

Published by Little Milton Parish Council

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Little Milton Newsletter



MAY 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: MAY

Mon	1st	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	2nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	3rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	4th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	5th	30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	7th	9.00 a.m. 1.00 p.m.	Holy Communion: St James' Celebration Picnic – Pine Lodge
Mon.	8th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	9th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	10th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	11 th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI Meeting Pine Lodge
Frid.	12th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	14th	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion St James
Mon	15th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	16th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	17th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 6.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Annual Parish Meeting – Pine Lodge Parish Council Meeting
Thurs	18th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	19th	9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Mon	22nd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	23rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	24th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: destination to be confirmed
Thurs	25th	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	26th	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	28th	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	BCP Communion – St James Benefice Communion- St Mary's
Mon	29th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	30th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	31st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
JUNE			
Thurs	1st	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	2nd	9.30 –10.30 a.m.	Pilates: Pine Lodge
Sun	4th	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 MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 2023

A summary of some of the topics and discussions that took place at the Parish Council on 19th April will be reported in the June Newsletter. This is due to the Council meeting being delayed a week.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17th May 2023**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm. This meeting has been delayed due to the election on 4th May and the necessary notice period required by Statute

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- 17th MAY 2023

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 17th May 2023 in the Pine Lodge starting at 6.30 p.m. This is an opportunity for parishioners to receive reports from the Parish Council as well as other village organisations. The meeting is chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council but it is not a Parish Council meeting.

Come along and enjoy some refreshments before the meeting starts

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

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £4 for up to 3 items and £9 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 – MAY

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
3 rd May ++	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
10 th May ++	No	Yes	No	Yes
16 th May	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
23 rd May	No	Yes	No	Yes
31 st May ++	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

++ Change of date re Bank Holiday

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Council elections

Elections to SODC take place on Thursday 4 May. Please remember to take photo ID with you to the polling station in order to vote. Applications for postal votes are open until 5pm on Tuesday 18 April.

Planning

Chalgrove: at a meeting with local councillors in March, Homes England (HE) confirmed they are still determined to push ahead with the development of Chalgrove Airfield. However, in light of opposition from the Civil Aviation Authority, HE seem to have gone back to the drawing board. They gave very little indication of their outline strategy, mitigation of traffic etc.

Joint Local Plan: Work continues on the SODC and Vale of the White Horse Joint Local Plan (JLP) 2041. SODC Full Council in March passed a motion (tabled by me) to require officers to devise policies for the JLP to prevent villages and rural areas being overwhelmed by a concentration of solar farms.

5 Year Housing Land Supply: During the determination of a planning appeal (in Moreton), the planning inspector found SODC's HLS to be 4.74 years (as opposed to SODC's calculation of 5.3). The inspector didn't consider the shortfall grave enough to override other planning considerations. The determination of an appeal on an application in Chalgrove is expected shortly. One of the main issues under scrutiny was the district's 5YHLS.

In this ward, there are a few applications which have been called in for consideration by the Planning Committee. Waiting times are long, however: there are currently about 40 planning applications that may need to be scheduled for Planning Committee hearings - with only 3 or 4 being considered at each committee meeting. Planning officers typically have caseloads in the mid to high 30s.

Housing

SODC has described the pressure on our housing services as a 'perfect storm' - with cost of living combining with a contraction in the private rental market, and the arrival of refugees from the Ukraine war to increase the competition for homes.

The most recent survey indicated there were 3 rough sleepers in South Oxfordshire, with new homelessness cases (or at risk of homelessness) rising to 40 households. 17 households were in emergency accommodation at the end of March. Of those 4 were Ukrainian households who could no longer be accommodated by their local hosts. To date, the SODC housing team have supported 139 Ukrainian families at risk of homelessness.

The most recent figures suggested there are currently 1283 households on our register.

In the meantime, discussions have begun with Oxford City Council about how residents on their housing register can apply for homes here in SODC. Oxford City residents can already apply to join the Vale of the White Horse District Council housing register. The background to this is the legal requirement for neighbouring housing authorities to help address the need for social housing where one cannot identify enough land for their own residents. It was this “Duty to Cooperate” which led SODC to include an additional 4,000 houses to help Oxford meet their residents’ need in the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035.

Work is underway in SODC to create policies to tackle homes left empty in this district, and to bring them into habitation. SODC’s budget includes £1 million to purchase emergency accommodation. Two of the three homes this will fund have now been secured. A further £2 million was allocated to buy 5 homes for social housing.

SODC has decided to accept funding from the Dept. for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (the “Local Authority Housing Fund”), grant funding to support the purchase of homes for use by Afghan or Ukrainian families. Officers are now investigating how this might be delivered in this district.

The council spent in full its Homelessness Prevention Grant and the top-up from government.

Nature

The Environment Act 2021 mandates the creation of spatial strategies to restore nature. In this area, ours will be known as the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. It will be established in April, and led by the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership on which SODC is represented.

In order to support pollinators and other wildlife, the council is following “No Mow May” and “Let it Bee June” - letting the grass grow at certain sites in those two months to increase biodiversity.

Grant Schemes

The Councillor Community Grant Scheme (£5000 for this ward) will open to bids 19 June - 6 Oct. The Capital Grant Scheme will open 11 Sept - 10 November

Electric Vehicles

EV infrastructure: Oxfordshire (OCC) has been awarded over £4 mill to provide charging infrastructure, and a county-wide approach will be submitted to central government by May. It’s critical that this funding is not just used in the cities and large funds, but spread amongst the villages where many residents don’t have dedicated parking spaces/EV charging points.

EV Car Pool Club: A year-long trial of three EV cars has started - in Thame, Henley and Wallingford.

Waste

DEFRA figures indicate that South Oxfordshire had the second highest recycling rate in the country, with 62.7%

I will not be seeking re-selection in May, so will cease to be your Councillor on Monday 8 May. It has been a privilege to represent Haseley Brook at SODC for the last 6 years.

Cllr Caroline Newton

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR MAY 2023

Sunday 7th May

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

Sunday 14th May

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

Thursday 18th May Ascension Day

7.00 pm	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
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Sunday 21st May

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

Sunday 28th May (Pentecost)

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

Sunday 4th June (Trinity)

9.00	Holy Communion	St James Little Milton
10.30	Rogation Service	Suzanne & Colin Quartly's Farm (Field Farm)

LENT LUNCHESES

Thank you to each of those who hosted a Lent Lunch this year in aid of Christian Aid, but even more in aid of having a good time together! The lunches were very well attended and raised...in no particular order... £120, £80, £216, £90 and £225 respectively making a grand total of £731 for Christian Aid...WONDERFUL. Thank you everyone!

S.A. Dennis

CHURCH YARD WORK PARTY

Please come and help tidy the church yard on **Saturday 13th May from 10am until 1pm**. At this time of year everything grows like crazy. We need to continue to cut the grass this month otherwise it will be impossible to do so next month but will aim to leave patches of wild flowers to give the bees and insects something to feed on. We also need to remove more of the ivy from the walls as well as trim back tall grass around some of the graves and the building. Thank you to all those who help on a regular basis especially Mark and Peter. If you would like to get more involved please contact me directly.

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

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: MAY 2023

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
7th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Revd Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
14th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Miriam Moul	
21st May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	Holy Communion
28th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Rosentall	

RING FOR THE KING!

On Saturday 6th May at 9.45 am, the bells of St James's will ring out prior to the Coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. We are also planning to attempt a quarter peal (45 minutes' continuous ringing) at 2 pm on Monday 8th May to mark the occasion.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Ringers are donating a slip of a native tree to every tower in the Diocese that rings for the Coronation. Simon (our Rector) has given permission for our slip to be planted in St James's churchyard. This will happen in November 2023.

Interested in learning about bellringing? If so, please contact me at cathy.hd@btinternet.com or visit the website of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (www.cccbr.org.uk).

Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth

RECTOR'S PINT

In May I have no doubt that many of us will be watching the coronation of King Charles III. There will be community events, and we will be offering appropriate prayers across the Benefice. Many of us will not be old enough to remember the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, on 2 June 1953 and so this will be a significant event. We wish the new King well.

My Pint in April was deliberately serious, Good Friday is a serious subject. This is therefore offered as a contrast. It's my account of the Palm Sunday service at St Peter's in Great Haseley.

A reflection on Palm Sunday, or the curious things we sometimes do in Church.

And it came to pass, on the Sunday of the Palms, that the Rector didst have his arm truly twisted, being persuaded to play the part of the Lord riding in triumph unto Jerusalem, the part of the City being taketh by the ancient Church building, and the cheering crowds by the thirty or so in the congregation who deemest to turn up.

At the appointed time, the Rector leaveth the building to find his steed. And lo, he didst see not a four-legged beast of burden but a two-wheeled machine, with a large engine. In truth, he knoweth exactly where to look, having ridden it there himself earlier.

A Bonneville it was, it being a Triumph. He waiteth for the sign, one of the disciples, that part being played by a churchwarden, whose thumb pointeth upwards.

And so the Rector rideth unto Jerusalem, or rather the Church, in triumph, and also on Triumph.

The people, being greatly excited didst cheer and cry and didst also wave Cyprus branches, Palm branches being not available in this part of South Oxfordshire. And they didst also take out their i-phones to record this thing before them.

And the Rector rideth to the front, and he crasheth not, and was exceeding joyful, especially as no-one crieth out, "Oi, hast thou truly done an health and safety risk assessment for this thing we see? If thou hast not, verily I say unto thee thou shalt truly cop it with the Archdeacon".

And all being well, and nothing having gone wrong, the Rector didst leave the Church on his steed, after ritual feasting on coffee and cake, and taketh him his churchwarden riding on the back, for a brisk spin. She turneth out to be a complete speed freak, as at

every pause she asketh, “how fast didst we go?” Upon hearing the answer, and despite the Rector being once or twice a little liberal with the speed, she would reply “wast that all?”

In the real story, the excitement was far greater and the noise far louder. Five days later, the noise and shouting turned into something terrifying and ugly, and then on the third day after that, on the Sunday we now call Easter, white lilies bloomed around an empty tomb. He is risen.

Simon

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MAY

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

Sally Ann Dennis

PHYLISS WHITE

Phyllis, who died aged 89 early on the morning of Sunday April 2nd, was a truly special lady...We grew to know each other during our fortnightly visits to see Mabel Wood in the nursing home into which she had had to move after a fall...When Mabel died we continued to meet regularly for either a latte across the road in the Pine Lodge or an outing to Notcutts or somewhere similar. Phyllis was a lovely warm kind person. I never heard her say a negative word about anyone. Towards the end as we visited her in the J.R., her face lit up as she saw us and a gently hug and kisses were the order of the day. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her well.

Sally Ann

PHYLISS WHITE- FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

There will be service at Oxford Crematorium Abingdon on 9th May at 12.00 p.m. to which all her friends are welcome. After the service you are invited back to the Pine Lodge Little Milton where refreshments will be available. **Ed**

WHERE ARE THE VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS?

The Parish Council took a decision a few years ago to support the availability of defibrillators in the village and we have three in the village.

Do you know where they are located? It could mean the difference between surviving a cardiac arrest or not

PINE LODGE: Located to the right of the entrance door

LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL: As you approach the entrance to the school officer

MORGAN ASSOCIATES: On side wall next to the garage

If you are unfamiliar with location of the defibrillators then please have a walk around, it may be the most important walk of your life



LITTLE MILTON CHURCH FETE

At The Old Vicarage, Church Hill

Saturday 17th June
2 - 430pm

Thame Concert Band,
Cakes, Plants, Tombola, Toys,
Family sports with Alyce,
Bric-a-Brac, Books, Vintage
Cars, Raffle, BBQ, Café, Pimms
and much more...

More info: Pine Lodge page at www.littlemilton.org.uk

Like us at www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

A date for your diary for the **Kings Coronation**. We are planning to host a village picnic at the Hall on **Sunday 7th May beginning at 13:00**. We will have tables laid out in the Hall with BBQ pits available, plus a bar for extra drinks if you need them. There will be a free glass of Fizz to toast the new King and ice cream for the children.

To promote the Hall as a venue for weddings we will be holding a **Wedding Open Day** on Saturday **13th May**. The hall will be decked out as if it was hosting a celebration and there will be several companies that provide services including organisers, florist, etc. So if you or one of your family has a big day on the horizon but has not yet chosen a venue, please come along and have a look and a chat.

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 19th April. 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

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

April

1st	No 7	Bella Hobbs	£9.00
2nd	No 37	Raymond Fergusson	£7.00
3rd	No 40	Elana Harris	£5.00

Diane Austin

SEWING GROUP

This will be held on May 24th - venue to be confirmed.

Sally Ann Dennis

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

As we reflect on the final day of the spring term, it is remarkable how much our school has achieved. We are incredibly proud of how much progress the children have made (both academically and personally) and we would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and support in making this happen. We are also very grateful to parents, governors, volunteers and indeed the whole school community for helping us to ensure that our children really do get a 'Great Start'.

A particular highlight this term has been our amazing readathon and we have thoroughly enjoyed 'travelling' around the world. The children are really 'buzzing about books' and it is great to see them reading at every opportunity. Thank you very much to

everyone who has supported this event, especially those who have come in to talk about particular countries. We are delighted to announce that this has raised £382.50 for the school to buy more books for school.

We have had a busy finale to the term, with Willows class visiting Sandy Lane Farm to conclude their 'Ready, Steady Grow' topic. They all had a very exciting time (see Twitter photos on the school website) and behaviour was excellent. Thank you very much to Charles for explaining how a farm is run and thank you to Lucinda, one of our governors, for accompanying us on the trip.

Rowan class led an 'Easter Experience' for the whole school, which was fantastic. The different activities set up around the school helped the children to deepen their understanding of the Easter story (you can see from the Twitter photos how much the children enjoyed the experience). A huge thank you to Mrs Graham for all her hard work in enabling this to happen and well done to Rowans who led the activities so well.

The week concluded with our traditional egg hunt. We can report that the long-lost hidden egg from 2012 has eluded everyone again and remains to be found in future egg hunts. Nevertheless, everyone had great fun finding eggs and as always, we were impressed with the team spirit and thoughtful attitude of the children in making sure that no one was left without eggs. Thank you to Mrs Austin and the Friends for organising this very popular event

Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Headteachers

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In April, we were treated to a wonderful array of quilts with local textile artist, Christine Green. She took us through her journey from her first quilt as a child, through lockdown to the present day. Throughout she's championed sustainable materials, preferring second-hand and reuse, to shop bought fabrics. She offers talks, courses and commission work, see www.christinegreencrafts.co.uk.

At our next meeting on **Thursday 11 May at 730pm**, Melanie King is going to talk to us about **Tea, Coffee & Chocolate - How we fell in love with caffeine**.

Everyone welcome - Visitors £5 or become a member for £46.

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

LITTLE MILTON SHOP AND POST OFFICE REVISED SATURDAY

Commencing in May and ending in September 2023 the Shop and Post Office **opening hours on a Saturday will be 10:00am until 2pm.**

Kevin Hunt Chairman

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Thank you to everybody who helped with the farmyard pond tidy up last month. The brambles and brush was cut back to allow better access and the fence was strengthened as the old posts were rotting. Feel free to take a look. It won't be long before we start to see damselflies such as the small red and some of the blues next month. The next **work party** is planned for **Sunday 21st May from 10am until 1pm**. Possible jobs include checking (and improving) the footpath signs, clearing stiles or gates and repairing any that need it. Please do come and join us.

May is a time when parent animals are frantically trying to find food to feed their young. It is also a time when you might see young foxes or badgers if you are lucky. Please keep your dogs out of the woods, fields and hedgerows as they frighten away wildlife, disturb ground nesting birds and can kill animals if they catch them. The signs are there for a reason.

May is also a time for sheep shearing. So you may find more of the fields with sheep in ready for the big day when their woolly jumpers are removed! Sheep will be very nervous, especially when they first arrive so give them space when walking through the fields please.

Look out for the bees and butterflies that will be enjoying warmer weather. There are about 25 species of bumble bee in the UK and many smaller bees. All are very important to pollination of plants and crops. Early butterflies include the orange tip. The male is white above with orange wing tips while underneath is mottled green and white.

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

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Last month I commented on the old weather sayings March "In Like a Lion out Like a Lamb" or "In like a Lamb out like a Lion" I think that the former would be about correct although the wind was not that strong on the 31st March it rained as though it had never done before. This late March and early April rain was a start to replace the deficit in February being the wettest March for some time. Then we had those wonderful days for the start of Easter weekend which was a wonderful respite, and must have helped the crops, all of which have come through winter well, except perhaps the Rape having suffered from Pigeon damage, it is interesting that certain crops have suffered badly and others that can be in the next field seem untouched we seem to be unfortunate in that we seem to be the wrong side of the fence. Just hope it can recover now.

It has been noticeable after the deluges of early April how dry the surface of the land is, I would like to think that this is due to a change in our policy of not cultivating and not moving the soil so much, leaving the natural structure, which in turn allows for better drainage. Modern Agriculture is often criticised for the use of artificial fertiliser (bag muck), which when applied only affects the top few inches. If this is the case how is it that this is the cause of nutrients in rivers through leaching, given that now we have a better soil structure the root system should encourage a better root system, which as a result should reduce this leaching. As an additional aid to enhancing the soil structure we have just had some 800 tonnes of compost delivered, this is from the brown bin collection, and is material we had to stop delivery of due to it being contaminated with plastic, on first inspection this seemed to be almost free of such contamination, however having spread some we find there is still some, so maybe we will have to stop this

product again, pity as it is all part of the story. Interestingly this material is closely regulated with every load that is delivered weighed then, each spreader load is also weighed so that the exact amount is applied to a specific area of land, pity the plastic is not monitored as well. It illustrates how careful we should be when we dispose our waste, as when it gets into garden waste it is almost impossible to remove.

This spring seems all at sixes and sevens this year, the Blackthorn is late and, Blackthorn winter seemed only to be the odd day, it seems some Blackthorn was still in bud at the same time as the May (Hawthorne) which comes out 2nd or 3rd week in April this indicates that spring is both late and early, all very confusing. Still it is spring and the birds are doing their thing despite of other conditions, and whenever we walk through a field we are deafened by Larks arising, as well as ground nesting birds, so all aspects drive us to believe summer and nice warm balmy days are just around the corner, let's hope so!.

I hope my colleagues who grow Turnips have some good crops in order to stop us all starving. Our Secretary of state's disdainful attitude towards, not only UK's farming industry's challenges but, also the very real and present issue of the nation's food security, should have come as a surprise. But alas, I am not at all surprised nor, I doubt anyone else in our industry, sadly we have come to expect this sort of lack of understanding from career politicians, a point very well made recently by an agricultural correspondent. They seem to have completely ignored our concern over this security when making trade deals with other countries, also ignoring the restrictions they have imposed, (note my comments on compost application) sometimes correctly, on how we produce our food.

I am constantly commenting on rights of way and the effects on nature, so have a few more points to make on the subject, as a result of a few points that have been made by others recently. For a start a comparison has been made as to why we cannot adopt a similar view as Norway on the right to roam anywhere well, Norway has about 12 people per square Kilometre whereas we have something like 40, that I think says it all. The RSPCA has confirmed a point that I have made many times before, this being that we should not assume it ok to let our dogs roam off the lead, however good or harmless they maybe, because they are doing no harm, or would not chase animals, that is not the point as they would and will, given the chance, it is in their nature and, any roaming will disturb nature especially at this time of year. Also indiscriminate walking will also harm plant life all the things we are desperately trying to preserve, we need to keep to footpaths wherever possible.

Please don't forget May 21st is the day of our Tractor run in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, who rely on events like this and public generosity for all their finances my Just Giving Page is <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5>. I am somewhat confused by this as it does not always go straight to my website but it is there you may have to scroll down to find me.

Charles Peers



Village celebration picnic
Little Milton village hall
Sunday 7th May
beginning 13:00

*Free glass of Fizz and BBQ's
available.*

*Ice cream and games for the
children*

MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM EVENING

Start The

Summer

On

Saturday

13th May

6pm-11pm



AT THE PINE LODGE WITH BAR, DANCING AND QUIZ
£20 TICKET INCLUDES A SUMMER SUPPER AND DRINK

Raising money for Little Milton School
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FROM OUR FRENCH CORRESPONDENT

Well spring is here, and the vines have begun bud-break. This is a great time, because the new buds, particularly Merlot, have a beautiful pink tinge to contrast with the green of the new leaves. Unlike the last two years, we have been spared a late spring frost, so the cherry trees should give a full crop, together with all the other fruit trees and of course the vines. Rainfall has been low, but river levels seem normal at least for the present.

FRENCH PENSION PROTESTS

As you will have seen, there have been many protests-some violent-against President Macron's decision to raise the French pension age from 62 to 64. I had thought he would compromise on 63, but he seems to be set on 64, and given that he cannot be re-elected for a third term he has not much to lose.

CARBONOMICS (my apologies to my friend Charles Peers!)

Ever since I sat at a desk which had a view of a farmer's field, I have been puzzled by traditional farming practices, including ploughing. Every time the farmer ploughed his field, I saw a huge flock of birds descend to eat the worms thrown up by the plough. Even then (30 years ago) this seemed wrong-surely worms are essential for a healthy soil? I therefore decided not to plough between the vine rows, and leave the worms to do their work. After all-who ploughs a forest?

It turns out my amateur musings had a basis in fact. By ploughing, the organic material in the soil is exposed to oxygen, which causes it to break down very rapidly, and releasing carbon dioxide. For the crops, this break down is like a sugar rush-very short lived. Recent research suggests we have depleted organic material in ploughed farmland by as much as 75%. This also begs the question of the environmental effect-next to the oceans, the soils are the second largest carbon sink on the planet.

I am also adding to the organic material by having a permanent cover crop of grass, and regularly mowing to feed the worms and all other organisms in the soil. The vineyard is considerably greener now than 4 years ago.

One amazing fact-there are more living organisms in a TEASPOON full of healthy soil than there are people on this planet!!!

WINE TESTING AND TASTING

I decided to have my latest batch of Sauvignon Blanc tested, fearing excess sulphur, copper or other elements in the wine. In fact, the wine gained a clean bill of health with one exception-the alcohol level was 15.5% !

I have been pondering how I managed to miss my target-13%-by so much, and I think it was because of a wedding in the UK on the date I should have picked, and a re-calibration of my refractometer, which measures the sugar level before fermentation.

I thought I might be able to correct the excess by adding acidulated water in small amounts, but at a friend's house last night with 8 friends, a blind tasting revealed that my original at 15.5% was preferred. Needless to say the night was very merry!!

DISLOCATED SHOULDER

Finally, another medical episode. Having collected a door from a local builder's merchant, I was pushing my trailer back in its place when I slipped and fell still holding onto the trailer. Ouch! Luckily my builder and his assistant helped me up, and took me to the local A & E department at Ste Foy La Grande. I was stood outside for about 8 minutes while they dealt with another patient, then inside and seen by nurses & a Doctor

very promptly. I had dislocated my shoulder, and I understood the anaesthetist asking the Doctor-“Shall I put him to sleep?” to which the Doctor replied “No, I want to try something else”. I was given gas, and the Doctor stood above me and raised my arm and twisted the joint back into place. I was out of the A& E after about 1 hour.

I hope all goes well in LM

Stuart



**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.

**From 3rd April 2023 our new Dispensary hours
are:**

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 1pm, Friday
8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm

Dispensary is closed on Saturday morning

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

MORLAND HOUSE – APRIL 2023

In April the Surgery began to offer further booster vaccinations to those most at risk from COVID. Eligible people include those aged 75 and over (by June 30); those aged 5 and over with weakened immune systems; and residents of care homes for older adults.

For more information, please visit Morland House website: www.morland-house.co.uk
Also, the website provides a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment e.g.

1. Up-to-date information about surgery opening hours and the wide range of services provided, including new dispensary hours.
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
 - 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
 - Discontinuation of blister pack recycling
 - 24/7 breastfeeding support
 - Expansion of bowel cancer screening programme

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

While there is still the possibility of cold nights most veg should be in. You might need to protect beans for a bit longer as well as squashes. Graham has spent a lot of time improving the well pump but it still needs priming for an unknown reason. It may be that there is a leak in the pipe underground but all that is needed is to prime it using water from one of the tanks by the shed. It would be worth leaving a full watering can in the shed in case the tanks empty. Marck has also serviced the mowers and you should be able to use either to keep the grass down. Please keep the brambles and paths around your plots under control. We can leave the central area to grow a bit to encourage the wild flowers which in turn will encourage butterflies and insects.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

GREAT MILTON SCHOOL

SPRING FAIR



Saturday 13th May
12 to 3pm

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- BBQ & Bar •
- Band •
- Petting Zoo •
- Yummy Cakes •
- Toy Tombola •
- Plant Stall •
- Crafts & Hair Braiding •
- Tattoos & Face Glitter •
- Lucky Dip & Raffle •
- Class Stalls •
- and much more!



Please come to support our school & raise funds

LOCATION: OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS

CHARITY: 1087643

Walks Programme May 2023

- Thursday 4th** Meet by the church in Bledlow for an undulating 8 mile walk. Bring a picnic to eat in Radnage.
- Tuesday 9th 10:30am** Meet in Tiddington for a gentle, social 2½ mile walk, with coffee at Fox & Goat PH to start with, and optional pub lunch at the end of the walk. Just a couple of stiles!
- Friday 12th** Meet in Piddington, on the old Oxford Road off A40 near Dashwood Arms PH, for an undulating 6 mile walk, hopefully to see bluebells.
- Thursday 18th** Meet at Waterperry Garden Centre (overflow car park) for a 6 mile walk via Ickford. Option for tea and cakes in café at end.
- Saturday 20th** Meet at Marsworth, car park by Grand Union Canal (£4 day ticket) for a 5 mile morning walk past local reservoirs, finishing with lunch at the Waters Edge restaurant (by the car park). Option to extend the walk by 4 miles in the afternoon.
- Friday 26th 6pm** Meet at Wheatley for a leisurely 4 mile with optional pub supper to finish.
- Sunday 28th** Meet by the church in Frieth for a leisurely 4 mile walk through Chiltern woodlands and with good views.
- Monday 29th** Meet at the windmill in Brill for a 5 mile walk with long views.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Please check the website to confirm details and find additional information and more walks as the programme is 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

April 2023

I would like to begin this month with a personal note which some readers may already be aware of from media reports. After 15 years as the MP for the Henley Constituency I have decided that I will not seeking to be a candidate in the next General Election. I have served this constituency since 2008 and by the time of the end of the next parliament i will be coming up towards my mid-70's. I do not want to be in parliament until that time as I would like to pursue other avenues. Until such time as the next General Election is called and Parliament dissolved I remain your MP and will continue represent concerns and assist constituents whilst also leading the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe on behalf of the Government.

Now let me turn to issues that I know to be of concern to constituents. Firstly this month I was pleased to see the publication of the Government's Plan for Water. This seeks to address concerns about the health of our rivers, lakes and seas and aims to deliver clean and plentiful supply of water for nature, people, and businesses. I am sure that constituents will be pleased to know that the Government is investing around £1.6 billion to reduce sewage discharges, reduce nutrient pollution, and increase the supply of water. The Plan will also strengthen powers, including those of regulators, to hold water companies and other responsible parties to account.

Another piece of good news on funding is the Spring Budget announcement of additional funding to repair our roads. I think most people agree that the state of our roads is unacceptable in many places, a view which the Government shares. As a result the Chancellor announced an additional £200 million for highways maintenance for the financial year 2023-2024. The amount apportioned to Oxfordshire is £3,706,000 which is passed to the County Council to decide how best to spend it. When I recently raised concerns over potholes with the Director responsible for this work I was advised that they are currently receiving unprecedented numbers of reports of potholes that have become deep in a very short timescale due to the usual weather patterns of heavy rain followed by freezing conditions. He added that they have limited resource to investigate the level of enquiries received and to maintain roads, paths and cycle paths. I trust that the injection of this large sum of additional cash will help speed up this work.

I am delighted too that there is further investment of £1.2 million in the area through the Rural Prosperity Fund to support local businesses and create jobs to grow the rural economy. This will be administered via our District Councils, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell, which will receive £733,241 and £526,831 respectively.

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 **June 2023** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th May**. 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	Rev. 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		

Front Cover: