

Little Milton *Newsletter*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: APRIL 2025

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	5th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	6th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James’
Tues	8th	9.30–10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	9th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council Pine Lodge
Thurs	10th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge WI Meeting Pine Lodge
Frid	11th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	13th	10.30 a.m.	Family Service – St James’
Tues.	15th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	16th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	17th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge Craft Evening Pine Lodge
Frid	18th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Tues	22nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	23rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: Sarah McLean MMD
Thurs	24th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge
Frid	25th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	27th	9.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP- St May’s Benefice Morning Worship – St Peter’s
Tues	29th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	30th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
MAY			
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’

PLEASE NOTE If in doubt please check with the event organiser that the event is still taking place at the date and time stated.

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 2025

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

Haseley Trading Estate

The Head of Development and Corporate Landlord for South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils together with a colleague provided an update on Haseley Trading Estate.

The joint District Councils purchased the trading estate in December 2024. Since the purchase the site has been secured by fencing and work to remove trees from the woodland that have been identified as unsafe. A public footpath runs through the site.

Focus is currently centered on conducting surveys and information gathering that will inform a potential planning application for the development of the site related to the logistic requirements of the district councils. A public consultation is planned for 28 April 2025 between 3-7pm at Pine Lodge, Little Milton. A leaflet drop is planned to inform residents of the consultation.

Report by District Councillor

District Councillor Georgina Heritage had circulated her monthly report and highlighted the following: diligent financial management has ensured that South Oxfordshire District Council can deliver a balanced budget for 2025-26 and marks the first time in nine years that the council has not needed to transfer funds from reserves. The District Councillor grant budget will increase by 50%, to £7,500 per Councillor, while the Capital and Revenue grant schemes for voluntary organisations will continue.

Planning

It was noted that the District Council has granted permission for application P25/S0529/LDP - 46 Chiltern View, Little Milton, OX44 7QP - Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed rear extension extending 3.5m from main rear elevation.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Denby had reviewed the Emergency Plan for the village and amended some contact details. A copy of the revised plan will be put on the website and sent to Oxfordshire County Council's Emergency Planning Department.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Highways

Following a request from the parish council, District Councillor Heritage wrote to Thames Water to express the parish council's frustration that issues they have been raising with Thames Water (some of which since 2015) are now being met with zero response.

Thames Water replied to the points raised in the letter and will ask one of their Senior Complaints Advisors, to provide further updates.

Cllr Heritage will continue to press County Officers for more information on the clearance of Haseley Brook.

Cllr Harrison will send an expression of interest for the village to be included in OCC's Priority Action flood projects 2025/6.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th April 2025**, 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

PLANS FOR HASELEY TRADING ESTATE

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are the new owners of the Haseley Trading Estate the former Ariens/Contax site.

The councils have purchased the site for operational purposes. As responsible landowners, they are currently carrying out a series of surveys on the site including management of the woodland.

The councils' intention is to be good neighbours, and they are looking forward to engaging with the local community as they develop plans for the site.

There is a drop-in session for anyone wanting to find out more about the site on Monday 28 April 2025 between 3pm and 7.30pm at Little Milton village hall. No need to book – just drop by.

Further information is available at www.southandvale.gov.uk/HaseleyTradingEstate which will be regularly updated with information and an FAQ.

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 £53.50 for up to 3 items and £10.25 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 – APRIL 2025

	Brown	Grey		Green	Food
1st April	Yes	No		Yes	Yes
8th April	No	Yes		No	Yes
15th April	Yes	No		Yes	Yes
23rd April ++	No	Yes		No	Yes
29th April	Yes	No		Yes	No

++ Change of day due to Easter Bank Holiday

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GEORGINA HERITAGE UPDATE

Meetings and Council Activity

The district council [met on Thursday 13 February](#) and approved its **2025-2026**

Budget. Diligent financial management has ensured that South Oxfordshire District Council can deliver a balanced budget for 2025-26 and marks the first time in nine years that the council has not needed to transfer funds from reserves.

Major funding will be made available to support the purchase of more **affordable housing** across South Oxfordshire. Having already committed £10 million to provide more safe, secure and compliant housing, purchased under the Local Authority Housing Funding (LAHF) schemes, the district council has now committed to make a further £10 million available to support the council's long-term ambitions to meet local housing need.

The budget also includes funding to secure the future of the council's **Community Hub** on an ongoing basis. This valued service provides practical support and advice for those with cost-of-living concerns or who are finding life difficult.

Since launching in 2020, the Community Hub has supported thousands of residents across the district and provided more than £800,000 in vouchers and grants to households experiencing financial hardship. This has ensured people were able to pay vital energy bills and afford household essentials and food. A further £200,000 has been awarded to local voluntary and community organisations, helping them continue their invaluable support provided to residents.

The **councillor grant** budget will increase by 50%, to £7,500 per councillor, while the Capital and Revenue grant schemes for voluntary organisations will continue.

The council will continue to fund an ongoing programme to improve **leisure centres**, including major decarbonisation & refurbishment projects at Thame Leisure Centre, such as solar panels, a sauna and gym equipment replacement. TLC opening hours will be maintained despite the high cost of energy, which renewables will help with.

Council tax for services provided by South Oxfordshire District Council will be set at £151.24 for a Band D property. This means just £2.91 per week for a wide range of services including waste and recycling collections, community support, leisure services, parks and play areas, housing and planning services, environmental health and licensing.

Other key items considered at the busy meeting included the council's new council plan. Councillors reviewed **The Way Ahead: Council Plan 2025-2029** and will adopt it going forward.

The Council also formally adopted four **neighbourhood plans**, marking a significant step forward for local placemaking. A new neighbourhood plan for Berinsfield was welcomed alongside updated plans for Thame, Wallingford, and Crowmarsh, ensuring they continue to carry full weight in planning decisions. The lack of clarity in Clifton Hampden's Neighbourhood Development Order meant this item was refused.

An extraordinary district council meeting was then held on 20th February in order to discuss the government's white paper on **local government reorganisation**.

At the public meeting we discussed a wide range of matters related to the subject, including the two options for the creation of a new unitary authority, either incorporating the whole of Oxfordshire or combining South Oxfordshire with neighbouring Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire. The council has previously expressed the view that a unitary council which covers the whole of the county would be too large to respond to local need.

Earlier this month, councils across Oxfordshire were invited to submit initial proposals for unitary councils by 21 March, with final plans required by 28 November. As part of these discussions, SODC officers have been constructively and openly discussing potential unitary options alongside all councils in Oxfordshire. They have also been holding discussions with West Berkshire Council and the Vale about the possibility of a new unitary council combining the three areas.

Back in **Haseley Brook**, I'm delighted that the second Capital Grants panel meeting resulted in a successful outcome for **Little Milton**'s application towards solar panels; this is the second application for solar panel funding in the Haseley Brook ward and I look forward to seeing the completed work to both Lewknor's and Little Milton's halls. SODC's grants programmes are hugely popular and, as I've recently learned, becoming a rarer offering from many councils. There will be a useful SODC grants advice session on 20th May, and I'll list details of this below.

I was really delighted to attend the opening of **Stadhampton**'s fabulous new playground equipment on Friday 28th March. The ribbon was cut by our MP Freddie van Mierlo, but the hard work of getting to this stage was thanks to the parish council and in particular Cllr Jess Edwards, who sourced the funding and managed this exciting project. It was a pleasure to witness the children's excitement and a great example of a community pulling together to achieve something special. The old playground was very well loved but had reached the end of its life. The exciting new design is accessible, inclusive, and will no doubt be enjoyed by local families for many more years to come.

Over £1.4 million grants to be available

SODC confirmed that its budget for 2025/2026 includes continued financial support of organisations in the district that help residents, businesses and the environment, meaning South Oxfordshire will benefit from £1,450,000 over the next year through a range of grant schemes to support community projects.

To help organisations plan their applications the council is hosting an event at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Thursday 20 March, with appointments available to book from 12.30-4pm.

Voluntary and community organisations will have the opportunity to discuss projects, ask questions about the application process including eligibility for any of the upcoming grant schemes. Places are limited, and you can book a time slot by emailing grants@southandvale.gov.uk or phone 01235 422405.

The following schemes will be launching over the next year:

- Everyone Active Grant: 1 April - 26 May
- Capital Grant: 2 June - July
- Performing Arts Grant: 28 July - 5 September
- Councillor Community Grants: 18 August - 5 December
- Community Infrastructure Levy Grant: January 2026

As Cabinet member for Communities, I'm so pleased we can continue this vital support for voluntary and community organisations and local businesses over the next financial year. We know how hard it is financially for organisations to do the work they do to help others in our communities and improve the environment that we all cherish so much.

SODC is also hoping to announce further support for businesses and communities through the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) in the coming months.

For more information on the eligibility requirements and the previous projects that SODC has funded, have a look at the [grants pages](#) on their website.

Bringing empty homes back into use

Property owners are being offered support to bring empty homes back into use, to help meet local housing needs. Financial assistance towards refurbishing properties where eligible, rent in advance and help with finding a tenant are some of the support options available to empty homeowners from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils. Property owners could also benefit from reduced VAT for works on empty homes - if the owner is paying the Long-Term Empty Property Premium tax (payable if a property has been empty for more than two years). The council's team can talk property owners through the various benefits and options available for preparing a property for renting out or selling.

An estimated 1,092 properties (549 in South Oxfordshire, 543 in the Vale) are currently empty, but could once more become a home for those who need it most.

Some of these homes are unoccupied for a good reason – such as undergoing major refurbishment or awaiting sale. This initiative will target those properties that may need some extra help in being brought back into use.

Members of the public can also play a part in bringing empty homes back into use by reporting empty properties to the councils. Local residents have already reported 59 empty homes (19 in South Oxfordshire, 40 in the Vale) and 29 are now back in use.

Every empty property has the potential to become a home for someone who really needs it, and demand for affordable housing in our district is very high. It's hoped that the extra help SODC is offering property owners will be a real incentive to work with us on turning properties around so they can be a home once more.

Public consultation on charity collection policy

Residents, charities and businesses in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are encouraged to comment on a new policy for charity collections across the two districts. Aimed at safeguarding donors and beneficiaries, ensuring fair access to collection opportunities and preventing unlicensed fundraising, the proposed policy introduces key measures, including:

- A requirement for applicants to provide detailed supporting material about their charity.
- Restrictions on where collections can take place to prevent blanket district-wide collections.
- A minimum of 80 per cent of money donated during house-to-house collections to go to the charitable cause.
- A fairer allocation of street collection opportunities.
- Clear grounds for refusing applications and licence revocations.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are keen to hear from local people and organisations to help shape the final version of the policy before it is implemented.

The consultation is open until 11.59pm on Wednesday 26 March 2025. For more information and to take part, visit southandvale.gov.uk/CharityCollectionsConsultation

As I was quoted in the recent press release on this policy, charity collections play a vital role in supporting good causes, but it's essential to ensure they are well-regulated and fair for everyone. This policy will help protect donors, ensure transparency and create a level playing field for all charities.

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: APRIL 2025

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
6th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	
13th April	11.15 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
20th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Simeon Mitchell	Easter Sunday
27th April	11.00 a.m..	Great Milton	Anderson	
4th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

Wednesday 2nd April

18.00 Compline

St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 6th April

9.00 Holy Communion

St James' Little Milton

10.30 Family Worship

St Peter's Great Haseley

Wednesday 9th April

18.00 Compline

St James' Little Milton

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday)

9.00 Holy Communion

St Mary's Great Milton

10.30 Family Worship

St James' Little Milton

Thursday 17th April (Maundy Thursday)

19.00 Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

Friday 18th April (Good Friday)

11.00 Good Friday Reflection St Mary's Great Milton

Saturday 19th April

18.00 Eater Vigil St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 20th April (Easter Sunday)

10.30 Family Communion St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 27th April

9.00 Holy Communion BCP St Mary's Great Milton

10.30 Benefice Morning Worship St Peter's Great Haseley

12.00 Annual Parochial Church Meeting St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 4th May (Rogation Sunday)

9.00 Holy Communion St James' Little Milton

10.30 Family Worship (Fields Farm Great Haseley)

LENT LUNCHESES

These have been well attended but as there is still one more to go at the time of writing the final total raised for Christian Aid and a fuller write up will follow in the May Newsletter...

S A Dennis

RECTOR'S PINT

Probably my favourite character of all those involved in the story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is Thomas. We don't hear of him until the Sunday following Easter, but he has a vital role to play.

I'm so glad that Thomas is included in the story, even though he has been given the negative label 'Doubting Thomas'. According to John's Gospel, where we read his story, he was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them following the Resurrection. When Thomas heard the story, he was naturally incredulous, and famously said, "unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe". John records that Thomas got his chance a week later, when Jesus came once again and stood among his disciples. This time Thomas was there as well. Jesus said, "Peace be with you", and then, turning to Thomas, he said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe".

Reflecting on this whole story, I would rather have him called 'Questioning Thomas'. He knows that people don't rise from the dead, so why should he believe a report that, at the time, probably looked like group hysteria? But as John records, Thomas does come to believe when he is confronted with a truth so extraordinary that he cannot avoid it. I take to heart that Jesus does not rebuke him, but simply invites him to stop doubting. I also note that it was 'Doubting' Thomas who was the first to proclaim of Jesus, 'My Lord and my God!'

I've been a Christian since I was 20, I am now 65. I had my own journey which led me to look at the evidence, and that resulted in my own profession of faith. Most importantly, I came to believe for myself in the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. I've had many doubts since, mostly to do with the way things are, and making sense of

God in a confusing world of change and chance. There is one thing though that I have not been able to get away from, and this is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. After forty-five years, I still find it so compelling. It's like an anchor to which my own faith is attached, and it has held firm for all these years.

The theologian and bishop, Tom Wright describes the Resurrection of Christ as his 'vindication'. It lies at the heart of faith, and trust, and hope in God. It shows that ultimately, nothing can defeat the love and purposes of God.

'Christ is risen; he is risen indeed. Alleluia'. A Happy Easter to you all.

Simon

Calling all Easter crafters – there is an Easter Garden Craft Morning at the Pavilion in Great Milton on 12th April from 10am – 12 noon. Hear the Easter story told in a magical way and make your own Easter Garden!. There's a nominal £5 fee for materials. Please let us know if you'd like to reserve a place: simon.cronk@btinternet.com 01844 278349 or trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk 01844 279380.

ST JAMES' LITTLE MILTON CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church's electoral roll is a written declaration of the number of members of the church's community. Having your name on the roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Committee and/or other Deanery appointments. It also ensures that you're kept up to date with important decisions regarding the church and its activity in the community.

Every five years, the PCC is required to completely revise the church electoral roll, to make sure all our members are represented, and all the details we have on file are up to date. If you are already on the roll and wish to stay on it, you'll need to resubmit your details. If you aren't on the roll and would like to be, now is the right time to let us know.

You can be registered on the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised, are over 16 years old, and are resident in the Parish. If you're not resident, but attend our services reasonably regularly you can also apply to be registered. However, other than in exceptional circumstances, you can only be registered on the Electoral Roll of one church at any one time.

All we need is your name, and an address and/or email address.

You can register by emailing the secretary of the PCC at : victoriajbarry@gmail.com, and we'll send you the forms. Alternatively, forms are available in the church porch, and can be returned to the Secretary at 8 Thame Road, Little Milton OX44 7PZ.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR APRIL

W/E 6th April	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield/E
W/E 13th April	–	Mrs Maggie Bell & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 20th April	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 27th April	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 4th May	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

W/E 6th April	-	Lent
W/E 13th April	-	Lent
W/E 20th April	-	Easter -All helpers please
W/E 27th April	-	Cathy
W/E 4th May	-	Cathy

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

February

1st	No 12	Joanne Major	£12.00
No	No 45	Layla & Louie Morgan	£8.00
3rd	No 41	Carl Major	£6.00

March

1st	No 47	Teresa Qusted	£12.00
No	No 82	Mr Hill	£8.00
3rd	No 57	Hilary Mogford	£6.00

Dinae Austin on behalf of The Friends of Little Milton School

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Spring is here, the birds are singing, the leaves and flowers are appearing and it is beginning to warm up. Time to get out and enjoy the countryside!

We had some challenges with the Dexter cattle last month. They managed to get through a gate at the bottom of Barn Field and into the Spinney where Forest School meet. Fortunately, it wasn't the same day. There was a padlock on it but it could be lifted over it. Apparently, cows can accidentally open a gate when licking the catch with their tongue but we are surprised that they could open the gate wide open inwards. While they were out, they enjoyed eating as many ivy leaves as they could find. A bit like children in a sweet shop. Who knew they liked ivy so much. Fortunately, they were well behaved and I could guide them back along the path into the field. They kept looking back over their shoulders like naughty kids in trouble. Anyway, the gate is now fully secured with a chain. Then later in the month one of them managed to get through a fence in one corner for a short while although he couldn't get far. They are mischievous! By the time you read this they would have moved fields and possibly moved off site altogether to spend the summer.

Towards the end of the month, you may see a few more sheep appearing, if not the beginning of May. May is shearing time and there will be several flocks coming from various reserves to have their woolly winter coats removed. These visitors will be a bit flighty and so it is essential people keep their dogs on a lead through these fields.

The four former arable fields either side of the bridle path to Great Haseley have been fenced off. This is mainly due to horse riders choosing to go in the fields instead of using the bridleway primarily. Strictly speaking that is trespassing. BBOWT had applied for SFI grant money to carry out some rewilding in these fields but you may have read the Government had suddenly pulled the plug on SFI so the project is now stuck until another funding opportunity arises. You may see some activity in these fields though. More on that as things develop and I can confirm.

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

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Lots of activity up at the allotments recently. Great so have some new tenants again this year with lots of energy. Normally we have an informal meeting once a year to go through any issues and share ideas in March but this year it will have to be Saturday April 5th at 3pm near the shed. Allotment holders should also receive an email from me about it and I will add it to the WA group. Please can you separate any inorganic material from any other waste you remove from your plots. If debris gets in the way I cannot use the tractor to cut any areas where the grass or brambles get out of control.

If anybody has a local horse manure supplier that would be really helpful as we need some.

Happy growing

Paul Jeffery - (paulj201@hotmail.com)

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

Thank you Mary D. for hosting the group last month... a good time was had by all able to join the group... This month in April we're meeting in Milton Manor Drive at Sarah McClean's home on **Wednesday 23rd April** from 11.00 onwards... If you're a regular just turn up but if you've never been before and would like to find out more and/or come and join us do telephone me on 01844 278029!?

Sally Ann Dennis

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

Thank to everyone who came along to the AGM in March and to Roz for doing the birthday posies and yummy teas. We heard interesting stories about member's prized possessions, including 'Liberace Cooks!' and enjoyed looking back at the WI archives.

On **Thursday 10th April 7.30pm**, we have our first speaker from the new 2025/26 programme, **Alyce Hoban on Keeping Fit & Healthy**. Come and try us out, become a member for £51 or just come along for tea, cake and chat. **Everyone always welcome, men too!** Visitors £6.

Do you live in Little Milton, Great Milton, The Haseleys, Stadhampton or surrounding villages, new to the area, want to meet new people, make new friends? Then join Tons Together WI and meet like-minded, local women of all ages in an informal, friendly group.

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm.

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

Like us at www.facebook.com/Impinelodge

Pine Lodge website: www.lmvh.org.uk

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

VIEW FROM VIEWS

Firstly, I feel I must correct an error, when writing about the Egrets on the receding floods, I got my beaks mixed up, I thought it was Little Egrets that had black beaks not the more common Little Egrets, so we have Little ones not the more rear Cattle.

1st of March which is supposed to be the 1st day of metrological spring, I think might be right this year after a long period of dull and dismal weather, the sun shone. I believe I made a similar remark at the beginning of February when there was a turn in the

weather, and my comments were the same. Just when we were beginning to think the weather would never cheer up it did, and quite warm, unfortunately not for long. (“spring has sprung, the grass is ris’ I wonder where d’em birdies is, some say d’em birds is on the wing, I thought the wing was on the bird”). By the middle of March, (Blackthorn winter) most crops looked as if they felt like us, a little warmer weather please. Due to the continual cold and dull weather I think extended the time the Snowdrops were in flower, and held the daffodils back as they were about to flower at the beginning of February, didn’t actually start to flower till the end of the month. Whatever the weather the birds visiting our garden have continued with long Tailed Tits becoming a more regular visitor, and the odd Cock Pheasant shouting that he has a lady friend nearby with a potential family.

On the farming front at moment, there is so much for us to take in that it is difficult to see the way forward. At the NFU annual conference I understand, our great Environment Minister announced issues which he felt illustrated that the government was committed to supporting agriculture, unfortunately, I understand this fell on deaf ears, as all delegates are still extremely concerned about the general attitude this Government has towards our industry. I am sure I am no different to any of my farming colleagues, in thinking just what should we be doing, the messages of change seem to be coming so thick and fast. Since when we have learned that if our land is required for national infrastructure, it will be compulsorily purchased at or below its agricultural value. Then we learn the much-heralded support for Agriculture has been halted for any new applicants, meaning anyone who had been encouraged to cancel a current scheme will be left with no payment. On top of all this, a “Land Use Framework” has just been announced, actually this on the face of it could make a lot of sense, as it suggests that land should be used to grow crops best suited to any particular soil type and, with the rationalisation of field boundaries cutting out for conservation odd corners and non-straight field edges.

At last, one MP has suggested we should be concentrating our agricultural policy on producing more food, that food security is more important than ever. He says government should be concentrating research on how to produce more from less, without harming the environment, apparently other countries are ahead of us in this direction. I think all the above facts show just how confusing things are for us, making it difficult to know which way turn.

It looks, thanks to Mr Trump the whole world order will have to change, making our food security even more important. Whatever happens we can be sure that it will mean that our taxes will inevitably have to rise even more. If this is the case, should we not rethink the way we levy our taxes by using income tax as a conduit, rather than taxing individual companies and organisations which after all are the ones that actually produce the wealth, rather than making the tax laws even more complicated, just a small amount would cover a great deal of the extra funding that may be needed. Most people could afford this tax rise, it certainly is worth it for our own security, allowances are already in place for those that are not in a position to pay taxes. Also, there must be a way to tax the wealthier so as not to encourage them to put their money abroad, and perhaps support their own country for a change.

I have just completed a litter pick along Windmill Hill between the forties and the bend towards Lt Milton (our road for those not local) having collected between 15 and 20 feed bags, I was planning to move to the forties next, but some kind soul or souls had

already done those thanks so much. I cannot understand why we as a nation have to rely on others to clear up items rather than take them home and put them into our waste bins

Finally I just want you all to know that the 1st June this year is the date for our annual sponsored Tractor Run, when we will be fielding 4 tractors again and hope to raise lots of money for the Air Ambulance. Owing to the generosity of readers and our other contacts Tom and I have donated well over £10,000 over the years, please help us continue to support this very worthwhile organisation. I have set up my Just Giving Page again.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5

Charles Peers

PROTECTING OUR RIVERS

How Sewage Treatment Works and Your Actions Matter

Did you know that what you flush down the toilet or pour down the sink can impact your local river? Many people don't realize that everyday habits at home can help keep our rivers clean and healthy. The good news? Small changes can make a big difference! If you're concerned about the health of your local rivers, there are simple actions you can take to help protect them. The things you flush or pour down your drains can have a big impact on the health of our local rivers because everything that goes down the drain ends up at your local sewage treatment works (STW). Waste that goes down the drain in VILLAGE travels through the sewers to the NAME of STW, where it's treated and then fed into the NAME of STREAM.

(The majority of STWs with info about what watercourse they feed into can be found on this Thames Water map: [EDM Map](#) | [Storm discharge data](#) | [River health](#) | [Thames Water](#) If you're unable to find your local STW or want to confirm which STW serves your local area, feel free to email Chels at chelsea@riverthame.org.)

How to Sewage Treatment Works...Works! Sewage treatment works are like giant fish tank filters, using the power of beneficial bacteria to break down organic waste, much like how composting breaks down food scraps. Each STW is unique, but they all use a network of pumps, tanks, and treatment beds to clean the wastewater. However, some materials cause serious issues—like plastics and other rubbish—which should never go down the drain. These items can't be broken down, leading to blockages, equipment failures, and pollution incidents that harm our rivers and the wildlife that depends on them.

Protect Your Pipes and Our Rivers with These Simple Tips Here are some simple steps to follow to help protect your local rivers and streams—and reduce the risk of blockages in your home plumbing:

- 1. Stick to the Three Ps**

Only flush **Pee, Poo, and Paper**—that's it! Items like wet wipes, sanitary products, and nappies don't break down the same way as toilet paper and can cause blockages in your pipes and at sewage treatment works. Even wipes labelled "flushable" should go in the bin. These products contain plastic and won't completely break down, even though they might disappear down the drain.

- 2. Keep Cooking Fat Out of Drains**

Cooking fats, oils, and grease solidify in pipes, leading to serious blockages. Instead of pouring them down the sink, collect fats in a container like a jam

jar or yogurt pot, let them cool, then scoop them out and dispose of them in the bin. Leftover food scraps should also be wiped into the bin before washing dishes. Some local councils offer special disposal methods for fats, so be sure to check with them for more information.

3. **Dispose of Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Safely**

Never pour chemicals like paint, petrol, or solvents down the drain—they can kill the beneficial bacteria that help treat wastewater, making the system less effective. Chemicals should be taken to a local recycling or waste facility. Medicines, syringes, and needles should be taken to your pharmacist or local health authority for safe disposal.

Why It Matters

Being mindful about what goes down your drains can help protect our local rivers, streams, and the vital wildlife they support. By taking these small actions, you'll also reduce the risk of blockages in your own plumbing, saving you from expensive repairs. This article was written in collaboration with River Thame Conservation Trust, a local charity working for a healthy river catchment with clean water and thriving wildlife, valued and enjoyed by local people. If you'd like to learn more about the River Thame catchment or find out how to get involved in local conservation efforts, visit www.riverthame.org

River Thame Conservation Trust

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE:LITTLE MILTON

Need a private Meeting Room, there is one in the Hall 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 , **Saturday 10:00-12:00** 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

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



A great place to grow

Happy Spring from The Maple Tree!

Thank you for bearing with us during our recent closure. We are now back in full swing;

Mondays: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Once Upon a Rhyme-Time at 9:30-11:30am and Mum's Cafe at 2:00-3:00pm. (This session offers you a safe space to come and chat to other mums and mums-to-be; a place to make friends and share your experiences, whether good or challenging)

Wednesdays: Baby Cafe at 9:30am-12:00pm (The Health Visitors are on hand on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:15-10:45 to answer questions and address concerns)

Thursdays: Little Explorers at 9:30-11:30am and at 10:30am-12:00pm The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall

Fridays: Little Chatterboxes at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday of each month, but on the second Saturday this month due to Easter.

All sessions include; a place for babies to play, arts and crafts for toddlers and older children, activities inside and out, a snack-time for little ones, a drink for the grown-ups, a listening and empathetic ear, and a circle time to close the session; all for a suggested donation of £3.00! (Yes, we have finally succumbed to a 50p increase after 7 years!)

We need some volunteers on Tuesday mornings from 9:30–11:30 and on Wednesday morning from 9:30-12:00. Do you have any spare time, enjoy working with children and families, and are you good at making a cuppa?! If so, please email Laura@mapletree.org.uk

Check out our Website and Facebook page for details about our programme and special events, including our popular Emergency Pediatric First Aid for parents and carers.

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer
The Maple Tree Centre Manager

THE CURLEW

The Curlew's wonderful 'bubbling' call is one of the most evocative sounds of springtime in meadows and pastures across Oxfordshire. Something we cherish, but which is sadly under threat. The Curlew is arguably the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK, where nearly half the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years and where range contraction has seen Curlews disappear from many traditional sites.

Watch our 'Curlew River' film which explores the work of farmers and volunteers to help our wonderful Curlews as well as highlighting the fabulous ancient meadows and wet grassland habitats that they inhabit in our area.

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/projects/curlew>

Thank you so much for all you have done for nature's recovery in the last year. Together we have brought people together, created more space for nature, and inspired more people to act for nature. Many people contribute to Wild Oxfordshire, and this support enables us to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all. If you would like to join in and are able to, we would greatly appreciate a contribution towards our work, either through a [one-off contribution](#), or a [monthly contribution](#). Check out our website to find out more about the many ways you can [support us](#) and our [recent achievements](#).

Mike Pollard, Wild Oxfordshire Curlew Recovery Project

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>

PS There is a stunning photograph on the front page courtesy of Wild Oxfordshire



Dear Residents of Little Milton,

It's been a busy few months since my last update, both in Parliament and here in the constituency. I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the key developments and actions that have taken place recently.

Improving ADHD Services in Oxfordshire

Our campaign to improve ADHD services in Oxfordshire is gaining traction. I joined other MPs in writing to the Health Secretary to call for urgent action, and I followed this up with a conversation with local NHS leaders to push for the restoration of much-needed specialist services. I am hopeful that some of these services, particularly for young adults transitioning from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) to adult services, will be brought back soon.

Local Council Developments

I will be stepping down in May as an elected Councillor but in February, I attended both council budget meetings:

- The Oxfordshire County Council budget included a historic £59 million increase in funding for road maintenance.

- At South Oxfordshire District Council, the budget was passed with an increase in grants for community and voluntary groups, which are vital for their continued support and success.

National Legislation and Water Issues

In January, there were some significant discussions on national legislation. One key piece of legislation focused on improving the regulation of water companies and addressing issues with sewage. Unfortunately, several proposed amendments to strengthen the Bill, such as tightening rules around bonuses for water company executives failing to meet performance standards, were not included in the final version.

I also spoke in support of an amendment that would enforce higher ecological standards in National Landscapes and National Trails. This is particularly important to us here in Oxfordshire, as we work to protect our countryside.

Flooding Crisis Update

The flooding crisis continues to be a priority for me. In response, I tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament calling for the Government to review eligibility criteria for flooding support schemes. It's vital that all affected properties are given the support they need.

Supporting Local Organisations

I was pleased to meet with the parents of the Oxfordshire Smartphone Free Childhood Thame group, where we discussed ways to improve online safety for our children. This meeting was ahead of the second reading of the Safer Phones Bill in March. I also visited Thame Citizens Advice and the Sharing Life Trust food bank, both of which are doing essential work in supporting vulnerable residents locally. It's clear that their efforts are invaluable, and I offered my support for the work they do in the community.

I was sorry to hear that the current postmistress in Great Milton is retiring, and we are actively exploring options to ensure that Post Office services remain available in our villages.

As always, I am holding regular surgeries and responding to residents on individual cases. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like to contact me, you can reach me at: freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

**Best wishes,
Freddie van Mierlo MP**

Walks Programme 2025

APRIL

- Thursday 3rd** Meet in Stokenchurch for an undulating 6 mile walk in the Chilterns, via Spriggs Alley.
- Friday 4th** 6½ mile walk from Watlington, recreation ground car park, up to Christmas Common, alongside Watlington Park and then back down One Tree Hill, looking for bluebells.
- Tuesday 8th** Gentle, social 2½ mile walk from Tiddington to Rycote Chapel, returning for coffee at the Fox & Goat PH.
- Monday 14th** 5 mile walk from Bradenham NT car park, Smalldean Lane, using quiet roads and tracks via Lacey Green windmill.
- Tuesday 22nd** 6 mile walk from Ewelme, Cow Common car park, via Swyncombe church and Swyncombe Downs, where there will be views all round.
- Thursday 24th** 9 mile walk with a few climbs from the green Northend, through Ibstone and Stonor Park. Bring a picnic.
- Wednesday 30th** A 7 mile walk with good views using fieldpaths and estate drives through parkland around Blenheim, starting at the Cock Inn, Coombe.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can 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

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

Covid Vaccine Clinics – Spring 2025 booster clinics will start again at MHS on 3rd
April. As usual, invites will be sent out to patients eligible for the vaccines well in
advance of the clinics.

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.

Online Resources for Clinical Help Did you know that there are many local services
to which you can make self-referrals without speaking to your GP? The Morland House
Surgery website lists the various options. Visit [Self-Referral – Morland House](#)

The NHS App is no longer accessible as a mobile app for anybody using older
devices. Patients using the following operating systems will no longer be able to
access the NHS App via the mobile app: iOS 12, 13 & 14 (*iOS 13 & 14 can be updated
to iOS15*), Android 6 & 7.

But you can still log in through the NHS website.

Visit **Morland House Surgery Website** for a wealth of information and guidance on
managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment: [www.morland-
house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) 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

Morland House Surgery (MHS) – Evolving Clinical Roles and Embracing Technology

In December 2024, Nollag McGrath, the MHS Practice Manager Partner, made a
presentation to the Wheatley Society on some of the changes taking place at the Morland
House Surgery. Below is a short summary.

Evolving Clinical Roles

In 2019 the NHS formed Primary Care Networks (PCNs). MHS is now part of the
Thame PCN, along with the Rycote Practice and the Chiltern & The Brook Surgeries.
The PCN has been expanding the clinical team, bringing new benefits and better care
to patients relieving pressure on GPs. MHS now has 2 clinical pharmacists, 1 pharmacy

technician, 2 social prescribers, 2 care coordinators and 1 paramedic. The role of each team is as follows:

Pharmacy Team: medication queries and advice, carry out annual medication reviews, provide medication advice to GPs, carry out mandated audits and quality improvement projects. **Social Prescribing Team:** helps identify practical, social and emotional needs affecting health and wellbeing. Links people to existing community resources, particularly people with one or more long term conditions, those who need support with low level mental health issues, are lonely or isolated and have complex social needs which affect their wellbeing. **Paramedic** sees various conditions and issues e.g. rashes, chest infections, lumps, migraines, general pains, high heart rate and wound issues. Also carries out home visits ahead of GP visit to take vitals and history. MHS has been introducing new technology channels by which patients can contact the surgery: New telephone digital system offering more lines, no engaged tone!!, call queueing, call back service, patient recognition & connection with clinical system and call recording.

eConsult – carry out an online consultation via the internet for free at anytime from anywhere for a health issue. Visit www.morland-house.co.uk, click 'Contact us online', complete the questionnaire and submit. Your eConsult will be viewed by a clinician and you will be contacted before the end of the following working day with the next steps.

Contact MHS via NHS App. The NHS App is a free, secure tool that allows patients (aged 13+) to access NHS services on their smartphone or tablet. You can book appointments, order repeat prescriptions, choose which pharmacy to collect from, view your GP patient health record, view messages from MHS, register your organ donation decision, choose how NHS uses your data etc. Use NHS 111 online to get instant advice or medical help near you. Other Technology Advancements: text messaging and emails, text invitations to book appointments.



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A man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt and a red patterned tie, is shown in profile, looking intently at a golden pocket watch he is holding. The watch has a white face with Roman numerals and is mounted on an ornate, golden metal case. The background is a wall with a blue and white floral pattern and several framed pictures.

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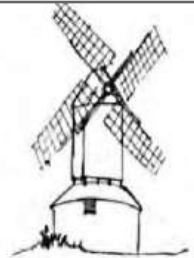
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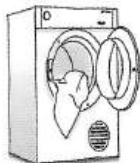
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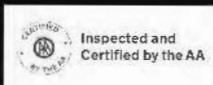
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