

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011  
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Age Concern	01844 279238	Janet Betts
Citizens Advice Bur.	01844 214827	Thame & District
Church: St James	01844 279498 01844 279150	Rev Victor Story (Rector) Raymond Fergusson (Churchwarden)
Doctors	01865 872448 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 279978	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Milk Deliveries	01865 792221	Dairy Crest
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 279092 01844 279150	Stuart McGill (Chair) Raymond Fergusson (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278922 01844 279535 0870 770 6880	Teresa Quested (Chair) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
Police	0845 8505 505	Thames Valley Police
Post Office	01844 279001	Annie Rogers (Postmistress)
Public Transport	01869 241500 01296 399500 0870 6082 608	Heyfordian Travel Red Rose Travel Arriva
SODC	01491 823000	All enquiries
Southern Electric	0845 770 8090	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0845 9200 800	Emergency Number
Verdant	03000 610610	All enquiries

For all other numbers go to website [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Tues	1st	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	2nd	9.45 a.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Great Haseley
Thurs	3rd	10.15 a.m. . 14.40 – 14.55 15.00 – 15.30	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton Mobile Library -Old Field Mobile Library – Village Hall
Sun	6th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion CW – St James'
Tues	8th	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	9th	9.45 a.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Great Haseley
Thurs	10th	10.15 a.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton
Frid	11th	6.00 p.m.	Alice in Wonderland- Pine lodge
Sun	13th	11.00 a.m.	Family Service -St James'
Mon	14th	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	15th	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	16th	9.45 a.m. 8.00 p.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Great Haseley Parish Council Meeting in the Pine Lodge
Thurs	17th	10.15 a.m. 14.40 – 14.55 15.00 – 15.30	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton Mobile Library -Old Field Mobile Library – Village Hall
Sun	20th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP – St James'
Mon	21st	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	22nd	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	23rd	9.45 a.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Great Haseley
Thurs	24th	10.15 a.m. 8.00 p.m.	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton Cinema Club 'Inception'
Sun	27th	10.00 a.m.	Benefice Communion CW - St Peter's
Mon	28th	10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
<b>March</b>			
Tues	1st	7.30 p.m.	Bell Ringing Practice – St James'
Wed	2nd	9.45 a.m.	Babies and Toddlers Music Group Great Haseley
Thurs	3rd	10.15 a.m. 14.40 – 14.55 15.00 – 15.30	Great Haseley Baby and Toddler Group in Neighbours Hall Great Milton Mobile Library -Old Field Mobile Library – Village Hall
Sun	6th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion CW – St James'

## EXTRACTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th January was attended by six Councillors, the County Councillor, the District Councillor, the Clerk and no members of the public. The following are extracts from the minutes that the Council need to approve at the February meeting.

### OCC Highways

The Clerk reported that the “green” salt bins were operational and were situated in Gold Street adjacent to the school sign and on the bank opposite Four Trees on the Haseley Road. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a request for OCC Highways to deposit salt in an area to mitigate against icy conditions. He explained that OCC Highways although sympathetic could not respond to this sort of request. The Clerk had suggested that salt might be available directly from the depot at Milton Common but clearly this was not the policy of OCC Highways.

### Permitted Footpath

The Clerk reported that he had a meeting with Charles Peers and Stephen Harrod, Chairman of Great Milton Parish Council to discuss the location of a gate into Charles Peers’ field to enable access to a permitted path across to Great Milton. The location will be close to the A329 and it was **RESOLVED** that Charles Peers would source a suitable gate for consideration by Great Milton and Little Milton Parish Councils as they would be required to finance the project.

### Fly Tipping at Frogmore

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been advised by a resident that there had been fly-tipping into the ditch beside the lay-by at Frogmore. He reported that he taken the matter up with Verdant in November and to date the matter had not been satisfactorily dealt with. He stated that he would continue to monitor the situation and if it continues to attract fly-tipping the Council may need to consider some form of surveillance of the site. The Clerk also informed the meeting that he had requested a litter blitz on the Wheatley Road as the level of litter on the verges was quite appalling.

### Community Emergency Planning

The Chairman reported that a draft plan had been submitted to OCC Emergency Planning Team and that the feedback was positive. There are a few gaps in the plan in respect of support facilities and the Clerk will pursue these in due course. The Plan requires the formation of an Emergency Committee as it would be this body that would co-ordinate any response in the event of an emergency. The Clerk proposed a small team embracing different skills and the Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should approach the specific individuals and report back to the Council.

### Quotations for grass cutting

The Chairman informed the meeting that Clerk had worked closely with the Clerk’s of Great Milton and Great Haseley to agree a common approach to a number of contractors to quote for the grounds maintenance of the individual parishes both on a stand alone basis and one based on a contractor gaining all or some of the other parish contracts. The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the letter prepared by the Clerk who will send it to the appropriate contractors/

### Precept

The Clerk presented a preliminary budget for 2011-12 based on the latest forecast for 2010-11. He highlighted the risks within the budget in respect of advertising revenue and revenue from the MUGA. The budget maintained the level of spend on the recreation ground and included £600 for the cost of an election. The closing reserves for



**Morland House Surgery**

**Dr A Harnden and Partners**

**Morland House Surgery, London Road, Wheatley, OX33 1YJ**

**Telephone: 01865 872448**

### **Surgery hours are as follows:**

Monday to Friday: 8am to 6:30pm

Wednesday evening clinic from 6.30 – 7.20pm

Please note these appointments are for commuters and working patients who find it difficult to attend the surgery during the day and don’t want to keep taking time off work for this. The surgery will only be open at this time for patients who have booked in advance.

Saturday- 8am to 11:20am

During Saturday opening you will be unable to contact the surgery by phone. Please contact the surgery for more information.

Should you urgently require a doctor during these times or when we are closed please call: 0845 345 8995

## **LOCAL NATIONAL HEALTH DENTIST**

It is a lot easier to see an NHS Dentist than many people expect, and it is getting easier every day.

It is always a good idea to look after your teeth so if you would like to find out where you can receive quality NHS dental care or you are in need of emergency treatment now call our helpline today on 08000 113 524 or visit [www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/dental](http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/dental)

**DEADLINE REMINDER** – Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the month (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the March 2011 Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th February 2011**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published. **Please note the earlier submission date due only 28 days in February.**

However a snowdrop enthusiast friend (who has over 200 different varieties) tells me that they should be lifted just after the leaves have died back; this avoids root damage which would reduce the bulb's development for the following year. I know that there is at least one snowdrop enthusiast (galanthophile) living locally who might like to correct me!

This is also the time of year to appreciate scented, winter flowering plants on a mild day. Sarcococca (Christmas Box) varieties are in full flower and can be hard to spot when the delightful scent is noticed as the flowers are tiny. Flowers are about to open on my wonderful Daphne 'Jacqueline Postill' which has a powerful scent filling the front garden on a sunny day. Other scented plants include Lonicera fragrantissima which is also just opening; this I bought at the church fete many years ago and I suspect may actually be Lonicera x purpusii, but either way it is good value and happily spreads, especially by layering itself where stems touch the ground.

It is time to prune the roses which can be difficult to master, especially the climbers, as I often seem to cut off stems I meant to keep. Usually I get my better half to deal with the climbers because, despite having no training at all, he seems to instinctively make all the right cuts and is much more brutal than I am and to great effect; it has taken years for me to be able to watch him pick up the secateurs without worrying about my plants!

One other job I intend to do this month is to remove some stems from my Philadelphus plants. I have three varieties in one bed which flower at different times and so give pleasure over about six weeks in early summer. The correct time to prune these is after flowering, but this is tricky as luxuriant foliage makes it difficult to see which stems should be removed. An alternative, which I read about in one of the late Christopher Lloyd's books, is to take out whole stems down to almost ground level in winter when the plant is leafless; this encourages the plant to send up new shoots which flower better. If you take out the oldest one third each winter then the whole plant is renewed every three years. What you must not do at this time is give the plant a haircut or you will lose this year's flowers which arise from side shoots on last year's growth.

*Liz Moyses*

2010-11 were estimated at £11,000 and would increase by £1,000 at the end of 2011-12. The Council aims to maintain its reserves at one times precept but recognises the need to hold a higher level to meet known future contingencies. The Council **RESOLVED** to maintain its precept at £10,500 and this equates to £47.3 per Band D equivalent property.

#### Localism Bill

The Clerk informed the Council that The Localism Bill was published by the Coalition Government on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and stated that it represented the most radical shift in power since the town and country planning was first born in the aftermath of World War Two. The full implications for Parish Councils are not yet clear but it is believed that Parish Councils will have the opportunity to play a core role in the planning system.

#### OCC: Review of Subsidised Bus Service:

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk had responded to Oxfordshire County Council in which he urged the County Council to maintain the existing level of service to Little Milton. Mr Turner indicated that a decision was expected at the end of February or early March.

#### OCC: Broadband for All

The Chairman briefed the Council on a letter received from OCC in which they outlined their desires to see fast, reliable broadband available to everyone by 2015. The document explained that OCC hoped to develop the Oxfordshire Community Network which is an existing network of cabling laid underground. The Chairman thought this was a very exciting project that everyone could benefit from.

#### Exchange of Information

Mr David Turner informed the meeting that there had been a positive development in respect of a crossing at Chippinghurst and that he was attending a meeting to hear about the proposals to establish a crossing. He also highlighted a scam that Trading Standards were following up where a cold caller tried to persuade the receiver of the call that they had a problem with their computer. Mr Turner also informed the meeting that OCC would be setting their budget in February.

The Parish Council will meet on **Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in The Pine Lodge** Little Milton unless there is a need to convene any planning or other meetings.

*R. Fergusson Parish Clerk*

Please note that the complete minutes of the Council are now included on the Council website [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk) after they have been approved by the Council.

#### Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme on 1st January 2009. A version of the Publication Scheme will be available on the Council Website [www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

Residents can see the records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk.

## Current Council members

Councillor Stuart McGill ( Chairman)	01844 279092
Councillor Barry Coward (Vice Chair)	01844 278970
Councillor Mabel Wood	01844 279670
Councillor Alison Shelton	01844 278144
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Councillor Tim Robinson	01844 278343
Parish Clerk Raymond Fergusson	01844 279150 fergie.milton1@btinternet.com

## FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

As many of you may be aware there will be an election on the first Thursday of May for the six places on the Parish Council. The term for Councillors is four years. There will be a detailed timetable in the April Newsletter but now is the time to give the matter some serious consideration if you are thinking of offering yourself as a candidate. This is an opportunity for you to represent the interests of your community. I would encourage residents who are thinking about offering themselves as candidates to come along to the Council meeting in the next three months and see what happens or give me a call if you have any questions about what is involved. It is important that we all take responsibility for our community and being a Parish Councillor affords you that opportunity.

*Raymond Fergusson, Parish Clerk 01844 279150*

## MR DAVID TURNER COUNTY COUNCILLOR

My contact details are as follows:

Address: David Turner, 50 Hardings, Chalgrove, Oxford, OX44 7TJ.

Home Telephone: 01865 891169

Email: [david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.turner@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

For a charge of £68 residents can arrange for their unwanted vehicle to be collected from within the District and a charge of £20 for up to three bulky item e.g. fridge furniture etc. and a further £6.35 for each additional item. To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01491 823416 or print a copy of the form from the Council's website [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

## VERDANT: WASTE COLLECTION DATES –FEBRUARY 2011

	Garden	Non Recycle	Recycle	Food
1st February	No	Yes	No	Yes
8th February	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
15th February	No	Yes	No	Yes
22nd February	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

## WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

The Oxfordshire County Council Waste Recycling Centres at Redbridge, Drayton (near Abingdon) and Oakley Wood are open seven days a week including Bank Holidays from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. However over the Christmas/New Year please note the following:

25 & 26 December: Closed

27 – 30 December 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

31 December: 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

1 January: Closed

## THE VILLAGE SHOP REPORT

January is always a quiet time in the shop, and this year proved to be no different, as people recover from the excesses of Xmas and the New Year and give their bank balances time to recover.

We were also not helped by our chiller cabinet deciding not to work, so all perishable foodstuffs had to be moved to the Cake display to keep them cool and fresh. As is always the way, the chiller is now 4 months out of its parts and labour warranty, so we will need to pay for repairs.

However, we did receive a boost from 20 hampers sold before Xmas paid for this month. We can also report that turnover up to Xmas was very substantially up on last year, so thanks to everyone who came in!

## VOLUNTEERS-YOUR VILLAGE SHOP NEEDS YOU!!!

Our call for more volunteers from last month has gained us Anita, who has kindly offered her services behind the counter for a couple of hours. She has taken to it like a duck to water-very competent and professional-she even likes dusting!!!!

Just in case you think that being a volunteer is all work and no play, we will be having our annual volunteer's celebration meal at The Lamb on February 4<sup>th</sup>, paid for from the "tips" bin and the shop itself. It is a small, but very heartfelt thank you to all those of you who have given up your valuable time to help make the shop a success. Thank you again to everyone involved.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are still shorthanded on the Shop Committee, so if anyone feels they could spare few hours, and who has any particular skills we could use in a retail environment, please let us know.

## WINE CLUB

The last Wine Club investigated Wines of Italy, with seven different wines to sample, from different regions and styles, as well as some very rare grape varieties (Passarina and Pecorino). For those who think they are stuck with chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, or pinot grigio, it was a refreshing change. We will have our next adventure into the fascinating world of wine on Wednesday, 23rd February, at 8.00PM at the Shop. See you there!

*Stuart McGill, Secretary, Little Milton Village Shop Ltd, 27909*

## GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Firstly, an apology for not being specific about which Hellebores to remove the leaves from; I should have stated the oriental types which have new flowering shoots arising from the base of the plant and opening in February. Helleborus argutifolius flowers in late spring on growth made the previous year so only old flowered shoots should be removed from these plants.

Walking in my garden in the sunshine yesterday I was reminded that; however miserable the weather may be, spring is not far away. The white of snowdrops and yellow of winter aconites are already visible and the shoots of irises, daffodils and alliums are advancing rapidly. I will have to work hard to finish clearing the decaying perennial vegetation which threatens to swamp them, while leaving enough in an attempt to thwart the best attempts of the local deer which are very fond of irises. I no longer grow any tulips in the back garden as they never get beyond ground level before being eaten. Snowdrops and daffodils remain unaffected. Late in February is a good time to beg clumps of snowdrops 'in the green' from gardening friends who are dividing their congested clumps as I find this the best way to get them established.

The Oxfordshire Theatre Company  
& Little Milton Pine Lodge presents...

# Alice in Wonderland



**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm**

Tickets available at:

Little Milton Post Office

or go to: [www.wegotickets.com/event/104269](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/104269)

Adult £8 Child/OAP £6

## LITTLE MILTON TRANSPORT NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS (2010)

This survey was carried out by Little Milton Parish Council in order to consult with members of their local community on the issue of transport and bus services. We have now had the results of the survey and the Council would like to thank those that participated. The report was sent to OCC in support of the Council's response to the review of Subsidised Bus Services.

### SUMMARY

- 36 households responded out of 195 households, a response rate of 18.5%. These resulted in a total of 76 individual responses.
- 35 respondents cited the 103 as the most used service. A further 5 respondents cited the 111 as either the first or second most used.
- A small proportion of respondents regularly use the bus services. 15.7% (12) respondents are daily or weekly bus users and all of the regular service users travel on the 103. Out of the 12 regular users, 8 cannot drive.
- The common reason affecting respondents' use of buses is because the car is more convenient (52.6%: 40). The second cited reasons are owing to services being wrongly timed (23.7%: 18) and the lack of evening and weekend services (22.4%: 17). A further 11.8% (9) state that the wrong destinations add to poor usage. 5 respondents cite the cost of fares as being too high.
- 52.6% (40) respondents think publicity of services is adequate in the parish opposed to 34.2% (26) respondents who think there is a lack of publicity.
- Surprisingly few respondents answered the GP question. However, out of the 32 responses, all but 1 respondent use Morland House. Over half of respondents (57.9%: 44) drive to their GP, 17.1% (13) get lifts and 10.5% (8) use the bus. The 8 bus users fall into all age group ranges.
- Oxford is by far the most popular shopping destination (31.6%: 24), Wheatley is the second (13.2%: 10) and 8 respondents prefer Thame. The bulk of respondents self drive (60.5%: 46), however, a good proportion of respondents (36.8%: 28) use the bus. 18 of the bus users go to Oxford and the age of user falls into lower and upper age ranges.
- For social and leisure trips most respondents go to Oxford (32.9%: 25) and 6 respondents cite various destinations. Again, respondents predominately drive (57.9%: 44) for this purpose of trip. A reasonable proportion of respondents use the bus (27.6%: 21); 16 of the bus users go to Oxford. Lifts are also relied on by 18 mostly young respondents.
- The comments made by respondents largely centre on bus services not being frequent enough and therefore cannot use the bus to access necessary services such as doctor's appointments. A number of comments point to the problem of long journey times, which are off putting and increase concern if you miss the last bus in Oxford and have to wait a 2 hours for the next one. 5 comments note that the 103 is essential to a quality of life in Little Milton, though many would appreciate weekend and evening service too. 3 respondents would like a better service so that they can access Thame.

If any resident would like to read a copy of the report or the Council's response to OCC please contact me on 01844 279150.

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

W/E 5th February	–	Mrs. G. Taylor/Mrs H Ridley
W/E 12th February	–	Mrs A. Hawkins/Mrs E Summers
W/E 19th February	–	Mrs. M. Davies/Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 26th February	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove/ Mrs C Coward
W/E 5th March	–	Mrs A Jones/ Mrs S Holifield

### CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

W/E 6th February	–	Maggie Wheeler
W/E 13th February	–	Maggie Wheeler
W/E 20th February	–	
W/E 27th February	–	
W/E 6th March	–	

*Teresa Quested (278922)*

### BELL RINGING PRACTICE DURING FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st February	–	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Tuesday 8th February	–	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Sunday 12th February	–	10.30 pm to 11.00 a.m.
		<b>Quarter Peal 12.15p.m. – 1.15 p.m.</b>
Tuesday 15th February	–	5.30 pm to 6.00 pm
Tuesday 22nd February	–	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Tuesday 1st March	–	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

*Raymond Fergusson 279150*

### FROM THE RECTORY

#### FROM THE REGISTERS.

#### ALBERT ARTHUR GEORGE COLES “JIM”

Jim, as we all knew him, died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December at the age of 89. Jim was a very popular cheerful gentleman, one of the true characters of Little Milton, whom we all loved. He was born at Kintbury, near Newbury into a family of 8 children. He was a countryman through and through, and worked the best part of his life in farming. Although he hardly ever mentioned it, he served during the war in Burma and India, an experience which would have had a lasting effect on him. In some small way, Jim was a sport and games man. He played football among the locals while serving in the Far East, but we would remember him in the Plough playing cribbage or Aunt Sally, and then there was his legendary gift of picking winners in horse racing. We laid him to rest with his beloved wife of 50 years, Grace. We offer Barry, Terry, Linda, Susan and Robert, the twelve Grandchildren and six Great Grandchildren our sincere condolences, and assure them of our continued prayer for them all.

#### JUDITH WINIFRED VALENTINE.

Judy passed away after a long illness on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January in Sobell House. She was 65. Her funeral took place in St. James’ on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Judy was a well known and greatly loved figure about Little Milton. We all shall miss her warmth, humour and gentleness. Even though latterly very ill, she was as she always had been, a shining example of generosity of spirit, giving of herself to others. All of us are so grateful for Judy and her late husband Keith, giving us a remarkable picture of family life, for their heightened togetherness has moved us all. Our hearts and prayers go out to Andy and Tracey, Tracey and Martin and Amanda and Tony and all their respective children as we all share in their great loss. Judy was a great person and we loved her.

### AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ANNIE

This is a brief note to tell you all that I will be away from the Post Office for two/three weeks in February. I am scheduled to have a small operation on my foot but unfortunately I will be on crutches two/three weeks afterwards. Clare is taking charge in my absence and is hoping to keep the counter open fulltime as usual but if it is closed for the odd half hours please be patient.

*Regards*

*Annie*

### LITTLE MILTON ALLOTMENTS

A happy new year to everyone. Not a lot of activity up at Little Milton allotments recently as one would expect due to the weather. However, don’t forget those standing leeks, and if it looks like it will be a longer freezing winter dig some up and heel them in to dug ground. Brussels sprouts are still for the picking, my first year at it and some mind-blowing results (actually it was sprout-blowing).

BBOWT have made 3 more plots which will be made available to those on the waiting list as well as part of plot 16. This will mean all the available space will be fully allocated this year.

*Kay Ward*

### NEWS FROM THE PINE LODGE

Events organised by the Pine Lodge committee are not only to raise the funds necessary to maintain the building but also to provide a variety of entertainment for the village. We try to offer a range of events and hope that we appeal to a wide audience. Please let us know if you have any ideas for different things that may attract more people to use the hall.

February sees the live theatre performance from the **Oxford Touring Theatre Company**. The quality of these shows never ceases to amaze the audience – if you have never been we strongly recommend that you come on February 11th and see for yourself

#### Dates for your diary:

Alice in Wonderland – February 11th at 6pm

Cinema Club – 24th February

#### TABLE TOP SALE

By popular demand we will be holding another table top sale on **Saturday 5th March from 2 – 4 pm in the Pine Lodge.**

Tables will cost £5 each.

Have a spring clean and turn out some items to sell.

**Telephone Teresa Quested (278922) to book your table.**

#### SEWING GROUP

This month we will meet on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 a.m., at Willowbank on the Haseley Road, the home of Anne Hawkins. Please do telephone Anne on 279526 if you are able to join the group so that enough lunch can be provided for all who come! You can sew, mend, quilt, darn or chat- all are welcome!

*Sally Ann Dennis 278029*

them fed daily; therefore arrangements are made as a matter of course every year so we don't get caught out, as it is no good to say Oh! I can't feed the animals today.

On the subject of care of animals I was also horrified at the lack of health cover offered to some by the NHS over the Christmas break or when ever it was when people had to wait over 24 hours for attention. Again if we Farmers were caught leaving animals without attention for this period we would be set upon from a great height, even taken to court over it, but again it is easy to criticise, from an armchair.

In spite of the weather it looks as if all crops have come through the winter so far remarkably well, not having suffered from the extremes of the cold. Having said that, of course during the coldest of the winter, they were mainly protected by a blanket of snow.

It certainly takes a cold spell like we had to bring a mass of little birds to household feeders, and it is then not too difficult to see the bullies. It has also illustrated the value of leaving as many hips and haws on the hedgerows, now practically all gone, as they were alive with mainly Field Fares, but others as well. It is bound to have thinned a lot of the small garden birds out, so hopefully we will now have a good breeding season, as we did last year, so they can recoup their numbers. Which ever way you look at it, as each day comes and goes the days are getting longer and spring is getting nearer, there is nothing we can do about that except look forward to better weather. It is too early as yet to know how this season will end so that remains for comment in a couple of months time when perhaps we can speculate how it will affect things later in the year. Whatever else our Partridge population still seem to be flourishing and can be seen around the farm yard most days.

*Charles Peers*

### **IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MP**

John Howell MP holds regular surgeries around the Henley Constituency. You do not have to wait for a surgery to come to your area to book an appointment. When you ring we will spend a few minutes with you to try to understand your concern or problem and to make sure that John is the best person to help you. When he is not, we will direct you to your local parish, district or county councillor or the appropriate organisation to help. We may also be able to help you without you having to wait for a surgery appointment. We will always try to find the quickest and most effective way to help.

Surgeries are held on a Saturday morning between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. If you would like to reserve a 15 minute appointment please ring 01491 613072.

### **February 2011**

5<sup>th</sup> February Parish Room Islip Village Hall OX5 2TA  
18<sup>th</sup> February Sports Pavilion Lay Avenue, Berinsfield OX10 7NX

### **FARMER'S MARKET**

### **GREAT HASELEY VILLAGE HALL**

**Sunday February 12th 10.am – 12.00 p.m.**

**Come along and enjoy the many different tables selling fruit, eggs, vegetables, meat cakes and many more.**

**You can sit down and simply read your Sunday newspaper whilst enjoying a bacon butty!**

**Deidre Mann 279334; Will Meadon 0771621**

### **Christmas 2010.**

Our Church looked absolute resplendent for Christmas, and we cannot thank enough all those who contributed in so many ways for it to be so. Thank you indeed. We held the Benefice Crib Service in St. James' on Christmas Eve. It was a lovely occasion, and made especially so by our using the beautiful hand knitted figures made by Sylvia Taylor for the Crib. You see our older figures, though majestic, are rather fragile and to have figures which we can actually handle safely is truly great.

Our Church was resplendent for Christmas, and our grateful thanks for all those who made it so. I have to say that our Church always looks wonderful. We need to thank all those who give of their time to make it so. The flower arrangements are always skilfully done, and those who go with duster and polish to make it gleam, deserve and get our thanks and admiration.

### **Our Bell Ringers.**

It's always a thrill for me when I arrive at Church and hear our bells ringing out calling us to worship. I am always reminded that as the sound of them fills the air, and they can be heard quite far and wide, so the love of God enfolds everything in our village and its life and people. Their function is not simply to call us to worship, but is a great symbol of God's love for us all. For all that I am proud of our ringers. They are there, never failing, always reliable. Again pointing to the faithfulness of our God who disclosed himself supremely in giving us his Son.

Thank you bell ringers for all that you give.

### **LENT 2011.**

Looking further ahead, Lent this year is late, beginning with Ash Wednesday on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. We are planning to hold our usual Lent Lunches around our benefice, and we should be grateful to learn of people who would be willing to host a lunch. In previous years they have been held on four Mondays during Lent and enjoyed by many.

*Victor 279498*

### **VOCATION**

Just before Christmas, I received a letter from an old friend of mine. He told me on the Sunday before Christmas, he along with 24 others he was being ordained as a trainee Minister and Leader in the Salvation Army and he asked for my prayers for him and all the others being ordained that day.

After two year of intensive theological and mission training these people would be ordained as officers in the Salvation Army, and then commissioned to their new appointments-churches and communities across the country. We all know of and have great respect for, the work of the Army. Often as not they seek to minister to people in places where we might hesitate to go.

For some of those being ordained on that day it would be the result of a calling from God which was planted in their hearts many years ago. Some would have come to full time Christian ministry after other careers and having raised their families. For others the journey to that point in time may not have been so long but the conviction of faith-the knowing that this is what God wants them-indeed needs them-to do with their lives-will be just as intense. They all deserved and got my prayers.

Now, I've probably given the impression that "vocation" or "calling" is restricted to the ordained ministry. But I don't mean it so. I treasure the comment of Sir Walter Raleigh

that “each one of us approaches God through our own private stair”. I believe that every one of us is destined to hear the urgent call of Jesus to “Follow me”, but it is up to us, as individuals to respond.

There are many kinds of ‘calling’. For some it is a vocation to Christian ministry as leaders, preachers or pastors. For others it may be a call to homemaking, teaching, or medicine, the law or industry. Where ever we find ourselves, whatever our occupation, God can use us. If we feel just like a cog in a wheel or part of the furniture, let’s remember that a missing cog can cause the whole apparatus to break down, and without furniture a room is just an empty space. We all have been given skills, gifts, a part to play in God’s world and he wants us to explore the possibilities together.

*Lord, we pray your blessing on us this day. Show us all YOUR plans for our lives. Direct us down the roads you wish us to travel. Bring us into contact with the people you wish us to meet, and help us to share your love with them this day.*

**Victor 279498**

**BENEFICE SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY**

	<b>GREAT MILTON St Mary’s</b>	<b>LITTLE MILTON St James’s</b>	<b>GREAT HASELEY St Peter’s</b>
Sunday 6th February Lent 5	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Sung Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 13th February Lent 4	Sung Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.
Sunday 20th February Lent 3	Family Service 11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Sung Communion CW 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 27th February Lent 2			Benefice Sung Communion Service 10.00 a.m.
Sunday 6th March Lent 1	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 a.m.	Sung Communion CW 9.30 a.m.	Family Service 11.00 a.m.

**GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH Minister: Revd. Adam Jackson Tel: 01865 714163**

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

6th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Service led by Revd Roger Burne
13th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Service led by Mr. Phil Palmer
20th	11.00 a.m.	Morning Service led by Mr. Alan Turner-Smith
27th	11.00 a.m.	Sacrament Service led by Revd Adam Stevenson

**VIEW FROM VIEWS**

The first full working day of the year usually sees the first day of the “Oxford Farming Conference”, where all the great and the good in the Industry collect in the “Examination Schools”, to discuss the current political and economic issues as they affect the agricultural scene. This year was no exception with an extremely relevant and thought provoking agenda, we were lucky in having both our own minister, and the EU Agricultural commissioner. Both had slightly different ideas on the future of farm subsidies, ours saying the rising prices of agri produce lessening the need for them, and the EU saying that they will be needed Europe wide for sometime, being aware not only of public/taxpayer, opinion/perception, but the need to be sure of that Europe has a degree of food security. It was most refreshing to note that both these important people had without question a good understanding of agriculture, something we have not experienced for a very long time. Although our own ministers concept, that the increase in prices we are receiving at the moment, will obviate the necessity for support, there is absolutely no guarantee that these prices will be maintained, particularly as they are mainly governed by speculation. What was reassuring was the fact that food production was moving up the political agenda and those discussing it understood the situation. A great deal of debate circulated around the ability to feed the possible 9B population by 2050, with diminishing recourses, land, water etc, (being referred to as the “Perfect Storm”), and what we do about it, limit population growth and how, and, or the greater use of technology, (GM, chemicals etc), and current knowledge to make sure that every plant and animal produced to its full capacity.

It was also interesting to hear from those farming around the world, various comparisons being made such as the fact that, where there were no subsidies the costs of similar machinery, fertilisers, and chemicals, were much lower. Also where GM plants were grown, the environment and wildlife benefited from the lower use of chemicals, with illustrations of this fact, and their comments made when asked how they stood on the issue of GMs nationally, replying that they did not know what we were talking about, in other words it was not an issue or even discussed. One contributor, giving a paper on the prospects for the human being said that one of the options could be population control, making the point that where the standard of education was better, and the birth rate tended to be lower. Going on to point out that often where forests were destroyed the land was maybe only fertile for a short period, in other words we must make sure the right crops were grown in the right places. This has been a rather lengthy report but I thought readers might like to start the year knowing how our industry is thinking, and then later be aware of what may or may not happen, and of course anyone else who was at the conference may have a different opinion than I. All in all I came away with a more positive feeling than I have for some years now.

The weather has been a hot topic in everyone’s mind especially those who wanted to get away at Christmas, and either couldn’t or were severely delayed. This inevitably caused a great deal of recriminations of the authorities etc, mostly unjustified if not understandable. My take on this subject is very much that our weather is so variable that we simply cannot afford to spend vast sums of money kitting up councils to clear snow when we may well not get any serious falls again for say 10 years. However having said that I do think something more could be done, I was for instance horrified to see that the pavements were not cleared in the towns, making walking extremely dangerous, surely there is available labour for this, and would only need some small snow ploughs fitted to the myriad of self propelled mowers, councils seem to have at the moment, could do this job for very little cost. Farmers with stock simply have to get

contact Deborah Jackson for a programme or further information on 07988 159041 or email [deborah.jackson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.jackson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

*Jenny Stoker 07533 573746 [jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.stoker@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

### NEIGHBOURS CLUB

It was good to see twenty four members at our meeting on the 13th January, our first one in 2011. The afternoon was mainly given over to discussing our programme for the coming year and several useful suggestions were put forward for interesting topics and speakers. We had two birthdays to celebrate which, of course, meant cake to enjoy (and so soon after all the Christmas calories)!!! We were reminded of the meeting on Monday, the 17th January, to discuss the outings for the coming year and also that our next club meeting will be our Annual General Meeting.

*Joyce Price*

## **LITTLE MILTON CINEMA CLUB**

at the Pine Lodge

**Thursday 20th January 8pm**

### **‘Angels & Demons’**

The Illuminati were a secret society dedicated to scientific truth. When the Illuminati uncovered secrets about the Catholic religion, the Catholics ordered a huge massacre of the Illuminati. They thought this would silence them forever. But now they've come back for their revenge.

The Catholics hire Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) to prevent the Illuminati attack and stop millions from dying but will he do it in time?

6 months membership available on the door  
Adult/Child £10  
OAP £7.50

### WHEATLEY LIBRARY

A reminder of the opening times:

Tuesday 2.00 – 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 9.30 am. - 1.00 pm.: 2.00 5.00 p.m.

Thursday 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.: Friday 9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.: 2.00p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Contacts: 01865 875267; [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### THANK YOU

Linda and all her family would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts at the sad death of their dad (Jim). It brought such comfort to them knowing that he will be fondly remembered by those who knew him for his cheery smile

### JIM COLES

The village is a lesser place since the passing of Jim Coles. He really was a shining light to all who knew or met him.

Jim used to call by for his ‘pit-stop’ on the way back from the original Post Office and thankfully his visits continued after it moved site. Just stopping for a cheery chat he seemed to have a great way of bringing humour into the conversation and his local knowledge was fascinating as was his advice on gardening which was invaluable and most appreciated.

We will miss our coffee chats but I will endeavour to continue updating him on local gossip every Tuesday evening on the way up to ring the church bells!

*Sarah Jones*

### FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL 200 CLUB

The prize winning numbers were as follows:

#### January 2011

1st Prize	No 3 Mrs Louisa Kippin	£16
2nd Prize	No 40 Mrs Rebecca Emin	£12
3rd Prize	No 22 Mrs Jill Hoban	£8

Many thanks

*Mrs Diane Austin Little Milton School*

### OIL BUYING GROUPS THROUGH ORCC TRADING LTD

I would urge you to read the leaflet that was distributed in January with the Newsletter as it offered a potential benefit to a large number of people. I have received no offer from anyone to act as the village co-ordinator and unless someone comes forward the scheme cannot operate within the village. This scheme is not attempting to replace any existing arrangements but trying to establish something new. I have further information on being a co-ordinator for the scheme and I would encourage you to give it some serious thought.

*Raymond Fergusson Parish Clerk*

### LITTLE MILTON WI

Our January meeting takes place at Denman College where we will meet for a New Year Celebration lunch. Denman College, at Marcham, near Abingdon is W.I.'s own college. It is open to members and non-members for daily and residential courses on many subjects. Some come for miles to visit and stay at Denman so we feel very fortunate to be close enough to attend for daily events and even for a few hours such as lunch.

Our next meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> February when Stuart McGill will be telling us about his cycling in Great Britain, France and Spain. So if you missed any of his very interesting talks on this subject, or would like to hear them again, now is your chance.

Our meetings begin at 7.45 and end around 9pm on the second Thursday of the month at The Pine Lodge. Visitors and new members always welcome. If you would like

further information on any W.I. aspect please do not hesitate to telephone any of the following, Anne Hawkins 279526, Heather Peers 279627 or Shirley Thomas 278976

### **FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM**

The cold weather may have been a challenge for us, but for the wildlife, finding food can be extremely difficult and many will now be drawing on their reserves until early spring. When snow is on the ground, this is the best time to find out where the animals go, by finding their tracks. The BBC website below has some good pictures to help identify anything you find.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/field\\_guides/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/field_guides/)



## **Do your bit to stop climate change Plant a hedge day February 6th 10.30am – 3pm even if you can spare just an hour.**

The most practical and effective method to fight Climate Change is to plant trees. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen. Trees provide habitat for many thousands of other plants and animals. We plan to plant a new double hedge that will run between

two fences that run along the edge of one of the sheep fields (Linz), opposite the farm yard and by the footpath. BBOWT would like our help with the planting of the hedge and will need as many people as possible on 6<sup>th</sup> February. We will need as many diggers, planters and fillers, young or old, for as long as you can spare. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to do something to help our climate. We will meet at the farmyard at 10.30am; prepare the tools and hedging then start work. If you can dig, please bring a spade as we only have a few.

Note: We will carry on the work on March 6<sup>th</sup> so if you cannot make Feb you are welcome to join us next month.

**Paul Jeffery (Tel: 278 424 Email: Paulj201@hotmail.com)**

### **THAME & WHEATLEY RAMBLERS – FEBRUARY 2011**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sunday 6th    | Meet at Oxford, Thornhill Park & Ride Car Park, at 10:00am for an 8 mile morning walk to Forest Hill, Holton and Shotover. Sorry, no dogs allowed. 01865 358905.  |
| Thursday 10th | Meet at Three Horseshoes PH, Garsington (use pub car park only if planning to use the pub at the end of the walk, otherwise park tidily in the village) at 10:00am for a 6 mile walk via Cuddesdon. 01844 213608. |
| Sunday 20th   | Meet at Stokenchurch (Kings Hotel public car park) at 10:00am for a 6½ mile hilly walk with lovely views. 01844 208517.   |

Saturday 26th

Meet at Stanton St. John (park tidily in the village or use village hall car park) at 09:30am for a 12 mile walk via Green Belt Way to Beckley, Noke and Islip. Pub stop. 01844 339969.



What you think of our service...

The centre staff and I would like to say a big thank you for all your comments and completed questionnaires returned as part of the recent county council survey. We are waiting to hear about how the cuts to public services will affect us all, and your views have been included in the report to officers of the council to show the impact that Sure Start Children's Centres provide in the community. We conducted our part of the survey over the whole catchment area and every service we run, and there are some strong themes to highlight. We are delighted to see that 94% of you rated the service as excellent. Of particular value to you are access to groups, parenting workshops, and support and advice on child health and breastfeeding. Since visiting the centre, 81% of you feel you gained knowledge about how children learn and develop and 73% report more confidence in parenting. 78% of parents indicated greater awareness of child health and are more confident about making home life healthier. 60% of you feel that your relationship with your children has improved since using the centres services. 25% of parents using our service have gained skills and information to help find employment or make decisions about future work options. Going forward, the majority of you would like us to be open more often and many of you would like to access additional services through the centre more frequently, such as midwives, employment advice etc. and for our services to better advertised so that more people are able to use those on offer. Whatever happens in the future, it is rewarding to know that you value our work over the last year and a half, and the team at the Maple Tree CC will use your feedback as we plan for services from April onwards.

Oxfordshire Family Information Service - Pauline McKinnon from OFIS will be attending Bumps to Babies on Monday 7th February (2-3.30pm, Wheatley Young People's Centre) and Stay & Play on Friday 11th March (9.30-11.00 Great Milton Neighbours Hall). OFIS provide information on a range of topics such as childcare, early year's provision, help with cost of childcare and activities for children, as well as a brokerage service for parents who are finding it difficult to locate childcare.

Special days – we will be celebrating Chinese New Year in February and in March we have activities planned to celebrate St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and Pancake Day – contact Debbie for a full programme 07988 159041.

School half term w/c 21 February – is messy week! Older children are welcome to attend if they are accompanying siblings under 5 years old and an adult.

Evening First Aid Workshop - we are planning to hold our next first aid workshop as an evening session so that we can offer our services to working parents – please contact Nicole for further details 07545 209819.

Children's Centres are a one stop shop for all young children, their parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers. As well as running free and low cost play events for families, we also provide a range of information and advice about local children's services, including health and education and outreach home support. Please