L.C.L.

www.littlemilton.org.uk

Little Milton Newsletter

August 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: AUGUST 2024

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Thurs	1st	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	2nd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	4th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'	
Tues	6th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	7th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	8th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	WI Meeting	
Frid	9th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	11th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James'	
Tues.	13th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	14th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	15th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	16th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Tues	20th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	21st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.00 p.m.	Craft Evening – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	22nd	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	23rd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	25th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Communion – Rycote	
			Chapel	
Tues	27th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	28th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		11.00 a.m.	Sewing Group- 40 Chiltern View	
Thurs	29th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	30th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Sat	31st	3.00 -6.00 p.m.	Mad Hatter's Tea Party- The Manor	
Sept				
Sun	1st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP -St James'	
Tues	3rd	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Tues	Jiu	7.50 10.50 u.m.		

<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 10TH JULY 2024

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

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Report by District / County Councillor

District Cllr Heritage had circulated her report and added, whilst Council business has been limited over the last few weeks, there has been a great deal of General Election fever! Cllr Freddie van Mierlo has been elected MP for Henley and Thame winning 45% share of the vote.

With the County Ward being divided into three at the next elections and costs associated with holding a By-election, Cllr van Mierlo feels it is right to continue as a County Councillor until the elections in May 2025. Although he may not be able to attend parish council meetings in person, he will be available for phone calls, emails and to respond to local issues.

As Cabinet member for Communities, Cllr Georgina Heritage has attended several public safety meetings and been involved in the proposal for a shared CCTV room for Oxfordshire, located in Abingdon police station. This will improve efficiency and effectiveness of the monitoring and provide a more resilient service.

Planning

There were no planning applications to discuss.

Cllr Wakeling reported he had contacted the developer for Milton House who confirmed signs have been erected and archaeological work has finished. The site is still in the enabling stage. Building materials will be displayed at the site office when development work commences.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk reported that a sum of £3,208.99, the parish portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) resulting from planning application P24/S1147/S73 will be available to the Parish Council in October.

Resolved that any Community Infrastructure Levy funds due to be paid between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 are transferred by South Oxfordshire District Council to the Parish Council in October.

Little Milton Village Shop

It was noted that South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC) Capital Grant Fund opened for applications on 8th July and closes on 2nd September 2024. Discussion took place on whether to apply for funding to install solar panels on the village hall roof. The electricity generated will be used by the village shop. The anticipated start time for the project of April 2025 was noted.

Resolved to apply for up to 50% (maximum application SODC will permit) of the cost of installation of solar panels on the village hall roof.

Resolved that if the grant application is successful, the Parish Council will fund the difference in funding between secured Capital Grant Funding and the total cost of the project. The Council will forward fund the difference from Reserves until receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy funding in April 2025.

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 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 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 <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 visit the Emmaus website for more details.

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
6th August	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
13th August	No	Yes	No	Yes
20th August	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
28th August **	No	Yes	No	Yes

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – AUGUST 2024

** Change re Bank Holiday

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: GEORGINA HERITAGE

My Meetings and Activity

While there may have been limited council business over the past few weeks, there has certainly been a great deal of General Election fever. Four South Oxfordshire district councillors stood as parliamentary candidates for their respective parties: Freddie van Mierlo for the Lib Dems, Jo Robb and Sam Casey-Rerhaye for the Green Party, and Mocky Khan for Labour

As you're no doubt aware, Cllr Freddie van Mierlo has been elected as Henley & Thame's first non-Conservative MP since 1910, which he won with a 45% share of the votes. I couldn't be more delighted for both Freddie and the constituency. I have every confidence in his authenticity, sincerity and tenacity to trust he will be an excellent MP for Henley & Thame.

In terms of my own activity over the past month, as Cabinet member for Communities I've attended several public safety meetings and am pleased to have been involved in the proposal for a shared CCTV room for Oxfordshire, located in Abingdon police station. For several years there's been a collective desire between the five Oxfordshire districts and Thames Valley Police for a shared Oxfordshire CCTV control room. Bringing the current control rooms together will provide benefits for all partners. More CCTV operators in the control room will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the monitoring and provide a more resilient service with more 'real time' monitoring and no lone working, as well as future capital investment from Thames Valley Police.

Cabinet voted unanimously in favour of this proposal at our meeting in public on 27th June, and more information about this will be published soon

I've also been involved in SODC's calendar of activities for children over the summer period, and include details below.

Summer Fun with Free and Low-cost Activities for Families

Girls' football, fun activity days, skateboarding and pickleball are just some of the free and low-cost activities available for children and their families to enjoy during the summer holidays.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are hosting activities and events at locations across the area from 19 July to 31 August.

The councils' Active Communities team are providing a series of free Xplorer sessions, 'Born to Move' fitness and dance sessions and lots more for young children. Girls aged 5 to 11 have the chance to get involved with football, make new friends and have fun during Girls' Football sessions. Families can come together to enjoy Fun Days, and skateboarding and scooter enthusiasts can enjoy competitions, games, prizes sand more at the popular Summer of Skate skateboarding events which take place throughout the summer

There will be lots more besides, and the activities are expected to be very popular so, where required, please book now to avoid disappointment. A full run down of what's on and details on how to book, visit <u>southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities</u>

Better Leisure Centres across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, managed on behalf of the district councils by GLL, also have a range of family activities to get involved over the summer holidays. Details about what's available at each centre can be found on <u>the Better UK website</u> and the leisure centre Facebook pages. The outdoor pools in Abingdon and Wallingford will also be open for those of all ages to enjoy a swim in the sun

As quoted in the recent press release, I'm thrilled to kick off the summer with some great activities for children and their families to enjoy. We want every family to be part of the fun so please share this information with anyone who might benefit. Do visit the website and book now to secure your spot.

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
4th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
11th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy
_				Communion
18th August	11.00 a.m	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
25th August	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Paul Spray	

YVONNE CARTRIGHT

I am sure we were all shocked when we heard of the sudden death of Yvonne. Yvonne had become well known in Little Milton by providing a Yoga and fitness class on a Monday in the Pine Lodge. It was well attended by young and "old" and some of the class ended up in the Shop enjoying a well- earned treat of a coffee and cake. She was a cheerful person and brought a warmth to those she met. She will be sadly missed.

Our thought are with her family at this time.

Editor

WELL DONE TERRY!

I would like to wish Terry Cooper on behalf of all his friends and neighbours, a very happy 90th Birthday that he will celebrate in August. I believe that Terry has lived in the village all of his life and has seen many changes. Terry is a reserved person but always has time for a good chat.

Well done Terry!

Editor

LITTLE MILTON BELLS TO RING OUT

On Monday 19 August, from around 2.30pm, there will be a peal attempt at St James's. The bells will hopefully complete 5040 changes of Spliced Surprise Minor in 41 methods, taking just under 3 hours.

Catherine Hughes-D'Aeth

cathy.hd@btinternet.com

St James' Little Milton Church presents

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party!

Saturday August 31st 2024

The Manor, Gold Street, Little Milton

Afternoon Tea, Beer Bar, Pimms Stand, 'Best Hat' Competition, Live Music, and activities for the whole family

Grand Raffle with Fabulous Prizes

Gates open 3pm

Entry by FREE Ticket fom Little Milton Post Office

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2024

Sunday 4th August

- 9.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Lammas Service marking the beginning of Harvest

Sunday 11th August

- 9.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Worship

Sunday 18th August

- 9.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Worship

Sunday 25th August

- 9.00 There is No BCP Service
- 10.30 Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 1st September (Note changes)

- 10.00 Family Worship
- 11.00 Holy Communion with Baptisms

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR AUGUST

W/E 4th August–Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah HolifieldW/E 11th August–Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy NewbyW/E 18th August–Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'AethW/E 25th August–Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A DennisW/E 1st September–Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

CHURCH REORGANISATION

Following on from the removal of the original Church radiators and subsequent redecoration a group of us met to give the back of the Church a thorough cleaning...and in the process we've recreated a children's area at the back on the carpeted area. This area was originally created when the Sunday School met regularly and has since provided, additionally, a lovely area for coffee and tea after the services. The children's Sunday School library has been rehoused in a kindly donated bookcase and it is planned to revamp all of the children's bags available to visiting children of different ages. Together with the porch decoration and renewal/creation of new furnishings the overall aim is to create a welcome for <u>all</u> who visit St. James! Additionally, both the Friendship Quilt Wall Hanging and the 'new' St. James' Banner (created in 2002) have also been taken down and given a jolly good spring/summer clean! Come and see...

Sally Ann Dennis

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR AUGUST

W/E 4th August	-	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 11th August	-	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 18th August	-	Teresa Quested
W/E 25th August	-	Teresa Quested

Teresa Quested 278922

St Mary's Great Milton St James' Little Milton

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

Rycote Chapel

St Peter's Great Haseley St James' Little Milton

RECTOR'S PINT

I have always loved English egg custard tarts. There was a move a few years ago in my family to convert me to the Portuguese variety, but I'm afraid I don't think they get anywhere close! For as long as I can remember, I have had a particular method of eating them; I don't dive straight in, rather I nibble the pastry at the top in anticipation of the main event, the eggy custardy bit!

I do wonder if holidays work a little like that? The best part being the anticipation.

It's a curious analogy perhaps, but as I write I anticipate a fortnight away from parish duties. It's nothing exotic, we're simply going to our place on the edge of the Forest of Dean, but it's eagerly anticipated, nonetheless.

Perhaps that says something about my holidays of course, but I do appreciate the time off. I found myself in troubled waters many years ago in one of my old parishes, when on my return I was asked by a parishioner if I had enjoyed my holiday. I was evidently a little too enthusiastic with my response, as her wounded observation was that I had obviously enjoyed being away rather more than being back with my 'flock' in the Parish. I tried to point out that even for a vicar, time away from duties is sometimes a good thing but I'm afraid it fell on deaf ears!

For too many though, a proper holiday has become a luxury. I think of those who work in the gig economy or who are self-employed. A holiday doesn't have to be an extravagant and expensive trip abroad every year, we've never done that, nor could we afford to. I mean simply getting a break, even if staying at home. The work holiday derives from the Old English *haligdaeg* or 'Holy Day' meaning both a religious festival and a day of exemption from labour, the two of course going together. Most people have now lost the sense of holiday as a religious festival, except perhaps around Christmas and possibly Easter, but the cycle of the year was once broken up by such 'holidays'. In the UK a fortnight's break had its origin in the 'Factory Fortnight' in August. This has fallen into decline, but nonetheless 'exemption from labour' is a necessary part of being human. The principle is built into the creation story of Genesis, with God himself resting on the seventh day following six days of creative labour. We read in the Gospels that Jesus endeavoured to find time away from the crowds to recuperate. The fact that he wasn't particularly successful in this doesn't detract from the importance.

When this is read, my holiday will be over, the Custard Tart will have been eaten! Should you be fortunate enough to enjoy a break in August, I do hope that it will be a good one.

Simon

FRIE	NDS OF	LITTLE MILTON SCHO	OOL- 200 CLUB
<u>July</u>			
1st	No 41	Mrs Blest	£10.00
2nd	No 12	Chris Coward	£8.00
3rd	No 38	Mrs G	£6.00

Diane Austin (Organiser)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Yvonne Cartwright who for years has helped keep many village residents supple and fit with her weekly Yoga and Fitness class. Our condolences to her family and friends.

The exterior of the hall has now been repaired and repainted and hopefully you agree looks much smarter. The builders will now move on to building the new **Meeting Room** which should be ready by the end of August and is now available for booking on the Hall website online. There will be some disruption in the Hall whilst work is in progress for which we apologise. In particular the Ladies and Gents toilets will be effected (however the Disabled toilet should be used by default during this period).

We plan to host a couple of Theatre performances with "**Three Men in a Boat**" in October, and "**Get Spooked**" at the end of December. 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 Amarjeet (<u>amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com</u>)

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

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 (<u>rosie@littlecityuk.com</u>)

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

Village Hall committee 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m. For further details contact <u>giles.pinelodge@gmail.com</u>

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at <u>https://lmvh.org.uk/</u>, or contact *Linda Lovegrove* <u>linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com</u>



FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

I carried out the July butterfly count with Chris on the 14th July and overall the results were down by half compared to last year and the last 6 years, although we have seen low numbers before. This result matches other surveys and overall it does appear that the number of butterflies is lower. Part of the reason could well be that the eggs and caterpillars have struggled in the wet with many of them dying. I am sure you will have noticed there have not been so many insects in general, with the tops of the hedges and trees showing minimal signs of being munched by moth caterpillars except for the white ermine moths that hammered the spindle earlier in the year and are now emerging in their hundreds.

The vegetation in the fields has been very difficult to manage with the wet early July hampering any control of the three main plants that must be cut back. These being ragwort, spear thistle and creeping thistle. The two thistles spread not only from the many seeds but also by their spreading root system, crowding out any other vegetation and making the land difficult for most animals to use. Fortunately 95% of spear thistle seeds often don't come to anything but as there are many millions of seeds that is still quite enough. Ragwort is a problem for livestock, particularly ponies, horses, but also

cattle and sheep. So controlling them is important although a major challenge this year. All of them can still go to seed once the flowers are open unless collected dumped where they cannot germinate.

BBOWT staff and volunteers have been extremely busy trying to remove the thistles and ragwort either using a tractor cut and collect combination, or just tractor and cutter, as well as pulling ragwort by hand in some fields.

I have a big ask of you when you are out walking. If each of us could simply pull up 10 ragwort plants every time we walk round the reserve and throw the flower/seed heads deep into the bottom of the hedgerow, very quickly the bridleway and other paths will be cleared and safe for animals. You are also welcome to pull up any you find in the fields, disposing of them in a similar way, or leaving them by gateways so we can collect them. If we have 60 dogs being walked every day and half of those people remove 10 then in two weeks that would be over 4,000 ragwort plants!!!

The sheep have used the very tall grasses to hide from the biting insects during the day and also to hide from those on the stock watch volunteer team trying to count them. We do find a few developing the odd limp occasionally and recently one has managed to break its horn somehow. We could do another person on the stock watch team. To help cover for others or share a duties on a particular day. It is pretty straightforward. If you are interested please contact me or Elaine from BBOWT using the contact details on the A4 signs on the gates.

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

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

Our annual August day trip, this year on **8** August is to Chiltern Open Air Museum. Let me know if you'd like to come to either trip. Everyone welcome, men too! Children welcome on the August trip.

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>

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

Thank you Sarah for stepping in at the last minute to host the July group meeting – much appreciated! The next Sewing Group will be on Wednesday August 28th at Maggie's new home in Chiltern View – welcome Maggie to Little Milton! We meet from 11.00 onwards to sew, knit, chat, quilt, embroider and mend!! Our meetings are always on the fourth Wednesday of each month between 11.00 and 3-4pm so the September date will be on the 25th. If you're new to the village and want to meet people or even if you've lived here years do come along and join us...you would be made very welcome.

Sally Ann Dennis

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

What a musical time we have had in school recently! We are delighted to be able to provide the children with weekly music lessons from specialist music teachers to broaden and enrich their school experience, strengthening their talents across the curriculum. There has also been more singing in school than usual, as we have been practising our songs for the Leavers' Assembly.

On Monday morning, we had the best start to the school week as we were treated to Corinne's pupils' wonderful keyboard performances. Having also enjoyed a Christmas concert in the autumn term, it was incredible to see how much progress the children had made, and they were already good before! All the children performed confidently and skilfully, with the addition of tricky duets as well this time. Well done to all the children who performed because they have been practising hard and a special thank you to Corinne for all her hard work.

On Tuesday, we received confirmation of our KS2 SATS results from the Department for Education and felt incredibly proud of all our year 6 children. Their scores are testament to their efforts, hard work and resilience and we are delighted with the progress they have made during the year. A particular thank you to Mrs Graham and the year 6 team who have worked incredibly hard to prepare and support the children through the SATS process.

On Wednesday afternoon, our Key Stage 2 children shared their amazing progress with woodwind instruments in their end of year concert. The children performed brilliantly to the whole school with an impressive selection of instruments: bassoons, flutes, toots and clarinets! Not only did they play brilliantly, but they also sang beautifully with very impressive performances. It is also worth noting that all the children were able to read the music notation without any letters to help, enabling them to apply that skill across the music curriculum in future. A huge well done to all the children who performed and to Mrs Robertson who produced the concert and has taught the children all year.

Maples class enjoyed their final Forest School session of the year recently and the year 1 children joined them as part of our transition programme. They had a wonderful final session. We feel incredibly fortunate to be able to offer the children this enrichment in such a beautiful local setting and we continue to be grateful to Elena, our Forest School Lead, for all her hard work. We are delighted that she will be continuing Forest School next term as it is very popular with children and staff.

We have also enjoyed our annual Sports Day. Fortunately, the weather behaved well, and everyone was able to enjoy a great afternoon. We are very proud of the effort that all the children gave and the supportive attitudes evident on the field, which is what the children at Little Milton do best. It's always great to see the older children supporting the younger children without prompting, so that everyone feels part of the school community. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you very much too all the families who were able to attend to show their support. Congratulations to the Yellow team, who were the overall winners.

James & Hannah Co-Headteachers

NOTE FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS

We wish all our leavers the very best for the future. Special and heartfelt thanks go to Caroline, Hannah, James, Sarah and Sue for their huge contributions to our school over

many years. We will miss you all and look forward to hearing about your new and exciting adventures.

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

We have woodchip! Thanks to Marck for arranging the delivery of quite a lot of it to the allotment site. Please help yourself. It is particularly good as a mulch and does help break down the clay or improve the sand depending upon the type of soil you have.

Many of the areas of the site had become a jungle, but I managed to get the small tractor over to chop back the tall grasses and nettles in front of the plots. I did notice a muntjac had been using it as a nice area to have a snooze, although it was also using my plot to bask in the sun, nibbling the odd leaf of my squashes in the process.

Finally my beans are growing well. Squashes are in and with their roots above a nice bit of well-rotted kitchen scrap compost they should soon blanket the area they are in. It is not too late to plant lettuces, radishes, more carrots and maybe even another lot of beans if we have a warm autumn. You can also plant any potatoes growing in your fridge as they are pretty good at producing more. Raspberries are now producing and when you get to read this the hedgerows will be providing lots of blackberries on the reserve. If you have tomato plants watch out for blight. It seems that a good teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda in a can of water showered over the leaves can help to prevent the blight as blight is fungus and they don't like alkali conditions. Might also work for black spot on roses but I haven't tried it.

Happy harvesting!

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Since my comments on last month's issue, things have moved on somewhat, the area of Black Grass in the Lupine field has practically dominated the lupines, so much so that there will be no crop to harvest in about 60% or more of the field, this calls for some drastic action. The rest of the field does not look too bad and, maybe has more flowers per plant than previous years, which is actually a good sign, as each flower ends up being a pod of beans. We were asked to grow this crop for seed, when the purchaser's agent came to look at them the other day, I found him in the field sending a video and talking to his contact in Ukraine, who had produced the seed, just seemed odd to be dealing direct with that poor war torn country, just shows life has to go on.

Sadly, this year there seems to have been less Swifts, Swallows, and Martins, I suppose something due to the lack of insects, who knows, certainly none nesting in our grain store as normal. Perhaps this is because the shooting in southern Europe is better with less getting past that barrage. It is reported generally that Blackbird numbers are severely depleted I, challenge anyone to come and sit in our garden and say that!

Having recently spent some time in the north of the country, it was somewhat reassuring to me to see that crops all over the country, had suffered the rigours of the last year or so's weather and, that it was not just our bad farming practices. These conditions have certainly made us come to the conclusion that we need to think seriously about some of our modern practices and, just maybe that the fight against climate change is beyond our grasp, or at least understand, it may take longer than we would wish. I think we also have to remember that at the end of the day we farmers have to be allowed to make a living, with all the pressures on us to do the right thing but, it may well take time. Life is getting more and more complicated for us all, I don't believe it is beyond the wit of man to overcome these issues but, as I have said before it may well take time. We will continue to continue with more experimentation without taking too much notice of so-called experts, media and, "activists"! However, it was good to be back and see that the home turf was still there and, in fact in reasonably good heart. The heavy rain on the 6th July will have given the crops a final boost before Harvest, which we are now madly planning for sadly though with the lack of crops this will not be a bonanza this year, but harvest will be an easier operation.

It was noticeable how things had grown in just the twelve days we were away not just brambles, that had grown some 3 feet but, everything hedgerows, garden plants, etc.; talking of which our strawberries have produced an amazing amount in spite of the fact they have had little attention. (I think we have had at least 30 days of picking)

By now we are beginning to understand what our new Government has install for us, as the countryside, agriculture and, the environment, have not featured to a great extent, in either party's commitments, I did get the impression that politicians were beginning to understand the way the countryside works and, why certain issues are important to us. Having read reports of the Kings speech I am not so reassured. I am also concerned that our local MP is part of a rural County Council that made decisions which were not that helpful to the rural communities. The new administration says it is going to; Build, build, build, no mention of preserving the countryside that we are forever being told has been depleted of wildlife/nature etc.: or the control of sewage, or just run off, let alone the carbon foot print of all that concrete. I still need convincing that we need all this housing, I know I have been saying his for a long time and the houses still seem to be occupied as soon as they are finished so I guess they are needed. Nor do they mention other infrastructure, Schools, employment, Doctors, Roads, village congestion, and so it goes on. Now they are intending to relax or, abolish planning controls concerning on shore wind & solar farms, so now not only will we be losing productive land to produce energy, also with our countryside covered in Windmills. It seems to me that our new administration is more concerned in human beings than wildlife, which makes me wonder why we have bothered to expend so much energy in trying to preserve the environment, (something we all thought the public was pressing us to do) when, at a stroke a government can just change it all. Certainly, we have to take measures to curb climate change; in doing so we have to accept our energy will have to cost us more, and also that the change will happen over time, it is a great mistake to try and achieve it overnight, gradually human ingenuity will come up with the solutions we need. If we are not careful the country will turn out to be one urban sprawl, completely devoid of nature.

Charles Peers

FREDDIE VAN MIERLO MP

I have contacted Freddie to congratulate him on becoming our MP. As you know we had a monthly report from John Howell and I suspect that it may not have been read by everyone but it did provide an important link between our MP and his constituents. I have offered Freddie the same opportunity.

You can email Freddie on any constituency matters at freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk.

Editor

SO LOTTERY- SUPPORT LITTLE MILTON SHOP

Firstly, a heartfelt thanks to the twenty-four people within the Village who support our Village Shop and Post Office by participating in the South Oxfordshire Charitable Lottery. Last year you raised for your shop a one of sum of $\pounds1,324$ and in addition approximately $\pounds88$ per month making a Grand total of $\pounds2,380$. In these challenging times for small business this level of support is so important and very much appreciated. Therefore, why not participate in supporting your Shop and Post Office by playing the weekly charitable lottery and have the chance of winning $\pounds25,000$. In addition, throughout the year there are Super Draws where extra prizes can be won,

For example, this month the Prize is



To participate is simple go to <u>www.socharitable.co.uk</u> select "Play Lottery" enter Little Milton Shop on the tab search for a cause" and then chose the amount of tickets you wish to purchase. You can play for as little as a £1 a week paid for by monthly Direct Debit. Fifty percent of your weekly donation will go towards your chosen cause and a further Ten% will go to other South Oxfordshire Charity.

Thank you in anticipation and to our current and hopefully new supportersBon Chance

Kevin Hunt – Chairman Little Milton Shop

ST JAMES' LITTLE MILTON CHURCH A Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Saturday August 31st 2024 The Manor, Gold Street, Little Milton

Afternoon Tea, Beer Garden, Pimms Stand, 'Best Hat' Competition, Live Music and activities for the whole family

Grand Raffle with Fabulous Prizes Gates open 3.00 p.m.

Entry by FREE TICKET from Little Milton Post Offic



Walks Programme 2024 AUGUST

Thursday 1 st	Opportunity to walk Thame Outer Circuit (Part 3, 11 miles), starting 9:30am at Thame Town Hall.
Thursday 8 th	Scenic 5 mile walk from Cadmore End via Turville and Fingest with good mix of woods and open views. Booking required.
Saturday 10 th	Leisurely 4 mile walk from Thame Museum following Thame Inner Circuit.
Tuesday 13 th	Gentle, social 2 ¹ / ₂ mile walk from Rectory Farm, Stanton St. John, with coffee/snacks at the finish.
Thursday 15 th 10:3	30am Leisurely 7 mile walk from Chalgrove with pizza/pasta lunch at Half Moon PH in Cuxham at the midway point.
Sunday 18 th 11am	$7\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk from Brill, the windmill. Bring a picnic, but option for cream tea at Brill church on return.
Thursday 22 nd	Pleasant, Chilterns 7½ mile walk from Rotherfield Peppard via Shepherd's Green. Bring a picnic. Booking required.
Saturday 24 th	Leisurely 6 miles from Tiddington. Bring a picnic.
Thursday 29 th	8½ mile walk from Chinnor, Mill Lane car park, via nature reserves and Sprigs Alley. Bring a picnic.
Saturday 31 st	5 ¹ / ₂ miles from Oxford High St, by Queen's Lane Coffee House, via parks and Iffley church, finishing at St. Clements. Opportunity for pub lunch at end of walk.
,	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.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: c/o Bates Wells, 10 Queen Street Place. London EC4R 1BE.

Age Concern Chalgrove Ares

CHALGROVE TUESDAY CLUB

Our Day Centre runs on Tuesdays from 10.00 until 2.00

We provide refreshments, a hot two-course lunch and activities and entertainment for our members

We have speakers, singers and musicians – exercise, Chair Pilates and Indoor Kurling and other activities

Our minibus collects members from Chalgrove, and can also serve Stadhampton and Little Milton

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Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for *pre-booked* consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

Drink Coaches - Are you consuming too much alcohol? You can take the Alcohol Test – it's free, online, quick and confidential – taking just two minutes. Work out how risky your drinking is and access personalised advice online and find out where you can get support in Oxfordshire.

https://www.morland-house.co.uk/drink-coach-take-the-test/

Whooping cough, a bacterial infection that affects the lungs, has been rising in many countries since December 2023. It is a cyclical disease and a peak year is long overdue. Vaccination in pregnancy and childhood are important for protection but both have fallen in recent years. It is treated by antibiotics. For more information on symptoms and treatment visit <u>www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/</u>

The NHS launched the **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)** on 31st January (see <u>NHS</u> <u>Pharmacy First Service (PFS) | NHSBSA)</u> Appointments can be booked directly with participating pharmacies for the treatment of 7 common health conditions namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. Pharmacists can offer advice to patients and supply NHS medicines where clinically appropriate. This will help reduce the pressure on Morland House Surgery. As an example, appointments with Wheatley Pharmacy can be booked (often the same day) by phoning

01865 874047 or via the website www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book

Group Consultation Clinics – A group clinic is currently being offered for the menopause and probably other conditions. The benefits include a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

Morland House Surgery Website For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit <u>www.morland-house.co.uk.</u> The new updated MHS website went live in June. If you open the website home page and it still looks the same you will need to click the 'refresh' button.

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <u>https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p</u>

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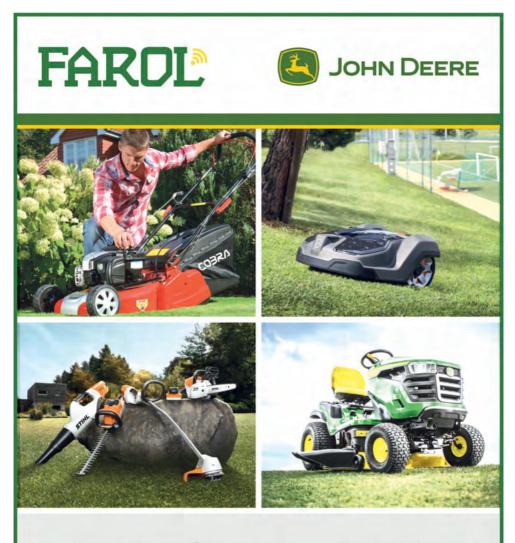
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August & September

Waterperry Gardens - inspirational gardens & plants, expert advice, sumptuous food & great ideas for the home & garden, the perfect place to come with family & friends.

Waterperry Opera Festival -9 until 18 August The opera festival with a difference... not just grand opera, but family fun & entertainment too over 10 days across the Waterperry Estate.

Oxford Storytelling Festival – 23 until 25 August An enchanted realm of Myth, Magic and Mystery, an intimate festival weaving magic with stories, spoken word, poetry and song.

Theatre: Little Mermaid by IK Productions – 31 August, 5pm-6.30pm Brand new family show is great for all ages from tiny tots to big kids, so hop aboard and sail the sea with The Little Mermaid!

Waterperry House Open weekend: 31 Aug & 1 September A chance to meet the owners of Waterperry Estate, the School of Philosophy and Economic Science. A varied selection of lectures, talks and tours throughout the 'open house' weekend. No pre-booking is required.

Autumn Wellness Retreat with Rina Golan: 13 until 15 September 3-day retreat run by Rina Golan to support your overall well-being.

Herbaceous Borders Old and New – 27 September 10.30am – 3.30pm One day course - practical advice about planning and designing, planting and maintaining your own border.

Tuesday 17 September: gardens open in aid of the National Garden Scheme For further information and booking details please visit www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

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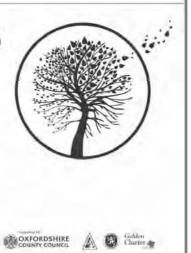
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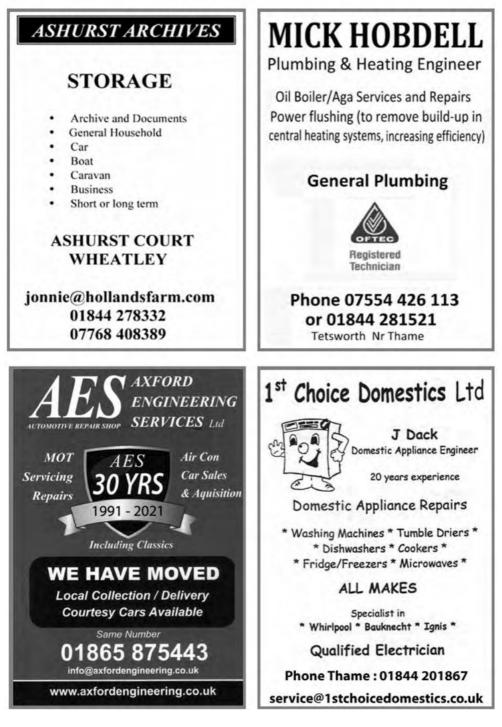
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Front Cover: A Broad bodied chaser dragonfly taken in the farmyard by the pond – Paul Jeffery

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