

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

November 2018

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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:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

Sunset over poppies.

Photo: www.pexels.com.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

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

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. 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...

I hope you will all join me in welcoming Ankit and Vinay to their new tenancy of the pub, together with Sarah as front of house. We wish them well in their new venture and I trust they will be well supported in keeping our pub going which, in my opinion, is an important element of our village.

There have been a few instances of attempted burglaries in the village over the past months and it is that time of year when the criminal element will be doing their “Christmas shopping” so be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police on 111 or 999 if immediately urgent.

We all await, with bated breath, the decision of the National Infrastructure Commission regarding the route of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway but there is nothing further to report on this at this stage. As soon as there is any update, you will be the first to know!

A somewhat controversial planning application for a gas-fired power station between Milton Common and Tetsworth has been received by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and you are welcome to comment on this via the SODC website. The details of the application can be found within the SODC website as follows:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/S2995/FUL>

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/S2996/FUL>

In the meantime, don't let apathy rule!

Steve Harrod, Chairman



Draft Parish Notes

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15 October were Cllrs. S. Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice Chairman), P Allen, G Harris, G Bennet and P Fewell, plus Tim Darch (Clerk), Cllr Caroline Newton (SODC) and 1 member of the public. Retrospective apologies were received from Cllr C Deacon who was unavoidably detained elsewhere.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th September 2018 were signed and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The County Councillor and District Councillor's monthly reports were received. The District Councillor further updated progress on the local plan and stated that the housing sites under consideration have not changed. The Local Plan will go to SODC's Scrutiny Committee on 13 December and the Council will vote upon it (deciding the number of houses and sites) on December 20th. A consultation will take place, lasting 6 weeks from January in advance of a further Council vote and submission to Government by the end of March. Chalgrove Airfield continues to be under consideration, though Martin Baker remains keen to remain. Homes England have now offered a significantly greater infrastructure contribution. Cllr Harrod stated that there would be no change in the Parish Council's position and this will merely be reiterated when consulted.

An invitation has been received from Wheatley Park School to their prize-giving event but unfortunately no parish councillors are available. A member of the public enquired about tree debris in her garden in Milton Common: the PC offered to look into land ownership on their behalf to help ascertain responsibility.


Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

P18/S2744/FUL (Milton Farm, The Green, Great Milton, OX44 7NT). To erect a small shed on agricultural land. After consultation with neighbours and clarification of the size of the proposed shed it was decided that the Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

P18/S3117/DIS (Land on the South Side of London Road Adjacent to Great Expectations Milton Common). Discharge of conditions 3(trees), 4(landscaping), 7(parking), 9(material schedule) for planning permission P18/S0958/RM. And Discharge of conditions 4(landscaping) [superseded by reserved matters 4], 7(CTMP), 9(refuse/recycling), 10(fire hydrants) for planning permission P17/S4227/O. Approval for Reserved matters (Access, Layout, Scale, Appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline application (P17/S4227/O) for the erection of up to eight dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space (as amended by additional plans submitted on 31 May 2018 and 19 July 2018). FOR REFERENCE: NO CONSULTATION ON DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS.

The following planning decisions received and other outstanding planning matters were reviewed:

P18/S2573/FUL (The Oxford Belfry London Road Milton Common OX9 2JW). Construction of 4 Detached and 2 Semi-Detached Dwellings. South Oxfordshire District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED for the carrying out of the development referred to above for the following reason(s): 

The proposed development is not acceptable in that it does not accord with the growth strategy for the smaller villages in the district.

Insufficient drainage information has been submitted to demonstrate that a sustainable drainage strategy is achievable in conflict with Policy CSQ2 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy and Policy EP6 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 and Government Guidance within the National Planning Policy.

Appeal decision: P17/S3619/FUL (The Oxford Belfry Hotel, London Road, Milton Common, Thame, OX9 2JW). Retention of staff accommodation static caravans.

The use of the static caravans for residential staff accommodation shall be limited to a period of 2 years from the date of this decision (26 Sept 2018). At the end of this period, all static caravans and any other structures, materials and equipment brought onto, or erected on the land, or works undertaken to it in connection with the static caravans shall be removed, and the land restored to its condition before the development took place.

The site shall only be used for the stationing of eight caravans, the occupation of which shall be limited to persons solely or mainly employed by the Oxford Belfry Hotel at London Road, Milton Common, Thame, OX9 2JW

Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses October. £426.83

Green and Growing. Grass cutting. £96

Freecycle: £90 towards operating costs (as agreed in minute 116/18)

A full bank reconciliation was received and September's bank statement was signed.

Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand

The foliage on the path between Fullers Field and The Green has been trimmed and weeds sprayed.

The road markings at the junction of the A40 and A329 at Milton Common have at last been renewed.

The front cover of the Bulletin has reverted to its previous format.

No further developments were reported on the tennis court lease but this issue will be revisited at the next Parish Council meeting.

The issues surrounding parking on the greens given increasing demands on roadside space were discussed. Cllr Allen reported increased roadside parking by school staff and residents, though the former is unexplained as little or no space has been lost for parking with the addition of the new school buildings. Councillor Harrod reported that historically easements had been granted for vehicular access to driveways, but not for parking. Other locations such as the Recreation Ground have been explored

for parking but there have always been prohibitive issues associated with them. After discussion the Parish Council agreed to relax its approach to parking on the greens for a trial period, on the understanding that parking should ONLY be permitted on areas that are designed to facilitate access to and from the road (e.g established driveways), rather than on adjacent areas of grass.

The Parish Council's objectives for the next financial year were discussed.

Cllr Allen observed that expenses were not foreseen to increase significantly in 2019-20, but that parish council election costs levied by SODC (if required: most elections in recent years have been uncontested, which would mean significantly reduced costs) could have a significant impact of potentially up to £2,500 in the next financial year. Cllr Harrod expressed concerns over the global financial situation and 'Brexit' which may mean a return to austerity despite the government's assertions that this fiscal policy has concluded. After further discussion it was agreed to prepare two budget options: a 6% precept increase and 6% plus £2,500 (to account for a possible election).

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th November starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Tower Power

As those of you who have seen the Tower Power leaflet already know our beautiful, historic Parish Church is crumbling! There is much work to be done but the priority is to restore the tower stonework and make it safe for generations to come. We have benefitted from our ancestors' care of the church building and now it is up to us to conserve it for our descendants. The work will be expensive, at this stage it is estimated that the tower alone will cost over £200,000, and although will be applying for the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grants, we can only apply once we have the rest of the funds in place.

We are hoping for wide support to make this project an inclusive, community effort and would welcome creative fund-raising ideas and your help to achieve these.

There is also a plan to give the church the facilities it so desperately needs. We have employed an architect to draw up plans for the inclusion of a kitchen and lavatory.

This will mean moving the Dormer Monument to what we believe is its original position in the south aisle of the church.

We are slowly moving forward with the plan and once the final drawings have been produced we shall be inviting you all to come to view them.

Simon and the Church Wardens

Services in Our Benefice for November

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 4th <i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 11th <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	Remembrance at the War Memorial 10:45am followed by Benefice Remembrance Service	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am with Act of Remembrance Service of Remembrance 6:00pm followed by Ring for Peace	Remembrance at the War Memorial 10:45am followed by Remembrance Service
Sunday 18th <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 25th <i>Sunday next before Advent</i>		Benefice Communion 10:00am	

Services in Our Benefice for December

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd <i>Advent 1</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am

Ramblings from the Rectory

It is a strange coincidence that this year, one hundred years after the armistice silencing the guns of the conflict that came to be known as the first world war, or the great war, our Remembrance Sunday commemorations shall fall on the 11th of November, one hundred years to the day after the event.

The last day of the war warrants some re-visiting. Just after five o'clock on the morning of 11 November 1918, British, French and German officials gathered in a railway carriage to the North of Paris and signed a document which would in effect bring an end to the bloodiest war ever to have been fought.

Within minutes, news of the Armistice, the ceasefire, had been flashed around the world that the war, which was meant to 'end all wars', was finally over.

But it wasn't finally over because the ceasefire would not come into effect for a further six hours, at 11.00 am, to enable the news to spread to all the troops. It has been calculated that the final day of WW1 resulted in nearly 11,000 battle casualties, killed or wounded or missing. To put this into perspective, this is more men than those killed wounded or missing on D-Day almost 27 years later when allied forces landed en masse on the shores of occupied France.

What is particularly shocking about this statistic is that many of these soldiers lost their lives having been thrown into action by ambitious military leaders who knew that the Armistice had already been signed. Most notable was the recklessness of General Wright of the 89th American Division. Seeing his troops were exhausted and dirty, and hearing there were bathing facilities available in the nearby town of Stenay, he decided to take the town so his men could refresh themselves. His decision cost around 300 casualties. The final french casualty to die in battle was Augustin Trébuchon. He was shot fifteen minutes before the Armistice. He had knowingly been sent into battle with the 11:00am deadline looming, the French army in an attempted cover up recorded his date of death as the 10th November!

Space will not allow an examination of the final casualties of the many nationalities who fought in that great war, so only three will be mentioned by name. The final British soldier to be killed was 40 year old Private George Edwin Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. He was killed at 9.30am whilst scouting on the outskirts of the Belgian town of Mons. There is a tragic irony about his death. Private Ellison had served for four years throughout the war. He had seen every type of warfare, he saw the initial war of mobility, he went into the first trenches when the Front became deadlocked. He fought in the first gas attack, and on the Somme in 1916 he watched the first ever tanks go into action. In all that time Private Ellison had escaped injury, His war started as a part of the British expeditionary four years before in Mons, it ended with his death right back where he started.

The last soldier officially thought to have been killed in action on the western front has always been assumed to be an American from Baltimore, ironically of German decent, Sergeant Henry Gunther. He was killed at 10.59 am. He was involved in a final charge against astonished German troops who by all account didn't want



to fight but what could they do? Private Gunther was shot.

But Sergeant Gunther was perhaps not the final soldier to be shot on the western front. Records are unclear about the details but if true it was a German soldier who was the last soldier to be killed by the enemy. His name was Lieutenant Thomas and after 11.00 am he openly approached some American soldiers to let them know that now there was a ceasefire he and his men were vacating a house which would be made available to them. Unfortunately the Americans in that sector had not been informed about the 11.00am ceasefire and so Lieutenant Thomas, openly approaching the Americans, was shot dead.

Of course there were many other soldiers wounded in combat on that day, many of whom in the weeks and months ahead succumbed to their wounds.

These stories fill me with sadness about the lives lost and also anger about the arrogance and stupidity about the actions of war leaders and generals who threw away lives needlessly in what they knew would be the last hours of combat for no gain whatsoever, apart from a warped sense of their own glory.

I confess that more and more this is the way I approach remembrance Sunday, and especially this year, with tremendous sadness that the war to end all wars was never that at all. For me the ongoing reality of war is a reflection on the true nature of what I believe to be our fallen and tragically flawed humanity. It is a testimony to the sinfulness, stupidity and warped ideologies of man that makes this possible.

This year all three churches will be having special services to mark Remembrance Sunday. At Great Haseley and Great Milton there will be an act of remembrance at each of the war memorials, both gathering at 10.45am followed by special services in the Churches. Obviously I cannot be at both and so Toby Garfitt will preside at Great Haseley. In Little Milton there will be a special service for remembrance Sunday at 6.00pm at St James. This will be followed at 7.05pm with a special ringing for peace. There will also be a said service of Holy Communion at Little Milton at 8.00am at St James.

‘He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth (psalm 46:9) A psalm of hope but of course not yet of realisation.

Simon

Ringling for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War

The Remembrance service for the Benefice is being held at St Mary's on this special 100th anniversary. We will ring half muffled bells prior to the service, and remember the 12 men from Great Milton who did not come home.

Great Milton Bellringers

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

October				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Graham Kirby	
11th	9:30am	St. Mary's	Alistair Jackson	
21st	11:00am	St. Mary's	Andrew Maisey	
28th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Bull	Holy Communion

The Neighbours Club

On the 27th September Steve Moll came to talk to us about the "Incredible World of the Honey Bee" and indeed it is an incredible world. He took his first swarm from an apple tree in Wallingford and now has seventeen hives some up on Wittenham Clumps. He puts wire netting round the hives to keep them safe from wildlife like foxes because of course they all love honey. The honey bee does not hibernate and can often be seen out and about even on winter days – they will visit 500 flowers in a day. They used to suffer from Colony Collapse Disorder but thankfully this can now be treated. Much as gardeners dislike ivy the bees love it and you will see them busily feeding on ivy flowers all through the winter. They will also be fed sugar syrup to make sure they are adequately fed.

At the meeting on the 11th October the local school children came to play games, i.e. board games etc. Because weeks of drought brought forward autumn leaf fall this month's outing was brought forward two weeks to the 17th October. We went to Tetbury for lunch – a very interesting old town and in the afternoon went to Westonbirt National Arboretum. There are 17 miles of hard paths there but I doubt if anyone was that energetic! They now have a treetop walkway which enables folk to walk along and enjoy the splendid treetop view. We are now looking forward to our next meeting which is a talk by Graham Kirby entitled "Coins and Christianity" (Bring your own Coins) - 25th October 2:15pm.

JCP

Forthcoming Events - November

Thurs 8th - Keep Fit with Yvonne - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 22nd - T.B.A - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 28th - Outing Christmas Lights at Kew

A Huge Thank You

MacMillan & Sobell House Coffee Morning

We would like to say how much we appreciated all the support received at September's Coffee Morning in memory of Cynth. A total of £440.00 was raised which was split between the two charities. Thank you for all the lovely cakes, raffle prizes and kind donations.

Tony D'Anger & Family

Cynthia Mavis D'Anger 21/04/40 – 30/08/18

We would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support and kind messages recently following the loss of my darling, beautiful wife and our Mum Cynth.

We have all been overwhelmed by the kindness shown by the whole community. All our dear friends, neighbours and everyone connected with St. Mary's Church. It has been a great comfort to us all, knowing you have been thinking about us at this sad time, and Cynth would be humbled to know she had so many caring, thoughtful friends around her.

Tony, Stefan, Gary and Nicola

John Claydon 8th March 1951 – 11th October 2018

The family of the late John Claydon would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their support and sympathy during John's long illness. Without it I think it would have been unbearable. The gifts of meals, cakes and flowers were gratefully received.

John was born in Priory Cottage to Florence and Edwin Claydon, a brother to Joan and Geoffrey, on 8th March 1951. He spent all his life in the village and was fiercely proud of being a Miltonian. His family's name first appears in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church in the 1600s and his family and descendants have lived in the village ever since. His grandfather was a warden of the church and looked after the clock, church and graveyard.

I first met John in September 1960, having just moved to the village from Headington. It was my first day at the infant school and I sat by him in the classroom. We started dating when we were 17 and married two years later. Our children Daniel,

Justin and Louise were brought up in the village and our two sons were married in St. Mary's Church. John's grandchildren were also christened in St. Mary's so that the name of Claydon still carries on in the church records.

John was a very quiet and private man and he would have been so touched by everybody's words of comfort for his family. We will all miss him very much but we know that we will carry his memory with us forever.

Mrs Lynne Claydon

Senior Citizens Party Committee

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 21st November at 8:00pm at The Bull.

All welcome.

Ann Price, Secretary


Tasha Calling Time at The Bull!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my customers, friends and family for their support. Without you all I would not have been able to achieve what I did.

As many of you are aware I am looking forward to having my first grandchild, but contrary to belief this is not the reason for calling my time at the Bull nor did I leave due to ill health!

Having been the one familiar and regular face through past tenants I was honoured to be asked to take on the tenancy by the committee and that I would have their full help and support. Once I had the tenancy the help and support diminished and was replaced with negativity instead of helping me to grow our community pub. It soon became apparent that the Bull was not an economically viable pub.

Coupled with the fire being out of commission too long and loss of business through the winter I asked the committee of the possibility of a rent rebate and the possibility of a rent reduction in the forth coming year. This was met with a resounding no and told that the rent was already below market rent, I respected their decision so thought long and hard, with family and my accountant before I made the reluctant choice to give notice.

Working my six months' notice was extremely hard on me and my family as we needed to make alternative plans, this was compounded further when it was 

brought to my notice that the Bull was advertised at a lower rent.

Apologies if this sounds like a rant but I just wanted to vent my frustration and correct rumours.

Thanks again to all my customers and supporters I look forward to seeing you all again sometime.

Tasha Keal



GREAT MILTON
HISTORY SOCIETY

September/October 1872

The Horticultural Show was held on the 26th, in the close adjoining the Vicarage Garden. In the evening the tent was lighted up, and the exhibition crowded with visitors of the labouring class until past 8. The villagers all helped by their quiet and intelligent behaviour to make the show a success; even 'the boys' gave no sort of trouble; there was not a word or the least roughness of conduct that could offend the most fastidious lady.

Extract taken from Bells, Boilers and Beef available from Great Milton History (see advert for details)

Parish Magazine, September 1916

Our saddest news is that our old Chorister, Church Ringer, and Caretaker of the Boys Club, Harold Tame was reported missing on July 30th. The official news reached his mother nearly three weeks after, and though enquiries have been promptly set on foot, no reply has as yet reached us from the Front. The last account was that he was in the reserve draft well behind the lines, and he must have been sent up to his O.B.L.I. Battalion only a few days before he was missing. So he would have made no special friends and would be scarcely known to his company officers. No pal, no friendly officer could thus write to his people, and this adds to the heart-breaking sorrow and anxiety of his mother and family. We shall pray for HIM that he may, if God wills, be alive and safe in God's keeping, and for THEM for God's comfort.



The Neighbours Hall

The Cutting Edge

Wow! What an evening! The Hall was packed, the stage extended and wine flowed as the Cutting Edge band played and the experts danced, putting us shufflers to shame!

Their website tells us that the “Cutting Edge Big Band has a stylish and exciting sound – beautiful melodies and joyously toe-tapping rhythms from serious musicians who love playing.” Those of us who were there on Saturday 13th October would agree.



Comments included: “an enormous thank you from everyone in the band for throwing such a brilliant event last night!”. “It was such a great team effort – the publicity worked well, the Smokehouse pop-up was a great idea, the movie projection was genius – people loved it!”. “Amazing evening in Great Milton last night! The Cutting Edge Big Band were awesome – great big wonderful swing sound and fab singer. Highly recommend!”. “the hall looked great”.

“We should do that gig every year – probably twice a year”.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be there owe a debt of gratitude to Susan Read for bringing the band here and to Christine Donnelly, Yvonne Cartwright and Amanda Garrett who masterminded the organisation. Thanks also to the Manoir for providing such a great raffle prize as well as the other generous donors, including Scott Fraser who sponsored the printing and marketing.

Of course not all who were there enjoyed every minute and we have taken your observations seriously and hope to do even better next time.

The evening raised over £1200 for the Neighbours’ Hall modernisation. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



The Neighbours' Hall Modernisation

Over the past three years we have been putting together the views of the users and the village as a whole in deciding how to modernise the hall, as it nears its centenary (2024). Plans have been agreed, estimates given and permissions granted and we are now in the process of obtaining grants towards an estimated cost of £152,000. The South Oxfordshire District Council has generously granted up to £52,500 (or 34.8% of our costs) and smaller grants or loans have been agreed with the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, the Sheppard Trust and the Great Milton Parish Council; this together with our own resources amounts to £25,000. We currently have a bid for £72,500 under consideration by WREN, who administer the Landfill Communities Fund. We should know the outcome of this latest bid in early December.

If this is successful we will be able to start the work within the next six months, though we will need another £20,000 to ensure everything that has been suggested is done. If anyone reading this would like to help please let anyone on the committee know. The management committee has plans for a more limited modernisation should our bid not be successful.

Tony Jeffers, on behalf of the Neighbours' Hall Management Committee

London to Paris Cycle Race

Leaving Great Milton at 5.30am on a cold September morning, bikes strapped to the back of the car, I'm not sure we'd fully comprehended the long stretch of roads ahead of us. For finally, we were to cycle to Paris, a gruelling challenge of some 250 miles over 3 days. A year before, we decided to sign up. It felt like a huge challenge, a safe distance in the future but not insurmountable. More importantly, the charities involved touched a place in both of our hearts, raising funds for Women's Cancer.

Leaving Hampton Court early we cycled straight into rush hour traffic. This section of the challenge had always seemed to be the most daunting. We'd not trained in the city or through rush hour traffic. Our training involved long, sometimes leisurely rides through rolling Oxfordshire countryside chatting amicably and not having to pay too much attention (except to potholes!).

Before long, we immersed ourselves into the Surrey countryside and began to relax. The weather was pleasant enough and although we had many miles ahead of us until we reached Portsmouth, it all felt doable, particularly after a sizable lasagne at the lunch stop.

That was until we reached a rather large and long hill at Cocking with a frightening

number of juggernauts and fast cars. I have to admit to getting off and pushing at this point. We freewheeled down two lovely long hills but at this point our signage had disappeared and we agreed we hadn't seen any for a while. We were lost...

Phoning in to our support we were told we would have to retrace the route and try to navigate our way back. As we were approximately 10 miles out of our way this was not considered a viable option, so we continued to navigate our own way towards Chichester and eventually into Portsmouth. Bizarrely, we were neither last in the group and overall hadn't increased our mileage by too much. Day 1 of 73 miles complete!



Day 2. Eating a filling and energy-filled breakfast at 5am on a fairly choppy ferry was not the best start to the day. Feeling nauseous and tired after only 5 hours of sleep we gathered our luggage and walked off the ferry to be reunited with our bikes. Good morning Caen, France.

A bit sore and stiff from the day before, it took a while to get into our ride but soon the sun was fully up and warm and the French roads were astonishingly smooth and thankfully, flatter than the day before. This was to be the most glorious of cycling days!

We soon broke away from the main group and found ourselves in the midst of the Normandy countryside. Remarkably like Oxfordshire, we felt quite at home. Undulating countryside filled with huge Charolais cows, trickling streams and farmsteads. The villages we cycled through were seemingly deserted except for the odd farmer and the quiet roads were a dream away from the day before.

Every 20 miles, we pulled into our rest stop, a welcome break to refuel and refresh. There was always plenty of enticing sweet and savoury snacks and a chance to check the bike and tyres and to talk to the mechanics and medics who were on hand to help.

After 87 miles, the day was to finish in the lovely French town of Evreux. We feasted well that night with other girls in our group and enjoyed a glass of deserved wine. It is difficult to fully articulate the overwhelming exhaustion we felt at the end of each day.

Everything was beginning to hurt now, knees, backs, shoulders and it wasn't long before we had to sleep. Tomorrow the last push into Paris!

By day 3 the tiredness and the pain from aching, unrested muscles had really set in. Painkillers were freely consumed. The morning was cold and the mood low as we cycled for mile upon mile across bleak, desolate landscapes. The miles went past very slowly unlike the day before. Each rest stop seemed further away from the last



and the pain became in some cases unbearable. The last 15 miles of each day were particularly tough, both mentally and physically.

Heads down we pushed on. For me the pain of an injury became too much and I had to jump in the support vehicle and would meet everyone again coming into Paris. As I met up with the rest of the group, everyone was so very tired, making silly mistakes with the bikes and generally “over it”. Not even the pocket full of jelly beans provided any respite from the monotony of so many hours in the saddle.

Then at long last the sight of the Eiffel Tower was hugely uplifting and emotional as we finally crossed over the Seine and triumphantly crossed the finish line. Welcomed by other finishers and the event supporters the sense of achievement was immense.

In writing this, Celina and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank many in the village for overwhelming generosity and support, whether with words of encouragement or general advice attendance at our fundraiser and, of course, donations. It was harder than we anticipated, certainly challenging, there were tears, there was laughter but most of all we are incredibly proud to have achieved it and to have raised £3300 for Women’s Cancer charities.

Celina and Rachel x

Winter Wonderland

Following “the beast from the east” and a raging hot summer, let’s hope this autumn and winter simply bring beautiful sunsets, vibrant colours and cosy times by the fire.

But if you’d like some sparkle and schmooze, head for St Mary’s at 5:30pm on Saturday December 8th, where the Great Milton Singers, joined by children from our own primary school and some special guests, will be performing “Winter Wonderland”, a smorgasbord of delights to brighten darker days.

You’ll hear songs to remind you it’s winter and songs to help you forget the cold... as well as classic songs for Advent and Christmas, songs about stars (the heavenly kind), royalty and a hint of roasting chestnuts. And you’ll be treated to seasonal refreshments that will further warm your cockles.

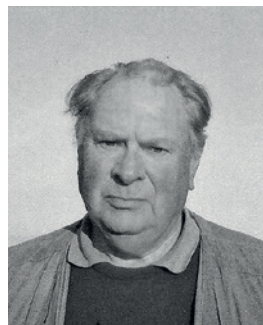
And, for an even warmer internal glow, you’ll know that, by buying a ticket, you’ll be contributing to two splendid causes: ARCh assisted reading for children in Oxfordshire, and AYM, supporting young musicians.

Tickets will be available to buy at the door, but to avoid missing out, why not get yours ahead of time from choir members or Great Milton Post Office and Stores.


We’ll hope to see you there!

View from Veilws

At last we have had a deluge, up to the middle of October very little rain had actually fallen in our area. Despite this what we have planted, much needed turnips for sheep feed and, Oil Seed Rape have suddenly sprung into life and, apart from some areas seem to be flourishing. I think this can be put down to the fact that although the quantity of rain has been small it has come in small doses allowing the land to soak it up gradually, as the ground (before the rain of 13th Oct) was incredibly damp. At least the wildlife seems to be flourishing, although our resident Hedgehog seems to have gone AWOL, a shame, hopefully he has moved to pastures new. Now that the crops are cleared the presence of our resident Deer are evident, I mention this as large areas of wheat flattened by someone, I thought before harvest it was Badgers but, but now am not so sure that it was not the Deer, as it has been apparent before when it was certainly the Deer.



I promised in the last magazine that I would mention the recent US court case regarding Glyphosate, (Round Up). This ruling was not quite what we were led to believe, the caricature who brought the case up, had apparently more than once spilt the chemical on himself, the case against the manufacturers was that there was no warning on the cans to say this could cause harm, this just shows how media interpretation can be extremely misleading and allows activists a platform. This is a very useful chemical for a multitude of applications, which include total kill of all weeds, so we can clean up land rather than using cultivations before planting crops, this being one of the ways we can cut the release of carbon, by using less fuel, (cultivations we are told releases the carbon stored in the land and can also cause erosion being a big factor now). The other use is to reduce green growth and tangled weeds in crops before harvest, to aid the harvesting operation. Except for this pre-harvest application, the crops we eat, will not or, cannot, contain any residual Glyphosate, as the plant that has been sprayed is already dead and, probably has been for some 4-5 months. The environmentalists make so much fuss about this and, similar issues making our MPs frightened of upsetting them that, they legislate accordingly without thinking through the consequences. As we do not have such a loud mouthed lobby as they, as well as the fact we have a vested interest, those in power listen to the most vocal rather than the ones it directly affects and, actually in most instances know what they are talking about.

I guess we could manage without this chemical but, it would be difficult as we have honed our systems over the last 40-50 years, to such a degree that it is 

all part of our system of production today, and would inevitably increase the cost of production, and the British farmer at a financial disadvantage over the importation of more substandard food produced to systems that we are not allowed to use and, (glyphosate) I don't believe it has done much damage to our environment as yet. As a comment on this recently we have been told that to save the planet we have to severely change our farming and eating habits, this is to move away from eating meat and turn towards a much higher plant based diet. This is because we are told that animals produce a lot of greenhouse gas. I am no expert so cannot comment on this fact. What I do know is that if we have less grazing animals then we will need to grow more crops, and unless we are allowed to use Glyphosate we will create and release more carbon by cultivating more land, another conundrum.

One of the issues regarding Brexit is the question of agricultural subsidies, Our Mr. Gove has said he cannot commit his or future Governments to any policy on food, which I find a very odd statement. What I do know is that it is very likely that our subsidy package will be very different whether we stay in the EU or not. You may well say why subsidize farming at all as, in New Zealand they did away with them in the 80's and appear to have been successful, what we are never told is the consequences. NZ has increased its agricultural production exponentially but, at what cost? We are told that New Zealand is or has lost its clean and pure image of food production, due to the fact that up to now, they have had no environmental legislation. The absence of subsidies in NZ has led to greater innovation and more efficient production systems. The downside is to that international environmentalists are saying that their rivers and streams are now polluted with Nitrates and E.coli and, that irrigation is reducing the flow of these rivers and streams, there are many more issues that I could mention but do not wish to bore you, just bear in mind the consequences of no subsidies if farmers are pushed too far. Here are some examples, NZ has plentiful water and a climate that allows animals to be outside all year round, the proportion of land used for agriculture is 51% compared to 70% in the UK, the average dairy herd in NZ is 414 compared with 143 in UK breeding sheep flocks size is 3,000 whereas in UK only 3% of flocks are over 1,000.

Charles Peers

Little Milton WI

We had a busy October, learning about the inspiring Medical Detection Dogs charity and then a fun evening of Bollywood dancing with three of our neighbouring WI groups.

This month on Thursday November 8th we have Leanne Gee from Occasionally Paper, who runs a local handmade card and gift business. There'll also be an opportunity to start your Christmas shopping! Everyone welcome, visitors £4.

Come and see our cake stall at the Headington Quarry Craft Market on Saturday 17th November 11am-4pm. Any cake donations welcome or just come along and shop.

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 at the Pine Lodge.

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

Catering & Waitressing Service also available: Light lunches, Afternoon teas and Children's parties. Looking for help with your party or meeting? Contact us for a quote

Like us at www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

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

News from The Pine Lodge

This month is the big push in the lead up to Christmas, with Fireworks, Crafts and a Quiz. Tickets available at Little Milton Shop.

The village hall committee need more help. Would you be interested in joining the Committee or becoming an Event Volunteer? Volunteer roles include cooking, food serving, bar work, car-parking, ticket selling, advertising, event planning - the choice is yours. Please consider giving some time to supporting the community – this does not have to be a long commitment as one or two years will make all the difference! No previous experience is needed. Take this chance to meet new people, make new friends, face different challenges and gain new skills. Contact us for more details.

Regular activities include:

WI talk by Leanne from Occasionally Paper on 8th November at 7.30pm

Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (21st November)

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

Upcoming events:

Fireworks - Saturday 3rd November 6pm

Bloodwise Craft Market - 10-11th November 10.30am-4pm

Quiz Night - 24 Nov, 19 Jan, 23 March & 18 May 7pm

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 1st December 11am-2pm

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news at www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk

Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

Wheatley Library – 01865 875267

In August we had a very interesting and well received talk by Edward Hess on the Manor House here in Wheatley. Many thanks Edward! If there are other authors/poets/artists/musicians living in our area who would be interested in speaking at one of our regular events, please speak to staff at the library.

The Summer Reading Challenge was once again very popular with children: getting stickers to find clues, reading 6 books, doing a character hunt, and finally receiving a certificate, 'gold' medal and bracelet. This year for the first time we also had a Mini Reading Challenge, this was also very popular with the younger children receiving stickers and a 'gold' sticker at the end. Almost like the big kids.

As ever thank you thank you thank you to our volunteers who give some much of their time and are so vital to the library's continuation. We also would like to extend a very big thank you to all of you who donate books. At present about 25% of our adult fiction has been donated by you. The library would look very different without your contributions.

Dates to note:

Wednesday 7th November

A talk by Paul Surman, poet and sceptic, on his latest book Places.

Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday 10th November

Jigsaw Swap event. Bring your old jigsaws to swap with some other puzzles.

Regular FOWL events:

On-going sale of donated books

Morning craft sessions weekly from 10-12

Evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

There is a small charge for refreshments

Art in the Library Monday afternoons 3-5. To find out more pick up a leaflet at the library or go to artwheatleylibrary@gmail.com. Search for Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook to know what is happening and when.



Winter Wonderland

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winter and the feastive season

Saturday
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Musical Director
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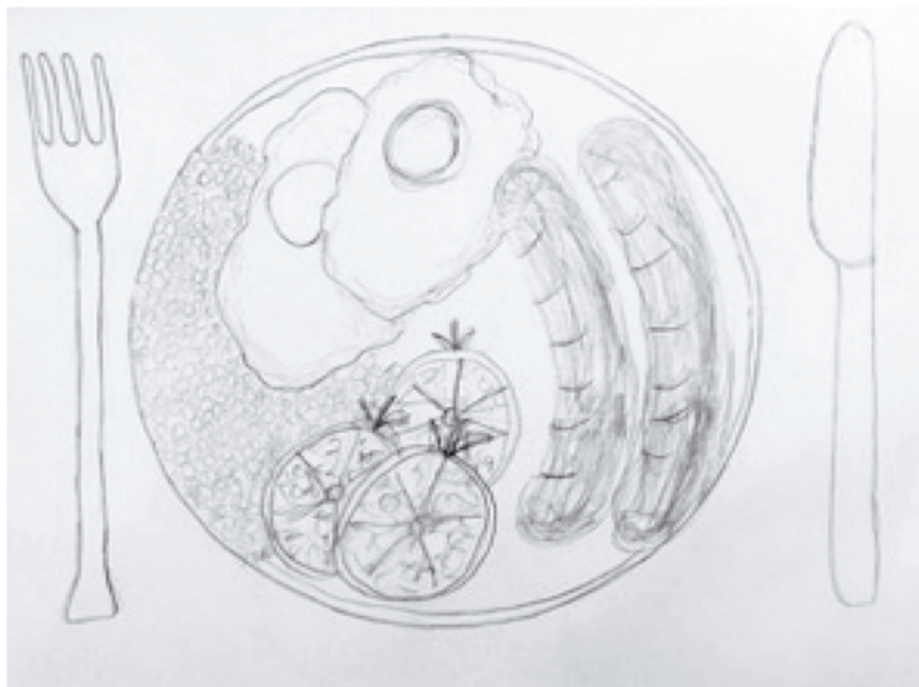


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MENS BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2018

8.30am at FURLONG COTTAGE, LOWER END, GREAT MILTON



Following the very successful first Mens Breakfast it has been decided to have another! The date is now as above and the speaker is retired judge Chris Tyler whose topic will be

“Faith and the Law – an attraction of opposites”

All men are welcome. Please contact Cathy Cronk or Carol Ayton to book a place. Cathy on 01844 278349 or cath.cronk@gmail.com; Carol on 01844 278679 or theaytons@me.com

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QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24th November 7:00pm

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Christmas Closure

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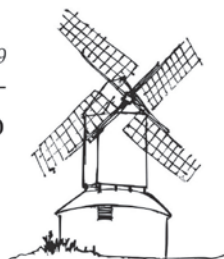
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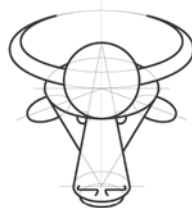
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Diary

Monday	Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm <i>contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205</i>
Tuesday	Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Ann Price – 01844 279474</i>
Wednesday	GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm <i>or by appointment</i> Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk</i>
Thursday	Power Vinyasa Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am <i>contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk</i> The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. <i>contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432</i> Sandy Lane Farm Market. 2:00pm – 6:30pm. <i>contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net</i> Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground. <i>enquiries.gmac@gmail.com</i> Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm <i>contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198</i> Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm <i>contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com</i>
Friday	Toddler & Baby Group – The Neighbours Hall. 9:30am – 11:30am <i>For more information contact Olivia – oliviajhill@hotmail.com</i>
Saturday	Junior Sports – Recreation Ground. 5–11 years 10:00am – 12:00pm <i>contact Tash Groves – 01844 279637</i> Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm. <i>Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090</i> Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm <i>contact David Spiers – 01844 218345</i>

November

2nd Fri	Music and Firework Spectacular in The Recreation Ground	6:00pm
3rd Sat	Firework Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	6:00pm
8th Thurs	Neighbours Club: Keep Fit with Yvonne	2:15pm
19th Mon	Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion	7:30pm
21st Wed	Senior Citizens Party Committee AGM at The Bull	8:00pm
22nd Thurs	Neighbours Club: T.B.A.	2:15pm
24th Sat	Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton	7:00pm
28th Wed	Neighbours Club: Outing to the Christmas Lights at Kew	—

December

1st Sat	Mens Breakfast at Furlong Cottage, Lower End	8:30am
8th Sat	Winter Wonderland at St. Mary's. GM Singers & GM Primary School	5:30pm

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th November 2018**.

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

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