

Published by Little Milton Parish Council

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Little Milton Newsletter



MARCH 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: MARCH

Wed	1st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	2nd	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	3rd	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	5th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion: St James'
Mon.	6th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	7th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	8th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council Meeting Pine Lodge
Thurs	9th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting: Pine Lodge
Frid.	10th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	12th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James
Mon	13th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	14th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	15th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Compline Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	16th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	17th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Mon	20th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	21st	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	22nd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: Spring & Well Cottage
Thurs	23rd	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	24th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	26th	4.00 p.m.	Family Gathering- St James'
Mon	27th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	28th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	29th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	30th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	31st	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
APRIL Sun	2nd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St James'

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

OUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

Elections for the Parish council take place soon, join us at the pub on Wednesday March 8th for an informal Q&A around how rewarding the role of a councillor can be.

A healthy and vibrant Parish Council is vital to ensure Little Milton's voice is heard and to maintain and enhance all aspects of village life. The responsibilities of the council can be informally summarised as follows:

Planning

Reviewing and commenting on all planning applications within the parish against the planning policies of SODC and the Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Environment

Maintaining and enhancing the areas under our responsibility (recreation ground, verges, hedges, planting) and liaising with other stakeholders (Highways, SOHA, residents etc.) to make sure they do the same.

Recreation

Maintaining and developing facilities around the recreation ground, MUGA, playpark.

Infrastructure

Dealing with all the different authorities (Thames Water, Highways, BT, Openreach, SODC etc.) to ensure that the facilities provided to the village are well maintained and to try to secure improvements, especially in important areas like drainage, broadband, planning, road conditions, speed limits, weight limits etc.

Village institutions

To coordinate with and support institutions within the village (School, Church, Village Hall, Orchard pre-school, Village Shop, Pub ...)

Communications

Facilitating the village newsletter, website, Facebook, notice board, Parish meetings.

Influence

Coordinating with other authorities (SODC, OCC) to ensure that the voice of Little Milton is heard

The role of the PC is vital because all the things mentioned above have a direct impact on the lives of everyone living, working or studying in the village. As councillors we have the opportunity to help to make things better for the whole community, which is very rewarding. Elections are the opportunity for new people to bring new ideas and new energies to continue this continuous improvement.

You do not require any specific previous experience to make a valued contribution to our council and therefore our village. You may be busy with work, children and other responsibilities, however this may help you bring vital experience and perspective to the council - it's a real opportunity to make a difference regardless of how much spare time you may or may not have.

The LMPC March meeting is on Weds 8th March at The Pine Lodge, look out for the agenda to confirm but we will aim to start early at around 6pm, which should allow us to be at The Lamb at or before 8:30pm. If you have any interest in becoming a Parish Councillor we would be delighted to see you at the meeting, the pub, or both. Rumour has it there may be a free drink and bar snacks available at The Lamb!

Hope to see you then

The (current) Little Milton Parish Council

STANDING FOR ELECTION AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR 4th MAY 2023?

To be able to stand as a candidate at the parish council election, you must

- ⤴ be at least 18 years old
- ⤴ be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union

And meet at least **one of the following** four qualifications:

- ⤴ You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish
- ⤴ You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
- ⤴ Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.
- ⤴ You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Key Dates

- Delivery of nomination papers to SODC – by 4pm Tuesday 4 April 2023
- Election Thursday 4th May 2019

Further Information

Comprehensive guidance is available on the Electoral Commission website at:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

Nomination forms can be downloaded online or **contact the Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton 07715 361137 who will provide guidance and support in completing the necessary forms**

Nomination **forms must be hand-delivered** to SODC's offices by the closing date (4pm Tuesday 4th April). **This is very important and if in doubt contact the Clerk**

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2023

A summary of some of the topics and discussions that took place at the Parish Council meeting held in February.

Matters Arising

A point was raised, during discussion of safety on the A329, about extending the barrier by the school. Cllr Wakeling had looked into the history and reported it was something the school governors investigated in 2015 and had concluded that it was not practical due to the Thames Water manhole in the pavement.

Cllr Sheppard reported that he had contacted Thames Water to see if the manhole could be relocated and if this was not possible, the cost / design of a barrier which would allow access to the manhole cover.

Planning

P22/S1241/FUL - The Site of Milton House, Gold Street, Little Milton
Amendment No. 6

Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide 4 dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access (As amplified by Preliminary Ecological Appraisal received 29 March 2022 and energy information received 25 July 2022 and Services Plan received 27 July 2022. Drainage Information received 6 October 2022 and as amended by drawings received 13 July 2022 reduction in height of houses, alteration in garages and materials, layout, ecological and landscape information received 21 November 2022, images received 29 November 2022 and information received 25 January 2025).

The amendment was **noted** with no further comment.

It was **noted** that planning permission has been granted for:

P22/S3964/HH - Hillview Cottage, High Street, Little Milton, OX44 7PU

Front extension to existing detached garage/home office, to provide additional open bay covered parking (As accompanied by additional arboricultural information received 2022-11-17 and as amended by plans received 10 January 2023).

Village AEDs

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) are encouraging owners of AEDs to assess the related signage. Volunteers who regularly check the three AEDs in the village undertook an audit and concluded additional signage is required for two AEDs located at the village hall and outside Morgan's. An approach will be made to the owners of the Lamb Public House seeking permission for a directional sign to be put on their gate.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

Shrub planting is planned for the coming weekend, the mound at the MUGA will also be strimmed.

Resolved to replace a post on Haseley Road green which was removed by a contractor during recent works on the green.

The planters on the corner of Haseley Road / A329 have been filled with topsoil. Plants are being sourced on an ad hoc basis for all planters. **Resolved** that Cllr Harrison purchase plants and claim expenses as they occur.

An application for funds towards refurbishment of the MUGA lighting has been submitted to the District Councillor Grant Scheme.

Utilities and Highways

OCC Cabinet has approved the 20mph speed reduction scheme for the village. Installation of signage and road markings should be completed by the end of March. OCC Highways has reported a backlog in pothole repairs.

Playground

Cllr Wakeling continues dialogue with Komplan re the replacement aerial runway seat. Cllrs Wakeling and Van der Merwe will meet to discuss replacement of the wooden fencing around the MUGA.

Resolved to purchase a new accessible bench for the play area to replace the existing one which is unrepairable. The cost of the new bench is £570 plus VAT.

All agreed the MUGA surface is beyond repair and needs replacing. Further investigation and quotations to be brought back to a future meeting.

Communication

Agreed to publicise local elections in May via social media and the newsletter. A drop-in session will be held in the Lamb Public House for people to find out more about becoming a parish councillor and what the Parish Council has achieved.

Inter Village Meeting Notice

Monday 3 April 2023 14:00 – 15:00 “Have your Say” Come and meet to share your insights, observations and concerns with our local **Police Community Support Officer** (Thames Valley Police). This is a multi-village gathering to be held at Little Milton Village Hall with invitations to participate extended to Great Milton, the Haseleys, and Stadhampton. All welcome.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March 2023, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 6.00 pm.

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)	07740438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Steve Sidhu (Vice Chairman)	01844 279448
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 Caroline Newton	07951 477144

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE'S 2023/24 BUDGET (Extracts)

Community well-being and climate action

Action on climate change and key projects to enhance community wellbeing and support those most in need can progress thanks to South Oxfordshire District Council's improved financial position.

The council can focus on these priorities because its Cabinet has recommended councillors approve a budget for 2023/4 that shows a financial position in a healthier state than previously forecast thanks to the careful budgeting work in recent years. It also means the council needs to draw over a million pounds less from its reserves to balance the budget than it had prepared for a year ago.

£1 million will be invested over the next two years to drive the council's corporate plan priorities, including 'Everyone Active', an active communities grant scheme, and continuation of the Community Hub to support the district's most vulnerable residents.

The Community Hub plays an important role supporting the council's ongoing response work for refugees and asylum seekers and works with partners to lead and deliver programmes to address inequalities. As well as providing wide-ranging support and advice for residents the Community Hub delivers cost-of-living help for those in most financial need, such as the Household Support Fund.

The capital budget will be used to improve South Oxfordshire's infrastructure, including flood prevention, leisure centre improvements and resurfacing and lighting replacement at the council's car parks. Decarbonisation funding, including some Government support, will contribute to retrofitting energy saving measures at Cornerstone Arts Centre.

Retaining its investment in climate action, the budget includes funds to progress some significant outcomes from priority projects already begun, including tree planting and meadow creation, an extension of last year's No Mow May called 'Let it Bee' and supporting water quality work including an application for Bathing Water Status for a stretch of River Thames.

This year the council proposes to increase its share of the council tax by £5 a year for an average Band D property, so for 2023/24 residents will pay a Band D rate of £141.24 per household for the vital services provided by the district council. This represents a below inflation increase of 3.6 per cent. In 2022/23 the Band D rate was the ninth lowest in the country for a shire district council.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: 2023/24 BUDGET (Extracts)

Oxfordshire County Council will set its 2023-24 budget at the February full council. The budget is delivered within a context of high inflation and rising pressure for services, particularly in adult social care and children's services.

The administration will propose a 5% rise in council tax, including a 2% adult social care precept. Judicious savings, a rising council tax take from increased population, and a better-than-expected government settlement also support the budget and mean drastic cuts can be avoided, despite the gap between the council tax rise and the rate of inflation.

Children's Services & SEND: I am delighted to say that children's services will see an inflation busting boost of 12.3% (£18.8m). In this climate, providing a real terms increase (+1.6%) to children's services, including for special educational needs and other vulnerable children in care, has been difficult to

achieve, but reflects the priorities of the administration. £500,000 will be spent to speed up needs assessments (EHCPs) for children with SEND.

Adult social care: Accounts for approximately half of OCC's budget and is particularly sensitive to inflation due to the labour intensive nature of care. Because of the size of the budget, it is difficult to provide an inflation matched rise, however, adult social care will get a 6.8% (£14.4m) increase to support its work, which will soften the impact of inflation. The 'Oxfordshire Way' reforms also support more efficient use of budget.

Highways and travel: We will be investing an additional £1.6m to reduce flooding on roads – clearing ditches and cutting through red tape (riparian rights!) that prevent action on the ground. Monies will also be used to clean signs and improve road markings. By investing in flooding prevention, we can reduce damage to road surfaces and save taxpayers money. However, it remains the case that successive grant reductions from government means that we have too little money to manage such a large network.

Climate: It's easy to talk the talk on climate – but walking the walk is much harder. Amongst other initiatives, there is increased funding for trees planting (essential not only for carbon capture, but also localised climate resilience).

Voluntary organisations, libraries, and other services: Library services will be supported as they account for the loss of income from DVD rentals etc. Voluntary organisation will also again be given a year's rent holiday where they pay rent to OCC.

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £40 for up to 3 items and £8 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 – MARCH

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
7th March	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
14th March	No	Yes	No	Yes
21st March	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
28th March	No	Yes	No	Yes
4th April	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Great Milton Methodist Church Services
For further info. please contact Rev Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
5th March	11:00 am	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
12th March	11:00 am	Great Milton	Sue Barratt	
19th March	11:00 am	Great Milton	Revd. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion/ MS
26th March	11:00 am	Great Milton	Andrew Maisey	

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR MARCH 2023

Wednesday 1st March

6.00 p.m. Compline

St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 5th March

9.00 Holy Communion

St James' Little Milton

10.30 Family Worship

St Peter's Great Haseley

Wednesday 8th March

6.00 p.m. Compline

St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 12th March

9.00 Holy Communion

St Mary's Great Milton

10.30 Family Worship

St James' Little Milton

Wednesday 15th March

6.00 p.m. Compline

St James' Little Milton

Sunday 19th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.00 Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

10.30 Family Worship

St Mary's Great Milton

Wednesday 22nd March

6.00 p.m. Compline

St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 26th March

9.00 BCP Holy Communion

St Mary's Great Milton

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion

St Peter's Great Haseley

4.00 p.m. Family Gathering

St James' Little Milton

Wednesday 29th March

6.00 p.m. Compline

St Peter's Great Haseley

RECTOR'S PINT

I have been here for over seven years as the Rector, and I admit to having been cautious about being drawn into debate about the marriage of people of the same sex.

Some of you will be aware that the Bishops of the Church of England have finally recommended that there should be prayers of blessing for same sex couples following a civil marriage. The proposal was accepted by the February General Synod meeting of the Church of England after a long debate.

I am aware in our churches of a range of opinions. There are those who really don't see this as an issue at all, who are increasingly frustrated by the church's position which they view as unjust and out of step with society. There are others though, who are troubled by this as something dear to them, the traditional view of marriage, is being tampered with. Locally, I have heard both views expressed.

I have tried to understand both sides. For all Christians, the Bible must be a serious and central part of the debate, and I have heard Christians of differing persuasions use the Bible to justify their own positions! There is no doubt that overall, the Church has much to reflect upon. Unquestionably, same sex couples have felt excluded and hurt. On the other hand, I do not believe it is right to automatically brand everyone who continues to hold to a traditional view of marriage as homophobic, and that has certainly happened. This debate has resulted in painful polarities.

I have really wrestled with this. A recent conversation with a clergy friend helped me, as we both realised that we wanted to emphasise the grace of God, open to all, rather than persist with increasing discomfort in a view that continues to perpetuate what will only be seen as a cruel judgement.

This has taken me a long time, but I now believe the way forward should be along the lines of what happened with the marriage of divorced people. It must be left to the individual clergy concerned, whether he or she, with integrity and in good conscience, can take a full and proper marriage ceremony. The present solution is simply kicking the can down the road, leaving just about everyone upset. It is too far for some, while for others, it legitimises a first and second-class status of marriage in the Church. I believe that it is inevitable that a ceremony celebrating the marriage of people of the same sex will eventually be offered. It is complicated, and people will have to decide what their relationship with the Church will be when that happens, but trying to find a halfway solution, with the offering of prayers of blessing is simply prolonging the pain. If I were a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, I now know that I would vote for change.

Simon

COME FOR LUNCH IN LENT!

St Mary's Little Milton, St James' Little Milton and St Peter's Great Haseley are happy to announce that we're hosting our annual series of lunches across the Benefice once again, in the weeks leading up to Easter.

We'll be getting together to share a light lunch – complete with some truly excellent bread supplied, as ever, by the team from *Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons*, to enjoy each other's company, and raise some money for Christian Aid.

There's no charge, but we really appreciate it if you can make a donation.

The lunches this year are:

Thursday 2nd March

Trudy Timbs - Orpswood Cottage, Great Milton
01844279380 trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday 8th March

Sally Ann Dennis and Jane Willis - Spring Cottage, Great Milton
01844278029 jandennis1@btinternet.com
01844 279468 janeandmarkwillis@btinternet.com

Wednesday 15th March

Jane Jefferis - North End Cottage, Great Milton
01844278243 janejefferis@btinternet.com

Monday 20th March

Anne Maloney - The School House, Great Haseley
07900494378 annemaloney7@gmail.com

Wednesday 29th March

Scilla Burgess and Jane Cannon – Delafield, Little Haseley
07799738829 sepburgess@yahoo.com
01844279457 jane_r_cannon@yahoo.com

These events are always extremely popular, and a great way to celebrate good food and good company. Please let us know as soon as possible, if you'd like to join us for lunch!

Simon

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MARCH

W/E 5th March	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 12th March	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 19th March	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 26th March	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 2nd April	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield

S.A. Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

A very early heads up that this year the annual **INTER VILLAGE TUG of WAR** will be hosted by Little Milton in early September. You may think March is a bit early to announce the event, but this year there are expected to be **5 villages** competing (previous years included Great Milton, the Haseleys, and us) and some are about to begin training. Little Milton teams won both the Women and Men's competitions last year so we have a record to maintain. As in previous years each village will have 3 teams, Women, Men, and Children. If you are interested in participating (on a team, coaching, leading, etc.) please contact giles.pinelodge@yahoo.com

The inside of the village hall needs a new coat of paint and would welcome some help. As it will require 2 coats we will be hosting a "**Painting party**" from 10:00 1st **and 2nd April** in the hall...if you have a couple of hours free please lend a hand. There will be unlimited tea and coffee, plus maybe something alcoholic and some BBQ'd hot dogs to keep up your energy.

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 18.30 **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 **Yoga and Pilates** with Lee (lee@grahamcaulfield.co.uk)

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 19:30 contact Kath Stacy (kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 19:00 contact Kath Stacy (kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday of the month. For further details contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

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

Giles Denby

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

1st	No 33	Clare Turrell	£9.00
2nd	No 32	Chris Coward	£7.00
3rd	No 52	Chris Skidmore	£5.00

Thank you to villagers for supporting the school by using the clothes bank in the Pine Lodge car park. We have received £164.10 from Astra Recycling.

Many thanks

Diane Austin

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL*Small School, Big Heart, Great Start*

At the time of writing, we have reached the end term three. It's been a short term, but, once again, we've managed to pack in a huge amount of learning and some fantastic events. We've also welcomed several new children to our community, and it's been a great pleasure watching them settle and make new friends.

The final week has been another busy one, especially for the children in Rowan Class. On Wednesday afternoon they were transported to Wheatley Park to take part in the Local School Partnership Indoor Athletics Competition. This is a favourite on our calendar of fixtures, and we were so pleased to see it reinstated after a two-year break during the pandemic. This event is very much a celebration of participation rather than the winning, and we were so pleased that every child in Rowan participated in at least one event. The greatest success of the day, however, was observing the transition from fear and reluctance to uncontrollable determination to participate in as many events as possible. This, ultimately is why these events are so important, and we will continue to try and ensure our participation in all upcoming partnership sports events.

On Thursday it was the turn of Rowan Class to head into the woods for their much-loved Forest School session. There had been quite a change in temperature overnight and the children spent the first part of the session gathered around the fire to consider what might be influencing the change in temperature and listening in silence to the sounds around them. We also spent some time discussing the catastrophic events unfolding in the wake of the powerful earthquake impacting Turkey and Syria. The children were encouraged to consider some of the aspects of their lives for which they have gratitude - family, health and friends were the most referenced of these. We wondered whether we might consider organising an event to try and raise funds for the rescue operation currently underway. We'll keep you updated as these plans become firmer.

So, with our attention now turning to next term, we are looking forward to the exciting events already planned. On Tuesday 21st the Maples class will be 'Zooming Through History' with a virtual visit to Hampton Court. Then, the following week, we will be celebrating 'Book Week' 2023, with plenty more fun events and activities designed to nurture a fondness for reading.

But, for now, we would like to celebrate all the successes

Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Headteachers

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

We had a fun, seated Paracise class to music with Lee Caulfield in February. It was great to see everyone have a go and get moving. Lee runs Pilates classes in Little Milton on Fridays at 930am, Paracise on Mondays and Wobble (seated) on Wednesdays in Thame - see her website for details; www.leecaulfieldpilates.co.uk.

Our next meeting is our **AGM on Thursday 9th March at 730pm**. Come and hear all about the year and activities in your local WI. We're busy making the 2023/24 programme, so come along, find out all about it and join us. Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or free if you join on the night.

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

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

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

Like us at www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge

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

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

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

It's March and the start of Meteorological Spring. The milder February brings early opening of some of the hedgerow buds. Look out for the first flowers of the blackthorn too. These are so important for the early queen bumble bees coming out of hibernation.

There has been a shuffling around of the livestock recently allowing them to graze different fields which is important both to them, the grasses and the wild flowers that will appear later. BBOWT are preferring to keep the black Hebridean sheep rather than

the larger Beulahs as the “hebs” seem to be so much easier to keep. At another reserve they breed them to keep the herds strong and the hebs give birth overnight in the fields without any trouble.

Last month we started up the volunteer work parties after quite a few years’ hiatus. Thanks to everyone who helped across the three days. We were small in number but mighty in results. The two young hedges that run between the Blenheim fields have been replenished. There are also four birch and two oak saplings that have been added to the lower part of the hedge to see if they take. All of them have come from adult tress on the reserve. The plan will be to run a water pipe along one of them to ensure they survive until they can get their roots down into damper soil. The hedgerow that runs down along the bridle path to the far bridge has been trimmed back with stakes and binders creating a barrier into the woodland where former hedge plants have grown old and died off. It may be that we get the chance to plant a few new plants before this comes out.

BBOWT have also engaged a contractor who has trimmed the hedges and some of the paths with machinery. This saves a lot of time and the plants will bounce back quite quickly.

Keep an eye out for signposts indicating the next work party and what we plan to do. I hope that more people come along to future sessions. They are a great way to get some fresh air and exercise.

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

SEWING GROUP

This will take place on Wednesday March 22nd from 11.00 at Spring & Well Cottage on the Haseley Road

Sally Ann Dennis

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Spring is well and truly on its way, in fact from about the middle of January the birds were making themselves heard, presumably starting to find a mate, what it is to be young! These birds by the middle of February are frantically getting their nests ready for their forthcoming activities/nuptials. A few days ago a small flock of “Peewits” or to be correct “Lapwings” were seen foraging on a neighbours Wheat, a sight not seen for many years, seen them fly over on occasion but, never on the ground, I believe they frequent some of the wetlands further **upstream** from here. These are one of species that are noticeably depleted due of course to modern farming, in mitigation to that fact I remember at a tender age when first allowed to drive a tractor on my own, one of the first jobs I was allowed to do was harrow a field of corn for weed control, no sprays then. I was instructed to lookout for “Peewit’s” nests some of which my father will have marked, I think this indicates that we were concerned about nature in those days, I guess it was the mid 40’s. I noticed a month or so ago a few birds I could not identify, possibly Golden Plover, Stone Curlew, more recently I saw a pair in the same place this is very interesting, as we have not seen either for some time.

I don’t know if it is me or not, perhaps someone else has the same opinion that, the second bout of frosty weather seems to have had more **effect** on plants then the first.

Anyone travelling along our road, (known as Windmill Hill) may have noticed a dead deer on the road verge, presumably hit by a vehicle. We speculated as to its type, we are

reliably informed that it was a Chinese Water Deer. A similar deer had been seen on the farm some days earlier. These deer are not that common around here although, another has been seen since the demise of this one obviously there were two. Add to this, a lonesome Buck, was resident on the farm for several months a few years ago, strange what some of these wild animals do.

The President of the NFU was recently invited to no 10 by the PM who, she reports seems to understand the importance of food security, a very reassuring fact, it would now be good to see how this affects future discussions, I won't hold my breath. It seems also he understands the problems within the food chain, in other words the power of the large supermarket chains who, actually dictate future direction of agriculture, this to us is a big issue, so it is important that it is well understood within Government.

Since I last wrote we learn of more land being turned over to nature reserve with the release Beavers amongst, no doubt, other species. This release is not a million miles from here which, if they can be kept under control will not present a problem. I find this difficult to comprehend, as they are an animal that thrives on chewing wood so, how on earth do we think they can be properly restricted to their designated area. Their supposed benefit is to hold back water, great, in the right places. Here we have, for some time now, suffered from fallen trees just downstream where, our neighbouring landowner needs to agree to remove them, this causes extra flooding on our flood meadows which now are not even suitable for grazing animals.

There moves within parliament to open up the countryside to give more public access, this is fine except, there potentially will create real problems for us. Whereas most of us welcome the public on our land, we are lucky in this area as those that use our footpaths etc., do not in any way cause us a problem but, in some areas, this is not the case, as we learn of real concerns. These are the increase of livestock worrying from dogs, due to greater dog ownership, litter, gates left open. Add to this, where paths cross land that is wet walkers, understandably, taking alternative routes, destroying even more crop than the designated width of a footpath. This also applies to Wild Camping where, visitors have been known to leave equipment with, areas desecrated by fires and, other misuse that may seem innocuous. All these issues are extra pressure on nature (wildlife) from not only agriculture but, development of all kinds which, seems to abound whatever. I make these points so that people can perhaps understand where farmers are coming from when they object to this sort of legislation and, perhaps the whole population of this small under pressure Island this "Emerald Isle", of ours.

As we enter another year the prospects appear challenging as our nation is facing real problems in Eastern Europe, where indirectly we are fighting a war for democracy and freedom that we simply must win. This of course means we must continue the supply of military funding, depleting our financial resources even further after the effects of Covid. Perhaps we need to adopt a bit of Dunkirk spirit and, tighten our belts for the good of our way of life.

Charles Peers.

MORLAND HOUSE – February 2023

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

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

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

March is the time to begin planting but the soil may still be too cold and there will be frosts to come so might be best to leave until the end of the month unless you can cover the ground in some way. Potatoes, onions and some cabbages can go in as well as the first sowing of carrots and parsnips. Leave beans until April as they really don't like cold nights which can kill them.

Looks like there has been lots of digging going on around the allotments although this is from at least two badgers on site. Fortunately they are not going in to any plots and prefer to take to the fields behind. However there are also a few muntjac about and these can do some damage. I suggest deploying things that might deter them such as a scarecrow that moves or shiny CDs that blow in the wind. But the best thing to do is to sit for a while on a sunny evening and watch nature get busy with life. You might even get a glimpse of badger cubs as they begin to emerge from the sett and venture a little further.

Our annual meeting will be at the allotments weather permitting and I hope lots of you can attend. Our usual manure supplier is no longer able to but we do have another offer albeit a smaller load. Keep an eye out for an email invitation for the meeting.

Finally, at least two plots have become vacant, although one is now taken, therefore we have one spare plot or two half plots if we divide it up. Please contact me if you are interested.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

Walks Programme March 2023

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 2nd | Meet at Ewelme (Cow Common car park) for an undulating 5½ mile walk via Swyncombe church. |
| Saturday 4th | Meet at Southern Road Scout HQ, Thame, for a 5½ mile linear walk to Tiddington via the Oxfordshire Golf Course and Rycote estate. Return by bus. |
| Tuesday 14th | Meet by the church, Bledlow, for a leisurely 4 mile level walk with coffee stop at the Peacock Country Inn. |
| Saturday 18th | Meet at the Lions car park, Bledlow, for an 8½ mile walk via Rout's Green, and Radnage. Bring a picnic. |
| Tuesday 21st | Meet at Coombe Hill car park for a 4½ mile walk with a steep descent to start, but otherwise moderate paths. Possible pub stop at the end. |
| Thursday 23rd | Meet at NT Cliveden Woodland car park for a leisurely 5½ mile walk around the grounds of Cliveden. Refreshments available en route or bring your own. |
| Sunday 26th | Meet at Garsington for a 6 mile walk around local villages. |
| Wednesday 29th | 10:30am Meet at Hailey (near Wallingford) for a 4 mile leisurely Chilterns walk. Possible pub stop at the end. |
| Thursday 30th | Meet at Eythrope, near Stone, for a 7 mile walk (which can be cut short to a 4 mile walk if preferred). |

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

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

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and whether walks are suitable for dogs can also be found on the website.



John Howell MP writes

February 2023

As readers may know I lead the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe on behalf of the Government. Whilst this does take me away some of the time it also enables me to steer a positive contribution for the UK as well as all other Member Countries. For example at the January meeting of the international delegation I put forward a paper for the introduction of a new International Convention or Treaty on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. Whilst this could seem remote what would mean is that we would have something with which to prosecute a crime such as deliberately exposing a community to chemical weapons. Something long needed.

Whilst on the subject of Europe, there has been talk of the UK leaving the European Court of Human Rights. I am a firm believer that we should stay a member of the Court and of the Convention on Human Rights. The Court is not a foreign court but is an international body in which we share responsibility with the other countries who are members. I believe that leaving the Court would be disastrous for the UK. I am sure we will hear more on this in the coming months.

Much more locally I have been pursuing issue relating to our GPs. I fully appreciate the frustration around access and face to face appointments. At the same time many of our GPs are feeling under huge pressure. Having met with some of our GPs to listen to their concerns, I have now had a meeting with other Oxfordshire MPs and the Chief Executive of the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) which oversees primary care provision. The senior ICB team agreed to meet with local GP teams to follow up.

Also working with other Oxfordshire MPs, I have been looking into the issue raised with me by a number of parents of the decision by the County Council to withdraw its 'spare seat scheme' for school transport on some services. This is a scheme where any unallocated seats on school buses could be offered to those not eligible for free school transport. Removal of this scheme raises a number of concerns, not least that it flies in the face of the County Council's own environmental ambition to reduce car journeys. We have urged them to reconsider this decision as a matter of urgency.

I have long supported the part that apprenticeships play in the transition from full time education to work. I am therefore delighted to see that for young people seeking apprenticeships will be able to use the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to search and apply for apprenticeships. This will give them a better understanding of all the options available to them.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are well rehearsed in the media and which the government is working to address. If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. My contact details are on my website - www.johnhowell.org.uk.

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 April 2023 Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on 18th March. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published.



**Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33
1DP**

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

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

The **dispensary** is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm (closing 1 –
2pm every day) Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends)
8.30am to 10.30am

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service
by phoning 111 For further information, please see our website

www.morland-house.co.uk

Or contact our Reception team on 01865 872448

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age UK	01865 890879	Naheed Qureshi
Citizens Advice Bureau	0808 278 7907	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 278175	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Little Milton School	01844 279310	Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Head Teachers
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	A J Woods Ltd
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter	01844 279468 01844 279150	Mark Willis Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180 01844 875635	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278605 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Steve Willis (Chairman) 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	Ben & Charmain
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

For all other numbers go to website www.littlemilton.org.uk

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