

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

April 2023

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Great Milton Parish Council

Chairman:	Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
Ward:	Church Road to Monkerly Farm/The Priory	
Vice Chairman:	Bill Fox	01844 279716
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
Councillor:	David Harms	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
Councillor:	Clyde Deacon	01844 279242
Ward:	High Street from North End Cottage to The Old Garage	
Councillor:		
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
Councillor:	Malcolm Horsley	07970 924194
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
Councillor:	Peter Allen	01844 278334
Ward:	Milton Common	

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Chris Ashworth – 07450 238474
contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

Parish Council Representatives

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

Cover: Daffodils on the Green.

Photo: Manny Stone.

Key Contacts:

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Caroline Newton	07951 477144	caroline.newton@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council		
Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Chris Ashworth (Clerk)	07450 238474	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		Fixmystreet.com
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

Services

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

Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Jola Miziniak	07917 676463	jolamiziniak7@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	01844 278415	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

Draft Parish Notes

Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Pavilion on Monday 20th March 2023 at 7:30 pm. The meeting was attended by: Cllrs S Harrod (chair), B Fox (vice-chair), D Harms, M Horsley and C Deacon. Apologies were received from Cllr P Allen, Cllr F V Mierlo (OCC). and Cllr C Newton (SODC). Chris Ashworth (Clerk) and 5 members of the public were in attendance. Cllrs S Harrod and B Fox declared an interest in item 24/23. Cllr M Horsley declared an interest in items 25/23 and 26/23. There was one variation of order of business as item 27/23 was discussed during item 16/23. The County Councillor's monthly report was received and reviewed and is available on the Parish Council website.

A litter pick has recently been completed on Thame Road up to the A239. There was a considerable number of branches, foliage and cuttings littering the verges. It has been asked if a working party from the Parish or South Oxfordshire Council can be used to clear this up, and if so, can it be arranged. The Parish Clerk will email the waste team to see if it can be cleared.

27/23 The members of the public raised the issue of parking along the bottom of Thame Road and that it is becoming more dangerous. There have been instances of wing mirrors being broken, arguments outside residents' homes, people knocking on local residents' doors in an aggressive manner, because they think the homeowner's cars are parked badly, and buses are getting stuck and are unable to pass. Let alone if an emergency vehicle needs to pass.

The council discussed these issues raised, and Cllr Harms mentioned the possibility of erecting a sign to make people aware not to park at the bottom of Thame road as it becomes a hazard. The members of the public noted that many of the drivers that park there are aware of the issues their parking causes but still continue to park there.

Cllr Harms said that the school has raised this parking issue with the parents and has pleaded with people to stop parking in that area.

Cllr Horsley mentioned the possibility of double yellow lines. The Parish Council and the members of the public both agreed that this is not a route they want to take at this point. Cllr Horsley suggested road markings in forms other than double yellow lines; a single white line was suggested, along with asking the local PCSOs to attend the area as the parking is a safety issue.

Cllr Harrod has asked the Parish Clerk to get onto Oxfordshire County Council Highways and ask about the possibility of marking the road as a box junction including the words Keep Clear.

The members of the public also mentioned that this point that some road markings

need repainting as they are almost impossible to see.

Neighbourhood Watch update:

Now that the new gateway features are in place, it was asked if the Neighbourhood Watch signs could be attached to them, and the Parish Council agreed with this.

There was a report of 2 teenagers on the Pavilion roof. The Rec Committee was made aware, and when someone went down to check, the teenagers had left. A catalytic converter was recently stolen from a vehicle along Thame road.

Cllr Horsley raised that door-to-door salespeople had been in the village recently and for local residents to be aware.

Planning Applications

P23/S0434/HH (White Ash London Road Milton Common OX9 2NU) Loft conversion with a raised roof, two-storey rear extension, single-storey side extension, and carport. The Parish Council had no concerns regarding the proposed application. The Parish Council SUPPORT the application.

P23/S0549/HH (Institute Cottage Church Road Great Milton OX44 7PD) Demolition of lean-to stores and carport, construction of a two-storey extension to the side, a single storey extension to the rear, rearrangement of the internal layout at ground and first floor with correspondent changes to the elevations and new entrance porch. Cllr Harrod reviewed the application and raised no concerns regarding the proposed application. The Parish Council SUPPORT the application.

To review the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters:

P23/S0244/LB (Byeways The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT)

First floor rear extension. Permission granted.

P23/S0242/HH (Byeways The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT)

First floor rear extension. Permission granted.

P23/S0214/LB (Byeways The Green Great Milton OX44 7NT) Renovation works, to include removal of incompatible external masonry paint, re-render and associated repairs to right elevation, replacement floor slab, insulation upgrades. Provision of new utility room and cloakroom to include taking down modern internal wall to revise layout. Lowering path. Permission granted.

P22/S3852/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7EJ) Retention of single storey extension and its use for storage. Permission refused.

P22/S3961/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common Oxfordshire OX44 7EJ) Retention of existing building and continued use as offices. Permission refused.

P22/S4135/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7EJ) Retention of single storey building and continued use as two office units. Permission refused.

P22/S4460/FUL (Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common Oxon OX44 7EJ)
Continued use of single storey building as storage without compliance with condition 3 of P02/N0682. Permission refused.

The minutes of the January meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 16th January 2023, were received, reviewed, agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Financial resolutions

The following cheques for payment were authorised and signed:

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

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

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste January: £62.40

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste February: £62.40

J M Dudley February Bulletin: £311.40

J M Dudley March Bulletin: £287.60

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

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

McCracken and sons: £558.00

Great Milton Youth Club: £500

Church wall repair: £500

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Audit training: £36.00

SLCC yearly membership renewal: £139.00

The January and February bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements were reviewed and approved.

Parish clerk and councillors' update of matters in hand

Gateway features are now installed.

There have been no replies so far regarding volunteers for the King's Coronation.

Parish Councillor vacancy update: The Parish Council will begin the co-option of Sarah Illingworth.

Security in the village

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

Mowing in the village

The Parish Council have reviewed the quotes received and has agreed that McCracken & Sons will continue as the contractor for the Village mowing.

Great British Spring Clean

We have agreed on a date of 18th March for Great Milton's spring clean. The spring clean was a success, and we thank all the volunteers who participated.

Discussion on the potential sale of the Bull

To discuss what the potential sale of The Bull would mean, including:

What is a Ransom strip?

What would the implications for the Parish Council be?

The Parish Council discussed the matter of the sale of the Bull pub. It was agreed that a ransom strip, a 2m strip of land that curls around the access to the Bull, would be sold to the Parish Council for £1 for 25 years. This strip of land will allow unrestricted access to the Bull on condition that it remains a village pub.

Cllr Deacon asked for confirmation that the ransom strip would be owned by the Parish Council, which was confirmed. Cllr Deacon also asked what would happen if the Parish Council ceased within those 25 years. It was agreed that something like a community venture would be set up to control the strip if that does happen so that the Bull would remain a village pub.

The costs to sell the rights to this land will be split 50/50 by the Pub committee and the Parish Council. Cllr Horsley raised a point if the pub committee should be covering the whole of the costs, this was discussed, and it was agreed on a 50/50 split.

Cllr S Harrod and Cllr B Fox did not vote in the matter.

Churchyard grass-cutting grant

The Parish Council have been asked if it is possible to increase the grant given towards the Churchyard grass cutting. The Parish Council currently give £600 per year towards the grass cutting costs. The Parish Council discussed the request for an increase in the grant given for the Churchyard grass cutting. It was agreed to increase the grant to £650 from this year going forward.

Churchyard wall rebuilding

The Rector Simon Cronk is seeking a further £500 from the Parish Council towards the rebuilding of the churchyard wall. A £500 donation has already been made towards these costs. The Parish Council discussed the cause for the increase in cost for these repairs/rebuilding. It was agreed that a further £250 would be granted from the Parish Council.

Thame Road speed/parking concerns raised.

The new 20 mph speed limit has also been raised that along Thame Road, especially in the morning, is not slowing people down. It has been asked if there can be more road markings and some form of enforcement to try and slow people down.

Cars parking around the bottom of Thame Road are causing impassable obstructions,

preventing vehicles, including buses, unable to pass. This also would include any emergency vehicles if they're ever needed. Local residents along this area are being confronted by drivers assuming it is their car/s. The speed limit put in place is potentially not enough as cars are still parking dangerously, which could lead to a serious accident. The residents have asked for the Parish Council to look into ways that they could potentially help this parking situation. This item was discussed during item 16/23.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday, 17th April 2023, at 7.30pm at the Pavilion. Meeting ended at 8:15pm.

Benefice Services for April

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd <i>Palm Sunday</i>		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Thursday 6th <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Holy Communion 7:00pm		
Friday 7th <i>Good Friday</i>	Good Friday walk to start at Pine Lodge, Lt. Milton at 2:30pm		Reflection 11:00am
Sunday 9th <i>Easter Sunday</i>		Family Communion 10:30am	Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 16th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 23rd	Family Gathering 4:00pm	Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am	BCP Communion 9:00am
Sunday 30th			Benefice Holy Communion 10:30am

Benefice Services for May

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

The Rector's Pint

A recent news article captured my attention. The headline read: What can you say when a Ukrainian Bishop in Kyiv asks 'Has God forgotten us?'

The Bishop is Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Head of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. He said this after the Russian withdrawal from Bucha, "I saw so many dead people in the street, so many men and women in mass graves".

It is a fair question, and I cannot judge the Bishop for asking it. I can only imagine what witnessing the aftermath of such an atrocity must be like, or how terrible it must be to live in the ruins of war.

It would be foolish to attempt to offer a neat explanation to the reality of suffering. So much cannot be explained. War though does have causes. Subsequent historical reflection can try and make sense of the politics, the hunger for resources, geo-political meddling and personal egos which all have their part to play - in other words, human sin! However, understanding the causes will not take away the terrible toll on life. 'Has God forgotten us?' is a very understandable question to ask.

It is that very question though that lies at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus on the Cross, the man Christians believe is God as man, cried out in his physical and spiritual agony "Eli Eli Lama Sabacthani, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Christians proclaim that Jesus died for the sins of the world. The terrible truth behind that is the possibility for humans to come to a state of 'God forsakenness', and we need saving from that. For those who object to this insight, we need to look again at the account of Jesus' death when he experienced what being cut off and deaf to the goodness and grace of God was like. It was for him, a personal hell. The paradox of the Cross, however, is that in Jesus, God has taken on the full reality of human sin, failing and suffering, God in Christ has taken it all. The depth of that experience led him to utter that terrible desolate cry.

We want the world to be comfortable and good, but it is not entirely like that, and the Christian faith is honest with us about that truth. This is, of course the first part of the great story that leads us on to Easter Sunday, to the resurrection, the great Christian hope, and one we hold onto in the difficult times as well as celebrate in the good. We need to remember that God has not forgotten the pain, the suffering, and the desolation that is a part of our world, God in Christ has been to the very heart of it, but was not overcome by it so that we will be able to cry on Easter Sunday, 'Alleluia! Christ is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia'.

Simon

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

April 2023				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
2nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Miriam Moul	
9th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
16th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Maichael Sawyer	Mi/Holy Communion
23rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Matthews	
30th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Lacal Arrangement	

In Search of Peace

A few weeks ago my wife, Liz, and I had day out to Coventry. Our aim was to visit the cathedral where I will be ordained in June.

There are actually two cathedrals in Coventry, they sit next to each other, almost physically joined together. The old medieval cathedral is essentially a ruin: the bombed-out shell of a once magnificent place of worship, built to the glory of God. Destroyed by bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe in 1940, its empty remains stand as a victim of conflict, a sign of the pain, suffering and destruction that war brings. A few delicate fragments of stained glass can still be seen near the still standing tower, looking like they could be blown out by the next strong gust of wind.

Next to the ruin stands a new cathedral. Another magnificent place of worship. A remarkable building with many beautiful features, including some beautiful stained glass and an incredibly huge tapestry.

One feature that we nearly missed is to be found at the back of the cathedral. On the altar-table at the foot of the great tapestry stands a cross. There's nothing unusual about that, except that the cross is made of rusty medieval roof nails. Nails that had held together roof timbers in the old cathedral and had been salvaged from its ruins. The Coventry cross of nails has become an international symbol for peace and reconciliation.

After the old cathedral was bombed, the words 'Father Forgive' were written on the wall of the ruined chancel. Provost Dick Howard made a commitment not to seek revenge, but to strive for forgiveness and reconciliation with those responsible.

Events at Coventry were symbolic in rebuilding relationships between Britain and Germany after the War, and gave rise to the Community of the Cross of Nails - a worldwide network of churches and other organisations dedicated to peace-building

and reconciliation.

I believe that God is the ultimate peace maker and the Cross of Christ, the ultimate act of peace making.

One of the names for Jesus is Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us.’ It is found in the first chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, part of the nativity story, and so Emmanuel has become a Christmas word and we don’t necessarily hear it outside of the Christmas season. Yet Emmanuel gets to heart of the incarnation. Of God becoming human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus Christ God becomes a vulnerable new born baby, and continues to be vulnerable as a fully grown man. He comes to be with us, not in power, but in weakness. Not to declare war on sinners, but to declare peace and reconciliation with those he loves. It is a dangerous path, one that leads to pain, suffering and death on the cross.

The Coventry Cross of Nails is not about nails that held together roof timbers – even though that is what they are. Yes, it evokes, the painful loss of a much loved building, crucified by the violence of war, but more clearly it evokes the cross of Christ, together with the nails that held him there; crucified by the violence of people in conflict with God, as he cried out ‘Father Forgive’.

But it wasn’t simply the nails that held Jesus to the cross, but love: the desire to be with us and for us to be at peace with him. St Paul writes, ‘God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.’

The story of Coventry Cathedral is a story of death and resurrection. And like the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth which it echoes, it reveals something of how peace can be found.

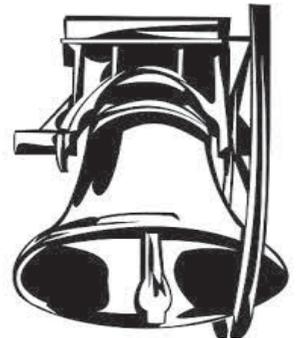
Jesus tells us to love as he has loved us. To love our neighbour, yes, but to love our enemy too. It is in the risk and the desire to love and to forgive, to seek the good of the other person – even when we think they might be hostile – that peace is found.

Revd Stephen Spain, Great Milton Methodist Church

RING FOR THE KING!

You know we need more ringers, and now – what better time to learn? You all know at least one bellringer – you would be most welcome in the Tower. Come and have a look – come and have a try! Come and see us on Thursday evenings 7:30pm.

GMB



Your Public House

Villagers will be aware that there has been much speculation recently regarding the future ownership of the Bull PH. For the last 10 years, the pub has been owned by the community, having been bought from Greene King in April 2013. The ownership vehicle was then known as an Industrial & Provident Society for the benefit of the Community. Since then, we have had four different tenants, the last of whom, Vinay Shivasankar, gave us notice to quit last November. The Management Committee duly embarked upon yet another tenant recruitment campaign.

At about this time, the Committee received an unsolicited approach to buy the Bull from Bob Hutton. It should be stressed that the Committee were not seeking to sell the pub and were committed to continuing with the community-ownership model.

Having heard more about Bob's proposals for the pub, the Committee decided his interest was worth pursuing, and at an informal meeting on 5 January, shareholders gave the Committee overwhelming support to continue negotiations with him and the newly-formed Great Milton Pub Company.

Shortly thereafter, two shareholders approached the Committee with an alternative proposal which would have enabled community ownership to continue and provided finance to upgrade the premises. Further discussions with these shareholders were held, and their proposal was circulated to all shareholders to enable an informed decision to be made.

Throughout this process, negotiations with Bob were continuing, and provisional terms were agreed which the Committee were prepared to recommend shareholders to accept. One of the key conditions was the inclusion of a restrictive covenant which will prevent the Great Milton Pub Company, or any successors-in-title, from operating the Bull as anything other than a village local pub for a minimum period of 25 years. This will be achieved by transferring ownership to the Parish Council (PC) of a 2-metre wide strip of land across the whole length of the accessway to the pub, the Pub Company and its customers being granted unrestricted rights of access and services over this strip, provided the Bull remains a pub. Any attempt to change the use of the Bull, and the PC can withdraw these rights of access, rendering the property inoperable. So our village community, through the PC, will be able to ensure that the Bull remains a pub for at least 25 years.

On 16 March, a further meeting was convened during which shareholders were invited formally to vote on whether or not we should proceed with the sale in line with the strict terms negotiated by the Committee. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour. And, having reviewed the proposal with its own lawyers, at its meeting on 20 March, the PC agreed to take on ownership of the ransom strip on behalf of the community.

The Committee now aim to complete the sale of the Bull in the next few weeks, following which the Great Milton Pub Company will further develop their investment plans for the property, and then seek the necessary planning and Listed Building consents.

The Committee strongly believes that villagers will be excited by the plans for the pub, all of which will be shared as they evolve.

One final point. You may ask why we went to all the bother of buying the Bull in the first place, only to sell it 10 years later. The answer is one word: CONTROL. If we had not stepped in and bought the pub from Greene King, they could have sold it to anyone, free of any restrictions, and, subject to planning, that purchaser could have done what they wanted with it. That could have included running it into the ground, boarding it up, and waiting until the time was right before seeking consent for residential redevelopment. Essentially, the village would have relinquished control over the future of our pub.

The situation now is completely different. The sale with conditions means the village retain complete control over the future use of the Bull and have the power to enforce the restrictive covenant through the PC. Buying it in 2013 was exactly the right thing to have done to secure the future of our pub.

We can all now sit back and watch as plans for the Bull are developed. We on the Management Committee are confident it's going to herald a new and very exciting chapter in our great pub's long history, and we hope all villagers will get behind the new model and support this vital village amenity.

Steve Harrod, Chairman, Great Milton Community Pub Ltd

Senior Citizens' Party Committee

Annual Party

The date for the Party this year is Saturday 15th April, 4:00pm at The Neighbours' Hall. Invitations have been delivered – if you are 'newly qualified' this year and not known to us and would like to come, please ring me. To qualify, you need to be in one of the following categories:

- a) Married Couple – if either spouse is over 65, the partner is invited regardless of age.
- b) Single Lady – aged 60 or over.
- c) Single Man – aged 65 or over.
- d) Widows and Widowers – regardless of age.

Ann Price, Secretary – 01844 279474

Neighbours Hall Fundraising Quiz evening in March

A fantastic total of £700 was raised at our recent quiz evening for the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal – thank you to all those who participated and special thanks to our village quizmaster Alan Pickett. A very enjoyable evening.



Days Out with The Neighbours' Club

The Great Milton Neighbours' Club extends an invitation to anyone over the age of 55 to join them in one or more of their specially arranged 2023 day visits;

Thursday, 15th June: Two hour cruise on the River Thames at Henley (preceded by about 90 minutes in Henley for lunch/shopping/walking by Thames).

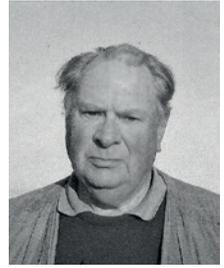
Wednesday, 6th June: Option of visit to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon (the world's largest collection of historic vehicles) or over 2 hours in Warwick (plus visit to garden centre).

Wednesday, 4th October: Visit to Bletchley Park, once the home of the World War II Codebreakers (plus visit to garden centre).

For further details and costs please email fred.cubbage@btinternet.com or 'phone 01844 279683 (please leave message in no immediate answer). The Club welcomes any eligible person in the area to have the same opportunity to experience a different day's visit (and, at the same time, help the trip's viability). Plaistows Coaches of Wheatley used for all trips and there are several local pick-up points.

View from Views

“February Fill Dike”, (I recorded 4mm rainfall with an average of 55 over the last 11 years), then “March in like a Lamb out like a Lion”, both common sayings the first certainly wrong this year, the second as I write will mean that as you read this you may well be clearing up after a storm, “who knows”. As we entered March we were hoping for a nice warm rain, as things were beginning to dry up, in fact what we got was plenty of rain but ,cold frosty weather now, after about 15mm rain the floods are out again, unbelievable it just illustrates the limitation of the usefulness of the meadows to produce anything in the way of food. We will all be glad to see the back of this winter, although I think the longish frosty periods will have done some good, killing some nasties that have built up over the last few years. Most wildlife has survived fairly well. It is amazing how the long periods of cold weather have affected the undergrowth opening up areas that we are may not have seen for years. I just hope these conditions will noy affect ground nesting birds, plus there would be I imagine less natural feed around with the countryside as bare as I can ever remember, save 1963. I cannot make up my mind whether I should up the rate of the wild bird seed we feed at this time of year.



March is the time for March Hares to go mad and, Views Farm is no exception as there has been an explosion in their population over the last year, it has become a daily entertainment to watch them, what a pleasure, also a bird I have not mentioned before is the Sky Lark we have always had plenty, this year being no exception, I am reliably informed that the first of our summer visitors has returned, the Chiff Caff, so once Blackthorn Winter has passed we should be able to enjoy better weather, just as long as we get plenty of rain as well. Most crops seem to have wintered well but just need to start growing now as time is getting on, except for the Rape that has suffered badly from hungry Pigeons. I guess we will soon be thinking most are now backward for the time of year, due to the early march snow.

There has been much criticism in this parish about the expansion of “le Manoir quat Seasons”, all I can say is the quality of the preparatory work done so far is a sight for sore eyes, the craftsmanship of the hedge laying is unbelievable, I do a little bit but, nothing to their standard, it is exceptional. The rest is beyond comment as, it seems to me that Raymond is about to allow his favoured and, developed garden to be destroyed.

Jeremy Clarkson’s Farming programme seems to be getting a lot of publicity, not a programme I have watched personally but, from what I hear his comments will not have done our industry any harm. He has illustrated all sorts of issues that are being thrust at us, too numerous for me to mention or even annotate, even if I knew what they were all about. This of course includes planning, how the planners in this area seem to have a different view to those in other areas of the country. This is also the case on various measures that the County



Council seems to be adopting, Vegan food and traffic restrictions, without any consultation with the public or local businesses that they may affect. It does not seem to worry them if they are throttling local businesses who, after all support the local economy, these provide all the necessities of life, at the same time it is important we do not forget the issues of nature and, pollution. This is all a question of balance, I believe also there is something in the budget regarding nutrient neutrality, for development, too early for me to comment yet, as I have not seen it mentioned as yet, so perhaps another time.

Regular readers will be sick and tired of me continually harping on about food security and other issues connected, well the “Hens have come home to Roost!” as, the lack of some vegetables illustrates this fact. We now have a situation where the shelves of supermarkets are empty of these items, the weather is blamed, this is not strictly the case. Suppliers are favouring those retailers that are prepared to offer sensible remuneration to the supplier which, it seems the British Supermarkets are not, so our national growers have either cut back on producing when costs peek or, gone out of business. I understand that other retailers in the EU are paying their suppliers as much as twice than they can get here you cannot “Have your Cake and Eat it”. We tend use the smaller, local retailers and farm shops so have not found shortages a problem.

21st May sees us once again partaking in the Chiltern Vintage Tractor run in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, I would hope, as always you will feel able to support us again this year, we are entering 3 Tractors. I will leave a sponsorship form in the Post Office in Great Milton for anyone wishing to donate that way, I also have a just giving page: [justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5).

Charles Peers

Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

We had a lively AGM where we unveiled the 2023/24 programme, full of talks, crafts, flowers, music and outings. This was followed by, a last minute speaker, Emma from Asylum Welcome. They provide help to refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in Oxfordshire (www.asylum-welcome.org). We are hoping to get together in the future with the local families and welcome them to our community. We also welcomed new member, Karen.

At our next meeting on Thursday 13th April at 730pm, Christine Green is going to talk about Bust the rules and get creative - a different approach to patchwork with lots of example quilts.

Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or become a member for £46.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or

surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

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

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Morland House Surgery News

Visit Morland House Website

In addition to providing a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit the Morland House Surgery website www.morland-house.co.uk for:

- Up-to-date information about surgery opening hours and the wide range of services provided, including new dispensary hours.
- A link to the electronic consulting service eConsult. Use eConsult to ask about your health symptoms, conditions, or treatment. You can even request things like sick notes and GP letters. From the home page click on 'Contact your GP practice Online'.
- A link to the NHS App. Download the App, or open the NHS website in a web browser, to set up and log in to your NHS Account. Owned and run by the NHS, your NHS Account is a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services online.
- Up to date information on current news items including:
- Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre – X-Rays, blood tests, ultrasounds, CTs and more
- Information on the NHS 111 online service which is available 24/7
- Advice on how to stay healthy and well
- COVID-19 and flu vaccine updates
- Looking after your mental health
- Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS)
- Group A strep and scarlet fever, advice for parents and guardians
- Discontinuation of blister pack recycling
- 24/7 breastfeeding support
- Expansion of bowel cancer screening programme

GREAT MILTON SPRING CLEAN

2023

The volunteers did a fantastic job for the Great British Spring clean in Great Milton. Thank you all!





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GREAT MILTON IN CONVERSATION

Reflections on the Covid Vaccination Programme with Professor Anthony Harnden

in conversation with Dr Charlie Lee-Potter

**Thursday, 20th April 2023, 6.30 pm
St Mary's Church, Great Milton**

Professor Anthony Harnden is Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), a GMC Council member, Fellow of St Hugh's College Oxford, and General Practitioner at Morland House Surgery, Wheatley.

Dr Charlie Lee-Potter is a writer, broadcaster, academic and Great Milton resident.

**Do join us for Drinks at 6.30 pm.
The interview will be between 7 and 8.15 pm.**

**Donations will be collected towards the new
kitchen and toilet facilities in St Mary's.**



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7.30 'till late.

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The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
 Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for **prebooked** telephone consultations only

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

From 3rd April 2023 our new Dispensary hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm
Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning

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

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

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

The Three Villages Car Service

The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

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Please contact our booking secretary

Janet Smith 01844 278415 for further details

www.great-milton.co.uk/community/great-milton-parish-council-18553/community-halls/

GREAT MILTON

ART & CRAFTS CLUB

Join us for a monthly social get together loosely based around creative hobbies.

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

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[Photo James Belcher]

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

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

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

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

Please contact Chris Ashworth
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**April at Waterperry
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1st – 16th April**

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Fritillary Season throughout April

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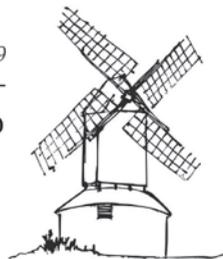
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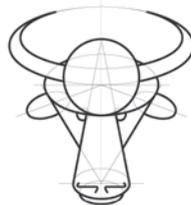
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Diary

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Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm
contact carina.martin@gmail.com
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
Bingo – Neighbours Hall. 7:45pm *contact Ann Price – 01844 279474*
GM History Archive, The Community Room, The Bull. 10:30am – 12:00pm
or by appointment
2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 6:00pm – 7:15pm
contact Yvonne – y.cartwright@btinternet.com
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.
contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net
Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.
enquiries.gmac@gmail.com
Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm
contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198
Bellringers – St. Mary's Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm
contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am
contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.
Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

April

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------|
| Sat 15th | SCPC Annual Party at The Neighbours' Hall | 4:00pm |
| Mon 17th | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion | 7:30pm |
| Thurs 20th | Great Milton in Conversation at St. Mary's Church | 6:30pm |
| Fri 21st | Book Library at the Neighbours Hall - coffee and tea whilst you browse | 11:00am |
| Sat 29th | Freecycle Live at The Pavilion | 10:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **20th April 2023**.

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

Adverts to **Chris Ashworth** 07450 238474.

contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk

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1788

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