

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: JUNE 2024**

DATES FOR TOUR DIART. SUITE 2024				
Sun	2nd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'	
Mon	3rd	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge	
Tues	4th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	5th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	6th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	7th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	9th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James'	
Mon.	10th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge	
Tues.	11th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	12th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	Parish Council – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	13th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	WI – Pine lodge	
Frid	14th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Mon	17th	10.30-11.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge	
Tues	18th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	19th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.00 p.m.	Craft Evening – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	20th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	21st	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Morning Worship	
			- St James'	
Mon	24th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge	
Tues	25th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	26th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		11.00 a.m.	Sewing Group- Spring& Well	
			Cottage	
Thurs	27th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge	
Frid	28th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Sun	30th	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion St	
			James'	

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

### **SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2024**

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

### **Elections – 2024-25**

Cllr Francois van der Merwe was elected Chairman and Cllr Ed Horwell Vice Chairman for 2024-25. Representatives of Committees remained unchanged.

### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Wakeling reported the developer of the Milton House site on Gold Street has promised to display building materials at the site office once development commences. Archaeology surveys are currently being conducted on site

### Planning

It was noted the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following applications:

## P24/S0636/LB - Pear Tree Cottage, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE Installation of 11 solar panels onto the rear south facing roof.

### P24/S0951/HH - 31 Chiltern View, Little Milton, OX44 7QP

Single storey rear extension in place of an existing conservatory

### A329 Speed and HGV Issues

### Speed Indicator Device Signs (SIDs)

It was agreed to purchase one SID sign to be positioned on Church Hill facing traffic coming down the hill (exact position to be agreed with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways team. OCC Highways has agreed to provide the pole and install the device at their cost.

**Resolved** to purchase one Radar Speed Sign, Solar Panel / mounting kit and two batteries at a total cost of £2,339.99 excl., vat. It was further **Resolved** that funding will be taken from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

### Community Speed Watch

Six volunteers are fully trained, the next step is to liaise with Thames Valley Police to agree locations.

### **Traffic Survey**

The data from the second survey has been received. It shows speed has reduced. Overall, there has been a drop in all types of vehicles going through the village from 11,500 to 10,000 since the last survey was carried out in 2019. However, the number of HGV vehicles have increased from 1.5% to 4.5% of all traffic.

### **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

Further information has been provided to FCC (grant funder). It is hoped the project to refurbish the surfaces will start in August.

**Resolved** that the difference between grant funding (£54,000) and the total cost of the project (£66,480) will be paid from CIL receipts (£12,480).

A contractor has looked at the lighting and will provide a quotation for their upgrade.

### **Reports from Councillor Representatives**

### Open Green Spaces

Grass on the recreation ground will receive two weed / feed treatments during May. Replacement plants for the hedgerow will be purchased this month.

Planters and Millennium flower beds will be refreshed with spring / summer planting and an additional planter and water carrier will be purchased (agreed at a previous meeting).

SOHA has given permission for five trees to be planted in Old Field. It was agreed to purchase one tree (approx. cost £250) and phase the planting of further trees over the next 18 months.

### Playground

Wooden fencing around the playground has been replaced which includes a self-closing gate. Thanks was expressed to County Cllr van Mierlo for £1.5k of funding from his Councillor Grant Fund towards the cost of the fencing.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th June 2024**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

\*Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk\*\*

#### **Current Council members**

Current Council members	
Councillor François Van Der Merwe (Chairman)	07740 438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Ed Horwell	07527 346187
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438
	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire
	.gov.uk
District Councillor Georgina Heritage	georgina.heritage@southoxon.
	gov.uk

### SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress 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 <a href="www.southoxon.gov.uk">www.southoxon.gov.uk</a>

### Give your furniture to a good home

Have you considered donating your furniture to charity or a good home? Emmaus is an Oxford based charity that will come out to all areas of the county and collect unwanted furniture free of charge. For legal or practical reasons this does not include soft furnishings without a fire label, safety items, or any item that is not in a saleable condition. Please <u>visit the Emmaus website</u> for more details.

**BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – JUNE 2024** 

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
4th June	No	Yes	No	Yes
11th June	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
18th June	No	Yes	No	Yes
25th June	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

### **Spring Clean**

Following the excellent village spring cleans in Haseley Brook and with the ongoing problem of littering and fly tipping on the B4009, I met SODC's waste team leader and Biffa's streets supervisor there in April, to consider preventative and maintenance options, and to discuss access to the steep ditch areas. Regular monitoring of this area has now been diarised over the coming months and Biffa will access where they can. SODC will also introduce their mobile anti-littering signs to the area over the coming weeks, alongside random enforcement patrols, and will publicise this via the council's social media.

### Hundreds of new voices engage with new Joint Local Plan

Well over a thousand individuals and organisations have shared their thoughts on an emerging district plan for South Oxfordshire. Their comments will contribute to the development of a new Joint Local Plan, which will guide planning decisions in the districts until 2041. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are working together to deliver the Joint Local Plan, which will guide what kinds of new housing and jobs are needed and where they should go. Determined to reach more people than ever before, the councils used innovative online engagement tools and held a variety of community events in unique and interesting locations, such as Candelo Lounge in Thame, to reach people who haven't commented on local plans in the past, as well as those who regularly engage with council planning consultations. Testament to these innovative methods, around half of those responding to a Joint Local Plan in a Nutshell survey said it was their first time taking part in a local plan consultation.

The councils used their new engagement website, Join the Conversation, to provide a more user-friendly and accessible way to engage, featuring explainer videos, interactive maps, a calendar of upcoming events, and two surveys for respondents to choose from. The shorter 'Joint Local Plan in a Nutshell' option featured topics summaries and explainers and gave a unique opportunity for those less familiar with Local Plans to get to grips with the huge array of topics and technical issues a Local Plan covers. For those who wanted to delve into more detail, respondents could also view and comment on all the detail of the proposed plans and draft policies in the full 'Preferred Options' survey. It has proven to be a huge success – the councils are still processing the vast number of responses and have calculated that over 1,200 individuals and organisations have provided a total of several thousand comments to the consultation

Over the past year the Planning Policy team has been working hard on the development of the new Joint Local Plan (covering both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts), which will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning decisions for the districts. A key milestone for the JLP was the "Preferred Options" consultation held between 10 January and 26 February 2024, which was carried out both online and with in-person events and which attracted

a very high number of submissions. Feedback from this consultation is now being processed and analysed, and the next stage will be a consultation on the draft Plan in the autumn of 2024.

Having an up-to-date Local Plan is essential to avoid speculative planning applications and unwelcome proposals which do not align with our strategic vision, our housing need or our environmental aspirations for our district. Just as important as the housing site allocations in the Local Plan, are the policies to protect and restore our natural environment – such as reducing light pollution, delivering biodiversity net gain, and securing open green spaces for our communities.

### **Community Hub becomes permanent**

The Community Hub was first set up during Lockdown to provide support for residents during the pandemic. Government funding ceased in 2023 but SODC committed to ongoing funding for this important service, particularly as so many residents have been affected by the cost-of-living crisis. The Hub has now been made a permanent part of the Council's structure and will continue to offer advice and support on a wide range of issues including financial help, housing and homelessness concerns, Council Tax payments and Health and Wellbeing. The Active Communities team runs a variety of activities and programmes to help people recover from Covid-19 or to help families' access free or low cost activities that provide physical and mental wellbeing opportunities.

### **SODC Grant Schemes including new CIL Grant Fund**

Each year SODC provides capital and revenue grants to a wide range of voluntary and community organisations to support their on-going operations or to fund a one-off project or event. Many local groups and projects have benefitted from this scheme. The newly launched CIL Grant Fund is designed to provide much-needed infrastructure to support the growth of the district as a result of recent housing developments. It is the first time local organisations are able to bid for grant funding from SODC's share of the CIL receipts collected from house builders. At the time of writing, many Expressions of Interest have been registered and funds will be allocated later in 2024.

### **Reducing our Carbon Emissions**

As a Council we have a very ambitious target to achieve Net Zero in our own operations by 2025. Over the past year we have continued to decarbonise our leisure and arts centres by switching to non-fossil fuel heating systems, reducing the temperature of water in swimming pools, circulating warm air more efficiently and generally upgrading the fabric of the buildings. This has helped to reduce emissions considerably, but the largest source of emissions for us is our waste management service, which accounts for over 57% of SODC's total emissions. Decarbonising the entire waste fleet at a time when technology is still evolving and while we were waiting for clarity from the Government on future recycling requirements would have been expensive and impractical, so we haven't been able to make the progress we would have liked. However, we have now agreed a 2-year extension with Biffa and are in the process of acquiring a new fleet of more efficient vehicles and a waste management strategy that will take us further forward towards reaching our goals.

We also continue to collaborate with other authorities across Oxfordshire on the delivery of the "Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire" action plan, which includes installing EV charging stations, retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient, exploring Biodiversity Net Gain projects and renewable energy infrastructure.

### Recycling Champions!

We were very excited to be announced as the country's top recycling district in DEFRA's latest tables! Initiatives such as our "Check it before you chuck it" promotional campaign in autumn 2023 demonstrate our commitment to maintaining this position.

When the council were first elected in 2019, one of the first priorities was to stabilise the finances of South Oxfordshire District Council. They were in a very poor state and the Council were having to draw on around £3m of reserves each year to plug the funding gap in its operating activities.

### Financial stability

Over the past few years the Council has restored financial stability and for 2023/24 approved a balanced budget with only a small (sustainable) draw on our reserves. The Council was fortunate to benefit from higher interest rates but we also employed a specialist officer to seek external grant funding to supplement our own resources. This officer has paid for himself several times over by securing government funding for projects such as the decarbonisation of our leisure centres and covering the increased costs of our swimming pools.

The Council Tax charged by SODC remains one of the lowest in the country and it still costs us more to deliver services to new households than we earn in Council Tax receipts, so we have to generate income from other services and grants to cover all our costs. The Council have worked hard to balance increases to fees and charges with the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis and providing value for money remains a priority

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Chalgrove Airfield: Homes England held a 'Community Engagement' exercise on their proposals for a new town at Chalgrove. Notably, Homes England propose to use land outside of the Local Plan Allocation and lay out an option for no bypass at Cuxham. Homes England have not yet made a new planning application, but Chalgrove Airfield remains an allocated site under the existing adopted Local Plan authored by the Conservatives. South Oxfordshire and Vale have proposed to deallocate the site in the new Local Plan (not yet adopted).

**Oxford United Stadium:** 'Heads of terms' have been agreed between Oxfordshire County Council and OUFC for the lease of land near Kidlington owned by OCC and proposed to be the site of OUFC's new home. A number of other key legal and partnership agreements still need to be made, including planning permission from Cherwell District Council and the production of a net zero carbon plan.

**Boost to cycling:** OCC has approved its map for a 'Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN)'. The map has straight line walking and cycle routes between settlements in Oxfordshire and towns/villages in neighbouring counties. Primary links include Chalgrove to Oxford, Wallingford and Culham, and Watlington to Princes Risborough (via Lewknor and Chinnor). Cabinet approved progressing to 'stage 2' – translating the straight-line network into on-the-ground alignments, design and costing.

Mission to eliminate road deaths: A package of measures aimed at eliminated deaths and serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads by 2050 ('Vision Zero') have been approved. Each year there are currently approximately 30 deaths and 245 serious

injuries on Oxfordshire's roads. The programme has £4 million in funding for projects to be delivered by 2026.

Community transport grants 2024-25: OCC is inviting parish/town councils to bid for community transport grants from a pot of £150,000. Last year, Watlington Parish Council was awarded a grant for a transport study. Applications from successful bidders in 2023-2024 will not be considered to give opportunity for other areas to benefit also.

**Road closures:** As we approach the summer season, we will see increased work to the road network. You can keep up to date with One Network and OCC's map tool for major highway maintenance.

#### Little Milton

**Flooding:** Maintenance scheme being prepared to resolve drainage issues and reinstate kerb line of section of A329.

### **Highways**

Highways remains the main way in which residents interact with council services on a daily basis – and also the source of much correspondence. 2023/4 saw improvements to how residents can report road defects through Fix My Street and ongoing efforts to improve customer service. While the council receives well below the budget needed to maintain the roads from central government, the administration approved a £7m project for 2024/5 to repair roads with a programme of surface dressing. Locally, with the support of residents and parish councils, wherever potholes and drainage issues occur I have sought to encourage speedy and long-lasting repairs for our area. I'm delighted that this year we will see extensive surface-inlay (resurfacing) to the B480 at Cuxham and Brook Street in Watlington, as well as drainage improvements across the network. Progress continues on plans for the Watlington Relief Road, with a public consultation held in 2023/4 on a planning application, which will be determined later this year.

#### Climate

Climate has also been at the heart of the council's activity, with heavy rain focusing minds on the consequences of a changing climate. Key initiatives, including the Strategic Active Travel Network, Mobility Hubs, Vision Zero, EV charging, electric buses, and active travel funding bids are all contributing towards OCC's overarching vision of a cleaner and greener transport network. Oxfordshire County Council's hard work was recognized as it topped the Climate Emergency UK climate action score card league table for upper tier authorities. I am also extremely proud to have welcomed new rural bus routes to Chalgrove and Watlington division, bringing back services for the first time since Conservatives cut them. Watlington is now served by not only the 11 bus to Oxford, but also buses to Reading (Mon, Wed, Fri) and Thame (Tues, Thurs.). My sincere hope is that this is just a starting point of a revival of buses in our area.

As ever, I continue to advocate for projects and issues important to local communities and individual residents. Issues have ranged from road agreements, trees, road markings, flooding, children's services, traffic calming and much more! Some issues seem interminable with progress excruciatingly slow – for example the pedestrian link between Red Kite View in Watlington and Cuxham Road, or progress on traffic calming in Cuxham. However, I remain determined to represent residents and parishes to the Council and push for progress – however slow. I have also again been privileged to support community projects through the council's Priority Fund, including First Steps Family Hub Chalgrove, Watlington Concert Band, Watlington Allotments, Watlington

Bowls Club, Nettlebed Sports Association, and various projects with parish councils across the division.

### Ward changes

The next County Council elections will be in May 2025. These will be fought on new divisional boundaries, which split the Watlington and Chalgrove division into two separate divisions. Watlington will become part of a 'Watlington and Rotherfield' division, while Chalgrove forms its own division with part of Thame. Ewelme moves to become part of a revised Benson division. This means regardless of the outcome of upcoming national and local elections many villages I currently represent will get a new county councillor from 2025. Over the next year I will continue to work with residents and parish councils to move forward projects and resolve issues,

### **BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JUNE 2024**

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

### Sunday 9th June

9.00 Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30 Family Worship	St James' Little Milton
5.15p.m.Evensong	St George's Chapel, Windsor

### Sunday 16th June

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

### Sunday 23rd June

9.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Peter's Great Haseley
10.30	Benefice Worship	St James' Little Milton

### Sunday 30th June

10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
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## GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: JUNE 2024 For further info. Please contact Rev. Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
2nd June	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	David Harper	
9th June	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	John Anderson	
16th June	11.00 a.m	Great Milton	Rev Miriam Moul	Holy
				Communion
23rd June	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Joanna Tullock	
30 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Simon Mitchell	

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JUNE

W/E 2nd June	_	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 9th June		Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 16th June	_	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 23rd June	_	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 30th June	_	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield

### CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR JUNE

W/E 2nd June	=	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 9th June	-	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 16th June	-	Teresa Quested
W/E 23rd June	-	Chris Coward
W/E 30th June	-	Chris Coward

### Teresa Quested 278922

### RECTOR'S PINT

I'm old enough to remember the 'winter of discontent' at the end of the 1970s, and the state of our public services, which were nationalised at the time. We might now ask, following forty years of privatisation, have things worked out for the better?

This last, very wet, winter and early spring brought things to a head with innumerable cases of discharge of untreated sewerage into our rivers and streams. The reason given is that this is due to 'unprecedented rainfall'. This was followed by a warning that there could be water shortages this summer, because we don't have the capacity to store enough water for all our needs in the face of possibly drier summers! We have been hearing for years that the weather is likely to become more unpredictable, but there seems to be a total lack of planning for that.

The water company shareholders will naturally expect a good return, but it seems this is at the cost of much-needed infrastructure. Agriculture also has a role to play. I love the lower Wye, but it has become heavily polluted, and the river flows a muddy brown and slime covers the rocks on the river bed. I wouldn't swim in it. The main culprits are the industrial-sized chicken farms in Herefordshire and Powys that have been licensed over the last decade. With so much dependent upon farming in the region I can't help wondering if there has been a conflict of interest in the granting of licenses. I can no longer now sing the hymn *Jerusalem*; 'In England's green and pleasant land' without some sadness.

The importance of creation lies at the heart of Christian theology. It goes right back to the first story in the Bible: 'and God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' I do not believe that the first chapters of Genesis should be read as science. The understanding and culture of that time suggested that creation was the by-product of capricious forces, and that humans were the unfortunate victims. However, the Book of Genesis presents a very different picture, of a good God making a good creation, and in which humanity is given 'stewardship' in partnership with God, over this creation.

But stewardship is not permission to exploit. This is a very contemporary theme, but the Bible got there first! We must learn to do things differently. In the case of our rivers, when profit is king, they do not run clear.

On a happier note, June 8<sup>th</sup> sees the Great Milton Fete. The other two villages will not be hosting Fetes this year, instead there will be a Garden Party at Latchford Farm in Great Haseley on 29<sup>th</sup> June, and a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" at The Manor, Little Milton on August 31<sup>st</sup>, so there's something wonderful to look forward to in all three parishes. I hope I'll see you there

Simon

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Thank you to everyone...all of the distributers, collectors, Lent Lunch hosts and coffee morning hosts for making the week such an amazing week! The total is looking pretty good but will not have been added up by the time the June Newsletter/Bulletin goes to press so watch this space for the totals which will be posted in the July Newsletters/Bulletins...S. A Dennis

### BENEFICE BREAKFAST

Tim Suter renowned local musician, church organist and choir master, former member of the BBC board and many other things will be interviewed on his Life, his Music and his Faith at breakfast on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

This simple breakfast of bacon butties and croissants is being hosted by the three churches of St Mary's Great Milton, St James' Little Milton and St Peter's Great Haseley.

### PLACE: Northend Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NF

### TIME: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 8.30 - 9.50

The timing is arranged to enable all who come to start their usual Saturday activities at 10.00, though those who want to linger will be welcomed.

#### Please come

This is open to all but please let Simon Cronk (Rector) or Tony Jefferis know if you would like to come and also if you can help with catering. Please also let them know if you have any dietary intolerances.

Simon Cronk simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Tony Jefferis afjefferis@btinternet.com

01844 278349 01844 278743

### FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

The winners for May will be announced in the July newsletter.

### Diane Austin (Organiser)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

The Village Hall committee are pleased to report that the Spring Fling held on May3rd was a very enjoyable evening and enjoyed by around sixty people. It might be a big ask but the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will take place in the Pine Lodge on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June starting at 7.30 p.m. It would be great to have another sixty people coming up to the hall to show their support for the work done by villagers to sustain an important village amenity. It is your opportunity to hear from the Chairman what has been happening and what the plans are for the future. I urge you to make a point of supporting your Village Hall Committee.

### Regular activities in the Hall include:

Mondays at 10.30 am Yoga & Fitness with Yvonne

(y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

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

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

Wednesday 9:30 am Advanced Textile on workshop with Amargeet

( amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com )

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

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. contact Kath

Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. contact Kath

Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

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

**Parish Council** 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further details

contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

**Village Hall** committee 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m. For further details

contact giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at <a href="https://lmvh.org.uk/">https://lmvh.org.uk/</a>, or contact *Linda* 

Lovegrove linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

### FROM OUR FRENCH CORRESPONDENT

It is several months since I have received a letter from our French correspondent AKA Stuart McGill. I was a little concerned. I have made contact with him and he is currently recovering from a bout of flu. He feels that having left the village seven years ago that perhaps it was time to bow out.

I thanked him for his interesting articles of developing his vineyard and his experiences of the French health system. Stuart had an abundance of energy that helped evolve a number of facilities that we enjoy today. I have Stuart's contact details if anyone wishes to contact him

#### Editor

#### DAVE & SYLVIA TAYLOR

We would like to thank our friends and neighbours for the love and kindness shown to us over the time we have lived in this lovely village.

We leave for the Cotswolds soon with so many happy memories.

Our best wishes to everyone in Little Milton

### Dave and Sylv Taylor

#### MAPLE TREE

Hello from The Maple Tree! Summer is almost here!

Please check out our Website and Facebook page for full details of our under 5s sessions and our summer programme which is open for our older children too. Just like last year we will be visiting some of the local villages and delivering a play session in the local community centres and village halls.

We would like to dedicate this space in the newsletter this month to our lovely volunteers; Leslie, Diane, Linda, Tina, Georgina, Wiebke, Grace, Julia S., Anthea, Jane Chris and Kate S., and our back-up volunteers Kate T. and Alice. Also, to the wonderful volunteers who have helped us over the past year and have needed to move on; Julia F., James, Monika, Matt and Rachel. Thank you so much for your dedication to The Maple Tree! They have made hundreds of cups of teas and coffees and cut up and served

countless healthy snacks. The volunteers have offered helpful advice to parents and helped children to extend and find meaning in their conversations and play. They are also invaluable at clean up time (if you know the mess that one child can make, multiply it by 20, and you will know what we mean!) We could not possibly run The Maple Tree without you so a big THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts from Laura and the team!

Please contact us below if you too would like to volunteer at one or more of our sessions! We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Email: <u>info@mapletree.org.uk</u> Website: <u>www.mapletree.org.u</u>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer
The Maple Tree Centre Manager
Charity number:1174117



### TRADITIONAL MIDSUMMER AFTERNOON

Saturday 29 June, 2-5 pm In aid of St Peter's Church



### FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Step back in time and join us in the countryside for traditional games and homemade teas, with plenty for all the family to enjoy.

Have fun trying TRADITIONAL GAMES



(AUNT SALLY, SHOVE-HA'PENNY, SKITTLES)
TUG OF WAR, TREASURE HUNT
TOMBOLA, RAFFLE

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## LITTLE MILTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Invite you to our

## **Annual General Meeting**

on

# Monday 10th June 7.30pm

at the Pine Lodge

Come and learn about your community hall, our future plans & contribute your ideas

Free drinks & nibbles

**Everyone welcome** 

### FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Amazing how the weather suddenly changed in May. Our flora and fauna will be frantically making the most of it. Lots of young animals now fending for themselves. Bats will be hunting the hedgerows for midges and mosquitoes. Look out for the Black Arrow flying displays of swifts over the next couple of months as the weave through the houses.

The livestock, like us, get pretty bothered by all the flies. They will have been treated but can't do much other than swish a tail. See if the Dexters go head to tail working together to keep them away from the face.

The next work party will be Sunday 23rd June starting at the barn from 10am until 1pm. We plan to tidy the gates of nettles and general stuff if you want to come along and join in.

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

### TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In May we were transported to The Hindu Kush & Northern Pakistan with extensive traveller, Carol Turner. Carol is quite a draw so we had a great turnout with nine visitors. We also welcomed new members, Julie & Nicky.

On Thursday 13 June, we will be finding out from Graham White all that the Oxfordshire Library Service has to offer, from libraries, to online and even home deliveries.

Everyone welcome, men too! Visitors £5, or join up for £48 (2024-25).

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

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

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

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

### **DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP**

This month we are meeting on Wednesday 26th June from 11.00 a.m. onwards. The venue is at Mary Davies Spring and Well Cottage Haseley Road. Please telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 if you would like to come along and join us. We'd love to see anyone new, especially if you have just moved into the village and want to meet a few locals

Sally Ann Dennis

### NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

Recently it has been all about 'Cake Week' and we hope you will all join us in congratulating the Y6 children on their cake-eating heroics, and for doing a few SATs papers too. They were all so relaxed and focused. A huge thank you to the Rowan Team and the fantastic staff involved in supporting the children through the week.

We would also like you to join us in saying a huge 'Well Done' to all the children involved in a fantastic Ascension Day service at St James's Church. They all did a magnificent job. It was also a great pleasure to take part in our traditional Ascension Day Walk to Great Haseley. Thank you to all the parents, siblings and grandparents that joined us too. It's always a pleasure to have you along!

The Rowan children headed into the woods for our wonderful Forest School Session this week. The children made great use of the new hammock and tarp. Mr Bell was determined to take a brief nap in one of the new hammocks but was denied the opportunity by several children who had alternative ideas! Some of the children also made some extremely ornate and pretty floral bookmarks using a variety of plants.

The Maples had a special visitor for the day on Thursday, when Mr Bell brought his guinea pig 'BB' in for the day. All the children were given the opportunity to handle him and offer him a carrot or two. We are pleased to say he behaved impeccably and has expressed an interest in doing some more voluntary work next term.

### James & Hannah Co-Head teachers

#### **News from the Governors:**

Very sadly, we learnt recently that our co-head teachers will be leaving at the end of this academic year. Hannah and James have been in post since January 2021 and have led the school with passion and commitment. We thank them for their dedication and hard work both as co-head teachers and skilled class teachers of many years. Governors will be working with staff, the local authority, and the diocese to ensure a smooth transition to the next chapter in the life of Little Milton School.

### WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Hot weather means watering. But there are many ways to help plants if we get a long dry spell. Covering the ground can help provided it will also allow rainwater through. Could use cardboard, woodchip, straw or many other mulch type coverings which may also compost down over time. I am told that watering hard just once a week is best as the plant roots grow deeper helping the plant to survive better. I estimate the well holds 2000 litres or 200 x 10l watering cans. It seems to replenish quickly so should be enough. June is a time for fruit bushes to provide lots of berries. Enjoy!

### Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

#### **VIEW FROM VIEWS**

This year's Dawn Chorus seems more welcome than ever before after such a long and dreary winter and the first signs of better weather are upon us.

How Nature compensates given the right conditions, we learn more and more as we try and encourage the environment to improve, by just making little adjustments to certain tasks we find that nature also makes little changes and comes up with surprises. All winter we have been worrying/contemplating how on earth will we survive this horrendous winter weather. Having said all that, once the weather improved with a bang at the beginning of May, things started to improve, the Barley that had looked so bad, suddenly looked better and now on closer inspection seems to have recovered, showing reasonable prospects for a respectable yield. It cannot be a great result, as I would guess ripening will be very varied, giving us problems at harvest time. Of course, these remarks do not include areas that just have not survived due to being too wet and will produce next to nothing. There are areas of the farm that are suffering from severe slug

attack, both last autumn and now, the rape area, plus an area where we planted some grass seed these both failed last autumn. So as I have mentioned in these notes all winter, re planning of our cropping had to take place. When the weather did improved towards the end of April, we managed to plant Lupines which seem to be ok, however the poppies planted at the same time seemed to have once again suffered from slugs and we are now in the process of replanting. The grass we have only just replanted so fingers crossed on that. To our surprise after such a wet period the ground worked very well and we were able to get decent seed beds, so things looked really promising, so it has been extremely disheartening to have suffered from these damn slugs yet again.

Having recently visited both Cornwall and Shropshire, it seems the crops everywhere have suffered the same fate, some looking very sparse and some not so bad, and some adjacent perfectly fine although many fields with water still standing in them, this being in early May. The remarkable thing about his spring as I mention above, that in spite of the wet the ground has cultivated extremely well, this was obviously the case where potatoes were being planted. Interestingly enough I heard of a farmer in Pembrokeshire, who was not only planting Potatoes, but also digging last years, needless to say having to discard many, so probably not as good as it sounds when you learn what they are being sold for. I think the winter has affected some more than others and I am convinced that as a result many will not survive without some help, many will say why, should we help a Farmer, well most large industries look to government when they run into trouble, steel, cars, rail, to mention but a few and, what would we do without food. I could go on about food security, as I have many times before, but with the unstable situation globally it really needs consideration.

Cuckoo first heard at Views Farm on 29th April, there was a time when this was announced each year in the "Times" Newspaper as I don't read the "Times" so am not sure that they still do, I can remember my father always on the lookout through the spring for this news. I am though amazed to see how much of the wildlife is still around after such an appalling winter, we have an abundance of Hares, Grey Partridge, sadly Rabbits and Pigeons, plus many small birds both those who are resident and, the foolish ones that migrate here for the summer. This winter has seen loads of water birds visiting the floods and around the edges, these join the Gulls of whatever species that are almost resident nowadays. There always seems to be a group of gulls that, regularly frequent a certain area in the same field. I would love to know what it is that attracts them, if anyone could throw light on this, I would love to know.

That's enough of the reasonably positive look on things at the moment for us locally the spectre of more development in the area seems to be looming again some I fear to save the faces of our politicians who made a mistake in thinking they could own a piece of land and develop it. I am of course referring to Chalgrove Airfield that I have written about many times before. We were recently invited to an exhibition by Homes England who acquired the land and thought they could steam roller planning consent through, however they had failed to get the agreement of the lease holder, or the CAA, plus it having been removed by the local council from the local plan. On inspection, it is all still a very ill-conceived plan, as a diverted main road that bypasses the existing village dissects this new town. Although in order to sell this development to locals they have announced new bypasses to villages to the south of the site, but the main access to the M40 is through Little Milton where two lorries cannot pass now. Not to mention the disturbance to the development from the lease holder and, the explosives that are stored on site or, the cost of the proposed moving of the main runway as, I believe the airfield

has to remain operational. There are many more sewage?? Drainage?? Doctors, public transport of which there is virtually none, at least 8 miles from the nearest employment

#### Charles Peers



### Walks Programme 2024

JUNE

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Easy linear 2½ mile walk from Iffley church to the High with an Oxford guide.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Undulating 7½ mile walk from Whiteleaf Cross car park. Bring a picnic.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Gentle, social 2½ mile walk from Aston Rowant, Lambert Hotel, with option for coffee at the finish.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Opportunity to walk Thame Outer Circuit (Part 1 - 9½ miles from Long Crendon to Tetsworth).

Bring a picnic. See website for details including transport arrangements to the start.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Meet at Garsington Sports & Social Club for a 6 mile walk with views.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Choice of walks for Oxfordshire Area Ramblers picnic at Holton orchard. See website for details.

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 SC

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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 Patients aged 75 or over (or will turn 75 by 30 June 2024) are being invited for a COVID booster vaccination. Also, appointments can be booked online at <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination">https://www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination</a> or on the NHS App. You can find your nearest COVID-19 vaccination walk-in site at <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/covid-walk-in">https://www.nhs.uk/covid-walk-in</a>.

30 June 2024 is last date to get a booster vaccination.

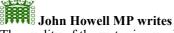
The NHS launched the **Pharmacy First Service** (**PFS**) on 31<sup>st</sup> January (see <u>NHS</u> <u>Pharmacy First Service</u> (**PFS**) | NHSBSA ). Appointments can be booked directly with participating pharmacies for the treatment of 7 common health conditions namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, 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 <a href="https://www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book">www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book</a>

There has been a surge in **Blandford Fly** bites in the area. While very unpleasant there is normally no need to visit a GP or MIU. For more information on what to do visit <a href="https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/miu-update-patients-with-blandford-fly-bites/">https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/miu-update-patients-with-blandford-fly-bites/</a> alternatively call NHS 111 or visit your local pharmacy for advice

**Group Consultation Clinics** – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including 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. For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit <a href="www.morland-house.co.uk">www.morland-house.co.uk</a>

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



### May 2024

The quality of the water in our rivers has been an ongoing concern for some time. It is therefore welcome news that DEFRA has announced that Wallingford Beach is to be given designated bathing waters status. Although the site is just over the bridge in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency I know that it is something that will be welcomed by people in this constituency. The site will be subject to the requirements under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and will be included in the Environment Agency's bathing water monitoring programme from this month. The Regulations require public information about water quality and potential sources of pollution to be available at all bathing waters during the bathing season, with local authorities in the areas responsible for providing this information. The Environment Agency will prepare a bathing water profile for the site, which will be available on its Swimfo website. They will also assess what action is needed to improve water quality to meet the standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations.

The internet is something that we have come to rely on for our daily business, for education, and for information and for leisure. However concerns to protect children have rightly been raised. In the middle of this month there was a debate in Westminster Hall on the impact of smart phones and social media on children with a call to ban smartphones for under 16s. I very much acknowledge the dangers of social media for young people and endorse the Online Safety Act which introduced measures to protect young people. However I do not agree with the proposal to ban young people from having smartphones. I believe that this is a decision for parents and not one for legislation. So rather than potentially criminalise people I think that, alongside the Online Harms Act, we should be looking to educate our young people on the risks and harms of social media. Many parents want their children to have a smartphone, as they provide benefits to children and parents, not least allowing them to stay connected while travelling alone. As this was a Westminster Hall debate it was an opportunity to formally raise the issue but there was no vote. I am sure that there will be further discussion on the issue.

There are many people in the constituency who live here on the basis of a visa. It is important to be aware that UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are rolling out a digital immigration system which is more secure. Anyone who does not already have an eVisa will be required to have set up an online record by the end of this year. This information is also important for employers and landlords who will be able to check the immigration status of applicants much more easily.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: <a href="john.howell.mp@parliament.uk">john.howell.mp@parliament.uk</a>. You can find updates and replies to standard campaigns run by lobby organisations on my website: <a href="https://www.johnhowell.org.uk">https://www.johnhowell.org.uk</a>

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of the month (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the **July 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th June** The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published













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Jemima Puddle Duck (Quantum Theatre) - Sat 8 June, 5pm-6.30pm

Rare Plant Fair - Sun 9 June, 10am-4pm

Handmade Oxford - Fri 21 until Sun 23 June

Hamlet (The Lord Chamberlain's Men) - Sun 30 June, 7pm-9pm

Songs of Love at Waterperry (vOx Chamber Choir) - Sat 13 July, 5pm

Celebrating Ceramics and Desire Jewellery & Silversmithing Fair - Fri 19 until Sun 21 July

Waterperry Summer Fun Trail in the Gardens - Wed 21 Jul until Sun 1 September, 10am-5.30m

The Wind In The Willows (Musical presented by Boxtree Productions) - Sat 27 July, 5pm-7:30pm

Moonrakers - Sun 28 July, 6pm-8.30 pm

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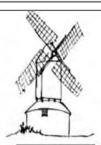


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