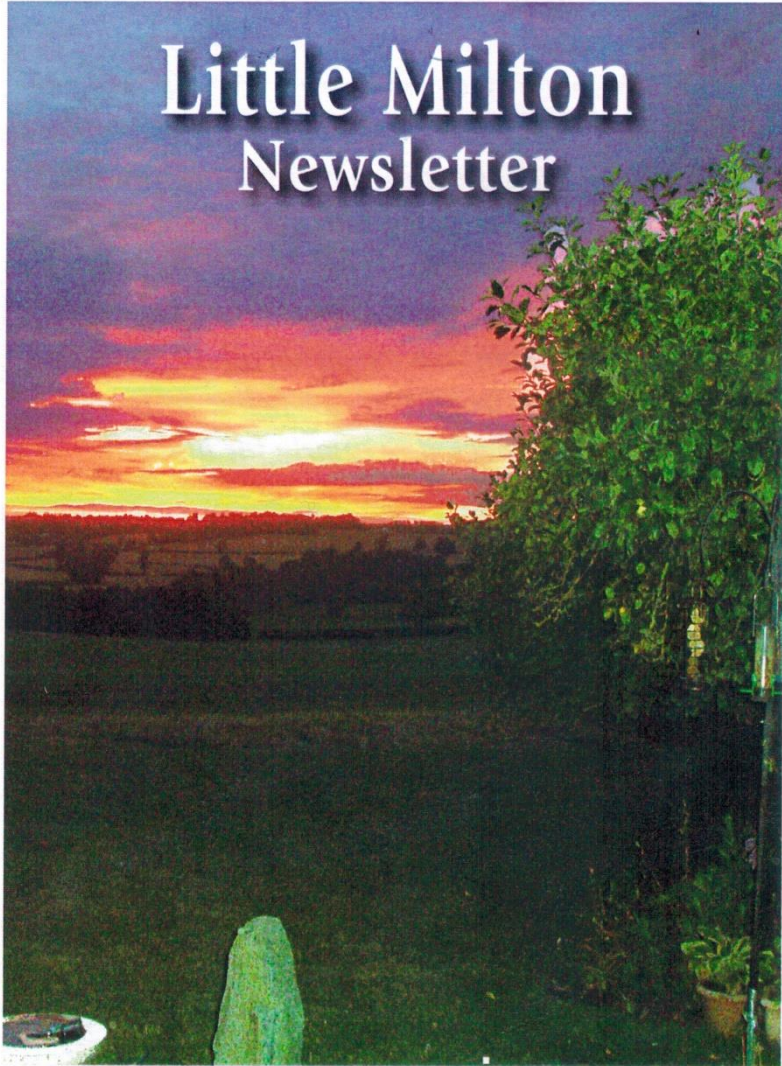


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[www.littlemilton.org.uk](http://www.littlemilton.org.uk)

# Little Milton Newsletter



October 2020

## ***Coronavirus (COVID-19)***

### ***Advice and support on Coronavirus***

***National advice on Coronavirus- it's changing all the time, so keep up to date with daily updates to make sure you are getting accurate information!***

***Take care where you look for advice and guidance, and make sure that you are using verified sites for information as there is a lot of incorrect or 'scam' advice on social media at the moment. Always use the advice below from makes sense and check it regularly for updates.***

***The following are some key websites***

***Coronavirus -What you need to do: Government advice***  
***<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>***

***NHS England for advice on protecting yourself***  
***<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>***

***Public Health England for up to date advice and guidance***  
***<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>***  
***including Easy Read and language translations***

***Updates from Oxfordshire County Council***

***<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-from-the-government/>***

## **EXTRACTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

(The minutes will be approved at the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

### **Parish Council Meeting -9<sup>th</sup> September**

The Chairman welcomed District Councillor Caroline Newton to the Zoom meeting as well as Barry Coward Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

Caroline addressed the following topics that were of high interest to the Council

- The Emerging Local Plan: EIP
- Outline planning application re Chalgrove Airfield
- White Paper: Planning for the Future
- Unitary Authority for Oxfordshire

### **The Emerging Local Plan: EIP**

Caroline expressed the view that following the Inspectors Preliminary conclusions she felt it was likely that the Inspector would find the Plan to be sound. There was a discussion about the implications of the Chalgrove Strategic remaining in the Plan and whether the timing of delivery of the site would be delayed if the Martin Baker continued to resist the attempts by Home England to be released from their lease.

Caroline speculated that it was likely that the Plan would be adopted by SODC although it was unclear as to how the ruling parties of the Greens and Lib Dems would vote.

The Inspector's report is expected to be received in November.

### **Outline planning application re Chalgrove Airfield**

Caroline commented upon the Outline Planning application and expressed the view that it would not be determined until the Local Plan 2034 had been adopted and SODC would seek to have an extension to the target decision date of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Barry Coward observed that OCC Highways had not formally responded to the application and stated that OCC were a critical stakeholder. Caroline believed that if the application is refused it was very likely to go to appeal. The Parish Council were very disturbed that Little Milton would suffer if this application was approved as the increased volume of cars and HGV's would cause serious environmental damage along the A329 through the village due to the unsuitability of the road. They also expressed a serious concern about the site construction traffic that is scheduled to use the A329.

### **White Paper: Planning for the Future**

Caroline referred the Council to the consultation White Paper: Planning for the Future that contained a number of changes to the current planning system. These included proposals that would strip back the local plans as there would be more centralised planning policy with local plans restricted. Caroline stated that Stadhampton Parish Council had produced a good analysis of the key aspects of the White Paper that could be used as a basis of a response. The Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should make enquiries to obtain a copy. The closing date for the consultation is 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **Changes to the current planning system**

The Clerk stated that there was a separate Consultation on changes to the current Planning System that covered a number of issues that included revisions to the

standard method of assessing local housing need and extending the current Permission in Principle to major housing-led development.  
The closing date of the consultation is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

#### Unitary Authority for Oxfordshire

Caroline referred to the desire of Government to reduce the number of County and District Councils and will publish a White Paper on Local Government Reorganisation later this year. She expressed the view that there was a divergence of views across the County's upper tier Councils.

District Councillor Caroline Newton and Barry Coward left the Zoom Call.

The Councillors had a free ranging discussion on the possible actions they could take to publicise their concerns on the Chalgrove Airfield development as well as how to engage with stakeholders to mitigate the potential impact on Little Milton.

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had joined a Zoom call of Parishes Against Chalgrove that raised a number of actions including forming an action group that represented more Parishes that would seek to raise funds to appoint legal representation if the Outline Planning application n went to appeal.

The Chairman proposed that a further meeting was required to fully explore the options as well as to understand more fully the OCC classification of the transport network. The Council RESOLVED to hold a further Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Planning

##### P20/S1261/SCO: Environmental Impact Assessment 'Scoping Opinion' Re Land at Junction7 of the M40 Harrington:

The Clerk informed the meeting that SODC had consulted on the Scoping Report and the responses had been taken into account in the Report prepared by Martin Broderick on behalf of SODC and that this Scoping Opinion had been adopted by the Local Planning Authority.

##### P19/S2608/LDE Installation of objet d'art: Certificate of Lawful use or development:

The application for a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development was refused by the South Oxfordshire District Council.

##### Land west of Old Belchers Farm House: Little Milton

A formal enforcement notice has been issued by SODC as it appears that there has been a breach of planning control under section 171A (1) (e) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The breach of planning control alleges that without planning permission there has been a material change of use of land from agriculture to a mixed use, namely agriculture and the displaying of art works.

#### Play Inspection Report

Cllr. David Wakeling reported on the inspection report received from The Play Inspection Company following their inspection on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. David reported that there were no high risk matters that required the attention of the Council. He reported that there were a number of low risk matters and one moderate risk relating to the level of bark below the slide. The Council RESOLVED that Cllr. Adam Sheppard would provide the bark from the stock that he is holding on behalf of the Council.

### Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance

The Clerk informed the Council that the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance had arranged a Webinar on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 to address the important issues arising from the White Paper: Planning for the Future and the Changes to the Current Planning System with particular potential impacts on the implications for Neighbourhood Plans. The Clerk stated that he would subscribe to the Webinar as it was important for the Council to be aware of any implications on its Made Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

### Photographs of Councillors

The Chairman informed the Council that a request had been made by a villager that photographs should be made available on the website of all Council members. The Council RESOLVED that it would pursue the request and that each Councillor should send the Clerk a suitable photograph for uploading to the website

### Parish Council Meeting-16<sup>th</sup> September

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for distributing some background information on the history of the previous Parish Councils attempts to reduce the weight limit on the A329. He commented that this problem has been with the village since the early 1970's when the road was upgraded to an A road. He highlighted the initiatives that had been taken and those are well documented. The Chairman expressed the view that the likely adoption of the Emerging Local Plan and the Chalgrove Airfield site presented a step change on the scale of the historic problems on the A329 that the Parish Council should use by challenging both the County Council and District Council.at the earliest opportunity.

The Council discussed whether their strategy should be seeking to pursue that of traffic mitigation or that of a by-pass. The considered view was that traffic mitigation gave the Council the best opportunity of having a greater success given the current position of OCC Highways being unable to fund a by-pass.

The Councillors shared information on the possible mitigation opportunities that the Council should explore. A key element was that of scrutinising the current OCC Freight Strategy of the lorry routes across the County. The proposed infra-structure of an Edge Road around Watlington, a by-pass around Cuxham and by-passes at Stadhampton and Chiselhampton gave the opportunity to effectively avoid the A329 being designated a lorry route. This discussion raised the importance of the timing of any infra-structure changes as construction traffic was of major concern and the Council needed to ensure that any infra-structure changes were implemented before construction on the Chalgrove airfield site.

The Council RESOLVED that it required to set up meetings with appropriate officers within OCC Highways and SODC Planning and would seek to do this through the County and District Councillor.

The Councillors addressed the question of keeping the village updated with the actions being taken by the Parish Council and RESOLVED that a letter detailing the current position should be sent to each household within the village with the October newsletter and a Village Meeting conducted through Zoom should take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This will be a Zoom meeting and open to members of the public)

### Current Council members

Councillor Alaric Smith ( Chairman)	01844 279993
Councillor Francois Van Der Merwe (Vice Chair)	01844 278180
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Steve Sidhu	01844 279448
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Raymond Fergusson	01844 279150 lmparishcouncil@btinternet.com
County Councillor: Stephen Harrod	01844 278068
District Councillor Caroline Newton	01491 614662

## VILLAGE MEETING

### WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

The Parish Council are inviting residents to share an online meeting on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 8.00.**

A letter explaining the purpose of the meeting and how to access the meeting has been delivered with the newsletter. If you have any questions please contact the Parish Clerk on 01844 279150 or email [lmparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:lmparishcouncil@btinternet.com)

Raymond Fergusson  
**Parish Clerk**

### **SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

The minimum charge is £34 for up to 3 items and £7 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress counts as 2 items and a three piece suite (consisting of 1 settee and 2 chairs) counts as 3 items. N.B. Payments by credit card are subject to a 1.36% surcharge.

**Before you contact us to book your bulky waste collection, have a good think about whether you have any other big items to dispose of. Once we have processed your booking, we are unable to make any alterations or add any other items – even if you have only booked one or two items.**

To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01235 422406 or book on line from the Council's website [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

### **Give your furniture to a good home**

Have you considered donating your furniture to charity or a good home? Emmaus is an Oxford based charity that will come out to all areas of the county and collect unwanted furniture free of charge. For legal or practical reasons this does not include soft furnishings without a fire label, safety items, or any item that is not in a saleable condition. Please [visit the Emmaus website](#) for more details.

## BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – OCTOBER 2020

	<b>Brown</b>	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Food</b>
6th October	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
13th October	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
20th October	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
27th October	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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.

### **THE RECTOR'S PINT**

I find it hard to believe but the 19th October will mark the fifth anniversary of my being Rector in these parishes.

Anniversaries are times to ponder, and five years is a milestone. One thing that took centre stage a few years ago, and has been difficult since, was the revelation about the real situation of our buildings. All three churches have been drawing up plans to tackle this, and I have estimated a combined price of over a million and a half pounds! I doubt that we will come anywhere near the full extent of the repair that is actually needed for the stonework. Rather, we will be looking at more realistic and practical 'make do' approaches, but this will still be ferociously expensive.

I am saddened that this is the issue that has dominated and I am truly grateful to those who have worked hard to remedy this. For all our sakes I hope it won't dominate for the next five years, after which I will retire. Because of the enormity of the problem, I have found the buildings at times, to be draining, and, as we have recently discovered (out of necessity), I believe there are some really positive ways to worship outside them.

But I want to reflect on lawn mowing. For five years I have been mowing the substantial lawn at the Rectory, and no, I don't have a ride-on mower. For the first four years I tried in vain to mow the front lawn in straight lines. The problem is that it is on a slope, and mowing a straight line across a slope is not at all easy. Then, after four years, I discovered the obvious solution. What an idiot! Follow the gradient, mow in curved lines! The result has been far more elegant, it looks better and it has been so much easier to do.

This is the third vicarage (or rectory) lawn that I have had to mow, all of them large. I console myself that there are times and seasons in my ministry when the lawnmower has, in fact, been the only thing in the parish that has moved when I have pushed it! The meditative state of mind that mowing can bring has, over the years, also given me some strange breakthroughs in my thinking. I had one the other day when I was reflecting on my new-found art of curved mowing. This is a metaphor for the Church. We spend so much time and energy trying to 'mow' the Church in neat straight lines. We have volumes of church legislation 'Canon Law' which takes a PhD to understand, even more as now as we try to emerge out of 'lockdown'. We also have books of finely-honed straight-lined liturgy. This is not following the natural gradient of how people think, and are. The question I have is this, in an institution that tells us to do things in straight lines, how do we start mowing in curves

*Simon*

## BENEFICE SERVICES OCTOBER

	<b>Live Service 9.00</b>	<b>Virtual Service Zoom 11.00</b>
Sunday 4th October <b>Trinity 17</b>	Great Milton St Mary's <b>Communion BCP</b>	Invitation To Zoom <b>Morning Prayer</b>
Sunday 11th October <b>Trinity 18</b>	Great Haseley St Peter's <b>Communion</b>	Invitation To Zoom <b>Morning Prayer</b>
Sunday 18th October <b>Trinity 19</b>	Little Milton St James' <b>Communion</b>	Invitation To Zoom <b>Morning Prayer</b>
Sunday 25th October <b>Last Sunday after Trinity</b>		Invitation To Zoom <b>Communion</b>

### CHURCH OPEN ON SUNDAY P.M.

The Church will open every Sunday from 12.00 pm to 5.00pm for anyone wishing a quiet space to reflect or pray.

### GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

The Methodist Church has advised that all churches will cease having services forthwith until further notice.

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

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR OCTOBER

W/E 4th October	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Smith
W/E 11th October	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Anne Hawkins
W/E 18th October	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 25th October	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 1st November	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

### GRASS CUTTING ROTA: OCTOBER

W/E 4th October	-	David Arnold
W/E 11th October	-	Howard Harrison
W/E 18th October	–	David Hawkins
W/E 25th October	–	Raymond Fergusson



Thank you everybody who supported David Hawkins and Jo Preston by sponsoring them on their gallant cycle around local churches in aid of our own Little Milton church and The Historic Churches trust. Over £300 was raised for their efforts.

Not many churches were open this year probably due to the pandemic, but 11 cyclists visited St. James on 12th September and signed in to say they had called.

*Anne Hawkins.*



## **FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB**

### **AUGUST 2020**

1st	No 20	The West family	£10.00
2nd	No 26	Poppy Hobbs	£7.00
3rd	No 23	Melissa Simms	£5.00

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

1st	No; 21	Jo Merrick	£10.00
2nd	No; 32	Gordon Smith	£7.00
3rd	No; 33	Gillian Taylor	£5.00

*Diane Austin: Little Milton School 200 Club Organiser*



## **LITTLE MILTON RAFFLE 2020**

Thank you so much for the support you gave to the village raffle that was drawn at the end of August. We had an outstanding response at a time when we know many people are finding things challenging. We raised a fantastic £ 2,071 which will make a big difference given that our usual fundraising activities have been curtailed.

### **The prize winners were:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Dinner for four at Le Manoir – The Dennis family**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize –Dinner for four at The Lamb – The Farmer family**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – One-year pass to Blenheim Palace – Angie Jones**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Champagne Afternoon Tea for six – The Hayward family**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize – Luxury hamper from the Village Shop – Sara Scotland**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize - Luxury hamper from the Village Shop – Teresa Quested**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize – Gift Voucher for the Beauty Room – Jane Willis**

By chance the first prize winners (Sally Ann and Ian Dennis) will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next year so they are now planning a very special occasion. Congratulations to you both!

Thank you to everyone at the Village Shop for selling tickets, the envelope stuffers, the ticket folders, the money counters and all of you who bought tickets. Lastly a special thank you to Caroline Shiels for co-ordinating the raffle and doing a great job!

*Lindsay Heath*

### **NEWSPAPER DELIVERER REQUIRED**

Great Milton Post Office are looking for someone to help deliver the newspapers in the village. If you think you can help please contact GM Post Office 01844 279455

## **FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL**

### **200 CLUB**

Treasurer  
Mrs. Diane Austin  
C/O School

200 Club Organiser  
Mrs. Diane Austin  
C/O School

Dear Parents/Villagers/Friends,

#### **LITTLE MILTON 200 CLUB**

Many thanks to all of you who registered with the 200 club last year. This letter is to remind you that we are now renewing our 200 club for the year 2020/21 and our first draw will be held on 20th November and thereafter on the 3rd Friday of every month.

For those of you who are unaware of the 200 club, it is a scheme that raises funds for the school, with an equal amount being paid out in prizes.

To become a member costs as little as £12.00 per year.

Each month, a draw takes place with a minimum of two prizes. The number of members determines the value of the prizes. Fifty percent is given to the school. As membership increases, so does the prize money increase. As previously, we will be requesting annual payments. Everyone needs to re-register in order to be entered into the monthly draw. New numbers will be allocated to all members on a first come first serve basis.

We hope you will be able to support, or continue to support our village school by joining the 200 club. Please complete the attached form and return with payment to either the Post Office or Little Milton School by 19<sup>th</sup> November please.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely

Mrs Diane Austin The Friends of Little Milton School, 200 Club Organiser.  
Registered Charity 1004016

#### **LITTLE MILTON 200 CLUB**

##### **Rules**

1. Name "Little Milton 200 Club"
2. Cost: £1 per number per month paid annually
3. Purpose: To raise funds for Little Milton School.
4. No more than 200 numbers allocated.
5. Every participant is allocated a ticket number that will remain constant throughout the year.
6. The total value of prizes will be 50% of the annual ticket sales.
7. There will be at least 2 prizes per month.
8. Payments will be asked for annually on the 1st November each year
9. The draw will be held each month at Little Milton School. During School holidays the draw will be held at a committee member's house in the presence of at least two committee members of the Friends of Little Milton School or alternatively consecutive months will be drawn at the same time at the school prior to school holidays.
10. Any persons may purchase more than one number.
11. Prize winners will be announced each month in the village newsletter and will also be advised individually by a committee member.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF LITTLE MILTON 200 CLUB**

I wish to become a member of Little Milton 200 Club for a minimum of 12 months from 1st November 2020.

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**Tel No:**

Number of tickets at £1 each month.....x £12 = £

Method of payment CASH or CHEQUE (made payable to Little Milton 200 Club)

I understand and accept the rules of the Little Milton 200 Club

Signed.....Dated.....

....

**Please return to the Post Office or Little Milton School by  
14th November 2020**

## NEWS FROM THE PINE LODGE

The hall is now open in line with current government guidelines with procedures to ensure gatherings can happen in a secure manner. As we all know these are a moving target that we are adapting and sharing with our hirers as new rules are announced. For clubs this limits gatherings to 6 people, and for managed fitness classes there is a separate set of guidelines.

Currently WI and Craft club have restarted meetings - contact Kath Stacy Pilates with Lee and Yoga classes with Yvonne have also restarted.

Please contact them to confirm their current schedules and availability as the number of participants are limited.

After many years of incredibly dedicated support for the Hall Kay Ward is stepping down from the hall committee and her role as Secretary. We are very sorry to lose her and her organization skills. Needless to say we are now looking for someone to fill her shoes as the Hall secretary. If you are interested please contact me or one of the other committee members

[gilesdenby@yahoo.com](mailto:gilesdenby@yahoo.com)

### **VILLAGE LUNCH**

Our next lunch will be on **Tuesday 13th October 2020**. Everyone is welcome including visitors to the Village so do try and come along. A two course menu £12. Please give Ian or Des a ring at the Lamb on 01844 279527.

### LITTLE MILTON WI

In September we were entertained by local chiropractor, Sarah Banham and her interactive talk on keeping healthy. Visit her website, [www.sarahchiro.co.uk](http://www.sarahchiro.co.uk) and ask about a free spine check.

Due to the current Covid restrictions, our next meeting on **Thursday 8th October is back on Zoom!** Contact me if you'd like to join us.

Please phone or email us if you're feeling lonely, want a chat, fancy joining WI. Everyone welcome.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton or The Haseleys, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Little Milton WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

**We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**

Too shy to come by yourself? Contact me & I'll find you a WI buddy.

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

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

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

### WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Where do those weeds come from? If only we could eat them all! October is a time to dig potatoes for storage before the pests riddle them with holes. Squashes will now be finishing off their transfer of energy and ripening ready for picking. I have a rather adventurous spaghetti squash that has wandered several metres and even climbed up the fruit cage! Thanks to Mike Betts' seed donation I tried Kohl Rabi this year and found a great recipe online for Kohl Rabi fritters. Something different and surprisingly tasty. Always worth growing something new. I wonder what we could do next year?

All the plots are currently taken and we have one person on the waiting list. However feel free to ask if you would like to go on to the list as we do have plots become vacant, especially at the start of the new contract year from the beginning of April.

**Paul. ([paulj201@hotmail.com](mailto:paulj201@hotmail.com))**



We bring you good news! The Maple Tree is cautiously introducing a limited programme! Sling & Buggy Walks take place from The Maple Tree on a Wednesday morning (10-11.45). Melanie Kinghan will lead the initial 4 walks. Pre-booking is essential so we can keep on top of the numbers. We ask for a donation of £2.50 per family which should be paid in advance.

Stay and Play is also returning on a Thursday morning commencing Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This will initially run between 10-11am. We do have very limited numbers for this session – currently 6 families per session (with a strict one adult per family policy). Again, the cost will be £2.50 per session and pre-booking is essential.

If you are interested in either of the above sessions, please contact [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk) to secure your space. You will then receive an email confirmation with details of payment methods together with a new registration form that we will use for track and trace purposes.

### **APPEAL FOR NEW TRUSTEES**

We are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of charity trustees. We are keen to recruit volunteers with a background/expertise in finance and accountancy, premises management and ICT/data collection. However, we would also welcome trustees from other backgrounds who are able to help us. If you would like more information about the Maple Tree, or a chat about what is involved in becoming a trustee, please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk) Do have a look at our website for more information: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk). Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

Finally, this is the very last report that I will write as Coordinator of The Maple Tree. I will be leaving The Maple Tree on 30<sup>th</sup> September to move on to pastures new. I have really enjoyed my three years getting to know all of the local families and I will look back fondly at my time here. I wish The Maple Tree well for the future and thank everybody for their support which has been greatly appreciated.

Goodbye for now

*Hayley Hayle (Coordinator)*

### **LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL AND NURSERY- TERESA'S MASKS AND OUR NEW EARLY YEARS GARDEN**

The development of our new Early Years garden was first discussed in 2018 when one of our parents (who also happens to be an award winning Landscape Designer) offered to redesign our existing space, together with the children, to transform it into a more inviting and inspiring outdoor playing and learning area. After many months

of planning and with the support of last years' Friends' fundraising, the main landscaping was completed this summer, despite the lockdown, just in time for the children's return to school.

Huge thanks to Teresa Qusted, the Little Milton Sewing group and to all who have supported us by buying Teresa's masks over the past few months. Teresa estimates that she has made over 450 masks from her own and donated fabric remnants to raise funds which have paid for the new garden shed and contributed to phase 2 of the garden development.

Since their return, the children have enjoyed exploring and playing in their new space every day. We hope that we will be able to invite you to visit our beautiful new garden one day soon. In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this wonderful project.

*Linda Longshaw,  
Chair of Governors*

PS Thank you Linda for the lovely picture on the front cover

### **MASK TREE**

Thank you so much to all those who have picked a mask from the tree and generously donated towards the new school garden. To date an incredible £1,300 has been raised.

My thanks go to the shop who are kindly now hosting the tree. New masks are being added at regular intervals so please come and have a look. There are plenty of different sizes and colours but if you want something specific just let me know and I will see what I can do.

I should also like to thank those villagers who have donated fabric to keep the production line going -your support has been really helpful.

Keep safe

*Teresa Qusted (t.quested@btinternet.com)*

### **FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM**

The harvests are in, many of the animals are preparing for the winter ahead, making the most of the abundant food in the hedgerows or preparing a place to sleep until spring. Autumn is a time to celebrate the year and our deciduous trees can put on a wonderfully colourful display as the month moves on to November. Look out for the yellows, browns, copper beeches and reds as the plants withdraw all the useful nutrients from their leaves. The green disappears as the chlorophyll is no longer needed to transform carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates (sugar and starch) and the other colours begin to stand out, accentuated by chemicals that turn some leaves red or even purple like the dogwood. When all the nutrients have been removed a layer of cells form to seal off the leaf from the branch and it eventually detaches. Leaves continue to play an important part, broken down further by fungi and small animals to produce a rich soil that feeds the plants the following spring. How many different leaf shapes and colours can you find?

Also look out for spider webs catching the early morning dew and displaying the hard work of it's owner. The bigger ones are often created by a garden cross spider (white cross on its abdomen), but there are several other smaller webs down on the grass or in the bushes. How many different types can you see?

As I write it looks like Covid-19 cases are increasing again and there are further restrictions. But Wells Farm Reserve continues to be a safe place to get some fresh air and exercise in safety. Long may that be the case.

*Paul. ([paulj201@hotmail.com](mailto:paulj201@hotmail.com))*

### **VILLAGE INFORMATION GROUP- A REMINDER**

From time to time there is information that would be beneficial residents of the village. It might be a communication from Homes England or an email from SODC/OCC or just a be-aware type communication. The number of residents who have subscribed is growing but I need you to subscribe to use your email for this sort of information. There is already a Neighbourhood Watch Group that is specifically for Neighbourhood Watch although occasionally I have used the distribution list to share some data. A data base of emails really is an excellent way to instantly distribute information. Under GDPR you need to apply to join the distribution group

If you would like to be added to either or both distribution lists please send me an email requesting to be added. You can always be taken off the list at any time.

*Raymond Fergusson*  
*[fergie.milton1@btinternet.com](mailto:fergie.milton1@btinternet.com)*

### **GREAT HASELEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The weather this growing season has been very different from usual. We had a very wet winter followed by a beautiful spring during lockdown for which I think we were all very grateful. Since then there have been alternating periods of heat and sun, followed by cool and rain. The result of this for us has been a 2000L tank of rainwater which has kept our vegetable garden and man greenhouse well-watered all summer with plenty to spare. When we put this in (above ground) after the winter, we did not think it would fill before the coming winter, but each period of cool rain has topped it up and we have plenty. This has made life hugely easier over the summer and we are so pleased we did this.

The meadow was cut for hay during the first week in August and the production was huge. Usually we have alpacas grazing during the winter, but not this year so there were fewer flowers, but much more grass. The flowers still gave us pleasure and some of them are re-flowering now which is something of a surprise as we have not seen it before. This is particularly encouraging as one of them is Geranium pratense which tends to flower late and so has not fully set seed before haymaking. These flowers are definitely going to set seed which will add to the plant population next year.

As I said earlier, things are not quite as usual in the garden and this week we have a spring flowering Viburnum (either burkwoodii or carlesii, but I'm not sure which as the labels have disappeared) with lots of beautiful flower open. I don't think I like this as the flowers lie behind other plants which are currently performing and so are not very visible. It is certainly unusual, but it is more useful to me to be flowering in spring. My experience is that when plants flower at the wrong time of year they don't perform when you really need them to. Another variation is Irises which suddenly flower in November and then do nothing the following June.

I used to be what is called a balanced gardener, using pesticides occasionally. This year, I'm pleased to say, everything has outgrown the dreaded capsid bug; affected plants just flower later. I'm no longer using any pesticide sprays, but still use slug

pellets sometimes. I'm afraid I also use some weed killer, mostly just glyphosate, but occasionally a selective one which can be used on fields which will be used for grazing. We simply don't have the manpower (just me and my better half with very occasional help) to do all the weeding by hand, especially in the drive and meadow. The meadow has unfortunately become infested with the field bindweed which is swamping even the grass. I have sparingly used the selective weed killer on the regrowth this autumn (another thing we haven't seen before after haymaking) and this has been damped down (I have no expectation of killing it totally as it is a vicious weed with its rootstock at least a metre deep) and I am hopeful that next year it will be less dominant. In the garden borders, I simply pull out any stems I see, working on the premise that if it doesn't have green bits it can't photosynthesise!

*Liz Moyses*

## **FROM OUR FRENCH CORRESPONDENT**

### **COVID 19 & FRANCE**

Just when you thought the situation is under control, it isn't! We now have almost 10,000 new cases a day in France, but as I mentioned previously, rural areas such as ours have been largely unaffected-it is the high population density areas such as Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, Nice & Bordeaux etc. which are being hit hardest. I have a friend now living here, Warner Manning, who has an Australian passport and has a house in Noosa, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. He is being told that if he and his wife return from France, they must self- quarantine for 14 days IN A HOTEL AT THEIR EXPENSE! Needless to say they are very happy here, so have no intention of returning in the near future. They have been enjoying a French wine region summer for the first time, with many visits to vineyards, Night markets and Tastings!

Warner wants to plant a small vineyard, with just 300 vines, so has come to me (!!!) for advice on every aspect-I am sure he will learn from my mistakes! He will be planting 200 Grenache and 100 Verdelho vines next spring.

### **VINEYARD HEALTH**

After the second drought in 2 years, the vineyard is slowly starting to recover having received my watering and about 2 inches of rain in the last month. I think I probably gave each vine about a gallon of water-which for 6000 vines must be about 27000 litres, so I am not looking forward to my water bill! There is a good and bad side to this however. The bad side is that the mortality rate of my vines has been high-790 dead out of 6000. However, the good side is that those vines that have stayed alive must have established deep roots into the subsoil, which could enhance the complexity of the resulting wine. It is also clear that the land is very free draining-again a good portent for high quality wine.

There is no clear pattern to the mortality-it has affected every variety, and every rootstock in a similar way, but it is evident that the further away from the house, the higher the mortality-meaning that the soil further from the house is very poor, and cannot hold much moisture. So-what to do?

### **MORE ORGANIC MATERIAL**

I mentioned last time that I was convinced I need more organic material in the soil, and more phosphorus. I visited my next door neighbour, a dairy farmer, who apologised and said he could not supply my needs, but put me in touch with a "Soil Technician". I also visited a local branch of "Terre Du Sud", which supplies local vineyards with all their needs.



Both recommended organic fertilizers, the “Soil Technician” recommending a 5-2-8 formula (Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Potassium), while Terre De Sud recommended a 3-2-3 formula. Given that my need was for Phosphorus, and the Terre Du Sud price per tonne was 65% of the alternative, I ordered 1.5 tonnes of 3-2-3, called ORGA 3.

The mix includes Sheep Manure, Guano, Bone Meal, and composted vegetation. I picked up my first bag (500kg) on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, and we spread it the very next day, covering over 1/3 of the vines. The smell however was very strong, and required an obligatory shower immediately afterwards !

Stay Safe !

*Stuart McGill* [stuartmmcgill@gmail.com](mailto:stuartmmcgill@gmail.com)

### **VIEW FROM VIEWS**

This has certainly been a roller coaster year, we had some wonderful weather to get us through lockdown this of course followed an extremely wet period. Then this wonderful weather started, (almost as if it were ordered by our illustrious PM to help us through’ lockdown), unfortunately this became quite a drought, once the rain came it was too late for crops to recover, with both grain and straw very short. I would rather forget our Oil Seed Rape, as it was more than a disaster more like a failure producing something like 40% of an expected crop. Our Winter Wheat which had looked so good right up to end of May suffered as well, luckily not so bad but I estimate it being down by about 15%. The Spring Barley fared better than I had hoped with only about a 10% drop in yield, so all in all I think, so I think we have done better than the national average. All these crop results are in one way or another due to adverse weather and beyond our control. As the Barley was very late ripening it was then too late to think of planting Rape. This is not good as it will now upset our rotation which is so important nowadays.

As I have just mentioned this has been an extraordinary year where nature has benefited thro’ lockdown and all its implications, we now need to build on this and not allow ourselves to slip back into our old traditional ways. Not directly connected but a change in habit of the Grey Squirrels, which after a winter (2 years ago) of concerted action against them they are not so obvious. Normally have a constant battle with them in late summer when the hazel nuts are beginning to ripen, if I don’t pick them before they are ripe the Squirrels will have them all, I can tell when they start their onslaught as there are empty shells all around the bushes. This year I thought I had beaten the little devils, as we had not seen them about at all, and no empty shells but, when I went to pick I found the bushes bare “why”? Don’t ask me.

I read in the press recently some interesting and realistic points that to a certain extent confirm my comments over the years, these are from some pretty reliable sources. Firstly on milk, a kilogram of Soya meal used in the UK produces 85 litres of milk, but it takes 7.5 kg to produce 1 litre of soya milk, as the production of soya crops being a crop that is not that environmentally sustainable, and tends to be one that is destroying the rain forests, this is especially the case as in the UK most milking cows are grazed on grass, being much more sustainable as grass absorbs carbon. (So Vegans think before you drink, this is not an environmentally safe product). Another point/statistic is the use of plastic bags, this report was precipitated by the announcement by Morrisons that they were going to stop the use of plastic bags altogether. The fact is that plastic is a by produce of the oil industry, paper bags require wood (trees) as a raw material, and the manufacturing process produces a higher concentration of toxic chemicals, plus as they weigh more they

cost more to transport. In summary we need to use a paper bag 3 times to mitigate the carbon footprint over plastic, not to mention the cotton bag which needs to be used 131 times due to the high amount of energy used to produce and fertilize cotton yarn.

In my humble opinion there is nothing wrong with plastic, in fact it is a very useful product, it is what we do with it when we dispose of it, that the problem starts. We have to educate ourselves to dispose of all our waste responsibly, It would help if waste disposal was universal countrywide, so that wherever we are the process is the same, (same colour bins etc.) then perhaps there could be no excuse for littering either the land or sea.

It looks as if the battle to save Chalgrove airfield from development, is lost, which I suppose was obvious, once that the government land was passed to another government department, Homes England. And then the housing minister dictating to the District council not to alter their local plan, on which the council was elected to do. (Of course we live in a democracy!!!). They have now come up with a scheme which on the face of it could only have been thought out by a deranged planner. This is a new town with a main through highway straight through the centre, doing away with a perfectly good and existing bypass, which is to be turned into a green lane. Then to cap it all to have a runway running only a few yards away from the main development. And the provision of a surface water balancing pond almost none existent, no recognition or the access to the site via Little Milton, which is just not safe. This madness for development at all costs must be curtailed we are pushing nature back all the time, why do we have to have so much development in our area, over 10,000 houses within a small radius.

*Charles Peers*

### **LITTLE MILTON TENNIS**

Would anyone like to join us in starting a village tennis club? The idea is that we bring a group of like-minded people together to play social tennis. We are also setting up a friendly tennis ladder that will start on 1 October, along with a WhatsApp group of all interested people. We have the two courts available on the rec which can be booked via the shop. If it takes off, then we can set up a website for the club with an on line booking system.

If you are interested, please email [littlemiltontennis@gmail.com](mailto:littlemiltontennis@gmail.com)

### **TENNIS/MUGA COURTS RESURFACING**

The Parish Council has started looking at ways to refresh the tennis court and MUGA facility in the near future. We are still very early in the thought process on this, but would like to hear from anyone in the village who has any ideas, requests or comments. Although the default stance would be to simply refresh the surfaces, fencing and floodlights, we have an opportunity to incorporate any realistic ideas in the plans if it will be of benefit to the village. We have already approached the Orchard and the School for their thoughts and requirements – this is a chance for all villagers to let us know what they would like to see. Please email Raymond at [Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:Imparishcouncil@btinternet.com) if you have anything to contribute, or would like to be involved in the planning and fundraising for this project

# HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

## FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

**FREE**

### Things change

- but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

Testing in Oxfordshire in **OCTOBER 2020**  
**Monday 5 – Friday 9 and**  
**Monday 19 – Friday 23**

#### BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**  
Or email: [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



**OXFORDSHIRE**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



STRAFFIELD BRACK  
SPORTS GROUND



**OXFORDSHIRE**  
COUNTY COUNCIL



**John Howell MP writes**

**September 2020**

As I write in the middle of September we are facing tighter measures to try to halt the recent rise in COVID cases. This is disappointing but not entirely unanticipated. There are, of course, many views on how the Government should respond to these issues and there will be some who are not happy with new measures either because they think they are not strong enough or because they find them too restrictive. Several very specific scenarios have been raised with me for guidance on what to do but it is impossible for the Government to set out the requirements in every individual situation. The key has to be in the distancing and hygiene measures that have been set out.

Reports of scams in relation to COVID Track and Trace are worrying particularly where people are trying to get money for supposed tests. Scams also risk undermining the genuine process which is important to help control the spread of the virus. There is no charge for Government COVID tests and NHS track and Trace will not ask for any sort of payment details, pin numbers or to download anything from the internet.

Now to a completely different issue that I know is dear to the hearts of many in the constituency – planning. The Government has published proposals on reforms to the planning system and the consultation is open until the end of October. I am pleased to see this as I think that radical reform of the planning system is necessary. The proposals, if accepted, will improve the way that councillors and local communities carry out an important local planning function – the production of a local plan. I mention local communities here because Neighbourhood Plans remain crucial for the future of the planning system and I am pleased that the Secretary of State has confirmed ongoing support for Neighbourhood Planning. I know will be welcomed by the many communities that have put a huge amount of effort into setting out their own vision for their future through a Neighbourhood Plan.

Another important issue on the agenda at present is what has become known as the green recovery – that as we emerge out of COVID restrictions and get the economy going again we learn from the environmental benefits of lockdown. This is something that has to be reflected across Government Departments and I continue to work with colleagues to be mindful of this as any new proposals come forward.

Now that Parliament has returned there is a busy programme. On many issues I make comment on my website so please do have a look. [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). If you cannot email you can write to me at my constituency office - PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD.

*Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA*

**DEADLINE REMINDER** – Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 18th 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 **November 2020** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th October**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published

### **KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Age UK	01865 890879	Naheed Qureshi
Citizens Advice Bureau	01844 214827	Thame & District
Church: St James	01844 278349	Revd. Simon Cronk
Doctors	01865 872448 111 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery Out of Hours Service NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 279978	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Little Milton School	01844 279310	Head: Ms Hannah Brown
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	A J Woods Ltd
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 279993 01844 279150	Alaric Smith (Chair) Raymond Fergusson (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 279535 0844 7255568	Giles Denby Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
Police	101	Thames Valley Police (Non-emergency)
Post Office	01844 279001	Alison Shelton (Postmistress)
Public Transport	01865 323201	Comet
SODC	01235 422422	All enquiries
Southern Electric	0800 0727 282	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0800 3169 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ian & Des
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

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