

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

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Frid	1st	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sat	2nd	6.00 p.m.	Fireworks – Pine Lodge	
Sun	3rd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'	
Tues	5th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	6th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	Parish Council – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	7th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge	
Frid	8th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	10th	10.45 a.m.	Remembrance Service – St James'	
Tues.	12th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	13th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	Parish Council – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	14th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge	
		7.30 p.m.	WI Meeting	
Frid	15th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
Tues	19th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	20th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		7.00 p.m.	Craft Evening – Pine Lodge	
Thurs	21st	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge	
Frid	22nd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge	
Sun	24th	9.00 a.am	Holy Communion BCP	
Tues	26th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge	
Wed	27th	9.30 - 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge	
		11.00 a.m.	Sewing Group – Silverdale Haseley	
			Road	
Thurs	28th	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine Lodge	
Frid	29th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge	
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Sun	1st	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'	

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

# SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2024

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

#### **Report by District Councillor**

District Cllr Heritage had circulated her monthly report.

Cllr Heritage encouraged members of the public present to write a collective response regarding their concerns about recent flooding issues and road traffic problems related to the temporary A329 closure and send it to County Councillor Freddie van Mierlo (and send her a copy). Cllr Heritage promised to do all she can to ensure the information reached the appropriate officers within Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Cllr Heritage also referenced the OCC Flood Kit containing useful information which is available via OCCs website.

Cllr Heritage drew attention her District Councillor grant fund which is open for applications and suggested an application could be made to purchase flood mitigation equipment such as sandbags in preparation for the future.

Stadhampton has formed a flood mitigation group and invited local parishes to join. Cllr van der Merwe will contact the Chairman of Stadhampton Parish Council.

#### Planning

#### P24/S2595/FUL - 18 Thame Road, Little Milton, OX44 7PZ

Form vehicular access and two off street parking spaces

**Resolved** to **Object** on the grounds that creating two new off-street parking spaces will result in the loss of valuable, well used communal parking. The proposal, if granted permission, it will set a precedent for any future applications by residents to undertake similar schemes which will further negatively impact on the provision of amenity parking.

To **note** the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following application:

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

The proposal is to form the following: A single storey extension to the rear. A dormer roof extension at the second floor also at the rear. A portico at the front and new entrance. Install solar panels. (as amended by plans received 19 September 2024).

## Local Plan

It was further noted that South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of the White Horse District Council have published the latest version of the Joint Local Plan <a href="https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/ilp/">https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/ilp/</a>.

This Regulation 19 consultation is required before the plan goes to a Planning Inspector. It is largely a legal exercise and no response is required. Little Milton remains a smaller settlement in this latest version so there is no obligation to build houses. Chalgrove Airfield is not included in the sites for development.

#### Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Work to refurbish the surfaces will start on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr van der Merwe will meet the contractor on site and arrange access. It is anticipated the MUGA will be out of use for 6-8 weeks whilst the work is completed.

**Resolved** to purchase 2 x coin meters to control lighting at the MUGA, tokens will be available to purchase from the village shop. Approximate cost of each meter is £300. Cllr van der Merwe will contact the electrician who carried out work to refurbish the lights and ask him to install the new meters.

#### **Parish Records**

It was noted that Parish Council minutes dated December 1894 to July 1931 and July 1956 to March 2014 along with a Record Book entitled 'Little Milton Parish Council Official Documents' have been deposited with the Oxfordshire History Centre.

# **Reports from Committees**

#### Utilities and Highways

It was noted that the OCC officer responsible for the A329 road closure has been in the village making HGV drivers aware of fines that can be imposed for not observing the road closure notices. Cllr Sheppard will contact Trading Standards urgently to report HGVs using the Haseley Road. It was noted that residents continue to report HGV traffic ignoring the weight restriction and temporary diversion route.

Cllr Sheppard will contact the OCC officer to make him aware of concerns raised by residents and the parish council regarding the adverse impact of the road closure, especially on residents on Haseley Road. Cllr Sheppard will also ask for a site meeting to discuss the highway work taking place.

It was agreed the Parish Council will write to riparian landowners along the brook to remind them of their responsibilities. The Parish Council will also investigate organisations that can provide advice and possible funding streams for work to the watercourse.

Cllr Sheppard will organise a meeting with OCC, Thames Water and members of the Parish Council to discuss issues related to drainage and flooding.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm. Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings.

# Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

#### **Current Council members**

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

#### SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress count as 2 items and a three-piece suite (consisting of 1 settee and 2 chairs) counts as 3 items.

Before you contact us to book your bulky waste collection, have a good think about whether you have any other big items to dispose of. Once we have processed your booking, we are unable to make any alterations or add any other items – even if you have only booked one or two items.

To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01235 422406 or book on line from the Council's website <a href="https://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 visit the Emmaus website for more details.

**BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES - NOVEMBER 2024** 

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
5th November	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12th November	No	Yes	No	Yes
19th November	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
26th November	No	Yes	No	Yes

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Unsurprisingly, I (and my councillor colleagues) received many calls and emails recently about flood concerns, following the heavy rainfall. Several parts of south Oxon were severely affected. I know there are parish councils and community organisations looking to work together on flood mitigation projects, which is something I very much support. In the meantime however, I'd like to remind residents and businesses to refer to <a href="the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit">the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit</a> where they can read about preventative measures they can take and where they can use the <a href="reporting form on the toolkit">reporting form on the toolkit</a>, should their home or business become flooded. The County Council's <a href="Help I'm Flooding page">Help I'm Flooding page</a> for more information on what to do in the event of a flood.

Oxfordshire County Council leads the flood response activities in our area, and SODC provides a supporting role across a range of areas. We also have a Flood Advice webpage - South - which can direct members of the public to the relevant authorities' websites.

In other matters we have positive news about housing and development in our area: I was pleased to be attend a Cabinet and Full Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September regarding the next step for our groundbreaking, ambitious and innovative Joint Local Plan. Robustly evidence-based, this plan will raise development standards in our districts. Council members at SODC (as well as those at Vale) gave the go-ahead for the Plan to be published for comment for a six-week period, and then submitted for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The draft plan has been developed between the two councils to help meet local community future need for housing, jobs

and infrastructure, and will replace the districts' current adopted plans. Here are some more details about the Joint Local Plan:

#### **Joint Local Plan Progress**

The councils have identified that there are enough new homes in the pipeline already, with no need to build on any extra new greenfield sites over the next 15 years. Only one area of expansion has been earmarked, which is on the brownfield land owned by the Ministry of Defence at Dalton Barracks near Abingdon.

Crucially, the plan also sets out new firmer environment policies so that development is net zero carbon and delivers twice the national level of biodiversity net gain to help with the recovery of nature.

There are also new policies and maps identifying parts of the districts which are valued landscapes or have dark skies or are especially prized for their tranquillity. To help more people who need an affordable home, the proportion of affordable housing on large sites will also go up from 35% to 40% in Vale of White Horse and from 40% to 50% in South Oxfordshire, without increasing the total number of homes being built.

Council officers have been working hard to get the plan just right using the feedback received during two hugely positive consultations the councils ran during its development. The plan is at a very advanced stage of its development and is another step closer to being submitted for examination, earlier than anticipated.

We are very proud of this plan, not least because it will help us protect and restore nature with ambitious biodiversity net gain requirements. We know from evidence-gathering that this is achievable and viable. It also takes an evidence-based approach to housing need - it recognises that people need a place to live, but it focuses on affordability and sustainability.

There is now a 6-week opportunity to comment on whether the plan meets all the relevant requirements to ensure it is sound and legally compliant, which is a technical and formal process. To review and comment on the Plan's soundness and legal compliance and whether it meets the duty to co-operate, go to <a href="https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/ilp">www.southandvale.gov.uk/ilp</a>. This will be live until 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Residents are welcome to check the council's Joint Local Plan webpage (<u>South JLP</u>) for updates, or sign up for planning notifications.

#### **Funding for Nature Recovery**

SODC has released a further £50,000 to provide grants for projects which increase biodiversity and encourage public access to green spaces in the district following the success of the scheme over its first 12 months.

In September 2023 the council set up a new partnership with the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), to give £50,000 as grants through TOE's Local Environment Fund to help boost local nature recovery efforts and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Over the past year the money has been awarded to a variety of organisations including parish councils and environmental charities in Thame, Wheatley, East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Benson and Chalgrove.

The projects have ranged from the creation of ponds and butterfly banks to providing protective fencing for a meadow conservation area and boardwalk improvement to allow managed public access to a wetland habitat.

Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and non-profit organisations are invited to apply to TOE for funding to support projects which help look after South Oxfordshire's green spaces.

The grants, that range from £1,000 and £15,000, can be used for tree and hedgerow planting or restoring community orchards, ponds, and nature-rich meadows. They could also be used to improve access to the countryside and green spaces, for example by replacing stiles with gates for better accessibility and improving pathways.

The fund uses money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions.

Early applications are encouraged, so any South Oxon-based group involved in protecting and restoring their local environment should contact TOE to find out more.

### Council's carbon emissions and Net Zero update

South Oxfordshire District Council has made strong and positive progress in its goal to achieve net zero and has nearly halved its carbon emissions since 2009/10.

The council has a programme to improve insulation and installing technology such as solar panels and air source heat pumps at arts and leisure centres, with projects in Didcot, Thame and Wheatley underway. The council's leisure and arts teams have received funding from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Swimming Pool Support Fund to help with this work. The council is also exploring similar plans for Henley and Berinsfield.

The council's waste team has also purchased its first electric food waste truck which the crews will begin using this autumn. In addition, up to six other council vans are also expected to transition to electric vehicles in the next year, with two already on the road.

In 2019, the council set itself a highly ambitious target of becoming a carbon neutral by 2025 and also set an aspirational target of South Oxfordshire being a net zero carbon district by 2030.

The council is accelerating its partnership with the other Oxfordshire authorities to help reduce district-wide emissions. It is supporting a number of projects including the decarbonisation of domestic housing, local area energy planning and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In addition, the council's economic development team is encouraging businesses across the district to apply for its UKSPF-backed Business Decarbonisation Grant for up to £10,000 worth of support.

On 10<sup>th</sup> October Cabinet members will discuss two reports on the council's net zero targets - one for the council's own operations and the other for the district. These set out the progress so far and options for the future, as well as considering the various challenges and barriers to achieving the council's net zero goals.

The reports recommend that the council recognises the progress that has been made so far and adopts a revised operational net zero target of 2030, and a revised target for the district of 2045. The revised targets better align with the other Oxfordshire councils and with the majority of other local authorities across UK.

Revising the targets should enable a smoother and potentially more cost-effective transition to net zero as technological advances are made for example in the waste vehicle market

The council's cabinet meets to consider the reports on 10 October, and you can read the agenda here.

For information about the Business Decarbonisation Grant see our website.

## Major next step towards creating accessible Wallingford Riverside

A boost of over £209,000 is being invested by SODC towards major accessibility improvements at Wallingford Riverside, and work on creating accessible moorings on the River Thames here is due to start this September.

The package of improvements has been designed to be step free to provide easy access to all types of river craft and to enhance the whole riverside as an attractive destination for residents, visitors, clubs and river users alike. Work will cover improvements to the existing access path, roadway, ramp and moorings at the riverside — in addition to the installation of an accessible pontoon at Wallingford Riverside Moorings, providing improved access for all visitors to the river including wheelchair users.

Work is anticipated to commence from Friday 27 September for around 12 weeks (subject to weather conditions).

An experienced civil engineering firm, Greenford Ltd, based locally in Wheatley, will complete the work.

Work is also nearing completion, in a related project, to create a Changing Places accessible bathroom at the riverside, next to the existing toilet facilities - ready for the following season.

Whilst the moorings can be used by all, they are specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Wallingford Accessible Boat Club's wheelyboat, WOW-one, to enable disabled and less mobile people have equal access to the river. To contact the club for further support or guidance, visit <a href="www.wabc.org.uk">www.wabc.org.uk</a>

Alongside the work on the accessible moorings, another related project will be providing a new accessible club cabin, with access to water and electricity for use by Wallingford Accessible Boat Club. The ambition is to then create a cheerful artwork on the cabin to brighten up the area.

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
3rd November	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th November	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Miriam Moul	
17th November	11.00 a.m	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy
				Communion
24th November	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Sue Barratt	

# **BENEFICE SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2024**

# **Sunday 3rd November**

9.00 Holy Communion St James' Little Milton
10.30 Family Worship Harvest Festival St Peter's Great Haseley
4.00pm Service of Commemoration for the departed St James' Little Milton

	10th November	C4 M
10.45	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial Followed by service of Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.45 10.45	Remembrance Service with Tony Jefferis Act of Remembrance at War Memorial	St James' Little Milton
	Followed by Remembrance Service with Toby Garfitt.	St Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday	17th November	
9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
11.00	Joint Service with Methodists	Methodist Chapel
	(No service in St Mary's)	Great Milton
Sunday	24th November	
9.00	Holy Communion BCP	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Benefice Morning Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

# Sunday 1st December

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

#### **RECTOR'S PINT**

In conversation with my fellow clergy, we all agree that the Commemoration services on Remembrance Sunday are very difficult. How do we get the balance right between gratitude for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in war, and contrition and sorrow for the fact of war itself? I gravitate towards deep sorrow that sacrifices have to be made in the first place. Also of course, we remember that war is not confined to combatants on a neatly defined battlefield; we are so often reminded that in war, 'collateral damage' does not discriminate.

I do believe that nations should have a right to defend themselves, and that means taking appropriate action when attacked or threatened. Of course, I continue to hope and pray for a peace that will come through some kind of diplomatic means, but I am also a realist, I know that there are times when that outcome will seem to be impossible; war remains a tragic reality. We would all agree that the consequences of conflict are terrible, and every effort must be made to avoid them. Increasingly however, I see something deeper being played out, as the story of the killing of Abel by his brother Cain, right at the beginning of the Bible, continues as an ongoing reality in our world. The message we take from these first chapters of Genesis is that whilst that we bear in ourselves something of the image of God, that image is cracked. We see the consequences of this in humanity's dealings with itself, and the resulting wreckage. It is such a shocking waste and reveals the darker side of our humanity.

That is why it is right to pause reflect and remember, and I very much hope that even if people don't purposefully do this with a Remembrance Sunday service in church, it will still be a feature of their day, either on Remembrance Sunday itself, the 10<sup>th</sup> November, or on the following day, which commemorates the armistice that was signed on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 at 11.00am, as the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

This year on Remembrance Sunday we will be offering an Act of Remembrance at 11.00am at all three of our village churches, each one followed by a service in the Church. In Great Milton this will be a Holy Communion. If you'd like to join us, please

aim to be at the various memorial sites (at the top of Latchford Lane in Great Haseley, in the churchyard at Great Milton, and inside the church at St James' Little Milton) for a 10.45 am start.

November also brings with it other times of remembrance, and one of these is our annual Service of Commemoration for the Departed. This year this will take place on Sunday 3rd November, at 4.00pm in Little Milton. You will be very welcome.

#### Simon

Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for the Departed St. James Little Milton, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 4.00pm Come and give thanks and light a candle as you remember those whom you love but see no longer.

## CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

W/E 3rd November	_	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 10th November	_	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 17th November	_	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 24th November	_	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 1st December	_	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth
		5

#### CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

W/E 3rd November	-	Chris Coward
W/E 10th November	-	Chris Coward
W/E 17th November	-	Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 24th November	-	Cathy D'Aeth

# FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

## **October**

1st	No 75	Theo, Indy and Lara Simpson	£10.00
2nd	No 12	Chris Coward	£8.00
3rd	No 11	Jane Willis	£6.00

## Dear Villagers and Friends,

October is the last draw of the 200 club for the year 2023/2024. We are now renewing for the new year 2024/2025 starting with the first draw in November. The form was in the October's village newsletter and you have until the 14th November to sign up. Thank you so much for your support of the school, it is very much appreciated.

# Diane Austin on behalf of The Friends of Little Milton School

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Following the lovely Harvest Service a wonderful group of folk gathered for our Bring and Share Harvest Lunch up at the Pine Lodge. There was plenty of food for all and a jolly atmosphere made for a good time, except we were a little short on children ...maybe next year School and Church could combine?? Thank you to all who baked, decorated the Church and tables and prepared and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to Teresa for organising the Church flowers and to Rob Wood for providing quantities of amazing Dahlias. Thank you, Jane, for organizing superbly the Harvest Lunch catering.

#### S.A. Dennis





#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

We hope all those that came to see "Three Men in a Boat" in October enjoyed the evening. We have plans for another show "Get Spooked" on the 22nd of December for a pre-Christmas fun event for all the family. For more information and ticket sales please check out the Events page of our website.

Remember we have the village Fireworks night on Saturday 2nd November accompanied by music, in the recreation ground. Bring along the family. There will be Hot soup, Hot Dogs, and a Bar with Mulled wine.

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

Regular activities in the Hall include:

Monday and Tuesdays at 9:30 am, 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* 

#### FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

Some of you may have noticed that the dexter cattle are back! The boys have enjoyed a nice summer elsewhere and have returned to terraform Long Meadow first. They are pretty docile but don't take kindly to dogs off their lead running round them. The dexter with the horns, one of which had to be cut as it curled in towards the eye, is called Dave. I have no idea why. Another one with the ear tag ending 14 is called Titch. So given that there are six of them the band of the 60s called Dave Dee Dozy Beaky Mick and Titch seems appropriate. However, as another is called Curly and yet another Rufus it does not quite work.

Last month one of the Hebridean sheep got attacked by a dog on Chinnor Hill and its leg became infected. I am pleased to say that all is healed and the flock of 16 is back together again. I expect more sheep will return to Wells this winter as there is plenty of grazing and an amazing group of volunteers to keep an eye on them. If you want to join the group please contact me for further information.

Flooding has been a major issue in the village and the geology means that rain will seem through the permeable sand and chalk layer across the areas down to the impermeable clay layer and run off into the water courses. At Wells there are two large ponds and these are able to slow some of the recent heavy rains down. There are also areas behind the ponds, such as where the board walk goes, that act as mini flood plains. At Wells Farm, holding water back so that it can gradually flow down helps the village and BBOWT are also thinking about adding extra "brakes" on the water course over the winter to help alleviate the problems recent rains have caused on the Haseley Road.

I invite anyone with a couple of hours spare to join me in clearing some of the vegetation along the paths. On November 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 1pm we will tackle the top path that goes from the top of Blenheim to the bridleway. Grey squirrels like to bury nuts and some have grown into two large obstacles that will prevent me from cutting the path next year so they need a coppicing. I also plan to continue hedge laying in December. If you want to join in and find out how it is done, please contact me.

Paul Jeffery - Reserves Warden (<u>paulj201@hotmail.com</u>)

# **TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI**

In our last-minute meeting reshuffle, we welcomed the very entertaining Jane Abbott in October. She told us all about her Alpacas, their fabulous fluff and showed us wonderful felted creatures and pictures she'd made.

On **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, Kally Peigne from Betty Bloom Dance is coming to run a **Bollywood dance workshop** for us. The dances can be adapted for all abilities. Wear your best Bollywood outfit and sensible shoes and come along at 7.30pm for an Indian boogie.

**Everyone welcome, men too!** Visitors £5, or join up for £24 (2024-25).

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

We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Pine Lodge OX44 7PZ at 7.30pm Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

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

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

#### DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

The King Charles Coronation Kneeler was completed and shared with the Church community at our Harvest Festival last month. All that remains is for the signatures of the stitchers to be affixed to the reverse of the Kneeler and then it will join the collection of kneelers that the group has stitched for St. James over the past few years...come along and see them if you're free on a Sunday afternoon when the Church is open or come along to a service and inspect them!? The editor has kindly featured the kneeler on the front cover.

Our next meeting will be on November 27th at Silverdale, the home of Kath Stacey on the Haseley Road.

## Sally Ann Dennis

#### WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Well despite the muntjac eating the squash flowers, amazingly some squashes actually grew. However, all this rain has slowed the ripening so not the best result. Amazingly raspberries are still fruiting. Borlotti beans are a good bean to grow as you can just harvest and dry or freeze for lovely winter stews. In the garden despite the blight, I still managed to harvest tomatoes until the 18<sup>th</sup> October due to the mild conditions although the overall number this year is low. There is still some woodchip available should anyone with an allotment want to use it.

# Paul Jeffery - (paulj201@hotmail.com)

#### **VIEW FROM VIEWS**

I failed to mention last month that September 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 marks 50 years since we moved to Views farm, 28/9/being Michaelmas day traditional day for farmland and labour to change, of slight interest to readers but of quite importance to us. Anyone interested in conservation might like to know that at least 80% of the trees on Views Farm were not here 50 years ago, plus not only have we planted about 700 yards of hedges but all existing hedges had been cut to between 2 and 3ft high. So, I feel confident that we have in our little way done something for the environment.

The beginning of autumn this year all seemed to be going to plan we had all the cultivation and soil conditioning work up to date, and were about to start planting our Winter Barley, when, would you believe, it the heavens opened. The rain we had over those few days was unprecedented and put every thought of work on the land and, planting of crops out of our minds for some time, interestingly enough in spite of what was said, we had more rainfall in October 2019 than September 2024. Then suddenly early October we had a short dry period and fingers were pulled and both the winter Barley and Wheat were planted on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October then on the 14<sup>th</sup> it rained all day, a bit late for the Barley but about on time for the Wheat. As I look across the valley, I cannot escape looking at my neighbours "Oil Seed Rape" looking like an emerald green lawn, and his "Winter Barley" just poking through the ground without envy, he

got his planting done just before the heavens opened. All we ca do now is just hope we have a better season than last without losing any crops.

On the brighter side, when returning from a 2-day break, a raffle prize from the Stadhampton summer fete, we were welcomed home by the sounds of a Combine Harvester, poppy harvest had just started. By tea time they were all gone with a satisfactory tonnage in the barn so, that was a good result in another otherwise disappointing year, almost as soon as the combine left the field we had the devastating rain of the 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> September when 112mm rain fell, according to my records but, as my gauge was overflowing it could have been a deal more, this was too much for the drains in our yard ending up with all last harvests produce sitting in 2inches of water, the worst possible scenario, however the sterling work carried out most of the day by Robert and Tom, with the help of Lee Tenant, (our great back up man only too willing to help in any adversity), we think most has been saved. This was a very worrying situation to be in, however since this episode one load of Wheat has been sold with no comeback, so it looks as if we may have saved the day.

Back in the summer we altered the drainage system in one of our fields to alleviate a problem we have had over the years with a couple of springs, that seemed to move each year and, with the flow increasing. It was decided to couple these springs into the existing drainage system this was completed by the middle of July, the amount of water this released was amazing and, was still running until just before the rains came, mid-September, now are running full bore again. I think in the efforts to save flooding downstream we should perhaps not have done this as it putting ground water directly into the river. On the other hand, I just wonder if this increase in spring activity is to works on HS2, in which case I think we are fully justified, also this is productive agricultural land, which of course I would say is most important when we are losing so much under concrete.

Many birds are taking advantage of the bare poppy ground, Rooks, Crows, Gulls and, Red Kites, I expect feasting on (hopefully), slugs. Add to these for some reason or other we have a collection of small unidentifiable birds, I suspect Gold Finches, Chaffinches, and other Finches or Tits, that seem to form at this time of year, flying around in groups almost like a murmuration.

Some of our readers will have seen the programme on the TV headed by Sir Brian May of "The WHO", looking at the pros and cons of the Badger cull and "Bovine Tuberculosis" (bTB), on the face of it, it seemed remarkably balanced, until one had the chance to analyse what had, or rather what hadn't been said. He is advocating vaccination again, on the face of it should be the real answer, but just how practical is it and, who will be qualified to carry it out. What was not mentioned during the whole programme was the actual figures that give credence to the cull being effective. Around 280,000 cattle have been slaughtered costing us all £100m. The disease is a big threat to livestock farming and although 20,000 cattle were slaughtered in 2023 statistics are show an improving picture. It would be a pity not to continue as I cannot see any other practical way to control bTB and control it we must.

#### Charles Peers





# **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** LITTLE MILTON

# Save the Date!

The Fayre this year will be on Saturday 14th December

There will be a variety of stalls and activities and, as usual, all the profits will be shared equally between St James's Church, The Pine Lodge, The Orchard and Little Milton School.

If you would like to help or have donations of tombola, raffle prizes, etc. please contact any of these organisations.

Thank you

**Teresa Quested** 





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# Walks Programme 2024

November Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	5 mile Spriggs	walk Alley	through , starting	woods from St	and token	farmland church.	via
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- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 7 mile walk from Aston Rowant, visiting Aston Rowant Nature Reserve.
- Saturday 9th Scenic 6 mile walk from Great Kimble via Chequers and Pulpit Hill Nature Reserve. Optional pub lunch at the end.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Gentle, social 2½ mile walk from Abingdon, White Horse Leisure Centre, including coffee stop at café en route.
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Leisurely 5½ miles from Tetsworth, preceding T&W group AGM.
- Thursday 21st Undulating 7-mile Chilterns Walk from Watlington (town car park in Hill Road), with a few moderate steep climbs and some stiles.
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 6-mile walk starting at Chinnor Railway Station car park, around Kiln Lakes, then a gradual climb up Chinnor Hill for views and steep descent.
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 6 mile walk from Nettlebed, the Old Kiln, with optional lunch at the Cheese Shed at the end.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

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

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

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When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

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

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

Visit **Morland House Surgery Website** for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment: 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

#### **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD 2024**

This year we will, again, be compiling a "Village Christmas Card". Last year over 50% of the households in Little Milton participated – that is stunning!

For those of you new to the village, or for those who may have forgotten, this is something we have been doing for many years – we produce a collective Christmas card (no need for individual cards!) and raise money for a very good cause.

Over the past 15 years we have raised funds for Sobell House and have donated in the region of £20,000.

This year we are going to change and support Oxford Children's Hospital Charity – this is an organization that has become, personally, very important.

Great Milton has adopted the Village Christmas Card initiative and last year they raised £2,500. They will also be supporting the Children's Hospital this year and so I hope that collectively we can make a huge success of this idea.

This year we have beautiful images that were collected over the last festive period, so you never know, you might find your home on the card. If you have any other images that you think would work then please let me know.

Every year I am contacted by many people who were disappointed to miss out or who didn't appreciate how lovely the idea is. PLEASE don't let that be you this year!!!! The form is in this Newsletter and as always, the deadline for contributions will be the first Sunday in December.

#### How does it work?

Every village household has the opportunity to write a short greeting that will be printed in a Christmas card and distributed to each home in the village AND (this is the important bit) make a donation to Oxford Children's Hospital at the same time.

How do we join in?

Please complete the form in this newsletter and either return it to me or to the Village Shop **before Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Copies of the form are also available at the Post Office

. We will then prepare the cards, print, and distribute in time for Christmas.

#### How much does it cost?

There is no minimum donation amount, but every pound raised will go to Oxford Children's Hospital.

Who pays for this?

We are grateful to Juliette Langlais of Morgan & Associates and Ben and Charmaine at The Lamb for, once again, generously sponsoring the printing. The artwork and design are kindly provided Baseline Arts in Oxford and all the incidental costs are picked up by a benefactor.

# How are the cards distributed?

A wonderful team of volunteers will deliver the cards to every household in the village in time for Christmas.

#### How much is raised?

Last year we raised just over £2,350 with this simple and fun initiative (and we have raised over £20,000 since starting this venture).

# Can I see an example?

There are some copies of last of previous years' cards at the Post Office.

You REALLY do not want to be one of the people who say "Oh, I wish we had done that ..."

# **Little Milton 2024 Christmas Greetings**



Name(s)
Address
"Unique" Greeting (12 words maximum please)
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Signed Date











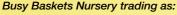


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#### CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Sat 23 & Sun 24 Nov and Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec – 10am till 4pm.

Join us for our Christmas Markets - Arts and Craft Stalls with gorgeous handmade gift ideas and festive food and drink (free entry to markets).

COME & MEET REAL REINDEER Sat 23 & Sun 24 Nov – 11.30am - 2.30pm
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#### FIND SANTA'S REINDEER TRAIL!

Sat 23 Nov till Tues 24 Dec - 10am till 5pm

Help Rudolph find his friends lost all around the gardens and win a prize! £3.95 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult paying garden entrance fee.

Christmas Closure: We will be closed between Christmas and the New Year.

For more details on all our events please visit www.waterperrygardens.co.uk





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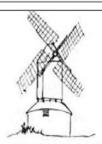


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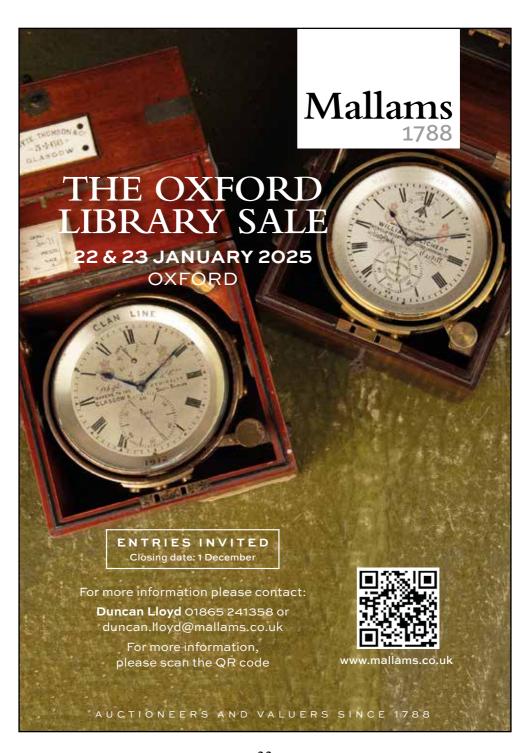
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