Little Milton Newsletter



Mo age 9



Bella age 8



Evie age 10



Florence age 7



Rowan age 5



Edith age 5

December 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: DECEMBER 2024

DATES FOR TOUR DIART. DECEMBER 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 Service – 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	
Sat	14th	2.00 - 4.30 p.m.	Christmas Fayre: 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	
		6.00 p.m.	Carol Singing – Starting in Old Field	
		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	
Sun	22nd	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service – St James'	
Tues	24th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
		11.15 p.m.	Midnight Communion- St James'	
Wed	25th	10.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Communion:	
			St Peter's	
Thurs	26th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge	
Frid	27th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Sun	29th	9.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion St.	
			Peter's	

<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 13th NOVEMBER 2024

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

Planning

There were no planning matters to consider.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The refurbishment project is progressing well. The surfaces have been laid and need to cure before the carpet is laid. The plan is to lay the carpets next week. The electrician has confirmed he will install the coin meters after the contractor has finished.

A condition of the grant funding is that the project is publicised widely. Plans for publicity, a small opening ceremony, wording for signage at the MUGA and how bookings will be handled will be discussed at the next meeting. A maintenance plan needs to be drawn up and an allowance put into 2025-26 budget.

It was agreed to replace the basketball hoops and backboards, Cllr Horwell will get quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

Reports from Committees

Open Green Spaces

Winter bedding has been planted in planters at the Millennium bench and around the village. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Carol Turner and Howard Harrison for all their hard work.

Playground

Inspection reports for the play area and recreation ground had been circulated. Cllr Wakeling reported that there were no high-risk items that required attention. It was noted that the inspector made a visual inspection from ground level of suspension links and cable /fixing points on the Cable Runway. The report recommends that the main cable and fixing security is thoroughly inspected to check for wear, damage, security or internal rusting to help ensure the continued safe use of the equipment. Cllr Wakeling will obtain two quotations for a detailed inspection.

Highways and Utilities

All agreed that OCC Highways had done a fantastic job on the bridge. Cllr Denby reported Little Milton Primary School were also very pleased with the outcome. Cllr Horwell will send the Highways team a letter of thanks on behalf of the council.

Communication

Cllr Horwell attended a virtual presentation given by the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Team responsible for delivering faster broadband. Cllr Horwell raised a question about broadband coverage for rural communities. Currently there is no funding in this financial year for households in rural Oxfordshire to be connected. However, Little Milton and two other villages are at the top of the list for funding when it becomes available.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th December 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

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 $\pounds 49.50$ for up to 3 items and $\pounds 9.50$ 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 <u>www.southoxon.gov.uk</u>

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 <u>visit the Emmaus website</u> for more details.

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
3rd December	No	Yes	No	Yes
10th December	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
17th December	No	Yes	No	Yes
24 th December	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
2 nd January,++	No	Yes	No	Yes

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – DECEMBER 2024

<u>++</u> Change due to Bank Holiday <u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE</u> <u>Meetings and Council Activity</u>

Perhaps the most impassioned and unifying motion of the evening was the vote of no confidence in Thames Water, with councillors of all parties unanimously calling for the water provider to be brought back under public control. Council members highlighted widespread concerns over Thames Water's environmental and financial mismanagement and their inability to meet key operational standards affecting residents and local ecosystems.

The motion emphasised the need for government intervention through the Water Industry Act 1991, which allows companies to be placed into Special Administration when they are in financial distress or fail to meet essential duties.

The council's motion specifically calls on the government to end water industry privatisation, citing it as a "failed experiment" that has led to increased financial and environmental risks.

The council also resolved a motion on supporting communities in their efforts to retain pubs; a motion on the need for an urgent review of local government funding; and a motion on the importance of local government in delivering Net Zero

Proposed changes to Council Tax premium on long term empty properties

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have launched a public survey on proposals to reduce the minimum timeframe to charge a council tax premium on long-term empty properties.

Currently, the councils allow a maximum duration of up to two years for a domestic property to remain unoccupied and substantially unfurnished before an additional, long-term empty council tax 'premium' charge is incurred, on top of the normal full 100 per cent charge. Recent changes in council tax legislation now allow councils to reduce this minimum timeframe from two years to just one year. If this change is adopted, a new policy on long-term empty properties would come into effect from 1 April 2026 – to allow sufficient time for empty property owners to plan or adjust their plans accordingly.

The long-term aim of the proposal is to see as many homes brought back into use as soon as possible.

First Habitat Bank created in South Oxon

South Oxfordshire District Council is proud to announce it has helped create the first habitat bank in the district aiming to increase biodiversity and reduce river pollution while also allowing necessary development.

The council has worked with the environmental charity Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) and a local landowner on plans to transform 16.5 acres off Windmill Lane, Towersey from intensively farmed arable land to a biodiverse mosaic of grassland, scrub, and woodland habitats.

"RINGING AT ST JAMES'

Villagers may like to know that there will be some extra ringing at St James's Church during December.

First, on Wednesday 11th, a band of local ringers will attempt a quarter peal immediately prior to the School Christingle service. This should start just after 5 pm and will last around 45 minutes.

Then, on Thursday 19th starting around 2.30 pm, a band of visiting ringers will attempt a full peal. This is a rerun of the attempt that was lost in August to mark Raymond Fergusson's 80th birthday. If successful, the bells will ring continuously for just under 3 hours.

We are also planning to ring before the Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December and the Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve.

Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth (cathy.hd@btinternet.co

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: DECEMBER 2024 For further info. Please contact Rev. Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
1st December	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
8th December	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Miriam Moul	
15th December	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Rosentall	
22nd December	3.00 p.m	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy
	-			Communion
25th December	9.30 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	
29th December	No Service			

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st December

9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Worship

Sunday 8th December

9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Family Worship

Sunday 15th December

9.00Holy Communion10.30Family Worship4.00 pmCarol Service

Saturday 21st December

10.30 Animal Nativity

Sunday 22nd December

10.30 Holy Communio BCP4.00 pm Carol Service6.00 pm Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December

4.00 pm Crib Service 11.15 pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December 10.00 Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December 10.30 Benefice Holy Communion St James' Little Milton St Peter's Great Haseley

St Mary's Great Milton St James' Little Milton

St Peter's Great Haseley St Mary's Great Milton St Peter's Great Haseley

Field Farm Thame

St Peter's Great Haseley St Mary's Great Milton St James' Little Milton

St Mary's Great Milton St James' Little Milton

St Peter's Great Haseley

St Peter's Great Haseley

GILL TAYLOR

It is with sadness that I have to inform the friends of Gill Taylor who lived in Chiltern that she passed away peacefully on Tuesday 12th November. Gill moved back to her beloved Yorkshire earlier this year. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

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Editor

RECTOR'S PINT

One of the things I look for in a decent hymn is not only a good tune, which always matters, but also for the words to have meaning and provide some good insight and teaching. The same is true of Christmas carols. As I write, it is early November, but I have already begun to plan for Christmas - and of course, our carol services.

Words matter. For instance, one of the most cherished and popular of our carols is 'Away in a Manger', yet I balk at the line "The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes". Might I suggest that the first thing a tiny baby, woken by bellowing cattle might do is fill his tiny lungs and bellow back? It paints a doubtful picture that as the perfect baby, Jesus apparently didn't cry. I'm sorry if I tread on sacred ground, but what nonsense! Of course, we will still sing the carol, if only because our children love it so much.

There is one carol however, that I think stands out. One verse in particular is as powerful and relevant to our times as it has always been. The carol is 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear', and especially the third verse:

Yet, with the woes of sin and strife, The World has suffered long; Beneath the angels' strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring; Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing

How pertinent is that? This has been a year of continued strife and deep unrest, and we have had the reality confirmed to us that human society is precarious, unpredictable, and potentially very brutal.

This was precisely the nature of the world that Jesus was born into. If we believe, as I do, that this is the eternal God, incarnate in, and as, a human (and one who would surely have cried as a baby when shocked into wakefulness by lowing cattle!) then, when we look to him, we see the source of our hope in a world which so often seems to be without hope.

At our carol services, as well as singing much-loved hymns, we will hear the great biblical texts that tell us of God's salvation plan in human society. The final reading - the Prologue from St John, with those wonderful words "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" acts as a crescendo.

I have long loved the saying 'It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness'. It has been attributed to many people, but my research has also led to a sermon preached in America by William L. Watkinson. Whatever the origin, I think it is a good and relevant observation.

So may you have a light-filled Christmas this year, filled with the hope and the light of the love of God.

Simon

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR DECEMBER

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

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR DECEMBER

W/E 1st December	-	Advent
W/E 8th December	-	Advent
W/E 15th Decvember	-	Advent
23 rd December		Christmas Flowers – all are welcome

CAROL SINGING IN LITTLE MILTON WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

Once again, we will be carol singing around the village - this year on Wednesday 18th December from 6pm onwards. Please arrive just before 6pm meeting us all on the Green opposite the little red post box at the entrance to Oldfield at the top end of the village. We will set off at 6pm SHARP!

We will take the following route – Thame Road, Oldfield and then down through the alleyway to Chiltern View. From Chiltern View we will continue on down Skinny Horner to the Phone Box on the Green. We will then go down the Haseley Road and along Gold Street and then we will go to Milton Manor Drive and finally to the Pub!! You are welcome to join us enroute. A bell will be rung when we arrive at each new place to let you know that we're with you so open your doors and enjoy our carols and join in if you like!

There will be a collection for the Porch which supports the Homeless but this is entirely VOLUNTARY. Bring a torch but carol sheets will be provided...

Sally Ann Dennis

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB November

1st	No 39	Simpson Family	£10.00
2nd	No 1	Mrs Austin	£8.00
3rd	No 5	Vallance Family	£6.00

Dear Villagers and Friends,

Thank you all so much for supporting the 200 Club which is supporting the school. We will be paying out over £300 in prizes and the Friends will use the £300 raised to cover extra items that the school need. If you haven't entered and would like to buy a number for the next 11 months (£11.00) then please send your details into school.

Kind regards Diane Austin 200 Club Organiser.



CHRISTMAS TREES OXFORD

Find Your Perfect Christmas Tree

NON-DROP CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

GREAT HASELEY OX44 7JS OPENS 23RD NOVEMBER FROM 9.00AM - 7.00 PM

DECORATIONS & WREATHS FREE LOCAL DELIVERY CHILDREN WELCOME

🛗 christmastreesoxford.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

We have plans for another show in the Hall with a matinee performance of "Get Spooked" on the 22nd of December for a pre-Christmas fun afternoon for all the family. For more information and ticket sales please check out the Village Hall Events page on our website. We will have festive mice pies, hot chocolate, mulled wine and a bar.

Hope you all enjoyed the annual village Fireworks night in November. A really big thanks to all those that helped, and especially Jim and Roger for another really impressive show.

If you are remote working and/or need a space to get together for a face-to-face discussion, our Meeting Room in the Hall is now available for hire by the hour. It can seat up to 10 people and has a large wall mounted monitor for video conferencing or presentations, plus WIFI.

Regular activities in the Hall include:

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, 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)

Thursday 10:30 a.m. Fitness with Focus (mobility and stretching) on with Alyce (alycefwf@gmail.com)

Thursday 6:00 p.m. Keep Fit on with Alyce (alycefwf@gmail.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 kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

KENNINGTON OXFORD BRASS BAND CAROLS

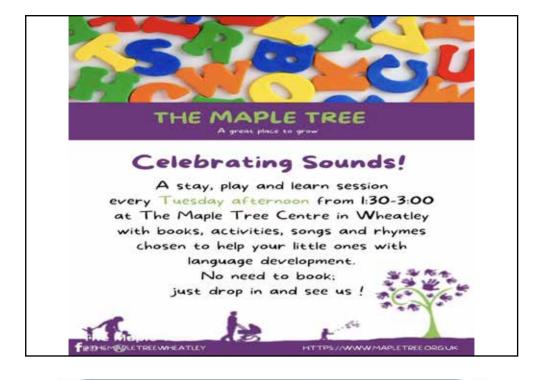
SATURDAY 7 TH DECEMBER 4PM-7PM PINE LODGE, LITTLE MILTON Tickets include light supper of soup & mince pies Adults £12 Children £6

Available from Little Milton Village Shop, or: https://friends-of-little-milton-school.sumupstore.com

All proceeds to Little Milton Primary School



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New meeting room available for hire

We are delighted to be able to offer a new meeting room within the Pine Lodge for meetings of up to 10 people.

- Free Wi-Fi available
- Large smart television screen with HDMI connection
- Free on site car parking

- Private space
- Adjacent to Village Shop for convenient refreshments
- Fully accessible

Available from only £12 per hour

Take a look at the new website for the hall which includes a calendar to view availability and to book.

www.lmvh.org.uk

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Christmas is upon us soon and in preparation for the holiday period more animals will return to Wells Farm where they can be looked after and kept an eye on. During the colder spells they are fed hay and this can make the dexter cattle rather over friendly, hoping for a munchy mouthful or two. New arrivals are likely to be sheep and they will be nervous at first until they have settled in. Please keep your dogs on a lead and feel free to remind others.

You may have noticed that there are not many berries in the hedgerows this year. This has pushed more birds to use garden feeders so you might be lucky and spot a few different ones in your gardens this winter. Unfortunately, it looks like it has been a good year for squirrels so I expect you will see some of them too. I attended a talk last month by a conservationist from Borneo and it was very enlightening. After the talk, in the nearby pub we discussed the pros and cons of palm oil plantations. He reminded us to be wary about judging the devastation happening in other countries than our own. But in Like the UK, where we have already destroyed most of the wildlife habitat, there are some great people trying to find ways to improve the situation. Unlike Indonesia, when palm oil plants are cut down, they are not burned, but the leaves are left for elephants to eat. Some of the animals, even some langur monkeys can live in the plantations when only the young plants are fenced off. Further work is being done to rewild the edges of plantations so that animals can live happily alongside and there are signs that this is helping the decline. It is a bit like set aside land that our farmers have on their land. It is hard to believe that the government continue to squeeze farms into nonexistence. The cynic in me things that maybe they want to grab the land for more housing. A land grab as well as a tax grab! At least Wells Farm should be safe from such actions.

December is the start of the hedge laying season for Wells Farm. I plan to start on Saturday 14th December weather permitting, continuing into Sunday and possibly the Monday as well. If anybody wants to come along and join in or find out more about the technique of rejuvenating hedgerows, please drop me an email (paulj201@hotmail.com). Also watch for more information on the Little Milton Village Facebook group or the Focus WhatsApp group. There is also a noticeboard by the barn where we meet up at 10am before heading over to W3W decent. Brownish brambles at around 10.15 to start at 10:30 and finish after 1pm. Gloves needed.

Have a lovely Christmas and enjoy the fresh air!

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

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Pretty much everything will have been harvested except maybe a cabbage, parsnip or sprout. Nothing better than fresh vegetables you have grown yourself! It is now the time to put your feet up with a glass of blackberry, slow or raspberry gin and reflect on this year's success. Time to think about next year. What to do differently, more of, less of. There are likely to be one or two allotments free next year if anybody would like to join the waiting list. Just email me (paulj201@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

Happy Christmas.

Paul Jeffery - (paulj201@hotmail.com)

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

We will not be meeting to sew/stitch/quilt/knit etc. because we are having our Christmas lunch in December...but do look out for the January date and venue and join us if you can!

Sally Ann Dennis

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In November, Kally Peigne from Betty Bloom Dance taught us a Bollywood dance routine. A great evening followed by much needed tea, cake & chat.

On **Thursday December 12th**, Peter Buchan-Symons is coming to tell us all about **Origami** and then he'll show us how to do it in a mini workshop. Come along at 7.30pm and have a go at the art of paper folding.

Everyone always welcome, men too! Visitors £5.

On **Thursday 9th January**, we have our **annual New Year dinner** (venue TBC). Let me know if you'd like to join us for dinner, everyone welcome.

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/Impinelodge</u> Pine Lodge website: <u>www.lmvh.org.uk</u> Kath Stacey 01844-279438 <u>tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk</u>

VIEW FROM VIEWS

The weather is something to believe so mild, so damp, nothing drying in spite of the fact we had no rain to speak of between 21st October and at the time of writing, (mid-November) we still have been unable to cut our Lupins, some having already fallen out, this is due to them naturally shedding seed for next year's regeneration. As a consequence of the mild weather, the crops we planted were through the ground in just over a week (would not normally be up at this time of year in less than 2 weeks) One blessing must be that although the damp is in the air the land will be drying out, allowing those on the heavier wetter land to be getting on with some land work at last, after the devastating wet of September 22nd to 24th. We have started to move the Wheat that sat in 2 inches of water, it has been extremely difficult operation as we have to shovel the grain up from the floor leaving the wet behind, so far three loads have been loaded, with only one being rejected for being too wet, which is not a bad record. Now as it was returned, we have found a way to dry it ready for resale, which will prove rather expensive with the added bonus of having to pay for the extra haulage. By all accounts the Poppies will be our saving grace this year, as they have yielded very well.

Just before the September cloudbursts we baled up some late silage in our river meadows, and of course the floods came up before we could collect them, one is now floating in the river, how we retrieve it is another matter I as it is behind a tree with some of its plastic wrap caught up in said tree, who'd be a farmer? November 14th saw

us planting Beans and some more Wheat on the ground where the Lupins failed, as the lupins still have not been harvested it was decided to at least get a bit more Wheat in the ground.

I have been known to say that I don't really believe that Britain is as nature deplete as is made out to be well, a recent report, by the Science for Sustainable Agriculture, states that although it might 2.93% nature deplete and in the bottom 10% globally, it is actually in the top 23% in the world for biodiversity, this is a heartening aspect to consider when you understand our population density, and the need to produce more food for ourselves. On a slightly different tack, I cannot explain is why this autumn there seems to be no or at least very few Hawes (Hawthorn berries). I can't remember how they flowered in the spring; I remember the Blackthorn flowering over a very long period. This means that the birds that rely on these berries may well go hungry, I am not sure how we can help them or if we should.

At a recent Farm Cluster meeting we discussed bird life along the Thame, we were informed that there had been several sightings of species not reckoned to be natural in the UK or this area namely a Bittern, a Cattle Egret, and Garganey Goose. This is very encouraging and is a result of extensive research by volunteers. This has enabled the set-up of a very involved and comprehensive website, where you find out where most species are most prevalent and, many other combinations along the length of the Thame. When the river floods and recedes, many different species visit, apart from Swans, Geese, Gulls and Ducks, and other more normal water fowl, I think I have seen a Cattle Egret. Also, I disturbed 10 Snipe on one of our wetter fields. This Autumn there seems an abundance of Starlings around which is encouraging when we are led to believe they are in the decline, plus many Sky Larks and, Corn Buntings. The cluster is involved in a drive to eradicate the Mink from the Thame, so that the water vole can be reintroduced, so far we have accounted for over 30 Mink.

It is too soon for my simple mind to understand the ramifications of the Budget, what I do know is that a lot of my fellow farmers are not very happy. Jeremy Clarkson says he thinks "farmers have been shafted", James Rebanks says "it's a disaster of epic proportions" Kirsty Allsopp says "she has zero understanding of rural voters", but obviously understands the implications. My thoughts so far are that if the family farm is decimated by these measures, we could see many having to employ measures they would otherwise rather not. By this I mean some of the energy companies are offering very substantial rents on a ten-year basis for Solar farms and the like. Land will also attract many outside investors who only see land as a cash cow by being paid to plant trees, and the many other schemes that attract government money, without thought for the countryside or environment. These are real risks with Ed Miliband pushing so hard for these green energy initiatives.

On these cheery notes, I would like to wish all readers of my little column all the very best for Christmas and a calm "Trump" New Year

Charles Peers



	Walks Programme 2024
December	
Tuesday 3rd	Scenic 5 ¹ / ₂ mile walk along the Phoenix Trail, skirting Henton and Forty Green, starting in Towersey, near Three Horseshoes PH.
Thursday 5th	Scenic 5½ mile walk around Watlington, using Swan's Way, the Ridgeway and the Oxfordshire Way, starting at Watlington, recreation ground car park.
Saturday 7th	6 ¹ / ₂ mile walk from Stadhampton Village Hall via Chiselhampton, Toot Baldon and Marsh Baldon. This walk precedes the T&W Christmas lunch (booking essential).
Tuesday 10th	Gentle, social 2½ mile walk from Priest End, Thame (behind St. Mary's Church), through market and along Phoenix Trail. Option for coffee at the Thatch at the finish.
Tuesday 17th	6 mile walk from Oxford, High Street by Queens Lane Coffee House, via parks, canals and Thames Path, round central North Oxford.
	6 mile walk from Church Lane, Cookley Green, through the woods to Swyncombe Church then along the Ridgeway and return via Dame Alice Farm. All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated. eck 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.

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).

MORLAND HOUSE SURGERY, MORLAND CLOSE WHEATLEY, OX33 1DP

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* 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

Ordering Repeat Prescriptions: Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the 'prescriptions' page on our website.

Check and cancel – you may now check and/or cancel an upcoming appointment via our telephone system. From the main menu, just press 1.

Covid and Flu Vaccine Clinics – if you are eligible for an NHS flu and/or winter Covid-19 vaccine and not yet had yours, you can still book at the surgery. Please contact the reception team to make an appointment.

RSV vaccine (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) - invitations have been sent out to those aged 75 to 79 years old.

Visit **Morland House Surgery Website** for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment: <u>www.morland-house.co.uk</u> For example:

- Medical Records and Test Results guidance on how to access this information.
- **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)**, whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.
- **Group Consultation Clinics** Group clinics are currently being offered for the menopause and hypertension. Eligible patients are being invited to attend, but if you would like to know more, please do contact us.
- Whooping Cough infections, symptoms and treatment
- Drink Coaches take the quick and confidential text
- Travelling abroad what MHS can and cannot do for you







Acev age 6



Oli age 6



Indy age 6



Poppy age 7



Oskar age 10



Amira age 7



22 Layki age 8



Teddy age 8



Theo age 9



Reed age 7



Sephi age 8



Ruby age 11



Kian age 10





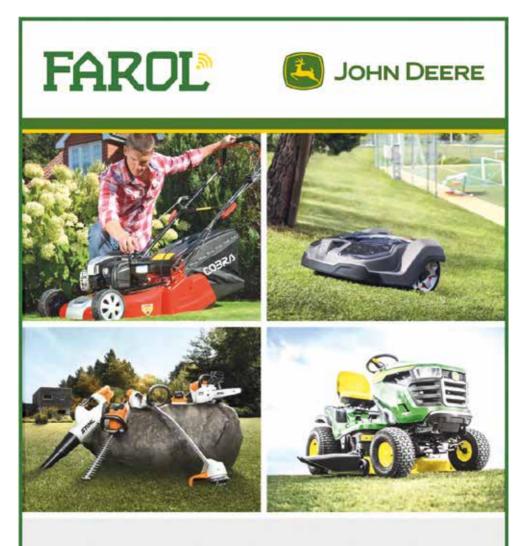
Layla age 11



Artie age 9



Aya age 9



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