it seems to be nationwide. The annoying aspect about this failure is that in the areas where the last crop suffered the severest from pigeon damage, any shed seed has sprouted and is now looking really like a good crop would do. However, we have decided that we have to write off about 2/3's of this year's planting and plant something to give the land a break.



Having made that decision what do we replace it with, likely to be between Beans, a crop we have not grown for many years (but grown widely) and, Lupins. Both being legumes will build a certain amount of fertility in the soil, unfortunately, both tend to be subject to various conditions that can severely affect yield, having just cut the Lupins with another very disappointing yield the jury is out. However, although a bit soon to jump to a decision, I personally think they should be given a third chance as it is a protein crop that will replace the importation of Soya, this will provide a home grown protein source, meaning it could be of great value in the future. We now have both winter Barley and Wheat, plus a new alternative supported by Government, Grass and Clover being a conservation crop, as this is another legume will build fertility.

This year's Winter Wheat planting we have approached differently. You may wonder why I mention this. Following last seasons OSR, we planted, what we call a cover crop, of Buckwheat & Phacelia, this is to sequester carbon and save nutrients etc. This we have planted slightly differently by planting direct into the cover crop, which is standing at about 18 inches tall, a first for us, it has been done by others, so try it we must. Apart from having hopefully killed the cover with Round Up the day before, we have saved the fuel of a plough and cultivation, leaving the crop residue for a mulch on the ground, this will protect the young plants and, help retain moisture, the theory anyway we will see what happens. It all went without a hitch thanks to modern very expensive equipment. Fingers crossed the slugs don't have a field day.

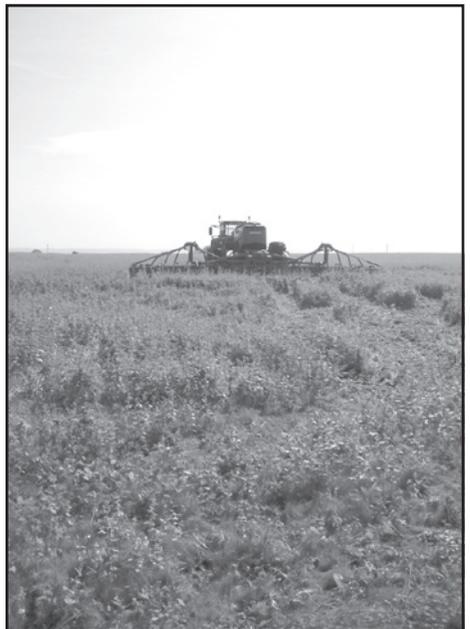
Last month I intimated that most wildlife was either sheltering from the rain or the heat, I think now they seem to have acclimatised to these weather swings and seem to be more in evidence. We are informed that the UK is probably the most nature depleted area of the world. I would take issue with this having just had a week in Canada where wildlife somehow did not seem to exist, so where this idea comes from, I cannot imagine. We did spend a lot of time in city's but, did also have two days drive

through open country, at least that was the impression I got. Now we are told there is a danger of loosing much of our plant life due to pressure on land use and subsequent loss of habitat.

We have all in the last few weeks of party conferences we have been told what each party is going to do for us, sadly agriculture hardly got a mention. To me this is very worrying as food is the most important commodity we have and, with the world situation being under tremendous threat now, our food security should be paramount importance. To cap it all one MP (J-R-M) expressed his lack of knowledge on issues agricultural by saying the NFU were protectionist by objecting to the import of hormone treated beef, when it was the government, in the face of public opinion, who banned it in the first place. Now the PM is proposing to lift some of the environmental restrictions on planning, this flies in the face of all that we and the conservation movement has been spending a multitude of energy and finance on. Are we not at the point where we ask ourselves do we want expansion and more development and forget about nature as I believe this is a choice we may well have to make.

It is suggested that Farming is the biggest polluter, it is also the largest industry in the UK and, said to be contributing more to our GDP than any other industry, so it is little wonder that it is one of the bigger polluters especially in areas where there is intensive animal production, these areas I understand have plans to alleviate this problem, by trucking the waste away or processing it, to reduce its bulk for more efficient disposal. It is interesting on this particular point, to note the results I have had from taking monthly samples of run off from our land. This has shown that most of the nitrates in this runoff comes either from springs or, other sources not the land drains. A water course that is from land with no springs shows very little Nitrates but after it is joined by runoff from the village the nitrate is considerable, in another situation where a field drainage system is fed by springs the nitrates are high. This points to the fact that a lot of nitrate runoff is not from fertiliser applied to the land but some other factor, I would suggest rotting vegetation perhaps from some time in the past.

Charles Peers



Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In October, local PCSO Claire Keogh told us all about her job and fraud prevention. It's scary how many ways criminals have to defraud us but now we know how to spot a fraudster, who to report it to and how to protect ourselves. I would highly recommend this talk and Claire is very keen to spread the word. The more people learn about fraud prevention, the safer we'll all be. Thank you to Jane & Roz for doing the teas and my garden (& inspiration from Helen) for providing the birthday posy.

In November, we're going to be entertained by a shanty band from Chalgrove, Short Drag Roger on Thursday 9 November at 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome (men too) - Visitors £5 or join up for £23.

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 Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm
Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? 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 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Morland House Surgery

Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm.

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only.

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111.

The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023. WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN.

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything.

If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then please do so.

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Flu and Covid Vaccines – All eligible patients have been offered their flu and covid vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then please contact your nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find out if you are eligible, please visit www.nhs.uk and search for “Covid Vaccination”.

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

John Howell MP writes...

The structure of Government, national and local, can be confusing. When someone needs help with something it can be difficult to know just who is responsible for what, and therefore who can help when things do not go as they should. I often receive requests from people to help them with issues that are not Parliamentary matters and with which I cannot help. I appreciate that this can be frustrating and so I thought that it might be helpful if I set out who does what.

It is often thought that an MP sits at the top of a hierarchy of Government and has power to direct local councils. This is not the case. Local councils are autonomous, and MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Hence local councils have their own elected representatives in the form of councillors. People elected to these councils have direct access to officers at the respective councils and so are better placed to take up relevant issues. I have found that referring to local councillors is the quickest way to get action. Some local council teams can be quick to respond to me but of late some have started treating concerns raised via my office as formal complaints and as such can take several weeks to be processed.



So, to help steer through the hierarchy let me set out who does what.

Essentially as an MP I can help with issues and concerns that relate to central government departments. For example this may include issues relating to the HM Revenue and Customs, Visas and immigration, the NHS, or pensions and benefit issues.

In Oxfordshire we have three tiers of local government, the County Council, District Councils and Parish Councils or Parish Meetings.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for local services, including education, social services, transport, roads (except trunk roads and motorways), public rights of way, libraries, the fire service, culture, trading standards, bus subsidies, minerals, waste and recycling (disposal) and the environment.

The constituency is served by two district councils, Cherwell District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. They are responsible for local services, including planning, housing and associated benefits, rubbish collection, environmental services, leisure services, some car parks and council tax collection.

Parish Councils and Parish Meetings deal with very local concerns and can influence the other councils on behalf of residents.

Whilst on the topic of what I can and cannot do it may also be helpful to comment on requests to attend specific events. When Parliament is sitting MPs are expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday, unless on other parliamentary business elsewhere. During a week in Westminster there are many competing demands such as scrutinising legislation, attending debates, ministerial question sessions, committees, briefings and other meetings. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that a constituent may ask me to attend. When I cannot attend something it does not reflect lack of interest, simply that I cannot be in two places at once.

I hope that setting this out is helpful and answers several questions that I have been asked of late.

On other matters, if there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.

Christmas Quiz

We are planning a Christmas quiz at
The Bull in December.

This will be entirely based on
Christmas questions and will include
a specially designed section for
children. We would start earlier than
usual to allow for the youngsters.
The thought also is for everyone to
come dressed in Christmas outfits
with a prize for the best one.

If you have any thoughts or
suggestions that would improve the
enjoyment of the evening, please let
me know by email on
alan.pickett@outlook.com.

**VACANCY
CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER
GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Location: home-based

Hours: 10.5 per week

Salary: NJC Scale LC1, scale points 7 to 17 (£10.60 to £12.92 per hour), depending upon experience, CiLCA qualification and transferable skills.

Job Description

The Clerk provides administrative and clerical support to the Council and, as the Responsible Finance Officer, is required to manage the Council's finances. Duties include:

- Managing parish council meetings, including agenda preparation, taking and distributing minutes and ensuring that outcomes are actioned.
- Managing the Parish Council's finances, including preparation of accounts and reconciliations, payroll and PAYE, payment of invoices, banking, end-of-year accounts, submission of accounts for external audit, VAT reclaim, preparing the annual budget and requesting the precept.
- Ensuring that planning applications are considered and responses submitted in timely fashion to the District Council
 - Dealing with correspondence and enquiries
 - Liaison with contractors and other service providers
- Arranging the maintenance of trees and other village assets routinely and as required
- Liaison with village representatives, including the allotment coordinator, Rec Committee, PCC and Neighbourhood Watch group
- Receiving, collating and sending copy and advertisements to the editor of the Great Milton Bulletin, and invoicing for and managing advertising.
- Updating the village website with meeting agendas and minutes, news and required financial and governance-related information.
 - Other duties as and when required.

Essential criteria

You will be required to attend the monthly parish council meeting, which usually takes place on the third Monday of each month. You must have some administrative experience and be able to maintain accurate financial records. Candidates must possess a high standard of oral and written communication skills, be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software (particularly Word and Excel), be capable of working independently and using their initiative, and be able to deal with a range of issues. Previous experience in local government at any level will be helpful but is by no means essential.

**For further information and an application form, please e-mail:
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk or call
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TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2023

9.30 am – 3pm

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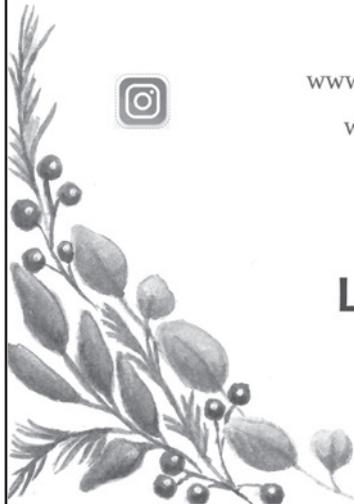
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Saturday 25th November

Registration 12:45pm, Concert 6pm

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- The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.
- We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity. Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.
- The treasurer would need to come with prior experience of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk.
- More information about The Maple Tree can be found at:

 www.mapletree.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/TheMapleTree/Wheatley/

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Niall Kingston

General Manager





Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for **prebooked** telephone consultations only

We also offer Enhanced Access hours outside of these times, please speak to one of our reception team for more information.

From 3rd April 2023 our new Dispensary hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

For further information, please visit our website www.morland-house.co.uk

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

Great Milton Post Office and Stores Opening Hours

	Shop	Post Office
Monday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Tuesday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Wednesday	8:00 – 2:00	9:00 – 12:30
Thursday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Friday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Saturday	8:00 – 12:30	9:00 – 12:30
Sunday	8:00 – 11:30	Closed

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Cost for hiring

£15 per hour, £120 for the full day

Please contact our booking secretary

Janet Smith 01844 278415

for further details

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Whether you're a sewer, a knitter, a painter or a crafter, work on your favourite project while catching up with your neighbours.

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First Monday of every month (second Monday in January) in the Pavilion from 6.30-9.00pm

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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.

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11 am – 12 noon

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- Please feel free to make use of the Library at any
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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 Chris Ashworth of any
updates that need to be made
(contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk)

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.

Please contact Chris Ashworth

1 College Field, Cuddesdon, Oxford, OX44 9HL Tel: 07450 238474

Email: contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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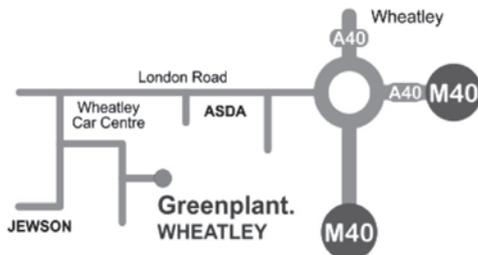
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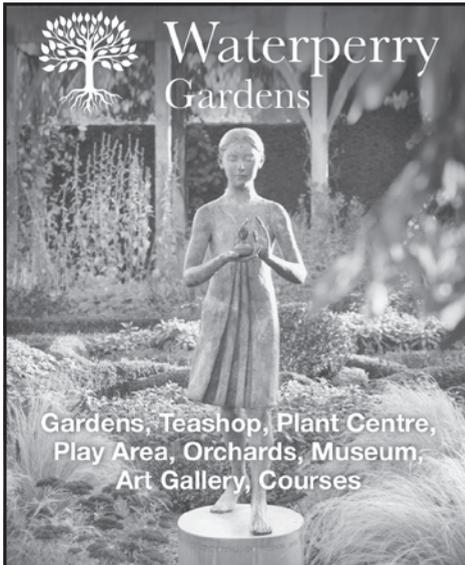


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Email: sistersedge@btinternet.com

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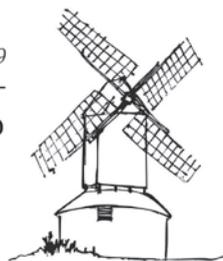
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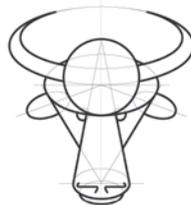
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Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
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 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
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 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

November

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| 3rd Fri | Swing Jazz & Jive at The Neighbours’ Hall | 7:30pm |
| 14th Tue | Christmas Fair at The Oxfordshire Golf Club | 9:30am |
| 15th Wed | Senior Citizens Party Committee AGM at The Bull | 8:00pm |
| 20th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| 25th Sat | Come and Sing at St. Mary’s Church | 6:00pm |

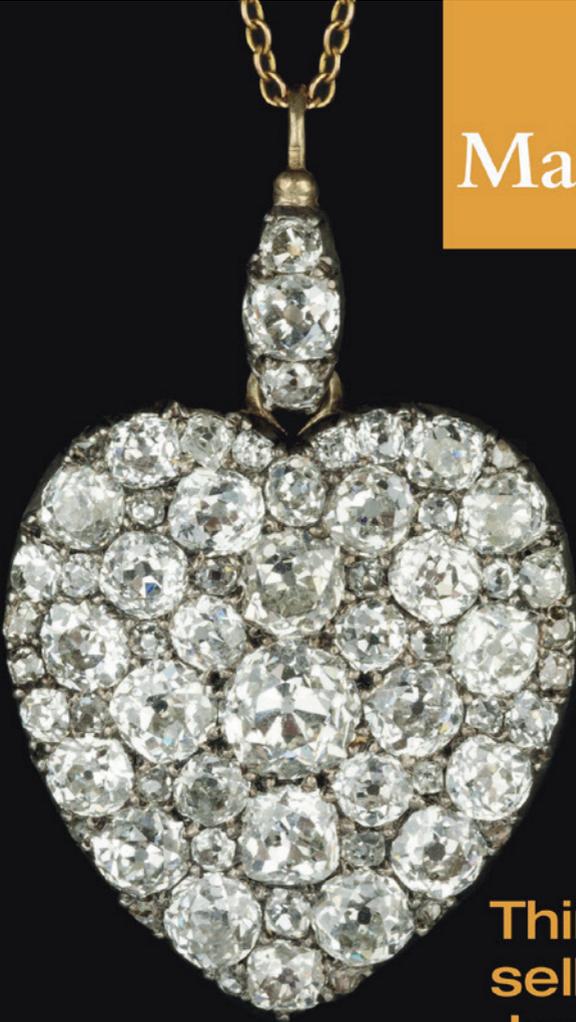
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Adverts to **Chris Ashworth** 07450 238474.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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