

Nourish your *body*, nourish your *soul*.

POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES

A HEALTHY APPROACH

SARA'S WELLNESS MISSION

Hi, I'm Sara

My Mission

As a nutrition coach, my passion for wellness is fuelled by continuous growth and learning. I am dedicated to guiding individuals towards balance and harmony in their dietary habits and lifestyle. For me, nutrition is the cornerstone of a happy, healthy life.

My goal is to inspire and empower my clients to reach their full potential – one nourishing meal at a time. Together, we'll embark on a transformative journey towards optimal health and vitality, prioritising the simple things that truly matter – from the healing power of nature and movement, to the rejuvenating effects of rest. Let's lay a foundation for lasting change, and unlock the very best version of yourself.

How can I help you?

NUTRITIONAL PLANS:

With a *bespoke* nutrition plan, you can unlock the potential for greater vitality, *improved* energy levels, and a healthier relationship with food. Begin your personalised journey towards optimal nutrition and overall *wellness* today!

1 ON 1 COACHING SESSIONS:

Begin your transformative journey today, and discover the *power* of dedicated, one-on-one coaching.

Get in touch and start your *healthy* journey today.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	1st	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Tues	3rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	4th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	5th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
Frid	6th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	8th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James'
Tues.	10th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	11th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
		7.30 p.m.	Parish Council – Pine Lodge
Thurs	12th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
		7.30 p.m.	WI Meeting
Frid	13th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Tues	17th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	18th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
		7.00 p.m.	Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	19th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
Frid	20th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Tues	24th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	25th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
		11.00 a.m.	Sewing Group-
			Spring &Well Cottage
Thurs	26th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
Frid	27th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
OCT			
Tues	1st	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	2nd	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	3rd	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
Frid	4th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	6th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'

<u>PLEASE NOTE</u> 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 8TH AUGUST 2024

Below is a summary of some of the topics and discussions which took place at the additional Parish Council meeting held in August, primarily called to discuss planning issues.

Planning

P24/S2348/HH – Candleford, High Street, Little Milton, OX44 7PU

The proposal is to form the following: A single storey extension to the rear. A dormer roof extension at the second floor also at the rear. A portico at the front and new entrance. Install solar panels.

Resolved to **Support** the application

Village Hall

Resolved to approve the request from the Village Hall Committee to relocate three dustbins from their original location within the Village Hall to the grass verge next to the large Grundon bin. The dustbins will be housed in a suitable storage unit.

SODC Capital Grant Application

It was agreed that Mr Kevin Hunt applies, on behalf of the Parish Council, to South Oxfordshire District Council's Capital Grant Fund in respect of the installation of solar panels for Little Milton Shop, Thame Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ

Resolved that two Councillors sign the Authorisation Document

Resolved that the Standard Conditions for South Capital Grants, dated June 2024 is signed.

After discussion it was agreed that a grant application is submitted to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) new Powering Communities to Net Zero fund for funding towards the purchase and installation of solar panels on the Village Shop. It was agreed that given the deadline for submissions is 5pm on Saturday 31st August 2024 that Mr Kevin Hunt and Mr Raymond Fergusson investigate the funding opportunity and have authority to apply in the name of the Parish Council.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th September 2024**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Current Council members

Councillor François 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 count 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 - SEPTEMBER 2024

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
3rd September	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
10th September	No	Yes	No	Yes
17th September	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
24th September	No	Yes	No	Yes

<u>UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR FREDDIE VAN MIERLO</u>

No confidence in Thames Water: Councillors voted that they have no confidence in Thames Water. The Council will write to the Secretary of State to urge limits on bonuses for water bosses and evaluate the pros and cons of renationalisation.

Challenge to council leader: A motion of no confidence in the Lib Dem Leader of the Council Liz Leffman was tabled by the leader of the Labour group, Liz Brighouse. The motion was defeated and comes in the wake of a poor Ofsted report for SEND under Brighouse's tutelage as the former cabinet member.

Call for Council to step up flood prevention role: Council passed a motion calling on the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority to respond to increasing risks to flooding and to work with relevant national and local stakeholders to advocate for greater powers.

Delay to Oxford traffic filter trial: Trials of six traffic filters to reduce congestion have been delayed. They were due to take place in November but have been pushed back due to work by Network Rail overrunning.

New county-wide bus ticket: A new ticket that works across different bus operators has been launched, costing £6.50 a day for unlimited travel for adults and £3.50 for under-19s

Adult social care: Adults with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire have helped to redesign a service that will offer them more choice and flexibility around their short break options.

Road closures and potholes: Summer sees increased work to the road network. You can keep up to date with One Network and OCC's map tool for major highway maintenance. The County's 2024 £7m programme to invest in surface dressing has been completed.

GRANTS

Warm homes: OCC has secured funding to support residents with upgrades to improve energy efficiency. The funding is for homes off the gas grid. Eligibility.

UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GEORGINA HERITAGE JOINT LOCAL PLAN

The next steps for our Joint Local Plan

Following two hugely successful public consultations, which saw the councils (South and Vale) receiving a Highly Commended award at the Planning Resource Awards 2024, we're pleased to set out the next steps for our Joint Local Plan (JLP).

Over the past three years, we've been working positively on a plan that meets the needs for homes and infrastructure for our communities and delivers on our commitment to tackling the climate emergency and recovery of nature.

We've had a hugely positive response from our communities and local businesses to our proposals and we're nearly ready to submit our plan to be examined – in fact we anticipate being ready to submit in December 2024, four months earlier than we previously thought.

Updated Local Development Scheme

In line with the delegation from Full Council meetings in March 2021, officers have therefore updated a document known as our Local Development Scheme that sets out the timetable we will follow for this work, which is now published: <u>South LDS</u>

Joint Local Plan timeline

The JLP is one of the most important documents we deliver as councils and has a lasting impact on our communities. The JLP is fundamental to achieving many of the councils' strategic ambitions and as such we are now striving to submit it as soon as possible as we recognise the importance of ensuring that development is plan led.

In a few weeks, we'll be publishing our proposed JLP, along with the relevant supporting documents and the evidence we've based the plan on. The public will have a 6-week opportunity to let us know if they think the plan meets all the relevant requirements.

Note that this stage of the process is a very technical one and any comments on the 'soundness' of the plan will be sent with the plan on to the government-appointed Planning Inspector. It is not intended to be 'consultation' in the traditional sense of the word.

More details on this final publication stage will follow soon, in the meantime we'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time over the past three years to take part in this process and give us their thoughts on what matters to them, and their views and opinions on our proposals.

Corporate Plan timelines

As part of submitting our JLP earlier than originally anticipated, and ensuring we also respond to the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation, it will be necessary to focus staffing resources on this vital project. We have also been in the process of developing our new corporate plans for both councils. Whilst developing our two corporate plans remains important, the timeframe on the delivery of the final plans is now likely to extend into early 2025 and will therefore be able to better align with the budget setting of both councils, whilst officers channel their efforts into the large-scale task of finalising the JLP.

National Planning Policy Framework consultation

Considering the new government's housing plans we are also working on providing a full and thorough response to its consultation on proposed revisions to the NPPF by 24th September 2024.

Officers firmly believe our work on the JLP delivers for our local communities in districts which have already seen significant development. Evidence shows that the JLP strikes the right level of development for both districts, as shown by the overwhelming support it has received as part of our two successful public consultations. We have prioritised affordable housing, protecting our countryside and climate action. We're delivering a plan that truly represents our community.

As such, staff resource is currently focused on the JLP, but we will ensure that we provide further information on the NPPF consultation in due course. The Government has raised more than 100 questions that they are seeking responses on. You can view the consultation document here.

The JLP is based on the Standard Method, a government model that provides a starting point for housing requirement in an area. Within the NPPF consultation, the Government has proposed a new standard method that would increase Vale's housing target by 304 per annum, and South Oxfordshire's target by 600 per annum. You can view draft revised standard method numbers on the government's website (see table titled Outcome of the proposed revised method). As widely trailed in the press, there is an increased focus in the consultation version of the NPPF on the release of Green Belt in areas where this is required to achieve delivery of the revised standard method.

Within the consultation, the Government has effectively indicated that all local plans that are not submitted for examination within one month of the publication of a new NPPF must be redone in line with the revised NPPF and the new standard method. Whilst officers are still reviewing the consultation document, at this time there are no obvious beneficial proposals that go above or beyond the policies we have consulted on at Regulation 18 stage of the JLP.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Temporary Road Closure at - Little Milton, A329 Stadhampton Road

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order Little Milton, A329 Stadhampton Road Prohibition of Through Traffic Date of Order: 16 September 2024 Coming into force: 23 September 2024 This Order is being introduced because of urgent safety repairs to damaged carriageway and drainage that is anticipated to take 4 weeks to complete. The effect of

the Order is to temporarily prohibit vehicles proceeding in the section of A329 Stadhampton Road between Gains Bridge and Gold Street. Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are in force. Exemptions are included for emergency services and for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. Traffic will be diverted via A329 - A40 - A4142 - B480 and vice-versa. This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. Traffic Regulations Team (Ref: T14260/MR) for the Director for Infrastructure Delivery, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND. 03453101111

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
1st September	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Prof David Matthews	
8th September	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	
15th September	11.00 a.m	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy
				Communion
22nd September	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	David Hare	
29th September	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	David Harper	

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st September	entember	1 st	Sunday
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10.00	Family Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley
11.00	Holy Communion with Baptisms	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 8th September

~	, 0011 20 000112201	
9.00	Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 15th September

9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
10.30	Family Worship	St Mary's Great Milton
12.30	Harvest Festival Lunch	The Pavillion Great Milton

Sunday 22nd September

9.00	Holy Communion BCP	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Benefice Morning Worship	St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 29th September

10.30 Benefice Holy Communion St Mary's Great Milton

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

W/E 1st September	_	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 8th September	_	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 15th September	_	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 22nd September	_	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 29th September	_	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

W/E 1st September - Chris Coward
W/E 8th September - Chris Coward
W/E 15th September - Jane Willis
W/E 22nd September - Teresa Quested
W/E 29th September - Teresa Quested

Teresa Quested 278922

RECTOR'S PINT

I hope and pray that by the time you read this, the unrest that our cities have seen recently will have stopped. I cannot condone the violence and targeting of individuals, or centres housing people who have come to our shores as migrants. Such actions are totally unacceptable, and the coming together of communities to stand in solidarity and say 'not in our name' was to be applauded. I know that had I been the vicar in any one of those places I would have urged any congregation in my charge to help clear up the mess, as they did in Southport. However, these protests were a symptom, and the reasons behind them, and the disinformation that led to them, will not simply go away. It is correct to call out and condemn the violence and the targeting of migrants, but that alone will not be enough.

So here I will say no more, but I will offer a prayer that I came across on Facebook, posted by a friend. The prayer is from Archbishop George Appleton, who became the Anglican archbishop in Perth, Australia, decades before anyone had ever heard of social media. It still resonates today.

Guide our feet into the way of peace, for in our confusion we do not know which way to turn, not in the babel of voices we hear no clear word, in the mass of propaganda we cannot find the truth. Give us direction in which to move. and when we cannot find it guide our feet by your wisdom, if unperceived by our understanding. Keep our hearts peaceful in trust, give us quiet courage, keep us steady under criticism or opposition, with unfailing love towards all, and eager expectation to see the footmarks of your dear Son ahead, perhaps only a step or two, but pointing to the peace of your will, O Creator and Redeemer of all.

[Archbishop George Appleton]

On a happier note, September brings the start of the autumn season, and with it, our Harvest Festivals. The first of these, at St Mary's in Great Milton, will be on Sunday 15th September and will be followed by a Harvest Lunch at the Pavilion at 12.30pm. Great Haseley and Little Milton will be celebrating their Harvest Festivals in October, but here is advance notice that the Great Haseley Harvest Festival Service, on Sunday 6th October at 10.30am, will hopefully be taking place in Peggs Barn, as has become our custom, followed by refreshments. In Little Milton there will be a Harvest Service

at St. James on Sunday 13th October at 10.30am followed by a special Harvest lunch for the village at the Pine Lodge at 12.30pm. More details about these last two will follow in the October bulletins. I hope to see you there, as we celebrate God's goodness to us in a troubled world.

Simon

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

<u>August</u>

 $\begin{array}{ccc} 1 \text{st} & & \text{£}10.00 \\ 2 \text{nd} & & \text{£}8.00 \\ 3 \text{rd} & & \text{£}6.00 \end{array}$

The winners will be announced in the October Newsletter

Diane Austin (Organiser)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

The new **Meeting Room** will be available from mid-September and is now open for booking on the Hall website online.

Check out the planned Theatre performances of "Three Men in a Boat" on Friday 11th October for a light hearted entertaining evening. For more information and ticket sales please check-out the Events page of our website.

Regular activities in the Hall include:

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

Tuesday 6:00 pm Dance school (megan ah@hotmail.com)

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

Friday 9:30 am Fitness with Focus (mobility and stretching) on with Alyce (alycefwf@gmail.com)

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

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

Little City 08:30 - 13:30 once a month on a Thursday (rosie@littlecityuk.com)

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

Village Hall committee 2nd Monday 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 https://lmvh.org.uk/, or contact *Linda Lovegrove linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com*



FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Last month we saw some lovely sunshine and the hedgerows were filled with gorgeous blackberries. I counted over 300 starlings on the telegraph wires near Long Meadow swooping down on to the brambles to scoff the fruit and then return to their perches. The wire bounced as they came and went so must have been quite a weight. On my walks I found an old fallen nest that looked at first a bit like a coconut shell. Closer inspection revealed a mixture or mud and grass that had been formed into the base of a nest and the bird that does this is a thrush. Another thing to look out for on your walks is a small white dropping that looks a bit like a rollup cigarette. If it is dry then crumbling through the white outer layer is a darker middle of ant body husks and the bird that eats

ants is the green woodpecker. We have lots on the reserve and so I guess the ant population is healthy.

The fields are under better control now, with nearly all of the ragwort removed from fields where livestock are likely to overwinter with us. Ragwort when eaten by animals causes long term liver damage, but for cattle and ponies it is much faster. So, its control is important for the welfare of the animals. We left some for the bees in other fields. We have had 40 sheep at Wells in August but Wells Farm will be sheep free from early September until late Autumn. This will give our fantastic stock watch volunteers a break from the counting. The team work so well as a group, each doing a check once a week on a particular day and some days are shared between two people. We could do with another person in the group, so if you like a walk, like animals and want to help it would be gratefully appreciated. Just contact me at paulj201@hotmail.com and I will connect you with Elene at BBOWT.

Paul Jeffery - Reserves Warden (paulj201@hotmail.com)

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

We've had a busy few month going out for our meetings, July to the Pied Beauty flower farm and August to the Chiltern Open Air Museum. By the time you read this we'll also have served tea & cake for the 75th GHDHS Horticultural Show and for the St James' church Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Our next meeting is back at the Pine Lodge on **Thursday 12 September** with a **Bollywood dance workshop** by Betty Bloom Dance. The dances can be adapted for all abilities. Everyone welcome, men too! Visitors £5, or join up for £36 (2024-25).

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 <u>www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge</u>
Pine Lodge website: <u>www.lmvh.org.uk</u>

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

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

The Group will meet on **Wednesday 25th September** at Spring and Well Cottage, the home of Mary Davies, from 11.00 onwards...Do join us – anyone welcome! We have almost completed the new Coronation Kneeler in celebration of our new King, Charles III, and it will be suitably installed in the Church in the Autumn, joining the other commemorative kneelers stitched by the Group in the last few years. We also quilt, knit, embroider, mend and chat!!

Sally Ann Dennis

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start Enjoying a well-earned break

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Well, the bindweed managed to get the better of me this year and a muntjac has taken a liking to squash flowers so no bumper crop like I had last year. Fortunately, beans grow up poles and muntjac can't reach that high so I might get something from those. It helps understand the challenges between wildlife and farmers in poor countries who survive off their crops and don't have money or a supermarket to go to. There is still plenty of woodchip so make the most of it as a surface mulch. Try and compost your kitchen veg peelings, tea and coffee grounds. You can even use grass clippings and all sorts to create your own compost for next year. If you go through the gate with your vehicle, please close it behind you to prevent the possibility of travellers using the site although this a usually a problem in July and August. Happy harvesting!

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

VIEW FROM VIEWS

I received the following article from Charles and I thought I would include it this month as Charles is having a well- earned break from View from Views

A RIGHT TO ROAM – BUT FOR WHOM?

As awareness of animal sentience grows the moral and practical case for limiting public access to wild habitats needs to be made.

Walking along a trail in a National Park Forest, a visitor notices an adjoining path with a low wooden beam across it, inscribed with the simple message, 'No Admittance: Wildlife Refuge.'

The visitor continues on the main path and in doing so, both they – and the thought behind the sign - acknowledge that just as humans need rest and recuperation, so wildlife does too.

It is increasingly understood that for wildlife to thrive, it is vital that areas exist in which animals can live unstressed by human disturbance. Such refuges are commonplace in the Veluwe Forest in the Netherlands.

Rights of wild nature

There are no barbed-wire fences, and no hoo-ha about humans being excluded; the refuges are simply accepted and respected for the concerns they represent.

Habitat loss and fragmentation, and the growth of transport infrastructure, has limited territories and curtailed migration, maiming and killing many who do venture beyond their home turf. Human disturbance further constrains and distorts wild animals' freedom of movement.

Set against increased demands for extensions to countryside access by right to roam (R2R) campaigners in England, we might usefully ask, a right to roam for whom? We must recognise the rights of wild nature alongside calls for human-rights of access to the natural world.

Wildlife imperilled

Both the Netherlands and England are small countries with high urban population densities and busy National Parks.

In England nature remains in free-fall, principally the outcome of industrial farming and otherwise extensions of the human footprint occurring over a period of fifty years; the mere blink of an eye in evolutionary terms.

But how many people are aware of the critically dangerous situation our wildlife is facing? Recent rises in dog ownership from 8.3 million in 2008 to 11 million in 2023 on its own places an increasingly threatened number of species such as ground nesting skylarks, lapwing and curlew in greater jeopardy.

The conservation lead in a national park in the south west of England expressed dire concern that the last two pairs of curlews on Dartmoor might not survive the tourism onslaught that occurs every Easter and May – just as the birds are beginning to breed.

This is replicated across a growing number of landscapes. Given calamitous species' losses it seems reasonable to at least retain selected habitats as wildlife refuges where wild creatures are afforded protection; where humans - and their dogs - have limited rights of access or are excluded.

Sentient animals' rights

Non-human animals possess inherent worth and agency in their lives. They are sentient beings capable of experiencing pleasure, pain, and a range of emotions.

Safeguarding their habitats from being 'roamed by humans' acknowledges their autonomy and recognizes their moral right to live without unnecessary human interference. But wildlife cannot speak for itself, so needs us to make these calls and set aside areas purely for wild nature.

Non-human animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pleasure, pain, and a range of emotions.

The human right to roam

The R2R is, according to campaigners, the right to reconnect, whereby, "nature is no longer presented like a museum piece, to be observed from afar behind a line of barbed wire. Instead, it becomes something to be immersed in, a multi-sensory tangible experience whose smells, sounds, sightings can have profound effects upon the minds of beholders."

We might ponder what those last few curlews might have to say, were they given a voice. What rights could and indeed should we afford non-human actors in any landscape, and how do we begin to agree on the kinds of advocacy required to begin to enact those rights?

Many in our urban communities particularly have lost their sense of being live participants integral to the natural world; the more wildness we continue to lose, the less people have a chance to experience, relate, connect, or benefit from nature.

Simply demanding access to – whatever and wherever - does not in and of itself, however, lead to connection.

We don't mean to infer that we accept the rights and duties associated with existing patterns of landownership and public access, but are challenging the apparent R2R paradigm of 'all access good, restricted access bad'.

Further, we believe that with an improved understanding of the rights of non-human animals to roam and be undisturbed, we will have far greater practical success in rebuilding and restoring landscapes and habitats that are resilient and sustainable; places where native wildlife can rebound.

Only through exploring mutually enhancing access mechanisms - founded upon upholding the rights of non-human and human animals alike – can genuine co-habitation for future generations of all animal-kind become realisable.

Learning from nature

We all recall how under the lockdowns of 2021 and 2022 wild species soon became objects of fascination in our daily lives.

From our windows, gardens, pavements and cities, we tuned in to birdsong; in the absence of machines, birds need to sing less loudly, saving energy, essential if you have to work hard to keep yourself and your offspring fed.

Animals played out apparently audacious forays into urban settings; goats eating 'our' hedges in Llandudno, dolphins appearing in the Venetian lagoon.

The lessons were immediate, astonishing, but soon forgotten. We must remember how easy it is for natural processes to recover when given the right conditions. Give nature space, and we are paid back tenfold, even when we do not witness or take part in those processes.

Consider the regeneration of Ennerdale in the Lake District, or the replacement of civic verges with pollinator rich wildflower mini-meadows in an increasing number of boroughs including the trail-blazing work of Scouse Flowerhouse across Liverpool and the North.

Saving non-human others and ourselves

The issue of countryside access has, we believe, become far too over-simplified. With all that we know about our failure to protect and enhance Britain's wildlife, including species on the brink of extinction, campaigns centring on extending R2R legislation lack the necessary in-depth reflection around the potential effects such access would have on wildlife.

Given the dire state of nature in England, any discussions around placing human needs ahead of that of any other living animal *must* be far more nuanced.

As we move forward and the climate crisis becomes an ever more pressing existential threat to wildlife, protecting refuge areas – and creating new ones – will be pivotal for species' survival.

As we have seen, this is an accepted principle in the Netherlands, as indeed, in many other countries. Why should this be contentious for England?

However, compelling the ethical case for prioritising the few and becoming scarcer wild animals over growingly abundant human ones, ultimately it is not just in nature's interest to create discrete spaces for them alone. Without wildlife, human life will become a much more arduous if not impossible venture.

A_T

These Authors

Dr Karen Lloyd is a researcher and Writer in Residence with Lancaster University's Future Places Centre and author of *Abundance: Nature in Recovery (Bloomsbury, 2021)*, longlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Writing on Conservation, 2022. Ian Convery is professor of environment and society at the University of Cumbria and is co-chair (along with Steve Carver) of the IUCN CEM Rewilding Task Force. He is also IUCN CEM chair for Western Europe. Dr Simon Leadbeater manages woodland and

runs a small farm animal sanctuary tweeting as @OurSacredGrove. Sally Hawkins is a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Cumbria and lead editor of *Routledge Handbook of Rewilding* (2023). Steve Carver is professor of rewilding and wilderness science in the School of Geography, University of Leeds and director of the Wildland Research Institute. He is co-chair (along with Ian Convery) of the IUCN CEM Rewilding Task Force.

FREDDIE VAN MIERLO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HENLEY AND THAME

I am deeply honoured and grateful to have been elected by the people of Henley and Thame constituency to represent you in parliament as a Liberal Democrat MP. I grew up in Lancashire and lived and worked in Belgium in the healthcare sector before moving to South Oxfordshire with my wife.

I have had the pleasure of representing Chalgrove and Watlington division at Oxfordshire County Council since 2021, which includes Little Milton. Whilst I am a great believer in the phrase 'if you want something doing well, give it to a busy person', even I know there are limits to this! I will be stepping down therefore as your county councillor at the next local elections in May 2025 when the elections will be fought on new boundaries. Until then, I will continue to serve you as both your County Councillor and now your Member of Parliament.

It was a real pleasure to talk to so many people in Little Milton throughout the campaign and listen to the issues residents face. It will be my job now and that of our much-strengthened parliamentary group to constructively hold the new government to account, and to fight for you on your issues.

The first few weeks since being elected have been both exciting and frantic as I race to find my feet (and way around parliament), as well as set up a constituency office and hire the staff needed to best serve you. So far, the only faux pas made in parliament was sitting in an 'SNP seat' and being told gruffly to move along!

You can already contact my office on freedie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk. From September I will be holding weekly online surgeries and regular in-person surgeries around the constituency. I hope as well to see as many people as possible as we get out on the doors again and continue to listen to you.

Freddie van Mierlo MP

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Tuesday 10th 10:30am Gentle, social 2½ miles from Oxford High St. (Queens

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10am). Optional pub lunch at end.

Thursday 12th Hilly (900ft of ascent), scenic 6 mile walk from Middle

Assendon. Booking required.

Thursday 26th 7 mile walk from Dorchester (Bridge End Car Park) via

Little Wittenham Wood and Shillingford, following the

Thames Path at times.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

<u>www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html</u> or phone 01844 213608

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

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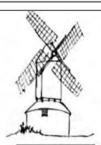


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