



# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

January 2017

Published by the Parish Council

No. 516



## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Peter Fewell</b>	<b>01844 279400</b>
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<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>Vacancy</b>	—
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Gwen Harris</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: Helen Cherry – 07554 516989**

21 Fullers Field, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PJ.

**[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:	Lesley Bush, Liz Sands
Kent & Couling Charity:	Cynthia D'Anger
Sheppard Trust:	Ann Price, Pat Cox

### 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.

### Front Cover

Moonrise over the windmill.

Photo: Manny Stone.

**If you have any photos of the village or events, we would love to include them!**

## In My Opinion...

Well, we bid farewell to the 103 bus earlier this month and it has been suggested that people who are prepared to offer lifts to others should sign up to <https://oxfordshire.liftshare.com/> and that those needing a lift should do the same. Of course this is limited to those with internet access but it may offer some solutions to some people.



In addition, the Parish Council would like to hear from those who have been inconvenienced by the loss of the 103 service by contacting Peter Fewell on 279400 or [pwfewell@aol.com](mailto:pwfewell@aol.com). The PC is looking into various options for overcoming the loss of the 103 and the first step in this is to ascertain what exactly the impact has been and how many people have been affected so, in my opinion, it is important for all to respond if appropriate.

In other local news we have had a good response to the call for volunteers for our Emergency Plan and we will be appointing committee members at the January PC meeting. We also set our budget for next year and have for the first time added a healthy increase to our precept in order to provide much needed funding to the Maple Tree Children's Centre which provides a valuable service for many Great Milton families. The increase means an extra £5.47 per household per year (that is 10.5p per week!) so we hope everyone is OK with this. It also provides some funds to support a solution to the bus situation in the future.

This comes with best wishes for a happy and prosperous and apathy-free New Year!  
*Steve Harrod, Chairman*

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## Draft Notes from the Parish Clerk

The December meeting of Great Milton Parish Council was chaired by Cllr Steve Harrod with Cllrs Bill Fox (vice chair), Peter Allen, Clyde Deacon, Peter Fewell in attendance. Also present were Helen Cherry (Clerk) and three members of public. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday 16th January starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

### Planning Applications

GMPC held 'NO STRONG VIEWS' for Planning Application P16/S4020/LB received from SODC. Reference: P16/S4020/LB (Listed Building Consent) Application Type: Other Proposal: Demolition and removal of existing dilapidated garage/storage building and replacement with new garage block Address: 

Monkey Puzzle Farm Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NL

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE planning application P16/S3749/FUL received from SODC. P16/S3749/FUL (Full Application) - Ashurst Court London Road Wheatley OX33 1ER

Proposal: Change of use of building from B8 to B1a (offices) with alterations to facilitate the new use (amendment to approval P16/S0238/FUL to allow for altered/extended side lean-to to east side providing washrooms)

### **The Maple Tree Children's Centre**

Historically, the Centre has been funded by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and managed by Great Milton Primary School. Early in 2016, OCC announced its decision to reduce the support of the 44 children's centres in the county to 8 Children and Family Centre Hubs located in areas of greatest need in City/Urban locations. The County Council will be withdrawing their support for the Maple Tree Centre in early 2017. Great Milton Primary School is responsible for the management of the centre until the end of their contract in March 2017.

The Friends of the Maple Tree Children's Centre (FMTCC) believe they have a viable proposal to continue the hugely valuable services provided by the Maple Tree Children's Centre to families of children under five in the rural community of Wheatley and the surrounding villages

FMTCC are seeking funding from local Parish Councils and businesses.

FMTCC presented their business plan to the council.

GMPC are in support of Maple Tree Children's Centre and have included funding towards the centre in their budget for 2017/18.

### **Draft budget 2016/17**

The draft budget was reviewed and it was RESOLVED to increase the precept by 9.8%

### **GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Draft Budget for year ending 31 March 2018

Budget for Year 2017-18

### **RECEIPTS**

Precept	16090 (51.53 per household = 9.8% increase)
Funding Grant from SODC	0
Interest (30 Day Business Account)	70
Bulletin Advertisements	1000
Access/Rental Agreements	130

Allotment Rentals	230
OCC Grass Verge Maintenance	350
VAT Repayment	925
Miscellaneous	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18795</b>

## **PAYMENTS**

Expenses (Inc. Stationery)	250
Clerk's Salary	5170
Staff Training	200
Audit Commission	200
Parish Council Insurance	330
Bulletin DTP and Printing	2000
Rec Grd Maintenance	400
Rec Grd Insurance	845
Sundry	200
Handyman & materials/village maintenance	800
Water - Allotments	40
Grass Cutting	3700
SODC - Dog Hygiene	330
Doctor & Hospital Service	40
Church Clock Service	210
Subscriptions	200
Donations	150
PCC Grass Maintenance Grant	600
Neighbours Hall Touring Theatre	0
BT Sponsorship of Red Telephone Kiosk	370
BT - Council Email Account	60
Tree Maintenance	1000
Archive room overheads	200
Grants - Replacement bus service/ Children's Centre in Wheatley	1500
	18795

Please note that confirmed minutes will be uploaded to Great Milton Parish website  
<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>

*Helen Cherry, Clerk to Great Milton Parish Council*

#### You said we did/ Priorities

**Theft from motor vehicles:** There has been an increase in theft from motor vehicles throughout the South & Vale area. High visibility patrols have been increased and crime prevention signs have been placed in the hotspots along with crime prevention events.

#### Crime Prevention

As the winter months are coming in, the darkness is drawing in earlier. This provides thieves more opportunity to commit crime during the darkness. Here are some tips to help you prevent becoming a victim of crime:

- Close and lock doors and windows when going out or to bed.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Don't advertise you're out – invest in a light timer!
- If you're going on holiday, ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your house.

#### Crime prevention event

The neighbourhood team will be at the Town Hall in Thame on Friday 9 December between 6-8pm. The team will be on hand to give any crime reduction advice and listen to any local concerns you may have.

#### Vulnerable & Elderly Christmas Bags

Sharing is caring! Thame & Wheatley Neighbourhood Team would like to encourage you to support the vulnerable and elderly this Christmas and donate to our Vulnerable Elderly Residents Association. Any tinned food items are much appreciated to help us to create a Christmas goodie bag for the local elderly residents who has been a victim of crime and who may live alone. You will find the boxes at Thame Town Hall, Chinnor Council Pavilion, Asda Wheatley and Watlington Council Office. All donations will be collected by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

#### What the neighbourhood team have been doing

Thame Neighbourhood Team along with Oxford Police Cadets carried out a crime prevention pack delivery to some streets in Chinnor that have been recently hit by crime. This was a chance for the Neighbourhood Team to offer crime prevention advice in the run up to the Christmas period. Crime levels are relatively low overall in Chinnor but as the hours of darkness draw in, this creates more opportunity for thieves to commit crime. The aim of providing some of the community with this pack is so that they can put measure in place to prevent becoming a victim of crime.

#### Have Your Say Meetings

Please come along and speak to your local PCSOs about any local concerns:

- Sunday, 6 December, 10am – 11am at Chalgrove Village Hall
- Wednesday, 7 December, 10:30am – 11:30am at Thame CO-OP
- Wednesday, 14 December, 10:30am – 11:30am at Tiddington Pavilion
- Thursday, 15 December, 10am – 11am at Chinnor Village Centre
- Monday, 19 December, 11am – Midday at Thame Library
- Wednesday, 21 December, 11am – Midday at Watlington Parish Council Office
- Wednesday, 28 December, 11am – Midday at Wheatley Merry Bells

#### Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email [ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale 



## Services in Our Benefice for January 2017

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st <i>Christmas 2</i>			Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am
Sunday 8th <i>The Epiphany</i>	Holy Communion CW 9:30am	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am
Sunday 15th <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Family Service 11:00am	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am	Holy Communion CW 9:30am
Sunday 22nd <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am		
Sunday 29th <i>Epiphany 4</i>		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am	

## Services in Our Benefice for February 2017

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James' Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 5th <i>4 Sun before Lent</i>	Holy Communion BCP 8:00am		Benefice Holy Communion CW 10:00am
	<b>Benefice Service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle – 10:45am</b>		

## St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on 5Th February 2017

Some of the silver Communion Plate belonging to St Peter's Church is on loan to St George's Chapel, the Patrons of our Benefice. Every February at one of their Services, some of the plate is used and the Benefice of Little Milton, Great Milton and Great Haseley is mentioned.

We are planning to attend the 10.45am Sung Mattins with Sermon on



Sunday 5th February, 2017 when the Chapel Choir will be singing and The Military Knights of Windsor will be on parade.

If you would like to come, please communicate with

Raymond Fergusson – 01844 279150 – email [fergie.milton1@btinternet.com](mailto:fergie.milton1@btinternet.com)

Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 – email [Janejefferis@btinternet.com](mailto:Janejefferis@btinternet.com)

Jean Nixey – 07779246889 – email [jeannixey@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannixey@hotmail.com)

We will be leaving at about 9.15am and transport arrangements will be made nearer the time.

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## Ramblings from the Rectory

As I write, Christmas is looming and I have to confess the request to look beyond that to January and provide some sort of meaningful contribution to the various village publications has sent me into a bit of a spin. I will keep this longer than a simple ‘Happy New Year’ and shorter than my usual offering (is that cheers all round then?)

2016 has been tumultuous for us all, and I suspect as we enter 2017 many feel less secure and certain of our place in the world than we did a year ago. There was celebration from some about the turn of events in the summer as a narrow majority of those who voted won the day and the course was set to leave the EU. There was utter incredulity from others. What happened in the US sent political shockwaves around the globe with the election of a man to the presidency who a year ago would have not been considered to have an outside chance. The world is no less unpredictable or insecure than it was this time last year. For some of course, this year has brought with it personal struggles which were not foreseen, bereavement, illness, a difficult change in personal circumstances.

I hope those reading this will forgive my presumption, but I would simply like to quote a verse by Minnie Louise Haskins, which was used by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939. Then of course the world faced momentous events with the outbreak of a world war. God forbid that we ever go there again, nonetheless ‘wars and rumours of wars’ sadly abound. We have seen the greatest movement of refugees since that war and none of us can hide ourselves away from the implications of that. Some of you will remember this verse, it has spoken to me over the years and might speak to some of you.

I said to the Man

who stood at the gate of the year,

‘give me a light that I might tread safely

into the unknown.’

And he replied.

‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!’

So I went forth and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.

I would like to wish all readers of the Village Publications a happy, and dare I say a faith filled New year.

*Simon*

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## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

January 2017				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Detail
1st	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
8th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Andrew Maisey	
15th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Adam Stevenson	Covenant Service
22nd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Joanna Tulloch	
29th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Simeon Mitchell	

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## Great Milton Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was a great success. It was the best attended for years, had a nice atmosphere and was a lovely introduction to the build up to Christmas. The quality and quantity of raffle prizes was exceptional. We are delighted to let you know that we raised £1,380 for our Church. This is much needed as we are currently incurring a large financial outlay for a roof alarm following our recent lead roof theft. Thank you to all those who worked so hard and produced such a good sale and refreshments. Special thanks must be given to Kelly Wing, Laura Putt and Kate Thomas for master minding the event.

## **The Neighbours Club**

On the 24th November it was time for Yvonne to be with us again to put us through our paces with her keep fit routine. We all coped very well and felt better for it (I think !!!).

On the 8th December we held our annual Christmas Lunch which as always was excellent and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon with Brian providing the musical entertainment.

Club will start again on Thursday the 19th January 2017. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Wed 18th Jan - Pantomime at The Corn Exchange, Wallingford.

Thurs 19th Jan - Club starts again - 2.15 p.m.

Wed 15th Feb - Lunch and Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe.

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## **Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who had a poppy tin this year. The village raised £503.20.

Thanks go once again to Laura Putt for her continued help and to Kezia Barrett for stepping in this year.

If there is anyone who would like to give just one hour approx to help next year I would be very grateful.

*Sue Denham*

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## **Senior Citizens Party Committee**

### **Quiz**

Our thanks to all who supported the quiz night – £390.00 being raised for party funds. Congratulations to the winning team, 'Forget Me Nots', who came out on top of a very close contest, their 73 points beating 'Hipp Vex' by a solitary point, with joint third place teams 'Becks Blue' and 'Only Here for the Buffet' being a further one point behind on 71.

Special thanks to Paul Dennis for taking on the role of Quiz Master once again.

*Ann Price, Treasurer*

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## Christmas Cake Raffle Prize Winners

Prize	No.	Winner	Ticket sold at:
1. Cake	811 pink	Freddie	The Bull
2. Red Wine	611 pink	Bob Hutton	The Bull
3. Box of Biscuits	351 blue	Julie Ring	The Bull
4. White Wine	581 pink	Bob Hutton	The Bull
5. 6 Bottles of Lager	549 pink	Bob Hutton	The Bull
6. Rosé Wine	326 pink	Tricia	The Shop
7. Toiletries	805 pink	Helen	The Bull
8. Sangria	18 pink	G. Rawlings	The Shop
9. Box of Choc Biscuits	559 pink	Bob Hutton	The Bull
10. Matchmaker Chocs	410 pink	R. Griffin	The Shop
11. 4 Cans of Lager	322 blue	C Simmonds	The Bull
12. Scarf	303 blue	C. Simmonds	The Bull
13. Wine Gums	864 pink	T. Paczoska	The Bull
14. Handbag	716 pink	Steve H.	The Bull
15. Make-up Purse	861 pink	T. Paczoska	The Bull
16. Mystery Cash Envelope	497 blue	Elvis	The Bull

£100.00 Raised for Party Funds

Thank you for your support

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## Kent and Couling Charity

It was interesting to read the little piece from yesteryear about the Kent and Couling charity, blame it on the Vicar!

The Kent and Couling charity has been redundant for some time now. Basically when I arrived in October 2015 there was one active trustee, Cynthia D'Anger, but she was not a signatory to the CCLA account. The Charity became locked and it took some effort to unlock it access the online details. We have now appointed a third trustee, Tricia Treanor and will fill in new mandate forms for the CCLA. Hopefully once this is done all three of us can become signatories for the Charity. This all sounds very simple, in reality it has been anything but!

In the last few years, vouchers were given to spend at the Village shop. This required the shop to keep a record of the payments, and it meant that the gifts were not 

fully anonymous. To simplify things we have agreed that payment should now be made direct to individuals who the Charity chooses to support. We will be meeting in the autumn to consider those who the Charity should support and we will be very happy to consider names of people of new people. However, we do need to make clear that these payments are gifts and will need to be reviewed each year. We will not publicise or share beyond the three of us who these gifts are given to.

I am sorry that there has been this delay. It is hoped that this will be resolved in the New year.

*Simon Cronk*

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## **Neighbours Hall**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th January at 8:00pm in the hall.

All welcome.

*Ann Price, Secretary*

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## **The Friends of Great Milton School**

### **‘100 Club’**

Here is a list of all the recent prize winners of the FOGMS 100 Club – many congratulations to you all!

18 Oct	No 84	Hayley Damford
25 Oct	No 93	Mrs J Jewell
1 Nov	No 35	Miranda Cook
8 Nov	No 51	Sophie Grice
15 Nov	No 21	Kendra Gerrish
22 Nov	No 81	Mrs R Wade
29 Nov	No 70	Alex Kirkman
6 Dec	No 25	Mrs M Howse

Many thanks to all those who support this school fundraiser.

A big thank you to Ann Price for all her help in co-ordinating the draw at the Neighbours Hall and Christine Donnelly for her invaluable help with the prizes.

Keep Lucky!

*Laura Putt, 100 Club Co-ordinator*

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Happy New Year!!

Remember, we are open on **Saturday 14th January 11:00am – 2:00pm.**

Come and see us!!

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## **Iolanthe at St Mary's**

In November an audience of over 80 people enjoyed a superb production of the Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera 'Iolanthe' provided by Kate Billimore's Great Milton Singers. The talented soloists were ably supported by the choir, ladies dressed imaginatively as fairies and the gentlemen in formal dress, thankfully.

This bright and colourful production raised over £300 towards the building fund at Great Milton Methodists' Church, and our very grateful thanks are extended to Kate and the Singers. Our next fund-raising event will be a dance at the Neighbours Hall on Saturday 6th May 2017 when any profit will be split equally with the Neighbours Hall committee. Future fund-raising may be needed to help St Mary's replace the stolen lead roof to part of the church.

Thanks again to all who made this such an enjoyable evening for everybody, and to the Revd Simon Cronk for the use of his church.

*David & Evelyn Holme*

on behalf of Great Milton Methodist Church

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## **Sheppard Trust**

The next meeting of the Trustees of the Sheppard Trust will be during January 2017. Limited funds are available for distribution and applications are welcomed.

If your group/organisation meets the criteria of being based in Great Milton, and benefitting the inhabitants of Great Milton, please do not hesitate to apply.

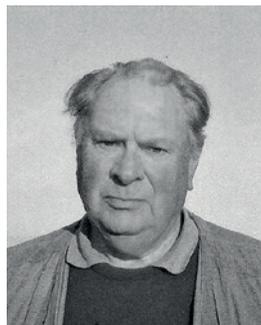
Applications should be sent to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or emailed to [janewillis1@live.co.uk](mailto:janewillis1@live.co.uk) and should arrive by Monday 9th January 2017.

## View from Views

The shortest day is past and a New Year dawns, it is a sobering thought that we also all get a year older, on the other hand we can now look forward to the steady climb back to summer and longer days. Early December saw a cold spell that caused us all to feel very Christmassy and put on an extra layer of clothes wondering if this would prove to be the start of a long cold winter, then overnight it all disappeared in a nasty mist, we just do not know what will happen. All I know is that as soon as it became frosty large numbers of Pigeons started to attack our Oil Seed Rape, which is the sort of thing that will put another nail in the coffin for this crop, that has served us very well in the past few years being quite profitable, now that we can no longer control certain pests, weeds, and diseases it is becoming almost impossible to grow profitably. Although this year ours seems not to be fairing too badly so far, but many other Farmers have already decided to grow less profitable crops as an alternative. I think if we are to be realistic its success has been its downfall we have been too ready to grow it on a large scale and just over done it, this is always the danger with any good thing it is overdone.

There has been a fair amount in the press about antibiotics, and their use in agriculture this is a very worrying scenario. I understand there is criticism of the Agricultural Industry for the indiscriminate use of these as feed additives, as I understand it these are not used to any great extent any more, some would have the public think otherwise. Beef & Lamb would not have any unless they had a need, through an illness, this is certainly not common, they would only be used in intensive production for pigs and poultry, I understand this has been reduced, and am reliably informed, by 43%. I believe that in this country we are aware of the problem and taking measures to rectify any imbalance. This is another reason for buying British. Now we have to deal with Avian Flu something I know very little about, I understand it is prevalent on the continent, and has now been found in a Turkey flock in Lincolnshire which is a little alarming, the danger is that it is be spread by migrating birds from infected areas. We have been told not to let our birds out for 30 days in the hope that by then migration will have stopped and the danger period will be over. At the moment our birds seem quite happy, and should be ok as long as we do not have too much mild airless weather, fingers crossed!

It will now soon be time to start feeding the wild birds again, I think we will be able to leave feeding them till later this year as there is plenty of natural feed for them,



there certainly seems to be a lot of them about his year. They are at the moment feeding on the areas planted for their benefit, which must be a good sign, there are also a lot of berries for them. Now the leaves are off the trees it is more noticeable how many squirrels there are about, we have been aware that the little devils were about but just have not seen them, giving us the impression that there were not so many as there really are, drastic action will have to take place I fear.

The planning proposals still rumble on and no doubt by the end of this year hopefully we will have a better idea of what is going to happen, just hope it is all planned properly and the infrastructure is planned and put in progress at the same time as any building programme starts. So that our countryside is all destroyed at the same time, before we realise what is happening, by which time it will then be too late. It seems to me that the only infrastructure that is planned that will not actually destroy any countryside is the new proposed Varsity line which will be a great boon to us rather, than the White Elephant of HS2. I note still no silent rail in North Oxford what a travesty, just another illustration of how if you are big enough you can get away with anything, in spite of any agreements that may have made. Travelling back for Culham one evening at 1630 we found ourselves in a que virtually, from the rail bridge, to Chiselhampton, this made me realise how important this infrastructure new roads etc is in any new development, and that will mean even more carving up of this area and all its wildlife that we have spent a lifetime preserving. We just don't seem to be able to think far enough ahead, how about all the expense on the roundabouts of north Oxford (would make a good title for a song) as far as I can gather still not solved the problem, with the new development in Barton even more traffic and the congestion that goes with it, in that area. This will be made even worse with less buses and more cars. Now we read that local Post Offices are under threat again, and as reported in the "Oxford Times" 15th December so are some local Primary schools, I think they want to drive us peasants out of the country and into urban the areas, so that we will not cause an uprising over planning issues. Hey Ho! Happy New Year!!! Add to all this on a personal note, our payment for our conservation work due 1st December not arrived yet, makes me wonder what HMRC's reaction would be for us to say we cannot afford to pay our tax as we are waiting for our payment from DEFRA?

*Charles Peers*

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## News from The Pine Lodge

Hope everyone had Happy Christmas and New Year celebrations. The Pine



Lodge welcomes in 2017 with our popular Quiz Night on Saturday 21st January. Tickets available now at Little Milton Shop.

We are busy planning a new venture to start in February with an evening of Board Games. It's the new craze, taking inspiration from Thirsty Meeples in Oxford. A fun night out playing board games ranging from Carcassonne to Cottage Garden to Exploding Kittens! Watch this space.

Clubs this month include Craft Club on Wednesday 18th, weekly yoga & fitness on Mondays at 10.30am, Pilates back from 11th January on Wednesdays at 6pm and Fridays at 9.30am, RugbyTots on Wednesdays at 1.30pm and Louise Jane School of Dance on Mondays at 4.15pm.

Keep up to date with news & events at [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge) and at [www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.littlemiltonvillagehall.org.uk)

*Kath Stacey 279438 / Linda Lovegrove 279535*

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

In November, we took a sunshine break to go walking in Tenerife. We are not beach people and the walking on this beautiful island is spectacular. The island is home to Spain's highest mountain, Mt Teide which is 3718m high and still an active volcano; it last erupted in 1909. The area around the mountain, including a massive caldera resulting from the collapse of an earlier volcano, is within the world Heritage Site of Teide National Park. The park is around 2000 metres and offers walks of varying difficulty all of which afford wonderful views and scenery, and, for the plantaholic some stunning plants. Admittedly, there were few flowers visible with most plants having gone to seed. However, if you visit in spring then there are masses of flowering plants all over the island. Probably the most spectacular plants we saw on this visit were the decaying huge flowering stems of *Echium wildpretii*; this plant is native to Tenerife, but I have seen them on the Scilly Isles where the climate is very forgiving. One year I persuaded it to flower in my greenhouse, but the plant was very unhappy with terrible bug infestations; as I have grown older I have adapted my plant choices more to those that enjoy the Oxfordshire climate with its heavy frosts.

While we were away the cold certainly hit and, unfortunately, my greenhouse heater chose that time to fail and tripped out at the fuse box rather than at the greenhouse socket so there was nothing my loyal friends taking care of things could have done to prevent plant damage. The temperature had dropped down to -7°C inside the greenhouse and yet surprisingly little damage appears to have been done as I tend

to keep plants dry over the winter; it is the combination of wet and cold which kills plants and I normally set the thermostat to around 0°C as I don't have any very tender plants in there. I have cut down the top growth on the huge Salvias growing in the greenhouse bed, but the bases are still alive. Leaves on my tender Fuchsias and on the Pelargoniums are badly damaged, but I am hopeful that most will make it through the winter. I will not discard those which look like they will have a chance of survival and wait and see. In any case I always see death in the garden as an opportunity to justify trying something new!

Happy New Year 2017

*Liz Moyses, Membership Secretary*  
liz@moyses.org • 01844 279875

Please contact me for further details of membership which costs only £5 per family per year.

---

## **And Finally... The Last Bus**



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## **The Three Villages Car Service**

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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.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
Wendy Richardson – 01844 278479.**

## **Great Milton Website**

Have you seen the website?

**<http://www.great-milton.co.uk/>**

It is important to keep it up to date so please could you advise Carina Martin of any updates that need to be made (**[carina.martin@gmail.com](mailto:carina.martin@gmail.com)**)



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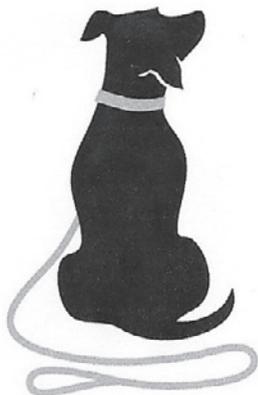
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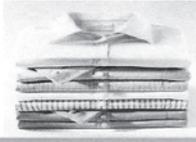
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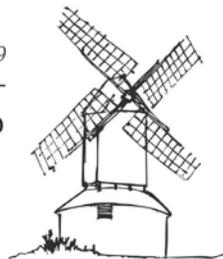
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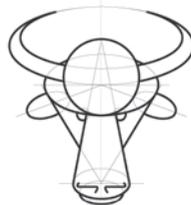
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## Diary

- Monday Fitness & Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 7:30pm – 8:45pm  
*contact Yvonne Cartwright – 01844 279205*
- Tuesday 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  
Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Evening. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Thursday 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*  
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 Athletics Club Training, Year 9-4. Morning. *enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
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*

### January 2017

- 4th Wed Neighbours Hall AGM in the hall 8:00pm
- 16th Mon Parish Council Meeting
- 18th Wed Neighbours Club: Pantomime at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford —
- 19th Thurs Neighbours Club starts again 2:15pm

### February

- 15th Wed Neighbours Club: Lunch & Skittles at The Ferryman, Bablock Hythe —

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th January 2017**.

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