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Little Milton
Newsletter

January 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: JANUARY 2024

Mon	1st	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	2nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	3rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	4th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	5th	9.30 a.m.,	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	7th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon	8th	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	9th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	10th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council – Pine Lodge
Thurs	11th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI –Xmas Dinner
Frid	12th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	14th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship
Mon.	15th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	16th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	17th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	18th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	19th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Mon	22nd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	23rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	24th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group – Silverdale Haseley Road
Thurs	25th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	26th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	28th	9.00 a.m.	Communion BCP – St James'
Mon	29th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	30th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	31st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Feb Thurs	1st	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	2nd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	4th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'

PLEASE NOTE If in doubt please check with the event organiser that the eve is still taking place at the date and time stated.

EDITORIAL

I would like to wish all our readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

As editor I take the opportunity to reflect on the general wellbeing of our community and the challenges that it faces from a position of someone who has served it for over forty years.

In the January Newsletter 2023 I wrote:
"Let us all believe that 2023 will return to normal and we can start to rebuild confidence in our lives that has suffered so much over the last three years"

Sadly the global events that have taken place may not make us feel that normality has returned if anything quite the opposite. However we all need to seek inspiration as we look ahead to 2024. I have again taken the opportunity of listing some quotes that might help us think about what we can do in our lives

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And old lang syne!
For old lang syne, my dear,
For old lang syne.
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For old lang syne.
~ Robert Burns

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." - **Oprah Winfrey**

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." - **Carl Brad**

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." – **Aristotle**

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." - **C.S. Lewis**

"A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true." - **Greg S. Reid**

"There comes a day when you realize turning the page is the best feeling in the world, because you realize there is so much more to the book than the page you were stuck on." - **Zayn Malik**

"In order to lead a fascinating life, one brimming with art, music, intrigue, and romance, you must surround yourself with precisely those things." **- Kate Spade**

"This year believe that anything is possible. Start each day with goals. Eat more real food. Buy good books and make time to read them. Drink water. Exercise daily even when it sounds like a terrible idea. Shop for quality, not quantity. Purge the unnecessary and decrease clutter. Hug the ones I love. Find the best in others. Show others the best in me." **– Unknown**

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." **- Bill Vaughn**

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." **- Lao Tzu**

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." **- Martin Luther King, Jr**.

"Once a year, go someplace you've never been before." - **Dalai Lama**

"I walk slowly but I never walk backward." - **Abraham Lincoln**

I can say from experience that all our organisations are heavily dependent on volunteers who will at some stage wish to relinquish their roles or find themselves unable to carry on in them. This presents a real challenge for each organisation to develop a succession plan to allow these vital community services to continue. We need to generate the interest and hopefully the enthusiasm for villagers to consider putting themselves forward in the future but the work starts now. I would like to thank on behalf of all our organisations the generosity of our residents in supporting their hard work and dedication.

The Parish Council has continued to represent our community and plays an important role in influencing various Partners in Local Government. There was one significant planning application approved for the Milton House site. There were strong feelings about its unsuitability but we must now maximise the financial benefit that the site brings and the Parish Council will week views at some stage as to how it should be invested. The Council has invested in making the village more interesting by investing in planters that are filled with plants. I may add that requires some voluntary input to maintain their attractiveness. The Council supported the introduction of the 20 mph limit through the village and the introduction of a couple of Speed Indicator Devises (SIDS) will go further to make our village a safer place. The Parish Council requires the engagement of the village to help it identify the concerns and opportunities that need to be addressed. I would urge you to know your Parish Councillors and to exchange your thoughts with them or better still attend the monthly meeting. I pick up adverse comments from time to time but you need to engage to make a difference. I would like to thank the Council on your behalf for the work they do on our behalf.

The Village Hall have served the community with the Coronation celebration that was well organised and supported by the community and all of the regular events and bookings are now happening. Once again. The Committee perform an excellent job but will always welcome new committee members or as supporters of particular events E.g Quiz nights. At this point in time the Village Hall is financially in a good place and that has not always been the case. Make a point this year of coming to the Annual General Meeting to visibly offer your support. A big thank you to the committee for maintaining this vital village asset.

Our Village Shop and Post Office is a very important amenity for our village Our Post Office provides a very important service and one that has gone from strength to strength. I mentioned last year that it is faced potentially higher levels of energy costs that could threaten its longer term viability. This is now a reality and this will become a real issue over the next eighteen months. This matter is now being addressed by the Parish Council and the Shop Committee. Our Shop/Post Office is a vital community asset that we need to do all we can to ensure its long term survival. .This leads me into thanking on your

behalf the excellent work done by Kevin and the Shop Committee, Alison, Clare Billy and all the volunteers. Again the plea for volunteers to give a short amount of time has largely gone unheeded let 2024 be different

We are fortunate to have an excellent school that is supported by hardworking staff and governors as well as a community that values their efforts. We should all recognise that it is not without challenges as roll numbers are at present lower that would be desired

Our pub has now become established with Ben and Charmain and we thank them for keeping this prized asset alive and thriving in our community. I am sure the seniors will enjoy their lunch in January.

St James' has a dedicated PCC as well as a number of volunteers who clean the church, decorate the church with flowers and maintain the churchyard and buildings and I thank them for their hard work. The annual village fete will face a new challenge this year as Joyce and George who have hosted the fete for many years are taking a step back. I should like to thank them for all their hard work and commitment for allowing us to use the Old Vicarage for the annual fete. Lindsay Heath and Paul Jeffery are also taking a step back from helping to organise the fete and a big thank you for all their hard work over the years. The annual fete has had a big part in the social fabric of our village since 1984 and I urge the villagers to come forward to ensure that we keep it as an annual event in 2024. The Church is a key cornerstone of our community and I am sure that sentiment is supported by both church and non- church members of our village.

The publication and distribution of our Newsletter is something that happens each month and I am sure that the Village would like to say thank you to all who are involved. I would like to thank Keith Hodges at Colourplus for his excellent service and support to me as editor as well as the distributors who diligently deliver a newsletter to each house. As editor I appreciate the excellent photographs that I receive from some of the village photographers and most importantly to all the correspondents who submit their articles each month.

Finally on your behalf I would like to thank Mr Freddie van der Mierlo our County Councillor and Georgina Heritage our District Councillor for all their support.

2024 will continue to challenge our community and those involved in the day to running of the various organisations that we all use and value. If we all enjoy the village we live in let us all make every effort to ensure that Little Milton continues to be a great place to live and keep a watchful eye for your neighbours.

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2023

Below is a summary of some of the topics and discussions which took place at the Parish Council meeting held in December.

Report by District Councillor Georgina Heritage

Cllr Georgina Heritage had circulated her report prior to the meeting. Cllr Heritage reported she had attended several meetings over the last month, sitting on Planning and Licensing Committees. It had been a good month for Neighbourhood Plans, referendums were held for Lewknor, Towersey and Wheatley Plans on 23rd November. All received a majority 'Yes' vote.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are preparing to launch the second round of consultation early next year to develop their new Joint Local Plan

to 2041. Cllr Heritage reported the Chalgrove Airfield housing development site has been deallocated from the Joint Local Plan.

At present SODC cannot demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply (currently 4.2). This is due primarily to the slowness in delivery on the part of developers. SODC continues to defend its policy robustly.

Community Speed Watch
At least seven members of the village have volunteered to help with the Community Speed Watch. Cllr van der Merwe is waiting for the application number to register the group.

Footpaths / Public Right of Way
In May the owner of land at Warren Farm Barn submitted a Highways Declaration which prevents unrecorded rights of way from being legally recorded based on presumed dedication in the future.

Cllr Horwell confirmed there are a number of living witnesses to challenge the footpath has been a Right of Way dating back to 1992. There is enough evidence that the Definitive Map should be changed. The parish council is keen to have established footpaths protected. It was agreed to start the process to add the footpath to the Definitive Map.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground / Open Spaces
Rainfall over the last few weeks has prevented heavy machinery coming onto the recreation ground to cut the hedge behind the MUGA and playground. The verges were cut on 21st November.

A new bench for Old Fields was delivered to Wayside on 1st December. It was delivered assembled. A means of transporting it to Old Fields is required. It is hoped to resolve the problem before Christmas.

Two lots of bark chippings have been spread along the footpath beside the church. Carol Turner has completely reworked and replanted the three planters, millennium beds and the area around the water pump. These have been planted with seasonal bedding and spring bulbs.

Exchange of Information
The following Planning application was considered under this item, not being formally published on the agenda and a response to Planning Authority being required before the Christmas break.

P23/S3821/LB - Manor House, Church Hill, Little Milton, OX44 7QB
Repairs and alterations to Grade II* listed dwelling and other buildings within the curtilage. (As amended by plans 002A and 001 A which retain the expression of the original plan form with down stands and corbels received 12 December 2023).
Resolved to Fully Support the application.

Next Meeting
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th January 2024, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings.

Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Current Council members

Councillor Francois Van Der Merwe (Chairman)	07740 438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Ed Horwell	07527 346187
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438 freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Georgina Heritage	georgina.heritage@southoxon.gov.uk

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 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.

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

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 – JANUARY2024

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
4th January ++	No	Yes	No	Yes
10th January ++	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
16th January	No	Yes	No	Yes
23rd January	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
30th January	No	Yes	No	Yes

++ Change of date due to Bank Holiday

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR-DECEMBER 2023

Joint Local Plan (and Chalgrove Airfield Deallocation)

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are preparing to launch the second round of consultation early next year to develop their new Joint Local Plan to 2041. The Joint Local Plan will help South and Vale determine planning applications, set out how and where new housing developments should take place, set

standards for developments such as carbon and energy efficiency requirements, and guide what infrastructure is needed across the districts.

The next public consultation will ask for people's thoughts on proposed approaches across various policy areas, from reducing carbon emissions and nature recovery, to protecting and enhancing local heritage, meeting community infrastructure and transport needs, affordable housing, jobs and economic opportunities, and more. New policy areas which previous local plans haven't covered include policies to protect valued landscapes, tranquil places and dark skies. The councils' proposals include reducing the number of new houses needed each year, improving minimum standards for water and energy efficiency, increasing biodiversity and the number of affordable houses developments need to deliver.

The next consultation is scheduled to launch to the public in January 2024, subject to review by both councils' cabinets, however you can view documents relating to the plan which were subject to Scrutiny in November:
https://democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=341&MId=3240

Editor

SODC/Vale propose to deallocate Chalgrove Airfield as a strategic site and the following is an extract of the information summited to the Scrutiny Committee

Currently Allocated Sites Proposed Not to be Retained in the Joint Local Plan
There are three currently allocated sites, with standalone policies, that have not been granted planning permission which we are not proposing to retain.

Land at Chalgrove Airfield What status will this site have in the Joint Local Plan? We do not propose to retain this site allocation (currently allocated under Policy STRAT7 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035) in the Joint Local Plan. What has changed from our previous plan? Our review of existing allocated sites has demonstrated that the allocated development is unlikely to be achievable, and that this site is no longer suitable for development. Achievability concerns. The site promoter (Homes England) has identified issues with complying with the existing policy for the currently allocated site. An objection from the Civil Aviation Authority (CCA) regarding the proposed layout of the runway led to Homes England withdrawing its outline planning application for this site in May 2021.

The current allocation of 3,000 homes is not achievable within the existing allocated site boundary. The site is leased by Killinchy Aerospace Holdings Limited (until 2063). Killinchy's operating subsidiary Martin Baker Aircraft Company Ltd develops and tests ejector seats for armed forces around the globe. The current site boundary does not allow enough space for 3,000 new homes and a realigned runway delivered to Civil Aviation Authority standards. Homes England has advised that the site boundary would need to be extended (predominantly to the north into currently unallocated, Greenfield land) to address the CAA's concerns about the runway. Suitability concerns our review has found that the significant change in social and environmental priorities of the Joint Local Plan now render the site unsuitable for development. The Chalgrove Airfield site is not a good fit with the emerging spatial strategy for the Joint Local Plan (see Policy SP1), which involves delivering planned development within Science Vale, focussing new housing at the garden communities of Didcot, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks, on well-located brownfield sites, and maintaining existing sites that contribute to addressing Oxford's unmet housing need. An extension to the site boundary to include

additional land in the control of the site promoter to facilitate a relocation of the runway, to address the CAA concerns, would result in the site's Greenfield footprint extending even further. It would further diminish the extent to which this is a brownfield site since it would involve building on Greenfield land. The Joint Local Plan's strategy is to support development on well-located brownfield land. Therefore, whilst Homes England do control the land to facilitate an extension, expanding the allocation would result in the site further conflicting with the emerging spatial strategy of the Joint Local Plan. We therefore do not consider that the policy in its current or an amended form is capable of addressing the issues of achievability or suitability identified above. Given that the suite of other existing allocations already provides sufficient housing to meet South Oxfordshire's housing requirement (see Policies HOU1 and HOU2), this site is not needed to address our housing needs.

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7th January

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 14th January

9.00	Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 21st January

9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
10.30	Family Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 28th January

9.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Benefice Family Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: JANUARY 2024

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
7th January.	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev John Anderson	
14thJanuary	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	
21st January	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
28th January	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JANUARY

W/E 7th January	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 14th January	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 21st January	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 28th January	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 4th February	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

Thank you to Ben and Reece for hosting us at the Lamb and for looking after us so well. We had a lovely evening and are now cleaning St. James with renewed vim and vigour. There are currently no vacancies on our rota but should a place arise it will be advertised here…but of course it will be first come first served…

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY

W/E 7th January	-	TBA
W/E 14th January	-	TBA
W/E 21st January	-	TBA
W/E 28th January	-	TBA

The rota for next year will be available in January. If there is anyone who would like to join our small but happy group, please let me know.

Also if anyone wants to give a donation so that flowers can be put in church to remember someone on a

Teresa Quested 278922

RECTOR'S PINT

For my piece this month, I mainly want to offer a brief tribute to my predecessor in these parishes, Rev. Victor Story.

Victor was the Rector here for fifteen years, more than enough time to get his feet under the table! I only met him a few times, when he returned here to assist with funerals, to give the eulogy or lead the prayers for people he had known well. I was always impressed by his attention to detail, and his warmth and love for those he was remembering.

Victor was a gentle man, and I know that he was a man of prayer. As a qualified teacher, he maintained a love for the schools, and I know that he was also well loved by them. His funeral took place on 14th December at St. Mary's and it was well attended by many of his friends from the various parishes he had served in.

Victor had no family of his own. He was married for a few years in the 1990's, a time that brought him great joy. Tragically, his wife died, and I know that Victor carried the grief of that for the rest of his life.

Of course there was sadness at his funeral, but there was also much joy and thanksgiving, as we heard about his ministry here and elsewhere, including his life in Chipping Norton following his retirement, and what he meant to Matilda, the granddaughter of Vera who used to clean the Rectory. Victor had appointed Matilda as his executor without her knowledge, but she did a magnificent job of pulling the funeral together. My thanks to Tim Suter and Kate Billimore and the choir for organising the music in such a short time - with Carol Services looming only three days later. The Nunc Dimittis at the end of the funeral was particularly beautiful. So many have commented that the whole service was 'just so Victor!'

It is hoped that Victor's ashes will be interred in the grave of his beloved wife in Evesham, where Victor served as curate between 1981 and 1985.

I would also like to send my best wishes for the New Year to all readers of the 'Pint'. We have all experienced a bumpy ride for several years now, and we can only look out with increased sadness at the news we see unfolding in parts of our world. It adds some urgency to the beginning of the Lord's Prayer every time we use it: 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done….' In our own small way though, each of us has a responsibility to be an answer to that prayer.

As St Paul wrote in his letter to the Hebrews: (Chapter 11 Verse 1)

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen".
Through faith, we have hope. Peace and blessing to you all for 2024.

Simon

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday afternoon on December 9th and it wasn't raining! Time for another Little Milton special event – The Christmas Fayre.

I cannot express enough thanks to all those who made it possible – the makers, bakers, crafters, raffle sellers, children's activity organisers, stall holders, table movers, drinks sellers, and, of course, all of you who turned out in such fantastic numbers to show your support. A special thank you to Santa who found time in his busy schedule to pay us a visit.
We made nearly £2,000 profit to be shared between the School, the Orchard and St James's Church

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Teresa

CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE WINNERS

£100	Ian Dennis	O1844 278029
£50	Blundell	Pasture Farm
Christmas Hamper	Lowden	The Old Forge, LM
Luxury Hamper	Matt Nunn	07867 128384
Veuve Cliquot Champagne	Gill Taylor	40 Chiltern View, LM
Farol Gift Set	Jo Gaillard	Wells Farmhouse, LM
Bottle of Port	Gill Taylor	40 Chiltern View, LM
Salt Lamp	R Fergusson	27 Chiltern View, LM
Asda Gift Set	Victoria	07976 533454
Bottle of Champagne	Westie	07909 968300
Bottle of Irish Liquor	Foxell	07869 139201
Btl of Ginger and Rhubarb Liquor	Alison Vallance	Thame Road, LM
Organic Vegetable Box	Matt Nunn	07867 128384
Bottle of Wine	Gill Tay	40 Chiltern View, LM
Voucher for one month Marshall Arts Training	Michael Betts	Old Field, LM
Locally Handmade Chocolates + 3 books by HE Bates	Longshaw	Garden Cottage, Haseley Road, LM
3 Bottles of Wine	Mary Harrison	01844 279238

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

A good time was had at our Christmas lunch and thankyou to Teresa for making our wreath so beautifully for the Christmas Fair up at the Pine Lodge. This month we're meeting on Wednesday24th January from 11am onwards at Silverdale in the Haseley Road, home of Kath Stacey…Do come along and join us if you're new to the village or

even if you've been here years and have always thought about coming along but somehow have never got around to coming…we'd love to welcome you!

Sally Ann Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual **Seniors Christmas Lunch** for village residents will be at The Lamb on **Thursday 18th January at 12:30**. If you would like to attend please sign up at the Village Shop before 11th January so that we know how many to expect. As usual there is no charge for the lunch which is sponsored by the Lamb and Village Hall. If you need help getting to the Lamb please let the Shop know when you book and you will be collected at 12:15

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE HALL INCLUDE:

Mondays at 10.30 am **Yoga & Fitness** with Yvonne
(y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, and **Thursdays** at 6:00 p.m. **Keep Fit** on with Alyce
(alycefwf@gmail.com)

Wednesday 9:30 am **Advanced Textile** on workshop with Amargeet
(amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Friday 9:30 am **Keep Fit** (focus on mobility and stretching) on with Alyce
(alycefwf@gmail.com)

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. contact Kath
Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. contact Kath
Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further details
contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

Village Hall committee 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m. For further details
contact giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at www.littlemilton.org.uk , or contact ***Linda Lovegrove*** *linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com*

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In December, Melanie Dean made a wonderful Christmas tree, wreath and table arrangement. We raffled the finished pieces afterwards and raised £45 for Homeless Oxfordshire. Thank you to Wendy, Cathy & helpers for doing the teas & mulled wine, and Jane for the birthday flowers.

On Thursday 11 January, we're out for our annual New Year dinner, this year to The Lamb in Chalgrove. We'll be back in the hall on **Thursday 8 February** for a **Mardi Gras Pancake Cook off**!

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons

Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm (unless we're out!)
Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at ***www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge***
Details & news on the Pine Lodge page at **www.littlemilton.org.uk**
Kath Stacey 01844-279438 tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

SMUDGE

We just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone for your kindness after we lost Smudge in October. He was a huge part of our lives and enjoyed meeting you all on walks (mostly for the treats!). We have many happy memories and glad that you were able to share them too.

Kath, Bri and Adele x

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Concluding the last full week in school, it feels like Christmas has crept up on us, as the last few weeks seem to have really flown by in a whirl of carol singing and glitter! We have also been busy finishing the last of our topic lessons and identifying next steps or gaps in the children's learning so that we are ready for our new topics next term.
This week, we welcomed Rosy and Harriet from Be Space (supported by Toby and one of our
governors- Lucinda) to lead class sessions about Advent. Once again, our Nurture Room was transformed, and the children responded well to the opportunity to reflect at this hectic time of the year. They had also remembered a lot about Advent and we were very proud of how well they behaved. Thank you to Mrs Graham for arranging this opportunity.
After our calm, reflective day on Tuesday, it was time to party on Wednesday! The whole school arrived in festive clothing and sparkles, enjoying a tasty Christmas lunch with bespoke Christmas placemats and crackers followed by entertainment from Dizzy Dean in the afternoon. Thank you very much to Mrs Austin for organising this and to the Friends for funding it - the children were very excited and had a great time!
On Thursday, Maple class ventured into the woods for Forest School with Elena. They had a great time enjoying the fresh air with team building activities, as well as cooking bread on sticks with honey or sugar.
Today we enjoyed a Good Work Assembly with a festive feel. The children sang beautifully, Theo played the keyboard with impressive skill and, as always, it was fantastic to recognise the children's hard work and great attitudes in our celebration assembly.
As we write this in December, this is the last newsletter of 2023 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the school and village communities for continued support of Little Milton Primary for, despite being 'Little', we have big aspirations for all the children at our school which would not be possible without you.

Best Wishes for a very Happy New Year,

Hannah and James Co-Headteachers

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

As 2023 comes to a close I thought I would reflect on all the good work that has been done to maintain and improve Wells Farm by so many people. Land needs management

and careful planning to make sure the habitat is right for wildlife to thrive. At the beginning of the year some hedge maintenance was carried out. If a hedge grows too tall it will eventually collapse. New hedgerow plants were dug in along the west edge of Long Meadow. The paths were cut when the vegetation threatened to take over. The field fence posts were checked and many replaced. Bramble and willow was cleared from the paths. Nettles, thistles and ragwort removed. So much of this was done by volunteers from the midweek team or the new village work party. Wells is a working farm and there are two key elements to this. The farm is used to home sheep and Dexter cattle, the best grass cutting machines! These are watched over by our wonderful shepherds, our stock watch team of volunteers who check that none of the flock are missing, limping or ill, sometimes having to feed them hay in the colder weather. We said farewell to one of them - Paul Harrison, who enjoyed caring for the animals and occasionally wielding a scythe to keep the grass in the orchard down! There are several fields farmed on a rotation basis which provides perfect habitat for several bird species such as the grey partridge, skylarks and corn buntings. For many years, Guy and his son Paul, having the neighbouring land, farmed 4 fields in such a wildlife sympathetic way, often stopping their tractors to chat to watch the hares run around the fields or chat to passers-by. Sadly they both passed away this year and we lost both of them. Especially the whiskey in one of the pubs at the end of the evening! So what will 2024 bring? The birds, mammals and insects have seen many changes, but carry on their struggle to survive. Some will find the weather changes more challenging, while others may thrive. It is up to us to help look after this little oasis next to our village, do our bit to help nature survive and above all, enjoy it!

I plan to run a work party on Saturday January 6th from 10am till 1pm. The plan is to thin out some alder and poplar running along the Gainsbridge brook in Long meadow. You are very welcome to join in.

Lastly, there is a project to re-introduce water voles to the river Thame and the various brooks that feed it such as the Haseley brook and the Gainsbridge brook. This is being funded by Natural England and driven locally by BBOWT and the River Thame Conservation Trust. If you want to know more or get involved check out www.riverthame.org.

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

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Well, what do you know! We have a new Environment Minister, the tenth in as many years. It is hard to understand how, anyone can come into and run or decide policy, on a complicated industry as agriculture and, make any worthwhile contributions in such a short time, in an industry that is basically long term. This sort of disregard for the largest industry in the country is very unsettling for those of us involved, and making long term decisions extremely difficult.

I get the impression that there are many more Field Fares than normal this year. I am told this is because we have more berries than other places, this is good news as it also shows we are having some effect on nature. Rooks are having a field day where our crops have suffered badly from Slugs and Flea Beetle, presumably on these pests many other grubs, you can see areas where they have been poking around with their beaks searching for food. Also as and when, which is not very often this year, the floods recede, Egrets have taken up residence again but, no ducks this time, swans as well are enjoying what we provide. It is good to see the odd Kestrel about, we used to see them

quite regularly but not of late, although siting is not necessarily on our farm but, in the locality which is reassuring, let's hope they are on the rebound. L thought I saw, what I thought to be a Buzzard, it was Buzzard shape but very pale in colour, on looking it up I discovered there is a rare Buzzard called a pale Buzzard only saw it once.

The Farm Cluster I mentioned some time ago that we formed to enhance the environment around the river Thame, have just been awarded a large sum of government money for our proposals for projects along the river catchment, this is very exciting allowing us to increase wildlife friendly initiatives. Now the hard work of planning and putting things into practice will be exercising our capabilities somewhat in the coming years, luckily we have our hard working facilitator, aided and abetted by the "River Thame Conservation Trust". All very exciting however when the PM suddenly announces the relaxation laws on things like nutrient neutrality which, I think is a "bl.....y"! cheek whilst we farmers and, many Conservation Trusts and, like-minded bodies, have been doing the best they can to mitigate the impact we have on the environment. Just so that we can build more houses and spoil even more countryside, I still have to ask myself if in reality the general public actually care, or know what we are trying to do. When you see the carnage caused by the development to the west of Chalgrove, total disregard for soil, not to mention "HS2", it nearly breaks my heart every time I see these massive excavators mindlessly tearing up the soil.

It will not have escaped anyone's notice that we have had rather a lot of rain just lately, I read some interesting figures with reference to rain fall. 2inches (50mm) of rain equates to 200tonnes per acre (640 acres to square mile) I think this illustrates the amount of weight the land has to stand at times of flood. Most of this Autumn/Winter we have some 15 acres underwater, this equates to 3,000 tonnes on our little patch of England no wonder the meadows are sinking!

For the first time, I believe, we have decided that about 1/3 of our autumn planted crop will have to destroyed and replanted, just because of the weather, which has not only caused saturation of the land encouraging things like slugs. It is not that it has been that wet but that it has never had the chance to dry out. An interesting fact that an old college friend reminded me of, that Wheat, the only crop we have that has survived the rigours of this wet weather, will only stand being water logged for 24 hours. In the patches where the water is standing, there is no plant at all, I had either forgotten that fact or was asleep in the lecture when it was mentioned. Now we have to decide what to plant in the spring this looks likely to be ½ & ½ Lupins again and Poppies for seed. Both of these crops will produce flowers which will be nice and please the bees.

Now following a very biased BBC programme on, how bad beef is for the planet, we have to try and get the truth out to the public just because an idiot was allowed to say all beef was bad for climate, without making any mention of the fact that they actually help carbon sequestration by recycling it back into the soil as most cattle in the UK are grass fed. No mention either was made of the fact that the gas they emit is methane, which is degraded in the atmosphere over time, what happened years ago when the plans of North America were teeming with Bison and Buffalo, did they not emit Methane? The programme also made mention that we should be eating more chicken, not mentioning that they are one of the biggest users of Soya which, is largely grown in South America where the rain forests have been cleared for its cultivation.

Happy and PEACEFUL New year to all readers

Charles Peers

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

The growing year does not follow the calendar, and while the winter may be mostly dormant December is a time for cabbages, parsnips and of course sprouts! A good time to reflect on what has worked and what to change for next year. Mother Nature seems to always do well, but the battle against the weeds (or native plants) comes to a close. It has been such a mild winter though, and a wet year so I wonder whether we need to adjust what we grow? Of course 2024 could be a dry one, so always best to hedge your bets. In January or early Feb some hedge maintenance is required which will yield hazel sticks for beans. There are a few plots available and a couple of people joining next year. If you are interested and have time to grow your own, drop me a message. Happy New Year.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

December

1st	No; 41	Mrs Blest	£10.00
2nd	No; 45	Layla Morgan	£8.00
3rd	No; 31	Mrs Jeremy Morgan	£6.00

Diane Austin (Organiser)

LITTLE MILTON CHRISTMAS CARD

Thank you to everyone in the village who contributed towards the 2023 Village Christmas Card. I hope that you enjoyed reading all the messages from your friends and neighbours.

Our card has grown year-on-year for the last 12 years and this year Great Milton joined the party and produced their own card.

Staggeringly our two villages raised nearly £4,500 which is phenomenal. There is now an initiative from two charities to extend the concept to other villages, workplaces and clubs/societies.

It would be lovely to have the Haseleys as part of the team in 2024, so if anyone from Haseley is reading this and would like to know more about it please contact me.

Thank you once again, your support is heart- warming.

Roger Longshaw

CAROL SINGING IN LITTLE MILTON ON DECEMBR 21ST

At 6pm prompt a lovely crowd of us assembled on the Green opposite the post box at the entrance to Old Field and we spent the next two hours following the route outlined in the Newsletter…We numbered between 15 and 20 adults and between 5 and 10 children as people joined and left at various points along the route…We had excellent ringers of the large school bell announcing our arrival in each place and we were royally looked after by Joyce and George towards the end of our carolling…We distributed sweets and collected about £140 for the Porch and the homeless which will be taken personally in the New Year.

Thank you to all those who turned up and sang, all who opened your doors and listened, took sweets and/or gave money…Watch this space for next year's date!

S.A. Dennis

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Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

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

The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September 2023 WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything.

If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then please do so.

Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact our prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Flu and Covid Vaccines - All eligible patients have been offered their flu and Covid vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then please contact your nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find out if you are eligible, please visit www.nhs.uk and search for "Covid Vaccination".

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p

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CAROL PHILLIPS

UNDER 12S
SATURDAY
10:30-11AM
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VILLAGE HALL
HEIDI BATES

UNDER 11S
THURSDAY
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CHALGROVE MUGA
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RAMBLERS Thame & Wheatley

Walks Programme January 2024

Thursday 4th Meet at Christmas Common, layby side of road to Northend, for a 5½ mile walk via Pishill and Northend.

Sunday 7th Meet at Aston Rowant, road to side of Lambert Hotel, for a leisurely 6½ mile walk via Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and the Wormsley Estate. Possible lunch at Leathern Bottle. No stiles, two hills and good views.

Tuesday 9th Meet at Thame, Priest End, for a gentle social 2½ mile walk, out past the cricket ground and back via the Phoenix Trail. Coffee at the Thatch at the end of the walk.

Sunday 14th Meet at Cookley Green, for a 6 mile walk past the giraffes and through Warburg Nature Reserve.

Thursday 18th Meet at Tiddington for a 5½ mile walk back to Thame, via Rycote Park. Possible lunch stop in Thame at the end. This is a linear walk, so either park at the Village Hall and take bus back from Thame at the finish, or catch bus out from Thame to the start.

Wednesday 24th Meet at Nettlebed for a 6 mile Chilterns walk via Warburg Nature Reserve on field and woodland paths.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Please check the website to confirm details as the programme is subject to change:

www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can be found on the website

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I would like to begin this month by wishing all my constituents a peaceful Christmas, and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

I know that, for many, life is not easy, and that personal and global struggles can weigh us down. Across the world too many people are still being affected by oppressive regimes and the effects of war. Still more suffer as a result of natural disaster. Our thoughts and prayers go out to anyone suffering at this time.

Here at home, many continue to feel the impact of the rising cost of living. However I hope that this year has brought some respite with the successful work to reduce the level of inflation and the measures that the Government has introduced to help ease the burdens on households across the country. Further measures planned for next year will continue to improve the situation.

There are never easy or straight forward answers to the big issues of our day. There will always be different solutions to consider, and any proposals will have knock on issues to be considered and weighed up against the alternatives. I am always interested to learn of the different views that people have and to consider them against my own. We may have to agree to differ, but discussion is helpful.

Closer to home when I look around the constituency and read the many parish magazines that are sent to me, I am always grateful for the generosity of time that so many people give to their communities in so many different ways. There are those who sit on our local councils and parish meetings and work at the challenges of local decision making; those who organise the wide-ranging group activities for others week by week or month by month; those who volunteer to maintain community facilities and our environment. Those who drive people to medical appointments or do shopping for those who are not able to do it themselves. There are so many people who volunteer in a wider range of ways it is impossible to list them all. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my sincere thanks to this army of volunteers who work throughout the year to strengthen our communities and make our towns and villages desirable places to live and work. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you all.
We never know what each year will bring and as another new year comes nearer I remain optimistic and hopeful that those things that we hope will get better do, and that we will find new solutions and innovations to resolve some of the bigger problems of the world.
Whatever your beliefs, I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring you some comfort and joy.
Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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 **February 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th January.** The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are publish

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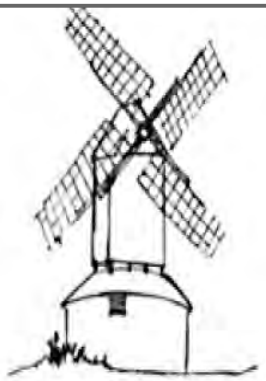

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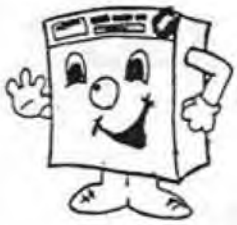

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