



# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

August 2018

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Antony Ayton rescues Amanda Garrett's runaway house-duck Snack (so called as her dog salivates at the sight of it). *Photo: Carol Ayton.*

## 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

### **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**

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

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Tim Darch – 01844 278347**  
**[contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk](mailto: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



## In My Opinion...

Hot enough?? Reminds me of Africa, and is one of the reasons we left...

Anyhow, time to talk about parking (again).

As you ought to know, the Parish Council has a firm rule about parking on the Greens, and that is that it's not acceptable! This includes where residents have a driveway across the Greens – this is purely to provide access and is NOT a car park. Just saying... (you know who you are!)

Another issue that has come to light recently is the use of the bus stop outside Potts Close as a parking bay. Whilst it is true that we don't have a regular bus service anymore, this stop is still used by school buses. Please could residents refrain from parking in this bay during school pick up and drop off times? This will be greatly appreciated, and, in my opinion, should not inconvenience anyone too much.

In the meantime, stay cool. If you are concerned about dealing with the heat, please see the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

And remember, don't let apathy rule...

*Steve Harrod, Chairman*



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## Draft Parish Notes

Present at the meeting of Great Milton Parish Council held on Monday 23 July 2018 were Cllrs. S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox, P Allen, G Harris, G Bennet and C Deacon, with Tim Darch (Clerk) and 3 members of the public also in attendance. Apologies were received in advance from Cllr P Fewell.

The monthly County Council report and OCC Highways update were received by the Parish Council.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th June 2018 were signed and agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### General correspondence and public discussion

A letter from a resident to John Howell MP on the subject of bus services was re-circulated to the Parish Council, along with Mr Howell's response. Cllr Harrod stated that the County Council has had to make some difficult decisions based on financial restrictions, including the complete removal of bus subsidies. Attempts



to provide public transport for the village by Heyfordian Travel (with a limited commercially-operated 103 service) and the Parish Council (with a Wednesday-only Comet service) had not succeeded due to limited use, and unfortunately there is little that the Parish or County Council can do to force the issue. It was suggested that the Managing Directors of Stagecoach in Oxfordshire and Oxford Bus Company/Thames Travel were contacted to seek their views on any potential provision.

The Parish Council was reminded by a resident that the County Council had suggested that the road markings on The Green would be repainted in the warmer months. The Parish Clerk will pursue this.

Concerns have been raised about HGV movements in the vicinity of The Yard on Thame Road, which may have contributed towards recent damage to the road surface in the area. It was agreed to discuss this matter in detail at the next meeting of the Parish Council in September.

### **Planning applications**

The following planning applications received from SODC were considered:

P18/S2182/FUL (Welcome Break Oxford, Thame Road, Waterstock). Extension to existing HGV park and associated works.

It was noted that the additional spaces proposed by this application may remove HGVs from the lay-bys on the A418 between the A40 and M40, near the Services. The Parish Council decided that it FULLY SUPPORTED the application as submitted.

No planning decisions have been received since the meeting on June 18th.

### **Financial resolutions**

The following cheques were signed and authorised for payment:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses. £426.43.

Green and Growing. Grass cutting July. £1002.00.

SODC. Dog Bin emptying. £65.48.

BT. Transfer of phonebox ownership. £1.

A full bank reconciliation was received along with the monthly accounts, and the Parish Council's bank statements were signed. The bank balance as at 21 July was £27,004.97.

The Exercise of Public Rights period (4 June to 13 July 2018) for the Council's AGAR return has concluded. No requests to view the accounts were received during this period.

The Santander Business Account has been closed, and the final balance of £10,207.19 transferred to the Lloyds Bank current account.

### **Update of village matters**

Recent issues with mowing have been referred to the contractor, who has taken

comments received relating to the quality of work on board. An improvement in the quality of mowing has been noted this month.

Corners on Chilworth Lane where visibility was compromised by verge growth have been mown. An offer has been received from a local resident to either fund or arrange the mowing of verges on Chilworth Lane from Spring 2019: this offer was noted by the Parish Council and further discussions will be held.

The contract for the transfer of ownership of the telephone box from BT to the Parish Council was signed at the meeting.

A resident of Lower End has noted that vehicles are parking routinely in the bus stop, even though the bus stop is still in use by school buses. The Parish Council has referred to OCC about possible enforcement action, but their position is that enforcement is difficult with no scheduled public bus service in operation. The Parish Council will place polite notices on vehicles parking at the bus stop advising owners that the stop is still in use for school transport.

Discussions continue with Oxfordshire County Council about the potential fencing-off of land at Milton Common which is used for informal parking.

The leases for the land upon which the new modular classroom will be located have been signed and completed: the classroom is now scheduled to be installed on Friday 27th July. The management arrangements for the tennis court now need to be addressed, as the current HSPA committee wishes to step down in its entirety as their children no longer attend the school. Cllr Fox will discuss the matter with the HSPA committee, the Friends of Great Milton School and the school itself to try and facilitate an agreement.

In lieu of expenses, Matthew Hale, the Council's Internal Auditor, has requested that an appropriate donation be made to the Oxford Animal Sanctuary on his behalf. Mr Hale's work took approximately one day. It was agreed to make a donation of £100.

Wheatley Park School is seeking sponsors for its Prize-giving event in October 2018. Each recipient receives a Book Token for £15, for which the school is seeking sponsorship. The Parish Council agreed to contribute £50 towards the awards.

The Parish Council wishes to express its sincere thanks to Michele Block for standing in as Parish Clerk for two weeks: this was much appreciated and as expected Michele did a sterling job.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th September starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The Clerk remains available if needed during the two-month hiatus between meetings.

## Services in Our Benefice for August

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 5th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 12th <i>Trinity 11</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 19th <i>Trinity 12</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 26th <i>Trinity 13</i>	Benefice Service at Rycote 10:00am		

## Services in Our Benefice for September

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 2nd <i>Trinity 14</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 9th <i>Trinity 15</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 16th <i>Trinity 16</i>	Harvest Festival 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 23rd <i>Trinity 17</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Harvest Festival 5:00pm	
Sunday 30th <i>Trinity 18</i>			Benefice Communion 10:00am

## Services in Our Benefice for October

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 7th <i>Trinity 19</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Harvest Festival 3:00pm




## Ramblings from the Rectory

I am not a fan of football, I would rather watch a game of rugby. But the world cup somehow draws us all in and so yes I did watch England matches. Well played, it is indeed the beautiful game. The semi - final was excruciating and it would have been fantastic for England to have got through to the final, the first time since 1966, and yes I can remember that and the excitement, I was six at the time.

I was tempted to go to the Pub, pick up the atmosphere but I resisted, all those jocular comments to the vicar about 'putting one upstairs' for a good result. It happens at the fetes too of course, for good weather. I actually fought the temptation whilst watching the match 'Oh come on, please may England win'. Is that how prayer works? I don't think so, and anyway what about my Croatian counterpart doing the same thing? I don't think such prayer deserves the name, rather it is superstition. I wonder what Mr and Mrs Williams have done in the past when both of their daughters are facing against each other at an important tennis tournament final, maybe they root for one each! God though is not an Englishman, nor Croatian for that matter!

As I write, I have just returned from a holiday. I am the product of a generation who were fortunate to be taken on an annual two week holidays. That sadly seems to be lost on a new generation. The habit though has stuck, indeed for my own state of mind that two weeks is really important. I don't have weekends free, and no, Sunday is not the only day I work! ( 'How original', I say to myself whenever I hear that one, a bit like the one about influencing the Almighty for good weather at parish fetes!) Having two Sundays in a row when I don't have to deal with delivering this weeks message, normally three times on a Sunday, all in different ways as I rotate around the Churches, organise prayers and hymns is a real treat. It can be difficult to organise and find cover, I am very grateful to those who do step in to allow us parish clergy to take some time off. We had a great holiday, one week in the Lake District where we met up with our daughter Becca who is working at the YMCA lakeside on Windermere as an instructor and one week back on Ynys Mon, Anglesea, near Beaumaris where we have been going for years, drawn back time and again by those those breathtaking views of the mountains across the Menai.

We did many things but one of the stand out moments was climbing Blencathra with Becca in the evening. We set out at 7.00pm to avoid the heat of the day, this was the really hot fortnight, the roads in the Lakes were melting. We got up and down all in three hours, taking in Sharp Edge, a nice little scramble towards the top of the mountain. I felt heroic, until we met a fell runner at the top who five minutes later was hundreds of feet and a quarter of a mile below us, we timed it, it 

took us fifteen minutes to walk the same. The sun was setting as we came down with the mountain silhouetted against the crimson sky, and the prospect of a cold lager (sorry real beer fans, it was really hot, only something really cold would do). I know our British mountains would look like hummocks in the Alps, but close up they are plenty big enough, too many people go abroad for their holidays but we really have world beating landscape and coast so much closer to home. Of course, betting with the weather being good can be a bit of a risk, especially in the wilder places that we love to visit. I need the high hills, and somehow have to get my annual fix. 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help?' the psalmist writes, and yes I will have to concede that it does read better from the old prayer book. Of course the question is answered, 'My help cometh from the Lord who have made heaven and earth.' It is not the hills that we find our help and strength from, but from God, but there is nothing like the grandeur of the mountains to stir something deep inside us, something that reminds us to reach out to the awe of God, I would like to think that the Psalmist felt that too.

*Simon*

## **The Alpha Course, Autumn 2018**

The Alpha course, which has now been used in thousands of churches for many years, began at Holy Trinity Brompton which is still its headquarters. Alpha is an introductory ten week course on the basics of the Christian faith. It takes place on a weekday evening and in the middle of the course there is an opportunity to spend a few hours on a Saturday to look at the person, work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

An Alpha evening begins with some refreshment, For the last course we organised a full meal and we hope to do that again. This is followed by a film presentation and then an open discussion. Any question is welcomed and there is no expectation that anyone who comes should have an advanced knowledge of the Christian faith. Cath and I have run and participated in many Alpha courses over the years. We can testify to how useful it has proved to equip all enquirers with a deepening knowledge about the christian faith. So far we have run two Alpha course in the Benefice, on in Little Milton and one here in the Rectory at Great Milton.

We hope to run another Alpha course beginning towards the end of September, on a Wednesday evening. The course is open to anyone to come, you don't have to be a regular church attender, or even to come at all! Should you have questions or indicate that you would like to come on an Alpha course please do ring me at the Rectory - 01844278349 or email me [simon.cronk@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.cronk@btinternet.com)

*Simon*

## From the Registers

We give thanks for the wedding of Norman White and Rebecca Hill at St Mary's on Saturday 23 July.

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

August				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
5th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Andrew Maisey	
12th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Jan Grimwood	
	6:30pm	Gt. Milton	Circuit Service	at Watlington
19th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	at St. Mary's	
26th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	Circuit Service

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## A Fond Farewell from The Lawrence Family

The family of Helena and Peter Lawrence bid a fond farewell to all their friends and neighbours in Great and Little Milton after a happy and fulfilling 57 years.

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## Neighbours Club

On the 5th July we had a very enjoyable afternoon when a group of twenty three 9 – 10 year old children from Class 5 of our local school came to entertain us. They sang a very special song entitles "We are Children of the World". They had sung this song in the Sheldonian Theatre and they sang it in many different languages – we were most impressed; congratulations to them all and also to their teacher. We also celebrated Sylvia Preston's special birthday and she was presented with a cake and a bouquet of flowers. We were reminded of our trip to the Isle of Wight on Sunday the 9th September and would love anyone interested to join us – details are displayed in our shop window.

On Wednesday the 11th July 41 members and friends went on our outing which was a two-hour boat trip from Cavensham Bridge to Beale Wildlife Park and Gardens. We very much enjoyed the boat trip through Mapledurham and Whitchurch Locks, Goring Gap and Wind in the Willows country although – even though we 

looked very carefully – none of us saw Ratty!! We enjoyed Beale Park and the ride on the train although towards the end it did become extremely hot and we were all glad to get back on our air-conditioned coach and let Milan drive us home.

We are now looking forward to our next meeting on the 19th July when Nick Brazil is coming to give a talk and slides about Swan Upping a 900 Year Old Tradition.

*JCP*

### **Forthcoming Events - August**

Thurs 2nd: RNLI Past, Present and Future - Chris Lowe - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 8th: Outing to Gloucester for Lunch and Afternoon at Barn Owl Centre

Thurs 16th: Quizzes - 2.15 p.m.

Thurs 30th: Afternoon Tea

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## **Old Field**

The annual Old Field BBQ took place on Sunday the 15th July, an annual event to raise awareness of Old Field in the community.

There was an intention to re-puddle the base of the pond but with the recent dry weather and the fact that the plants in the pond are all in flower, it was decided to delay this until the autumn.

If you haven't visited Old Field for a while take the opportunity to walk some of the paths and enjoy the surroundings.

There is a regular meeting at 10:15 on the second Saturday of each month in Old Field to carry out light maintenance of the space. All are welcome to come along.



## Thank You

Through the channel of The Bulletin I would like to say a massive ‘thank you’ to everyone who has shown such kindness to me following the news of my award in The Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

I received notification of the award in a letter from the Cabinet Office on 2nd May, over a month prior to the official publication on 9th June. It was very difficult keeping such news ‘under my hat’ for such a lengthy period of time.

When the news broke on 9th June I found myself inundated with telephone calls, cards and a beautiful bouquet of flowers from one kind couple.

Of course, it happened to be Fête Day so many more kind words came my way.

The presentation of my award will be by the Lord Lieutenant at a local ceremony and then I am advised that I will be invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in 2019. It is never-ending!

Whilst I am being totally humbled by the whole situation I am, of course, very proud – I realise that it is an enormous honour. My thanks again to you all.

*Ann Price*

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## Senior Citizens Party Committee

### Rummage Sale

Proceeds from the sale totalled £273.33 – a record. Our thanks to everyone who donated rummage and raffle prizes. Special thanks to our band of loyal helpers who help sort the items and man the stalls.

### Quiz Night

Eight teams, made up of 52 members, contested the quiz with Saturday Stollers coming out on top with 69 points, with two teams – namely Flag Hippo and Two Men Down – in joint second position with 55.5 points.

Our thanks to all those who supported the event with special thanks to Paul Dennis for, once again, taking on the role of Quizmaster.

Proceeds from the evening totalled £250.89.

### Harvest Festival

Scheduled for Saturday 1st September at The Bull. Produce will be accepted at The Bull from mid-day with judging taking place at approx. 2:00pm.

The evening activities, including sale of the produce, will commence at 6:30pm.

*Ann Price, Secretary*



The task of registering all the graves in the churchyard continues. Alan Simpson (of the Oxfordshire Family History Society) is responsible for the work and would welcome any help – 10.30 am on a Wednesday morning.

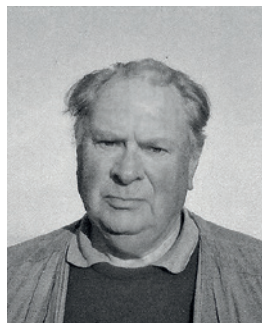
It is interesting work and recently a small stone was uncovered which is the resting place of Elizabeth Stanton who died in 1685. This is the oldest outside grave found at St Mary's so far. She came from Forest Hill and married a Great Milton man, Philip Stanton. All 3 of their children were baptised in our Church.

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## View from Views

Last month I started by saying “who’d have thought”, then referring to the time of year, now the same could apply to the long hot dry spell. Up to early in June when I last wrote the weather had been on the wetter side of normal and everything was fairly late, I also mentioned that we had managed to get our Barley planted, we then went away for a fortnight to Scotland, on return our thoughts are turning to harvest. Whilst we travelled to Scotland it was evident it had been drier up there as the countryside got progressively browner as we drove north, however once at the tip of the country things became more normal, coats became a necessity, then when we returned in late June the tables had turned as it had been as hot as you know what since. I feel more optimistic that our crops look to be coping better this year than I would have expected, as last year the very hot weather could have come that much earlier as the crops although have suffered the heat and dry don’t seem so stressed, not really sure, surprising how one forgets. Perhaps the crops this year are more robust than last due to the difficult winter, anyway we will see when we actually get to harvest, that’s when reality kicks in.

I have purposely not mentioned Brexit before as I frankly do not understand it or it’s implications, it seems to me that the EU is just twiddling us around it’s little finger, we voted to come out surely it is nothing to do with them if we want to leave the club, it is not for them to tell us how we do it, or the terms that’s our business. Unfortunately now with the PM’s latest idea and the resignation of some prominent politicians it is looking more like a fudge than ever, by the EU’s attitude, thus encouraging disarray



in our parliament. This to me illustrates the importance of leaving, on the down side I have just learnt that if we wish to join the WTO their rules do not allow environmental payments to farmers, which will upset all that Gove has preached.

I like many who read these pearls of wisdom am sure it important that we recycle as much of our rubbish as we can. Unfortunately it is difficult to understand, which is and is not recyclable, as many labels & advisory seem to differ or use different terminology making this extremely difficult. For example, not long ago we had milk delivered that came from the same dairy (Muller), but a slightly different brand one said “bottle plastic recyclable: cap widely recyclable”, the other said “bottle plastic widely recyclable; lid check with local recycling”, apart from being somewhat confusing who is going to bother to ask, whoever, whether a milk bottle top is recyclable or not, labelling must be clearer. Also why do different authorities, even within our own county, use different colour bins for different things, with different rules, we need much better information and direction to get it right, as get it right we must. I do not think it fair at the moment to criticise people for putting items in the wrong bin.

A big worry for our industry at the moment is the fact that apparently population growth is falling, in spite of what we are told, if this is the case why build so many houses? The theory is that this will cause food surpluses creating falling prices for us, which at the moment are unsustainably low, making it difficult to continue to produce the high quality food that we are able to do and expect. Add to this the amalgamation and cooperation between some of the bigger supermarkets putting even greater price pressure on to producer's returns, this again will be at the cost of lower quality. We cannot continue to produce food at ever lower prices without cutting corners to the detriment of quality, and health, of ourselves and the land/wildlife and so on. This would inevitably lead to the use of more chemicals larger units, using larger equipment clogging up our roads travelling further distances, add to this concern the fact that the new Argentinian government is encouraging their agriculture, and thus exports of beef again.

We have learned of the terrifying wild fires, in the north, mostly caused by arsonists I believe, I cannot imagine what sort of person would do such a thing. However fingers have been pointed at various people from farmers to grouse shoots for allowing the moors to get in such a condition to make them flammable. It has been pointed out on good authority that this is largely because the government listened to those with big mouths saying we need to re-wild these areas. Landowners have been stopped from controlled burning during winter months which used to be done on a rotational basis thus removing all dead flammable material. Some other areas were cleared for sheep grazing which would also have helped as fire breaks, I understand landowners who had managed the



land without this problem for hundreds of years advised against this form of action but no the conservationists knew best, the “Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust” also supports this view. This will have contributed to tremendous emission of carbon apart from damage to wildlife, and terrifying conditions for those fighting the fire.

*Charles Peers*

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## **Little Milton WI**

A big thank you to everyone for coming and/or contributing to our July Safari supper and making it a wonderful evening. A special thank you to our four hosts who opened their homes and gardens. It was lovely to have a mixture of old and new members and friends, we are very lucky to have such a warm, welcoming and happy WI.

This month on Thursday August 9th we have our annual day trip, this year to Denman in Marcham enjoying a Cookery demonstration and Afternoon Tea. Contact me for more details if you'd like to join us.

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.

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/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 279438 or email [kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

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## **Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society**

I do hope that by the time you read this that the weather will have broken and we will be having some welcome and much-needed rain. I am old enough to remember clearly the summer of 1976 when the dry weather lasted much longer, but I was a student and had no interest in gardening in those days so it didn't really have much impact on me.

It is now several weeks since I started to cut back sad-looking plants which just were not coping with the heat and the dry soil. This is sometimes called The Hampton Court Hack after the garden show taking place around the same time. Usually this

results in some good regrowth and everything looks tidier; this year the drought has prevented regrowth. We then had 10 days away and returned to a desiccated garden, but with a fair number of plants still looking pretty good. Our pots still look great thanks to Anne and John (beyond the call of duty). I have a general policy of watering only new additions to the garden and a few favourites that need a little more water. This summer I have extended the favourites watering a bit further, but most of the garden has had no water at all and it is certainly showing. I think there are likely to be some sizeable gaps by next spring so planting opportunities will abound; there is always a plus side to everything!

The weather has encouraged pests, but also pest predators so largely there doesn't seem to be a much worse problem than usual. Our aubergine plant (we have only one in the greenhouse bed which is sufficient for us) was completely covered in aphids; there didn't seem to be a clean leaf. I do virtually no chemical spraying these days, but thought instead I would use some simple soft soap spray which works on contact. However, life got in the way and by the time I got around to doing it, the plant was covered in ladybird larvae which are large scary-looking creatures which do not resemble ladybirds other than in colour. They have a voracious appetite for aphids and the plant was clean. It is now producing an amazing quantity of aubergines which have a much better flavour than shop bought ones. You just need to be patient in most cases as ladybirds and other predators (including wasps which love aphids until they turn to sugar in late summer) will usually show up in time. The other pest which is enjoying the heat is red spider mite which is hard to spot until the plant becomes speckled and looks sick; by then webs can be seen particularly around the shoots of plants. This is usually a problem in greenhouses, but I can see it is affecting a couple of *Salvias* deep in the border. I can't do much about it other than spray with water which the mites do not like. In the greenhouse, you could use a predator which you can buy online, but that is not practical out in the open.

I'm sure that, like ours, your lawn is straw coloured and looks dead; there is no need to worry, with the first good rain regrowth will begin and all will be well. You certainly do not need to water it and in rapidly approaching water shortages this would be anti-social. The weeds in the lawn are now very visible so I do intend to use a spot weed killer on dandelions as it is easy to use very small amounts when everything is so clear. We don't ever 'feed'n'weed' our lawn which is simply mown field as that just results in more mowing and my other half has plenty of that already! Also, I like having daisies and other wild flowers appearing between cuts. Just enjoy the luxury of not mowing while it lasts.

Keep watering to a minimum concentrating on pots, which will add colour



to the desert, and your fruit and vegetables. Enjoy your harvest.

Liz Moyses

For membership details (cost only £5 per family per year), please contact the membership secretary, Carys Lindsay

caryselindsay@gmail.com • 07984250752

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## **News from The Pine Lodge**

This month we start back with Craft Club on 15th. We're having a break from Games nights while we re-think the format. Would you like the Games evening to continue? Is there a better day that would suit more people? Let us know your thoughts or ideas.

The new Quiz season starts on 22 September, come and test your knowledge, enjoy a home-cooked two-course dinner and a licensed bar. Everyone welcome - on your own or in a team. If there are any quiz-masters out there or anyone who fancies having a go, please contact us - FREE ticket & dinner as reward!

### **Activities this month include:**

Craft Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (15th August)

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

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

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

Adult Acting & Theatre sessions with Leone on Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm

Just Strive Fitness Class with Lydia on Tuesdays 930-1015 in the park

### **Upcoming events:**

Clive Carroll Concert - Saturday 20th October

Fireworks - Saturday 3rd November

Bloodwise Craft Market - 10-11th November

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 1st December

Quiz Night - 22 Sept, 24 Nov, 26 Jan, 23 March & 18 May

Like us at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Details & news at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*



## **Morland House**

**We're here for you for longer**

As part of the Government's pledge to provide 7 day care, the GP practices across South East Oxfordshire are working as a collective to provide additional routine, pre-bookable appointments each week. Each surgery provides services at different times and on different days; however you can book into an available slot at ANY of the participating surgeries.

If you feel however that an onward referral to a specialist or any further investigations may be required then it may be better to arrange an appointment with your own doctor; but this is not essential. To book an appointment - simply call us and speak to a receptionist.

PLEASE NOTE: these appointments are aimed at routine GP care and do NOT replace the current 111 service. If you require an urgent GP appointment when your surgery is closed then you still need to call 111.

---

## **Wheatley Library – 01865 875267**

### **Regular FOWL events:**

On-going sale of donated books

Evening craft sessions weekly from 7-9pm

### **Home Library Service**

Volunteers deliver books to those who can't get to a library. They are a friendly face who can stop by once every three weeks to bring books or CDs and spend some time to share their own stories.

The Home Library Service is run by Oxfordshire Libraries but would not be possible without the support of volunteers. Speak to the staff at the library if you or someone you know would like this service.

Go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and search for Home Library service if you would like to help.

### **Reminiscence**

Reminiscence sets are resources designed to spark conversation and memories.

Many of these personal memories are based on work, home, festivals, leisure and family life. The boxes and packs include photos from Oxfordshire History Centre that reflect the people, places, transport, landscape and work-places that have defined local lives over the last century.



Reminiscence Boxes: about 10-15 items, mainly picture books on a variety of themes, sometimes supplemented with a DVD, music CD, postcards or facsimile artefacts that can enable people to connect with their memories.

Reminiscence Packs: about 2-3 items consisting of a larger picture book such as the Robert Opie Scrapbooks covering a decade of the twentieth century. Packs are in an A3 plastic portfolio case with a handle making them easily portable.

Pictures to Share: books cover a variety of themes such as pets, travel, countryside and shopping. They are mostly pictures and a small amount of text and are ideal to develop a sense of togetherness with someone who is finding communication difficult.

Follow Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook for updates on events and activities.

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## Be Water Aware this summer

With the weather warming up, long sunny days and the summer holidays in sight, there is a temptation to cool off in one of Oxfordshire's many rivers and inland waterways. And while there may not be any river monsters waiting down there, unfortunately rivers and waterways can be very dangerous places - 255 people accidentally drowned in 2017 in the UK.

That's why, at this time of year, Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding all residents to Be Water Aware to help everyone stay safe this summer.

### Would you know what to do?

Knowing what to do when someone gets into trouble in the water could help save someone's life:

Call: 999

Float: tell them to float on their back

Throw: something that floats

... and don't jump in yourself

Find out more at [www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware](http://www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware)




## John Howell MP writes...

At this holiday time, when many people are flying off for a well-earned break it seems a good time to write about airplane issues which are often raised with me. Many people in the constituency make their living from aviation either by flying as air crew, by travelling themselves or by working in support functions in and around Heathrow and the other major airports. There is a balance to be struck. Whenever I go to Heathrow to fly with my job I invariably meet constituents.

From time to time I receive emails complaining about aircraft noise over the constituency. In the south-east corner of the constituency the complaints are usually about air traffic from the major airports. Wind direction plays a key part in this as when Heathrow is on 'easterly' operations planes come in to land over the constituency. Also at busy times planes can circle in a holding pattern and the turning increases the noise at ground level. In addition, in the holiday season there seems to be an increase in planes from Luton making their ascent over the constituency. Over the years I have raised these issues with NATS, the UK's leading air traffic control service and I have done so again recently. NATS acknowledge the issues but confirm that there has not been any particular change that would have increased these issues recently. I continue to be in touch with them.

The issue of a third runway has been a hot topic too, as indeed are all national major infrastructure projects. There are, of course, many factors to consider. One issue that I wanted to look at is how the provision of a third runway would take away the need for stacking of planes waiting to land in holding patterns. Stacking creates pollution and noise as aircraft circle in wait. I expect a third runway to do away with stacking so planes will be able to land straight away. It is also important to see local communities brought in to the debate to discuss these and other issues.

In other parts of the constituency I receive complaints on light pleasure aircraft practising their acrobatics over and over. This can create a noise nuisance as they circle round in the same airspace. We sit between the restricted airspace around Heathrow and Oxford airports, and in this unrestricted space this activity is permitted. Some constituents complain of the nuisance caused to a large number of people. I acknowledge that this is a problem and also that some people want somewhere to do this leisure activity. I am also aware that Oxford Airport would like to increase the restricted space around it which would narrow the free corridor and could potentially make this issue worse.

There is a European wide review of use of airspace which we should aim to participate in to ensure that our needs and views are taken into account. We also need to 

be heard as the project for the new runway develops to ensure that mitigation factors affect us in a positive way. Both of these are processes I have already started to be involved in, including within the House of Commons by asking questions of the Secretary of State himself. These issues will be on the agenda for some time and I would be interested to know the views of constituents on them. If you would like to share your thoughts on this or any other issue you can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons or my constituency office.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters and briefings on specific issues please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com) asking to be subscribed. You can also follow me on Facebook [www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire) or on twitter [@JHowellUK](https://twitter.com/JHowellUK).

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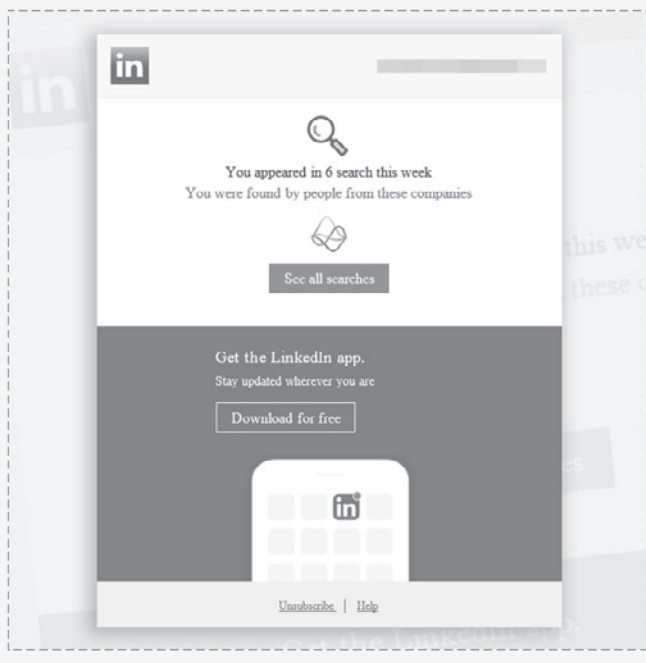
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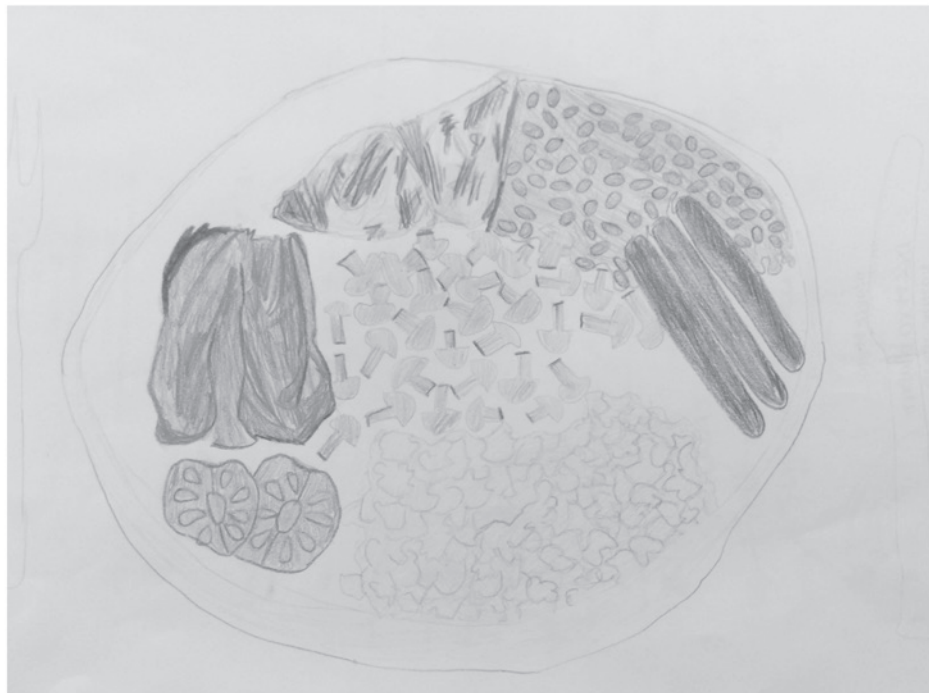
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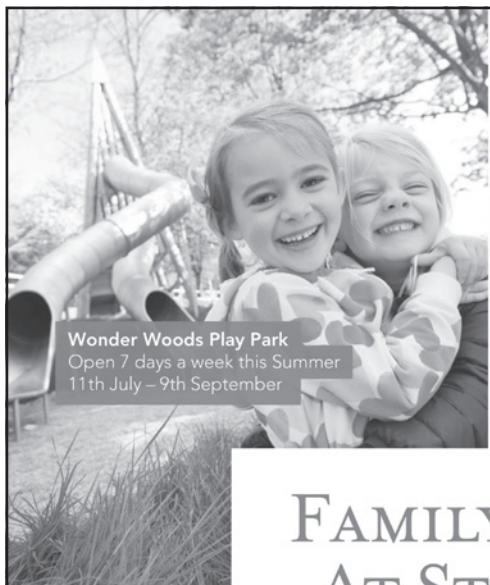
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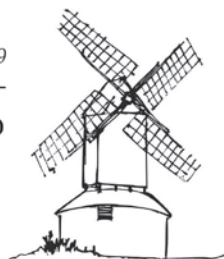
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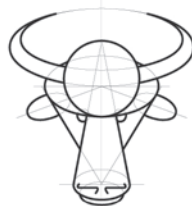
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# Diary

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

## August

- |            |  |        |
|------------|--|--------|
| 2nd Thurs  | Neighbours Club: RNLI Past, Present & Future with Chris Lowe | 2:15pm |
| 8th Wed    | Neighbours Club: Outing to Gloucester and Barn Owl Centre    | —      |
| 16th Thurs | Neighbours Club: Quizzes                                     | 2:15pm |

30th Thurs Neighbours Club: Afternoon Tea

## September

- |          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| 1st Sat  | Harvest Festival at The Bull Inn              | —      |
| 8th Sat  | Men's Breakfast at Furlong Cottage, Lower End | 8:30am |
| 17th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion        | 7:30pm |
| 22nd Sat | Quiz Night at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton   | 7:00pm |

## October

- |          |  |        |
|----------|--|--------|
| 13th Sat | The Cutting Edge Big Band at The Neighbours Hall | 7:30pm |
|----------|--|--------|

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

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