

Little Milton *Newsletter*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: NOVEMBER 2023

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	6.30 p.m.	Fireworks – Recreation Ground
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. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council - Pine Lodge
Thurs	9th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m...	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting – Pine Lodge
Sun	12th	4.00 p.m.	Remembrance Service
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. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening
Thurs	16th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Sun	19th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James'
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 Mary Harrison Haseley Road
Thurs	23rd	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Sun	26th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Morning Worship St Mary's Great Milton
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
DEC Sun	3rd	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.

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER

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

Planning

P23/S3204/HH & P23S3205/LB – The Plough, Stadhampton Road, Little Milton, OX44 7OD

Proposed two-storey and single storey rear extensions to The Plough House, proposed one and a half storey outbuilding, repairs to existing garage, alterations to site boundary walls and site access.

Resolved No Strong Views

Items related to street names and postal addresses were noted as follows:

- i) The new road within the Milton House development is to be named Holm Oak Close.
- ii) The new residential dwelling address on Thame Road is to be known as 22 Thame Road, Little Milton, Oxfordshire, OX44 7PZ.

The Clerk stated the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) liability due for the Milton House Development is £290,160.00 and outlined the process for receipt of funds. The parish share is calculated by taking 25% (as Little Milton has a Neighbourhood Development Plan) of the amount which is £72,540.00. The CIL charge will be calculated from when the commencement notice is received (anytime within three years from the date of the planning decision).

However, in view of the large amount of CIL due, the District Council's CIL Instalment Policy will be applied and it will be paid in three instalments:

First Instalment – 20% of the CIL payable with 60 days. *

Second Instalment – 40% of the CIL payable within 1 year *

Third Instalment – 40% of the CIL payable within 2 years. *

*This will be calculated from date work commences on site and in accordance with the date shown on the CIL Form 6.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

A report prepared by Mr Barry Coward had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Coward had reviewed the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Policies and concluded they remain sound. More strategically, population and demographic trends are not going in the desired direction as set out in the NDP. No re-balancing of housing stock towards smaller houses has been achieved. Dependency on the car continues and the capacity of the village sewage system has not been increased.

There is no immediate action to review the NDP. When the time comes (possibly in 3-5 years), a Neighbourhood Priority Statement, currently being piloted by other villages, may be a simpler proposition. The key to success is to find a new village group to undertake the work. A more immediate priority is responding to the consultation on the Joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Local Plan due in the autumn and in particular the Plan's proposals for smaller villages, Chalgrove Airfield and Harrington.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Coward for his very detailed report.

Traffic through Little Milton on the A329 and the Haseley Road

The parish council has a constant flow of correspondence from residents regarding problems on the A329, not all related to HGVs, there is also weight restrictions and

traffic speed. There are things that can be done; installation of Speed Indicator Device signs, revive the Community Speed Watch Programme and continue the campaign for a weight restriction through the village.

Cllr Sheppard's report on Speed Indicator Device (SIDs) signage was discussed. It was agreed that data collected from the traffic surveys will guide the location of the new SIDs. It was further agreed to investigate the purchase and installation of two SIDs and to consult with residents living near the proposed locations.

Traffic Surveys - **Resolved** to approve expenditure up to £400.00 for traffic surveys. Cllr Harrison will contact OCC Highways.

Community Speed Watch Programme involves volunteers who need to be trained and investment in signage and kit, approximately £500.00. Agreed to put an article in the newsletter and post on social media outlining the commitment in time and training required and asking for volunteers. A minimum of six volunteers are needed for the programme to be viable.

MUGA and Tennis Courts Refurbishment

An application for £65k of funding has been submitted, if successful it will provide 90% of the funding (the parish council funding 10%) required to refurbish surfaces of the MUGA and Tennis Courts. The outcome will be known in December. It was agreed to draft an application to the SODC Capital Grant Fund which is open until 1st November 2023. Other funding streams will be explored.

Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Broadband Provision for the Whole Village

Commercial installers will have the opportunity to bid for areas in the County where there is currently no FTTP provision. Successful bids will be known by the end of this month. Hopefully by the next meeting we will know whether commercial installers have bid to supply FTTP to areas of the village not yet covered.

Finance

Latest Forecast

The latest forecast was circulated. Particular attention was paid to the Reserves page. In presenting the figures certain assumptions have been made a) no increase in the Precept for the next two years, minimum level of reserves held £13,500 (1 x the Precept), estimated costs of known projects and recognition of a commitment to support the village shop. The forecast provided information for discussion in advance of setting the budget and precept for 2024-25 in January.

Discussion took place on possible ways to support the village shop, including raising £10k of financial support through an increase in the Precept and / or lowering reserves. Also, the installation of solar panels on the village hall roof which will generate enough energy for the shop and village hall. It was agreed to add an item to the next agenda to discuss and agree a plan to engage with residents to seek their views.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th November 2023, 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 – NOVEMBER

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
7th November	No	Yes	No	Yes
14th November	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
21st November	No	Yes	No	Yes
28th November	Yes	No	Yes	No

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH PROGRAMME – VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

At the recent Parish Council meeting on October 11th we have discussed the various problems that arise from the A329 that runs through our village - speeding cars and motorcycles / increasing congestion / HGV use etc.

One of the solutions we are exploring is a Community Speed Watch Programme. You may have seen a similar set up in Stadhampton, with members of the public at designated sites on the road with a "speed gun".

For this to work, and before we can embark on setting the scheme up, we require a minimum of six volunteers to commit 2 (+) hours per week to facilitate this community work. But more the merrier!

If you would like to volunteer, you will receive training on how to use the device and how to record vehicle model and number plate details on the online system. You will also be given safety equipment (high visible vests etc.) and then work in groups of 2 / 3 at a set location with a weekly schedule.

If you would like more information, the national Speed Watch website is: communityspeedwatch.org/

If you think you can commit the time to volunteer and would like to put your name down, please email ed.horwell@gmail.com with your full name and address. Use "Community Speed Watch Volunteer" in the subject heading.

Thanks,

Ed Horwell
The Little Milton Parish Council



**CHRISTMAS FAYRE
LITTLE MILTON**



Save the Date!

**The Fayre this year will be on
Saturday 9th December**

There will be a variety of stalls and activities and, as usual, all the profits will be shared equally between St James's Church, The Pine Lodge, The Orchard and Little Milton School.

If you would like to help or have donations of tombola, raffle prizes, etc. please contact any of these organisations.

**Thank you
Teresa Quested**

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday 5th November

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley
4.00	Service of Commemoration	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 12th November

9.00	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial Followed by Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial Followed by dedication of the memorial to the American Airman in the churchyard concluding with a service in the church	St Peter's Great Haseley
4.00	Remembrance Service	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 19th November

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

Sunday 26th November

9.00	BCP Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Benefice Morning Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 3rd December

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

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: NOVEMBER 2023

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
5th November.	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Rosentall	
12th November	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev. Jean King	
19th November	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	Liz Spain	
26th November	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Andrew Jackson	Holy Communion

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

W/E 5th November	—	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 12th November	—	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs C D'Aeth
W/E 19th November	—	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 26th November	—	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 3rd December	—	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

W/E 5th November	-	Teresa Quested
W/E 12th November	-	Teresa Quested
W/E 19th November	-	Cathy Hughes D'Aeth
W/E 26th November	-	Cathy Hughes D'Aeth
W/E 3rd December	-	Advent



CHURCHYARD AUTUMN TIDY UP

Please join me on 11th November from 10am to 1pm in the churchyard to prune back the ivy from the wall and gravestones in remembrance and in respect of those who are buried there. A few other jobs will be done as well. Coffee and biscuits will be provided. Bring gloves and secateurs.

Paul Jeffery

OBITUARY- PAUL HARRISON

It is with great sadness that Paul Harrison's family shares the news of Paul's passing on 9th October. Originally from Hull, Paul was an active member of the Little Milton community, having been involved as a Parish Councillor and Speedwatch volunteer alongside his lifelong career as a British Airways pilot. When COVID struck, Paul wasted no time in forming the still-active Haseley Road Community Whatsapp, and even as he faced increasing health issues, he was pleased to have successfully rallied friends and neighbours around his efforts to secure high speed broadband for Haseley Road, Blenheim Lane and Gold Street. Paul passed after a five year-long battle with cancer – a difficult fight, but one he faced with consistent positivity, good humour, selflessness in caring for his family and friends, and, as he described it, 'a philosophical approach to grappling with one's own mortality'. He is survived by his wife Julia, daughter Amy, son-in-law Dylan, and sister Kim.

For those looking for ways to pay their respects, Paul's family would encourage people to donate to Sobell House Hospice, where Paul received outstanding and compassionate care for 7 weeks towards the end of his life. Donations to Sobell can be made here: <https://sobellhouse.org/donations/>.

Amy Harrison

RECTOR'S PINT

Contributed this month by Toby Garfitt.

Where were you on 9/11 (11 September 2001) when you heard about the Twin Towers disaster? I was walking down the High Street in Oxford when one of my students ran up to tell me what was happening. And I know exactly where I was and what I was doing that evening in November 1963 when the news came that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

There are some events that burn themselves into our very being. Other anniversaries may be harder to remember, and we may need something to help us. The poem "Remember, remember the fifth of November/ Gunpowder, treason and plot" (apparently based on a poem written in Latin by John Milton – who knew?) has made that date unforgettable, if not the actual year (1605). But are you good at remembering your wedding anniversary, or family birthdays?

When a child is christened (baptised), Simon always asks the parents to bring out the special baptismal candle each year on the anniversary of the ceremony. As the child grows up, that will help them to connect with their baptism, and perhaps to ask questions about what it means. A recent baptism took place on the couple's wedding anniversary, so that should make both events easier to remember!

November is always a month for remembering. Not only "gunpowder, treason and plot", but also the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, with Armistice Day (the 11th) and Remembrance Sunday (the nearest Sunday to the 11th) being widely observed. This year in Great Haseley the usual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial will be followed by the unveiling of another memorial, to the ten American airmen who

died near Latchford on 13 November 1943 when their B-17 Flying Fortress crashed in appalling weather. Members of at least four of the families will be coming over from the United States for a very special time of remembering and giving thanks. These young men, and many like them, volunteered to come and help defend our freedom, and they lost their lives tragically in the process. We owe it to them to honour their memory.

Remembering those who have died helps to anchor our own existence, to give us a sense of where we have come from and where we are all heading. For Christians there is the added assurance that we are held in God's loving embrace, from before the cradle to after the grave. November traditionally begins with All Saints Day, on the 1st, and All Souls Day, on the 2nd, both of them lifting our eyes from this world to the next, and reminding us of future joyful reunions.

Our own tradition in recent years has been to hold a special Service of Commemoration at which the names of loved ones who have died can be read out, and a candle lit in their memory. This year it is on the afternoon of Sunday November 5th (before the fireworks!), in Great Milton. All are most welcome on this lovely occasion.

Remember well!

Toby

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group will meet this month on 22nd November from 11.00am onwards at the home of Mary and Howard Harrison on the Haseley Road.

Sally Ann Dennis

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

Village **Fireworks** display with music on Saturday 4th November on the Recreation Ground. Gates open at 6 pm. There will be a bar plus hot soup and hot dogs on sale. Children under 12 are FREE. Over 12's are £3, and Adults £5. Tickets at the gate on the night or Village Shop in advance.

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** 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 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

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

October has been a busy month at Little Milton School with an inspection, Headteacher interviews, harvest festival and the Friends' Oktoberfest, in addition to all our usual teaching and learning experiences.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our community for the support shown to us throughout our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. We were extremely grateful for everybody's contributions, especially those from the fantastic children at our school. Our inspector commented on how proud we should be of all the children, and we most certainly are! We would like to say a special 'thank you' to staff and Governors for their hard work throughout the entire SIAMS process, and particularly to Sue Graham for leading the SIAMS preparation in school. We have been advised that the inspection report should be available during the week commencing 30 October.

We would also like to thank the school community for all the wonderful and supportive comments we have received following our appointments as the substantive Co-Headteachers at Little Milton School. Operationally, this will not change anything as we have been in post for nearly three years already. We feel extremely grateful to work alongside such a supportive school and village community.

Our Harvest celebration took place at St James's Church. It was wonderful to welcome family members to our service. Thank you to Toby Garfitt for supporting our service and to Jane Willis for accompanying the children on the organ. We welcomed Rev. Derek Witchell from the Thame Foodbank into school to accept our harvest donations and explain to the children where their donations would be going. We are delighted to have again been able to support the work of the Thame Foodbank, as part of the Sharing Life Trust, which provides a real lifeline to families in our surrounding villages, not just Thame.

The Friends' Oktoberfest celebration provided a very welcome ending to a busy week. Last year this proved to be a fantastic fund raiser for the school as well as a fun social event for the community. Please see the next newsletter for an update on this year's event.

In addition, other highlights this month include remembering World Mental Health Day and supporting the Young Minds mental health charity 'Wear Yellow' day; Rowan class making delicious vegetable soup as part of their World War Two topic and the 'Dig for Victory' campaign; Maples class going much further back in time and making Bell Beaker clay pots as part of their Stone Age topic; and, welcoming an Early Years adviser into our Willows class who recognised the fantastic provision available.

We are ready for a half term break!

**Hannah and James
Co-Headteachers**

PS, please see the separate governor advert. We are looking for a new recruit/s to support the work of our school.



WANTED – A NEW GOVERNOR AT LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

We are looking to recruit a new governor to join our friendly governing body and thriving school community.

What is the role of the governing body?

- Helping to set and review the schools strategic direction and agreeing targets for improvement.
- Holding the Headteachers and school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure public money is well spent.

What does the role offer?

- A chance to develop personal skills.
- Access to a programme of free training.
- A sense of achievement in helping make a difference to children reaching their potential.
- Support and guidance from fellow governors.

Who are we looking for?

Our governors have a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest in wanting the best possible education for the children in our school.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements
- Has finance/budgetary experience
- Has Early Years knowledge/experience
- Can occasionally visit the school during the day

Please do not be put off if you do not have all these skills as enthusiasm, interest and a willingness to learn are just as important.

How to apply

Please leave your contact details with the school office (01844 279310/office.3755@little-milton.oxon.sch.uk), I will be happy to call you or meet up for an informal chat.

Governors are essential for the continuing effectiveness and success of our school. Thank you for your interest in this extremely rewarding and fulfilling role.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Longshaw
Chair of Governors

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In October, local PCSO Claire Keogh told us all about her job and fraud prevention. It's scary how many ways criminals have to defraud us but now we know how to spot a fraudster, who to report it to and how to protect ourselves. I would highly recommend this talk and Claire is very keen to spread the word. The more people learn about fraud prevention, the safer we'll all be. Thank you to Jane & Roz for doing the teas and my garden (& inspiration from Helen) for providing the birthday posy.

In November, we're going to be entertained by a shanty band from Chalgrove, **Short Drag Roger on Thursday 9 November at 7.30pm.**

Everyone welcome (men too) - Visitors £5 or join up for £23.

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

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

Mid October revealed that autumn was finally upon us with a few colder spells following the very warm days. And yet there were still a few poppies flowering in some of the fields as well as viper's bugloss and some butterflies hanging on. We will at some point see the return of some Hebridean sheep (dark grey ones) and in December a few Dexter cattle as well. The grass is pretty long in some of the fields and needs some chomping! If there are floods in Chimney Meadow nature reserve again this year and nowhere to put their animals they may come here as well so please keep your dogs on a lead in any fields with livestock as the signs indicate.

You will see at the bottom of Barn field that the large grey poplars have now been cut down and removed. The contractors also dredged a bit of the pond opening it up which hopefully will create a great area for a few wildfowl, amphibians, and insects.

In mid-October lots of fungi appeared amongst the leaf litter, especially along the bridle path running up from the stream at the far end. These "fruiting bodies" hint at the network of mycelium stretching their wood wide web amongst the hedgerows and trees. I expect quite a few to be about in November as well. There was even a giant puffball which could have been mistaken for a white football as it was so big.

The fields are normally ploughed, harrowed and some planted up if the ground is not too wet. This is normally done by Paul and Guy, our local farmers, but sadly Guy passed away last month. I will miss his cheeky humour and the glass (or two) of whiskey in a

local pub. I am now aware how supportive fellow farmers are to their neighbours during times of difficulty and I think we all underestimate how important the farming community is to our own welfare. Rest in Peace Guy and drive that tractor in the sky!

In October we managed to cut down the poplar saplings growing in Long Meadow. BBOWT will try and cut the top path to clear it for you to walk round more easily. The next work party is planned for November 19th from 10am to 1pm meeting in the farmyard. The plan will be one or more of: Checking fence posts that may need replacing, pruning back the goat willow on the top path in the north east corner, pruning a small part of a mature hedge at the other end of the path. See the signs by the barn or on the gate from Oldfield for any updates.

We say farewell to Paul Harrison who was a great supporter of the reserve, keeping watch over the livestock come rain, snow or shine. Someone who cared deeply about our village and the environment around us, especially the water quality in the stream, the bees and many other parts of our village life. We will miss you too Paul. At some point we hope to plant a black poplar or two as a form of legacy, if we can prepare the ground in advance.

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

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Last Month I mentioned the lack of growth in our Oil Seed Rape (OSR) crop, we now discover that the problem is two-fold not only is it suffering from Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle but also slugs. Again, we are not the only ones to have suffered this fate, as it seems to be nationwide. The annoying aspect about this failure is that in the areas where the last crop suffered the severest from pigeon damage, any shed seed has sprouted and is now looking really like a good crop would do. However, we have decided that we have to write off about 2/3's of this year's planting and plant something to give the land a break.

Having made that decision what do we replace it with, likely to be between Beans, a crop we have not grown for many years (but grown widely) and, Lupins. Both being legumes will build a certain amount of fertility in the soil, unfortunately, both tend to be subject to various conditions that can severely affect yield, having just cut the Lupins with another very disappointing yield the jury is out. However, although a bit soon to jump to a decision, I personally think they should be given a third chance as it is a protein crop that will replace the importation of Soya, this will provide a home grown protein source, meaning it could be of great value in the future. We now have both winter Barley and Wheat, plus a new alternative supported by Government, Grass and Clover being a conservation crop, as this is another legume will build fertility.

This year's Winter Wheat planting we have approached differently. You may wonder why I mention this. Following last season's OSR, we planted, what we call a cover crop, of Buckwheat & Phacelia, this is to sequester carbon and save nutrients etc. This we have planted slightly differently by planting direct into the cover crop, which is standing at about 18inches tall, a first for us, it has been done by others, and so try it we must. Apart from having hopefully killed the cover with Round Up the day before, we have saved the fuel of a plough and cultivation, leaving the crop residue for a mulch on the ground, this will protect the young plants and, help retain moisture, the theory anyway we will see what happens. It all went without a hitch thanks to modern very expensive equipment. Fingers crossed the slugs don't have a field day.

Last month I intimated that most wildlife was either sheltering from the rain or the heat, I think now they seem to have acclimatised to these weather swings and seem to be more in evidence. We are informed that the UK is probably the most nature depleted area of the world. I would take issue with this having just had a week in Canada where wildlife somehow did not seem to exist, so where this idea comes from, I cannot imagine. We did spend a lot of time in cities but, did also have two days drive through open country at least that was the impression I got. Now we are told there is a danger of losing much of our plant life due to pressure on land use and subsequent loss of habitat.

We have all in the last few weeks of party conferences we have been told what each party is going to do for us, sadly agriculture hardly got a mention. To me this is very worrying as food is the most important commodity we have and, with the world situation being under tremendous threat now, our food security should be paramount importance. To cap it all one MP (J-R-M) expressed his lack of knowledge on issues agricultural by saying the NFU were protectionist by objecting to the import of hormone treated beef, when it was the government, in the face of public opinion, who banned it in the first place. Now the PM is proposing to lift some of the environmental restrictions on planning, this flies in the face of all that we and the conservation movement has been spending a multitude of energy and finance on. Are we not at the point where we ask ourselves do we want expansion and more development and forget about nature as I believe this is a choice we may well have to make...?

It is suggested that Farming is the biggest polluter, it is also the largest industry in the UK and, said to be contributing more to our GDP than any other industry, so it is little wonder that it is one of the bigger polluters especially in areas where there is intensive animal production, these areas I understand have plans to alleviate this problem, by trucking the waste away or processing it, to reduce its bulk for more efficient disposal. It is interesting on this particular point, to note the results I have had from taking monthly samples of run off from our land. This has shown that most of the nitrates in this runoff comes either from springs or, other sources not the land drains. A water course that is from land with no springs shows very little Nitrates but after it is joined by runoff from the village the nitrate is considerable, in another situation where a field drainage system is fed by springs the nitrates are high. This points to the fact that a lot of nitrate runoff is not from fertiliser applied to the land but some other factor, I would suggest rotting vegetation perhaps from some time in the past.

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

The time when most of the produce has been harvested, the potatoes, beans, onions, fruit and squashes are all in. But still parsnips and a few other winter veg to keep us going, while the rest of the plot is covered. Quite a few plots were not really used this year and I suspect there will be some available should anyone wish to take on a half or full plot.

Looks like SSEN may finally cut back the willow and make it safe although I have heard that before. This will part of extended work to clear the power lines. I will no doubt do some more hedge laying below the lines to keep things in check and provide hazel bean poles for anybody who needs them on their plots.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

WREATH CHALLENGE

At the Christmas Fayre in 2019 we asked all the organisations in the village to decorate a Christmas tree to represent their group. The results were amazing and made a fantastic display in the Pine Lodge during the fayre.

We would like to do something similar this year with a **wreath challenge**. They can be any size and any material which will reflect the group.

So, get your thinking caps and creative minds to work!

All entries will be on display in the hall on Saturday 9th December so please make sure that the design includes a loop for hanging.

Any group or organisation in the village can take part – we look forward to seeing your wonderful creations!

Teresa Quested



FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

October

1st	No 21	Liz Jones	£9.00
2nd	No 18	The Vallance Familyl	£7.00
3rd	No 20	Sam Skidmore	£5.00

Diane Austin

SCAN IT, LEARN IT, SAVE A LIFE. A NEW CPQR SYMBOL THAT COULD SAVE LIVES.

With 80% of cardiac arrests happening at home, Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK) is on a mission to give everyone across the UK the CPR skills to save a life. They have created the “CPQR code” a heart shaped QR code that directs people to a short video on how to do CPR. Like the pink Ribbon, or the Remembrance Poppy, the CPQR code is an icon that can be used by anyone and everyone who wants to raise awareness for the importance of learning CPR. It’s an emblem with a twist: its design holds the information needed to learn and save a life. Scan it. Learn it. Save a life.

**LEARN CPR NOW
THERE WON'T BE
TIME LATER**



There are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK every year, and every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by ten per cent.

The simple aim of the CPQR code is to expand the numbers of people who know the basic principles of CPR and defibrillation - increasing the rate of bystander intervention in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest events, which will increase survival rates.

James Cant, Chief Executive at Resuscitation Council UK said:

“When somebody goes into cardiac arrest they are clinically dead, and bystanders need to act quickly and confidently to give them the best chance of survival. This is why it’s crucial that as many people as possible learn the very basics of CP



Saturday
4th November
@ The Pine Lodge, Little Milton

Hot Dogs & Soup

Bar opens 18:00

Fireworks begin 18:30

Tickets available at the Little Milton shop

Adults £5. Children over 12 - £3

Accompanied children under 12 FREE

The ticket price does not include food



Little Milton Primary School

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start



Open Day

Wednesday 1st November 2023

Wednesday 29th November 2023

Our small school aims to nurture our children to grow and flourish. We are committed to seeing children achieve their individual potential and develop their God-given talents in order to blossom into contributing members of society.

To book a tour please ring 01844 279310
or email office.3755@little-milton.oxon.sch.uk



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD 2023

This year we will, again, be compiling a “Village Christmas Card”. Last year 50% of the households in Little Milton participated – that is stunning!

For those of you new to the village, or for those who may have forgotten, this is something we have been doing for many years – we produce a collective Christmas card (no need for individual cards!) and raise money for a very good cause.

All contributions are donated to Sobell House, a hospice in Oxford that many people will be aware of. In 2021 our card won an award from Sobell House as one of the Community Fundraising Projects of the year.

This year we have beautiful images that were collected over the last festive period, so you never know, you might find your home on the card.

Every year I am contacted by many people who were disappointed to miss out or who didn’t appreciate how lovely the idea is. PLEASE don’t let that be you this year!!!! The form will be in the November Newsletter and as always, the deadline for contributions will be the first Sunday in December.

How does it work?

Every village household has the opportunity to write a short greeting that will be printed in a Christmas card and distributed to each home in the village AND (this is the important bit) make a donation to Sobell House at the same time.

How do we join in?

Please complete the form in this newsletter and either return it to me or to the Village Shop **before Sunday 3rd December**.

Copies of the form are also available at the Post Office.

We will then prepare the cards, print, and distribute in time for Christmas.

How much does it cost?

There is no minimum donation amount, but every pound raised will go to Sobell House

Who pays for this?

We are grateful to Juliette Langlais of Morgan & Associates for once again generously sponsoring the printing. The artwork and design are kindly provided Baseline Arts in Oxford and all the incidental costs are picked up by a benefactor.

How are the cards distributed?

A wonderful team of volunteers will deliver the cards to every household in the village in time for Christmas.

How much is raised?

Last year we raised just over £2,350 with this simple and fun initiative (and we have raised over £14,000 since starting this venture).

Can I see an example?

Of course, please give me a call.

You **REALLY** do not want to be one of the people who say “Oh, I really wish we had done that ...”

Roger Longshaw
279777

LITTLE MILTON 2023 CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Name(s)

Address

“Unique” Greeting (12 words maximum please)

Donation

Cheques payable to “Sobell House Hospice Charity” (we can also accept cash, but cheque preferred) OR Pay by BACS using your surname as reference to (20-85-73 30588202 – Roger Longshaw) – account reviewed by Ian Dennis.

Please place your completed form and donation in a sealed envelope with “Village Christmas Card” written on the outside and return to: Garden Cottage, Haseley Road or to the Post Office by SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER.

Many thanks,
Roger Longshaw

giftaid it

If you are a UK taxpayer we can increase the value of your donation to Sobell House by 25% at no extra cost to you. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must agree to the following declaration:

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed Date



**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
pre-booked consultations only

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



Registered Charity No. 1083847

CHRISTMAS FAIR

TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2023

9.30 am – 3pm

The Oxfordshire Golf Club

Off A329, Near Thame OX9 2PU

Follow us:



www.instagram.com/whctxmasfair

www.WHCTxmasfair.co.uk



Kindly sponsored by:

LONG ROW
WEALTH ADVISORY

www.longrowwealth.com

Lunch & Refreshments

Entrance £7.50



RAMBLERS

Thame & Wheatley

Walks Programme November 2023

- Saturday 4th** Meet at Upton (near Didcot) for a 6½ mile walk towards Blewbury Down.
- Thursday 9th** Undulating 6 mile walk with good views from Piddington (West Wycombe) via Wheeler End Common.
- Saturday 11th 10:30am** Scenic 5 mile walk through Aston Rowant Nature Reserve from Lewknor to precede the Thame & Wheatley Ramblers AGM.
- Tuesday 14th** Leisurely, gentle 2½ mile social walk on easy paths from Kingston Blount Village Hall via Aston Rowant. Coffee at the Cherry Tree near the finish.
- Saturday 18th 10:30am** Glorious, leisurely 4 mile walk from Frieth (by the church) through Chilterns woodland and along lanes.
- Wednesday 22nd** Meet at Culham Lock car park for a 6½ mile flat walk via Sutton Courtenay and Abingdon.
- Thursday 30th** Scenic 5½ mile walk starting at Horspath Sports Ground, going up to Shotover Plain and returning through Littlemore Nature Reserve.

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

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London SE1 9DG.



John Howell MP writes

October 2023

The structure of Government, national and local, can be confusing. When someone needs help with something it can be difficult to know just who is responsible for what, and therefore who can help when things do not go as they should. I often receive requests from people to help them with issues that are not parliamentary matters and with which I cannot help. I appreciate that this can be frustrating and so I thought that it might be helpful if I set out who does what.

It is often thought that an MP sits at the top of a hierarchy of Government and has power to direct local councils. This is not the case. Local councils are autonomous, and MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Hence local councils have their own elected representatives in the form of councillors. People elected to these councils have direct access to officers at the respective councils and so are better placed to take up relevant issues. I have found that referring to local councillors is the quickest way to get action.

So, to help steer through the hierarchy let me set out who does what. Essentially as an MP I can help with issues and concerns that relate to central government departments. In Oxfordshire we have three tiers of local government, the County Council, District Councils and Parish Councils or Parish Meetings. Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for local services such as education, social services, transport, roads, rights of way, libraries, the fire service, and bus subsidies. The constituency is served by two district councils, Cherwell and South Oxfordshire. They are responsible for local services, including planning, housing, rubbish collection, environmental services, leisure services, some car parks and council tax collection. Parish Councils and Parish Meetings deal with very local concerns and can influence the other councils on behalf of residents.

Whilst on the topic of what I can and cannot do it may also be helpful to comment on requests to attend specific events. When Parliament is sitting MPs are expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday, unless on other parliamentary business elsewhere. During a week in Westminster there are many competing demands such as scrutinising legislation, attending debates, committees, and other meetings. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that a constituent may ask me to attend. When I cannot attend something it does not reflect lack of interest simply that I cannot be in two places at once.

I hope that setting this out is helpful and answers several questions that I have been asked of late. 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

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

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age UK	01865 890879	Naheed Qureshi
Citizens Advice Bureau	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	SHT Ltd
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 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

Front Cover: Charles Peers