

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

August 2019

Published by the Parish Council

No. 545



### **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:	—
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

The village in full bloom.  
*Photo: Carole Greenhalgh.*

## 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

## **Draft Parish Notes – July 2019**

Present at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th July were Cllrs S Harrod (Chairman), W Fox (Vice-Chairman), P Allen, C Deacon, and P Fewell, plus Tim Darch (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs G Harris and G Bennet.

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

The County Councillor's and District Councillor's monthly reports were received by the meeting and are available via the Parish Council website.

### **Planning applications**

For transparency the Clerk advised that planning application P19/S1864/HH related to his own property.

P19/S1864/HH (Midsummer Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton). Demolition of unused garage and erection of single storey garden room outbuilding.

After discussion and consideration of a neighbour's objection to the plans as presented, the Parish Council **RESOLVED** that it held **NO STRONG VIEWS** on this application, though sympathetic to the neighbour's opinion and mindful that the planning authority may have similar concerns, particularly regarding windows which overlook the garden of the neighbouring property.

P19/S1910/DIS (Welcome Break Oxford Thame Road Waterstock). Discharge of conditions 4 - Construction Traffic Management and 5 - Surface water drainage works (details required) to application P19/S0013/FUL. Extension to existing HGV park and associated works. (As amplified by additional drainage information received 24 January 2019 and Swept Path Analysis drawing received 15 February 2019).

**FOR INFORMATION: NO CONSULTATION ON DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS.**

The following planning decisions have been received and were reviewed:

P19/S1365/FUL (Crofts Furlong Farm, Lower End, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7NJ). Demolition of 2no. existing outbuildings and erection of a tennis pavilion. Planning permission is **GRANTED** for the works described above.

P18/S2995/FUL and P18/S2996/FUL (Lobb Farm, Tetsworth, Oxon OX9 7BE).

The proposed development is for a Gas Fired Electricity Generating Facility with the ability to generate up to 49.99 MW of electricity. **APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN PRIOR TO DETERMINATION.**

**NOTE:** Both applications for power generation facilities located between Milton Common and Tetsworth have now been withdrawn.

## Financial Resolutions

The following payments were authorised:

Tim Darch. Salary, Tax and Expenses July and August. £434.90/£436.90

Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin production July. £250.50

Green and Growing. Grass cutting May: £546

SODC Dog Bin emptying £65.48

SODC uncontested election fee: £100

South Central Ambulance Service: donation for AED/CPR training. £150.

The monthly reconciliation and bank statement were received and the Parish Council accounts for the last month approved. The reconciled bank balance as at 3 July 2019 was £26,550.92

The receipt of a refund from HMRC of £952.63 VAT incurred in 2018-19 was noted.

The receipt of £460 from Oxfordshire County Council from its Councillor Priority Fund, as a contribution towards refurbishment of the bus shelter at Milton Common was noted. Contractors have been advised to begin work.

## Clerk's update of matters in hand

The following outcomes resulted from a site visit from an OCC Highways Officer following issues raised by various residents at the May meeting

- Parking at the Lower End bend. Officer felt that impact on residents parking, informal traffic calming effect from parked cars, no history of accidents, urbanisation effect of yellow lines and lack of enforcement meant that parking restrictions were probably not justified.
- Restoration of several 'Slow' markings on Windmill Hill. Noted and to be actioned.
- Windmill Hill 60mph limit vs A329 50 mph limit. There are many 'unrestricted' inhabited country roads all over the country, and many 'A' roads with 50mph stretches imposed on safety grounds so this situation is not unusual. Relatively few instances of excess speed have been observed on Windmill Hill, so no change likely.
- Suggested signage at A329 Windmill Hill turn directing motorists to M40 north via A329. Officer felt that much of this traffic will be from local commuters adopting what they believe is the quickest way to the M40 north, or non-locals being directed by Sat Nav. In both instances signage is unlikely to change behaviour, plus there is no obvious place to locate signage where it would be sufficiently visible.
- Short 'unrestricted' stretches on entering Thame Road/Church Road from A329. Legally required: only alternative is to reduce speed limit to 30mph at the junction, but unlikely to be justified given no evidence of accidents on these short stretches of road and high cost.





- Thame Road/A329 junction. Foliage trimmed to improve visibility for vehicles exiting Thame Road.

Training in use of the defibrillator and in CPR took place on Saturday 6 July, hosted by South Central Ambulance Service first responders Andy Long and Patsie Ellestone. The training was very informative and was gratefully received: a further session may be organised later in the year. The guardian of the defibrillator needs to be identified or appointed: the Clerk will follow this up.

There is currently no Bulletin published in September, largely because there is no August Parish Council meeting to report. There have been requests for a September Bulletin to enable advance publicity of events taking place in September, but after due consideration the Parish Council agreed that there was little justification for an additional Bulletin at this time, and that as a result this would not proceed.

### **Chris Kitashima MBE**

The Clerk received a telephone message expressing disappointment that Chris Kitashima's MBE had not been publicly acknowledged by the Parish Council. The Parish Council wishes to apologise for this oversight and to congratulate Chris on the recent award of an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to fostering in Oxfordshire. Chris has fostered for 27 years: this recognition is richly deserved as a result of her positive contribution to the lives of many vulnerable youngsters over the years and her role in the community.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th September starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. The Clerk remains available should there be any issues during the two-month hiatus between meetings.

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## **Thirty-third sponsored Ride and Stride**

**Saturday 14 September 2019, 10.00 - 5.00pm**

Since the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust was founded, grants totalling several million pounds have been made to churches in Oxfordshire. A significant proportion of this money has been raised by the annual ride and strides so it is a productive cause to support. We would love to see cyclists, walkers and horse riders taking part. If you wish to cycle around as many churches as possible on the day, Bill Fox is leading the cycling route this year. It is usually a fun day. We also need welcomers in our church (an hour shift greeting visitors and offering them drinks). If you wish to participate or be a welcomer in our church, please contact Clare Blakeway-Phillips on 278475.

## 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 4th <i>Trinity 7</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 11th <i>Trinity 8</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 18th <i>Trinity 9</i>	Teddy Bear Picnic The Rectory 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 25th <i>Trinity 10</i>	Benefice Service CW 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 1st <i>Trinity 11</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am
Sunday 8th <i>Trinity 12</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th <i>Trinity 13</i>	Harvest Festival Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd <i>Trinity 14</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Harvest Festival Service 5:00pm	
Sunday 29th <i>Trinity 15</i>			Benefice Communion CW 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 6th <i>Trinity 16</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Harvest Festival Service 11:00am

## **(Non) Ramblings from the Rectory**

I am taking a month off from trying to come up with anything thought provoking or profound! I do want to wish those who might be taking a break away in August a happy and safe time. Cath and I and our dog Dylan have just returned from a holiday touring around Wales. We had a wonderful time visiting old haunts and discovering some new and I was able to bag one of the three thousand foot peaks in Snowdownia, Y Garn, via the aptly named Devil's kitchen! It was a great walk but the mountain sadly was in cloud at the top. Nonetheless it satisfied my desire to get up something high, and the views below the cloud base were of course spectacular.

I do though want to briefly plug something simple we are doing in August in Great Milton. Instead of the regular all age family service on 18th August we will be holding a Teddy Bear's Picnic in the Rectory Garden. Please see the details below. If people want to come and stay on for a proper picnic lunch from mid day onwards they are most welcome to. This is open to all, young and old alike from all the villages. Should the weather not behave we will simply move to do something back in St Mary's.

Please do come along, and bring your Teddy Bear!

Also, there is a special Benefice Service on Sun 25 August at Rycote Chapel. All are invited and if you haven't been before it is a lovely event in a wonderful and unique setting. We are very grateful to Bernard and Sarah Taylor for hosting us.

Simon

### **Teddy Bears Picnic**

**Sunday 18th August 11 am**

Games - Treasure Hunt - Songs and Story

*The Rectory Garden, The Forties, Great Milton*

**All are invited, young and Old**

*Light refreshments will be provided*

Please do bring a Teddy Bear,  
and a picnic to enjoy from 12.00 noon onwards



## Great Milton Bellringers

### Graham Griffiths

Graham passed away peacefully on Sunday July 21st 2019. He was our Tower Captain for over 20 years. We send our sincere sympathy to Penny and to all his family. There will be a fuller tribute later.

We will miss him.

*GMB*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

For further info. please contact Rev Canon Dr Martin Wellings on 01865 243216

August				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Paul Rosentall	
11th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Judy Turner-Smith	
18st	11:00am		At Watlington	Holy Communion
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	John Anderson	Holy Communion

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## Great Milton Church Fete 2019

Our Fete was quite a challenge to set up this year due to unusually windy damp weather. The logistics team rose to the occasion and did a marvellous job. Unfortunately we lost a few gazebos in the process!

As ever, thank you all so much for helping and or supporting it. We are extremely grateful to those of you who donated items to sell or for the raffle, Morgan Associates who advertised the event and the village shop who advertised, sold raffle tickets and counted the money! As a result of all your support, we made £5,600. This was down on last year (which was exceptionally good) but still great considering the elements we were up against. The raffle tickets made the most they had ever raised.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, the professional looking pub BBQ, tea and bar teams, car park organiser, those who set the scene with bunting, flags etc and those who organised events in the arena or displays.

We were delighted to welcome Sarah Taylor from Rycote Park who opened



the proceedings and Benoit Blin from Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons for a second year running to judge our cake competition "Fairytale". The exhibits were wonderful and there were prizes in 4 age categories. In the arena we were pleased the school children could show off their dancing again. The children's tug of war was once again very competitive as was the dog show! Well done to those who won any of the amazing raffle prizes or the prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and dog show.

Unfortunately Hamish Ogston's hot air balloon could not be set up but vintage car rides provided amusement instead.

A HUGE thanks go to the three men who collected and returned the furniture/ infrastructure and to the helpers who put up gazebos in the morning, and then took everything down and put all away at the end; to the friend who put up and then took down the big notice-boards locally and to the friend who provided so many straw bales.

The Watlington Concert Band always enjoy playing for us and are already looking forward to coming next year.

Finally, a huge thank you to our Master of Ceremonies for guiding us through the day.

Nick Belcher took photos that really captured the event so hopefully you will be able to view these.

To add to the excitement of the day we were able to announce Chris Kitashima's MBE for her services to fostering - greatly deserved.

If you would like to join the Fete Committee next year, do let us know. We would welcome new ideas.

Thank you again for your support.

*Clare Blakeway-Phillips, Alex Kirkman, Celina Bernstrom, Rachel Hutton and Graham Orriss (organisers on behalf of Great Milton PCC).*

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## Thank You

On Tuesday 16th July we celebrated our 70th Wedding Anniversary and wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes and to members of St. Mary's for the lovely bouquet of flowers and beautiful card, signed by many friends and acquaintances.

With family and close friends we enjoyed a most memorable day.

Thank you all again.

Sincerely,

*Ron and Evelyn Rogers*

## Do You Have a Spare Gazebo?

The weather was challenge during the Fete this year. Unfortunately, 6 of our gazebos broke as did our large one. Someone in the village was going to try to repair the 6 pop up frames but then someone took them! This will make quite a dent in our funds so if anyone has a spare gazebo they could donate for the Fete, it would be greatly appreciated. Pop up ones are preferred by the team who set up. Or you might like to sponsor one?

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## Great Milton History in The Community Room

This is a summer of massive fundraising in Great Milton. The Church Tower, the Neighbours Hall, the School plus many smaller (but no less important) causes. This village is generous, and very good at raising money.

To clarify the position of the GM History, we regard our function as keeping the collection of memorabilia safe, and where possible, adding new donations. Boxes and map tubes have to be bought, IT maintained and photocopies provided on request.

There are only four regular helpers. We produce brief illustrated booklets (one pending!) based on the collection, and Jonathan Dudley edits and prints these. Recently we reprinted the Blakeston Survey – our most expensive publication to date. The Sheppard Trust kindly funded this rerun, for which we thank them, and the Parish Council has paid the insurance for the Community Room, which includes the technical content – for which more thanks. We pay an annual fee to the pub for heating etc, and really have no access to funds other than recovering expenditure through sales. Prices are kept low so that anyone interested can afford to buy.


This is merely an explanation of the purpose and funding of this small organisation.

*GMH*

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## The Neighbours Hall

By the time you read this the refurbishing of the hall will have started, the scaffolding will be up and the builders will be on site.

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to those of you who gave so generously at the Big Bash for the School in July enabling a £1000 to be added to our funds. Thanks, as well, to the many of you who have given to the project so far. We hope to 

be able to thank you in person at a Cutting Edge Big Band Concert planned for 12th October (keep the date).

The work as a whole would not be possible without the support of WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) via their Landfill Communities Fund and the South Oxfordshire District Council via their capital grants funding. Applying for grants is a demanding process, but being awarded a grant does ensure that funded projects are accountable.

We hope that the refurbishment will widen the use of the hall: a film club, a village library and a co-working space have all been suggested, and all should be possible.

Just in case you are moved to contribute (we still need funds!) please tell Christine Donnelly in the post office. Should you want to gift aid your donation this can be done via Great Milton Parochial Church Council.

*Tony Jefferis*

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## **Senior Citizens Party Committee**

### **Harvest Festival**

This will be held at The Bull Inn on Saturday 7th September. Produce will be accepted at The Bull from mid-day with judging taking place at 2:00pm approx.

The evening's events will start at 6:30pm with a short Thanksgiving service followed by the "iconic" auction of produce.

Ann Price, Secretary

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## **Big Summer Bash July 6th 2019**

The Big Summer Bash this year, kindly hosted by Robert and Catherine Peers at Views Farm was a resounding success.

Woodstock Festival came to mind as the first steady trickle of hippies and bohemians arrived. The very strong cocktails, Cosmic Baby and Dark n' Stormy were flowing from early on and by the time the band Tequila King strummed its first chord, the dance floor was filling up.

The Committee (Cat Peers, Celina Bernstrom, Fizzy Kemp, Laura Putt and Rachel Hutton) were keen this year to create an all- inclusive village event for young and old to enjoy. We were overwhelmed by the response with over 250 tickets sold and over £6000 raised. The majority of this amount will go to Great Milton School, with other

donations to the Neighbours Hall refurbishment, defibrillator training and an amount towards the Senior Citizens Party.

We would like to give special thanks to Paul Lawrence for his wonderful stage set up and lighting, Niv Adiri DJ extraordinaire, Wheatley Farm Shop for their kind donation of fabulous plants, Rob Peers for his endless hard work in clearing the barn, Colin Putt and Zoe Wilks for providing the hog roast and Greenplant for their help with equipment. These events cannot run without the help of a special few.

The date for next years event will be June 27th 2020. We hope many more of you can come and support a wonderful village fundraiser and an incredibly fun night in your community.

However, you have been warned about the cocktails!!!

*Big Summer Bash Committee*

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## Old Field Barbecue

The annual Old Field BBQ on the 20th July. Perfect BBQ weather and a chance to chat and catch up for the regulars and those that dropped by.



## Tug of War – Great Milton vs Little Milton vs Great Haseley

Saturday Aug 31, 2pm till late

This is our first inter-village tug of war which we hope will become any annual event. The rope has been bought (by kind donation of Dave Putt) and the male and female teams are getting competitive. There will also be a chance for children to have a go.

A hog roast will be on The Green as well as beer and a prosecco bar, a penny sweet stall for children and an amazing envelope draw for prizes including a one night stay with dinner at The Five Alls - an award winning pub in the Cotswolds, just south of Burford. <https://thefiveallsfilkins.co.uk> and a week-end at Driftwood self catering holiday bungalow in Cornwall plus other prizes.

£10 wrist bands will allow you into the evening party and also discounts on the food and drink provided by us and drinks in The Bull.

The evening will kick off in The Bull with our star guest, Edwina Hayes - 'Haunting honeyed solo songwriter'. The Guardian, "The sweetest voice in England". Nanci Griffith, A very talented young lady". Michael Parkinson. Edwina Hayes is sponsored kindly by The Tarncourt Group. Our own DJ Niv Adiri, will finish off the evening.

There will be parking in the Recreation Ground but please car share if possible. The roads between Weavers Cottage and the Bull and between Fairways and Tinkers Cottage will be closed between 2pm-6pm

We hope this day is a success and that it will continue annually, rotating around the three villages, to raise funds for each of our church's required repairs or developments.

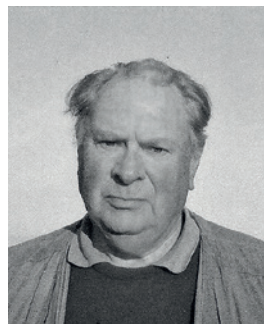
If you would like to help on the day or have any queries, please contact Clare BP, Laura or Dave Putt.

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## View from Views

It is at this time of year when all the glories of Spring and early Summer begin to disappear with plant life loosing it's bloom and lushness. What is fabulous is this year, after some 5 years the wildflowers we planted have been alive with a variety of butterflies, moths, and all other insects and invertebrates. It is a real joy to see that at last we may be making a difference to these important species.

By the time this is read some of our harvest will be gathered in and we shall have some idea what effect the weather has had on yield. I am still astonished how well all







crops are looking, the weather now is critical. The rain in June must have helped a great deal but even up to then everything seemed to be in good heart. Now most crops look as if they will exceed all expectations, somehow this growing season has been plain sailing, as every time a task needed to be done it was possible to do it, never known this before. Probably as soon as the harvesters start to move the rain will start and never stop until all is safely gathered in (Murphy's Law). Not only has it been a good year for getting on with jobs but with being so dry there has been little or no disease, keeping our costs down.

There has been a lot in the press just lately about us having to care for the soil and that if we don't we only have another 50 or so years before disaster strikes. Whoever thought that we do not care about our soils must be mad, do they not think that we are not aware how important our natural resource is. We must not forget that farmers have tilled the soil in this area for 100's of years with yields ever increasing something we must have got something right. One could argue that one of the reasons for crops to be flourishing is due to soil conditions, so as another step to improving soil conditions we have this year grown all our crops without the use of a plough, as with the use of ever increasing size and weight of machinery subsoil was becoming compacted, this would affect drainage and not allow root penetration to any depth, which cannot be the case this season. Of course there are pressures on us to produce more and at less cost, so that the consumer can afford food, which in turn forces us down certain paths that perhaps may not



be beneficial to either the health of the soil or the quality of the produce. I think though that farmers understand that this can only continue for a short while, and as soon as things seem to be going in the wrong direction we alter course.

There are suggestions that the big supermarkets will be installing green walls in their stores, these will grow types of veg and fruit artificially in the vertical, this means that you the customer will be able to pick your own whilst shopping, no plastic, or delivery charge, also you will know it's origin, probably will not be very tasty or have much nutritional value, but never mind it won't have been grown on land that can then be rewilded! We are constantly being bombarded with the theory that eating red meat is bad for the planet, this may be the case for meat that is produced intensively and not on grass, animals have been grazing this earth for a very long time and belching and everything else they do, it is the beef lots of North America that are the problem, it is not our animals eating grass that are the problem. We do though have to be careful, as the alternative to grazing/eating red meat is to grow vast acres of Maize and Soya, which requires a system of agriculture that is at the moment destroying the forests of South America, not sure this is the way we should go. We cannot get away from the fact that the biggest threat to the planet is the Human being as there are too many of us.

Interestingly I have just read a report in the agricultural press, where an Oxford Professor (must be right) has said that methane produced by animals will ultimately cool the atmosphere and that farmers had already played a big part in reducing it emissions, this is of course good news if it is true, nice to think we are doing something right for once. To be honest I do not understand his thinking.

Also by the time this is published we shall know if it is Boris or Jeremy (Hunt (I hope not the other)) one thing I would hope whoever it is can get a grip on the excesses of this life, the excessive pay that some seem to attract cannot be right, when we have people that cannot afford to put a roof over their heads or feed their children. With the country unable to provide the services we all need. No wonder there is unrest in the population, probably at the root of knifings, littering, drug taking, stealing, and many others, creating a don't care attitude, you cannot blame some people saying why should I care someone else better off than I can pay for that etc! "This simply has to be tackled".

Recently I read or rather had read out to me, a piece from some country magazine that JCB, the tractor and digger manufacturer, had just beaten the land speed record for a tractor, over 100 MPH. Just what use this is remains to be seen, but the thought of a tractor doing 100 MPH over our fields, getting work done in next to no time at all makes the mind boggle.

*Charles Peers*

## Little Milton W.I.

Thank you to Claire for her very professional talk and demonstration about her printmaking business. The members were so inspired they booked straight on to a workshop at Claire's studio in Stadhampton. You can too at [www.linocutworkshops.com](http://www.linocutworkshops.com)

On Thursday 8th August we are planning a day trip to the Bodleian Library by minibus. Please let me know if you'd like to come as I'll need to book tickets and the bus.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, get out the house, 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.

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

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Kath Stacey 279438 or email [littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:littlemiltonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## News from The Pine Lodge

We're having a Summer break from events in preparation for an Autumn of quizzes, crafts, fireworks and new classes. Leone is back in September with weekly acting and theatre sessions for adults. Natasha from Toddler Sense is returning from maternity leave, plus we have a new advanced textile class with Amarjeet Nandhra (already sold out!).

There are still vacancies on the committee and we especially need a new treasurer. Are you a book-keeper or accountant who could spare some time to help us? Please contact us if you are interested in joining the committee or helping with events. No previous experience is needed.

### Regular activities include:

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

Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne on Mondays at 10.30am

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

### Upcoming events:

Horticultural Show - Saturday 24 August

Quiz Night - Saturday 28 September 7pm

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

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Melanie Kinghan 278774 / Linda Lovegrove 279535

[linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com](mailto:linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com)

## Great Haseley and District Horticultural Society

I have just reviewed my article for this time last year and found a similar period of very dry weather. Today, though, it has rained a significant amount and all the water butts are full again. Unfortunately, the complete lack of water stores on the veg patch means we have lost a number of sowings of young vegetables. Life should be easier for a few days now, but I note that temperatures are reaching into the thirties next week again so we will soon be short again.

I rather confidently told you last year that there was no need to worry about brown dead looking lawns and that they would soon green up again. In my experience lawns are always cured by the following spring. After the heat of last summer and a mild winter we had a lot of bare patches on the lawn which, despite several attempts at resowing, have still not greened up. We even bought new lawn seed in case the seed was dead, but to no avail. Maybe this rain will help.

I notice that the pests are settling in in the greenhouse again. Last year, as a result of my accident, we didn't get around to removing the sad looking aubergine plants which appeared to have no functioning green tissue. These plants carried on producing aubergines and when the weather cooled as autumn advanced, new fresh growth was produced and the aubergines just kept coming; a very impressive result indeed so I won't be in a rush to remove these plants when the inevitable red spider mite sets in. The aubergines are already cropping well this year.

Other survivors of last winter were some large specimen tender Fuchsias. I am looking forward to them flowering as I thought I had lost the whole lot. What a treat that will be.

This year, due to some losses through general neglect over the winter, I did have fewer plants in pots than is usual. I bought only two new plants, Marguerites which I can't resist. They will flower all summer if you keep up with the dead heading which, so far, I am managing to do. Summer bedding and colourful pots must be regularly dead headed, watered and fed to maintain a good show. I'm not great at keeping mixed pots going and prefer to have different plants which I can switch in and out as they look at their best and then look less good. However, it is not easy to move around large pots so some are on display for the duration of the summer.

This summer we seem to have lost all our plums, all our pears and virtually all our apples. The culprits, I think, are probably finches. This year they didn't eat the buds, but waited for flowers and tiny fruit. The birds also cleared the gooseberries while we were away. I picked some before we left and planned to pick the rest on our return, but they were all gone (probably about 7 to 8kg); normally the birds wait until they ripen

so I can only assume they were desperate so I forgive them. On the positive side, our apricot tree had masses of flower in February and the fruit will be ripe very soon – I can't wait!

*Liz Moses*

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## **Wheatley Library – 01865 875267**

Our Opera in an hour event was great fun for all who participated! Thank you, Roger for your time and energy. We will be having another later in the year. Keep an eye out for details.

### **Dates to note:**

#### **Tuesdays at 16.00pm**

Digital development. Gain a better understanding of digital terminology, the internet and general computer usage. You will be logged onto a simple online course that you can work through at your own pace.

#### **Book Trivia events**

30 questions... How many can you answer?

Follow Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook or see in library for details.

#### **6th July – 9th September**

Oxfordshire Reads. Take a postcard, recommend a book and possibly win a prize.

#### **Saturday 13th July – 14th September**

\*Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge\* brought to you by the Reading Agency, the library service and Arts Council England.

4 visits to the library, 6 books to the read.

We have lots of new books, crafts, characters, activities, prizes, stickers, collector folder and online game links!

Come and join in the challenge.

#### **Wednesday 7 August**

Speaker event. Jane Stubbs is the author of *Thornfield Hall*. It is the story of Jane Eyre, as told by the housekeeper, Mrs Fairfax. The original text is treated with respect; there are some additions but no alterations. To fit into the skin of Mrs Fairfax, Jane made the clothes the housekeeper might have worn, complete with underwear. Undressing the mannequin of Mrs Fairfax is a great ice-breaker for discussion. Jane is an experienced teacher and lecturer.

#### **19th August**

Digital Summer. Details available in the library.

## **Saturday 31st August**

Ex-library stock book sale, 40p each or 3 for £1

## **Saturday 28th September**

Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

## **Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:**

The regular groups will be taking a break over August with an additional craft group starting in September on Monday afternoons.

Wheatley Reading Group

The Wheatley reading group has a few spaces available for anyone looking to join a group. The books they read cover a broad range of genres from thrillers to classics to non-fiction to light reads. There is always something to enjoy in each book and something to discuss at the meetings. If you are interested, please leave you details with a member of library staff and the group leader will get in contact with you.

Thanks all, staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library

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## **Men ACWY Vaccination**

Are you heading to university in September?

Have you had your MenACWY vaccine?

### **What is MenACWY?**

The MenACWY vaccine (also known as Nimenrix) protects against four strains of the meningococcal bacteria that cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning): A, C, W and Y. Meningitis is a potentially life threatening infection of the protective layers surrounding the brain and spinal cord and it can cause septicaemia if left untreated.

The vaccination is a single injection to the upper arm.

### **Am I eligible for the vaccine?**

The vaccine is offered to teenagers, as well as first-time college and university students who have not already had the vaccine.

Most teenagers will have it in year 9 (aged 13-14) in school. However, if you have not had it and any of the below apply to you, we strongly recommend you book in for your free vaccination as soon as possible:

- If you were born between September 1 1998 and August 31 1999
- If you were born on or after September 1 1996, and missed your routine or catch up vaccination, you remain eligible up to your 25th birthday
- If you are going to university or college for the first time, including overseas and mature students, you remain eligible up to your 25th birthday



If you would like to book in for the vaccination, or you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact Morland House Surgery on 01865 872448.

Where can I find out more information?

The NHS website has in-depth information on both meningitis and the MenACWY vaccine specifically. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/men-acwy-vaccine/> or search 'MenACWY' on the NHS homepage.

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## **Are We Giving Red Kites a Bad Name?**

### **The Problem:**

Incidents of Red Kites snatching food from people who are eating outdoors is increasing. Their habit of gathering in large numbers has led some people to claim that there are too many of them. They should be left to feed naturally in the wider countryside, thus enabling them to find a naturally sustainable level.

Red kites can survive well in the Chilterns without artificial feeding, so it is not necessary to supplement their diet. It is feared that providing too much additional food can prevent the population from spreading naturally and cause the birds to cluster in large numbers, where food is offered.

### **The Reason:**

In the early years of the reintroductions, Kites were very wary of people, but since large numbers of people now regularly encourage them into their gardens with food, Kites have come to expect food from people and have become much bolder around us, leading to an increase in the number of unwelcome interactions.

The fact that they gather where food is available is not unnatural, but they are unable to differentiate between food that is deliberately being offered to them, and food that is being consumed by people outdoors.

The volume of supplementary food being offered to Red Kites may now be at such a level in parts of the Chilterns that it is encouraging them to breed at unsustainable levels in areas that would otherwise not be able to support them.

### **The Solution:**

The advice from The Chilterns Conservation Board is that if you currently feed the Kites, please gradually reduce the amount and frequency, and eventually cease altogether. This phased approach will allow the birds to spread out into the wider countryside to find alternative sources of food.

If you enjoy eating outdoors and don't want to be interrupted by Red Kites, consider sitting under a tree or using an umbrella or awning so the birds can't see the food.

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*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September*

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Classes at The Pine Lodge, Little Milton.

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Tuesdays 7 - 8.30pm.

10th September - 12th November

(No session on 29th October)

For more information, a discussion about the classes and whether they're right for you, or to sign up, please contact Leone at [info@leonewhite.com](mailto:info@leonewhite.com). You can also visit my website at [www.leonewhite.com](http://www.leonewhite.com).



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### **Family Theatre**

#### **The Sword in the Stone - 10th Aug, 5pm**

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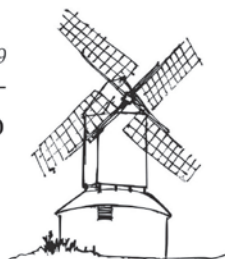
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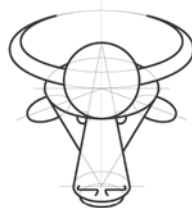
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## Diary

- Monday** Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 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*  
 Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Pavilion. 7:30pm  
*contact Hayley Bamford – 07825 794662. yogalizard.co.uk*  
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
- Wednesday** GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 11:30am – 1:00pm  
*or by appointment*  
 Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Thursday** Kids Yoga (4–12) – The Pavilion. 3:30pm  
*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 Pavilion. 9:30am – 11:30am  
*For more information contact Molly Powell – 07958 396257*
- Saturday** Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
 Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact David Spiers – 01844 218345*

## August

- |           |  |         |
|-----------|--|---------|
| 5th Sat   | Freecycle at The Pavilion                                      | 10:00am |
| 10th Tues | Wheatley VPA: Flowers for Cutting at The Merry Bells           | 7:30pm  |
| 18th Sun  | Teddy Bears Picnic in The Rectory garden                       | 11:00am |
| 31st Sat  | Tug of War on The Green. Festivities continue in The Bull Inn. | 2:00pm  |

## September

- |          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| 7th Sat  | Harvest Festival in The Bull Inn                            | 2:00pm |
| 14th Sat | The Haseleys Garden Party at The Old Rectory, Great Haseley | 3:00pm |
| 16th Mon | Parish Council Meeting in The Pavilion                      | 7:30pm |

All copy (except adverts) to **gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk** by **20th September 2019**.

Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PB.

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

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