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Little Milton
Newsletter

April 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: APRIL 2024

Mon	1st	10.30 -11.30 a.m.,	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Tues	2nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Wed	3rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Thurs	4th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Frid	5th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	7th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon	8th	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	9th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	10th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council– Pine Lodge
Thurs	11th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI – Pine Lodge
Frid	12th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	14th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship St James'
Mon.	15th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	16th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	17th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	18th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	19th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Mon	22nd	10.30-11.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	23rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	24th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group: Spring Cottage
Thurs	25th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	26th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	28th	9.00 a.m.	Benefice Family Communion – St James'
Mon	29th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	30th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
MAY Wed	1st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	2nd	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	3rd	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	5th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'

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

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024

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

Planning

P24/S0570/LB - Plum Tree Cottage, High Street, Little Milton, OX44 7PU
Replace windows to the cottage and garage.
Resolved to Fully Support the application.

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

Little Milton Village Shop

The financial forecast presented in January is on track. It is not anticipated that financial support for the shop will be required for the next 2 to 2.5years. Electricity usage has been cut back. There is a need for volunteers to step forward to help support running the shop.

Speed Indicator Device Signage (SIDs)

Three possible locations have been identified. Agreed to prioritise the location nearest the school. Updated quotations to be obtained and a formal application made to County Councillor van Mierlo for £1,500 from his Councillor Grant Fund towards the cost of a SID.

Reports from Councillor Representatives

Recreation Ground and Open Green Spaces

A further planter to be placed on the corner of Haseley Road and the A329 will be ordered in the next couple of months. As agreed at the last meeting a water carrier at a cost of £280 will be ordered in May.

The Parish Council will continue to pursue the Senior Officer for Cyclical Works at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to push for the drains in the village to be cleared. Biffa has agreed to clear the build-up of material on part of the pavement along the A329.

Contact has been made with the OCC Senior Bridge Technician who has agreed to schedule work to repair the bridge parapet. This will take time due to OCCs winter damage workload.

Highways

The Parish Council has made three separate reports via Fix My Street for repairs to the highway beside the brook. It was agreed to write to landowners adjacent to the brook asking them to carry out their responsibilities as riparian landowners to help alleviate flooding.

The missing signage and lighting from the chicane at the entrance to the village from Thame will be reported again using the new Highways Team Engagement email.

Thames Water trucks have been busy at the pumping station during recent periods of heavy rainfall. Thames Water has reported a further effluent release into the brook. It was agreed to publicise this via social media to alert people and their pets not to go near the brook

Annual Parish Meeting of the Electorate
Resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Saturday 4th May 2024, commencing at Noon at Pine Lodge.

Next Meeting
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2024, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Current Council members

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

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £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 www.southoxon.gov.uk

Give your furniture to a good home

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

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – APRIL 2024

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
3rd April (Wed)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
9th April	No	Yes	No	Yes
16th April	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
23rd April	No	Yes	No	Yes
30th April	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OCC Budget 2024-2025: The budget agreed by councillors for 2024-2025 includes above inflation rises for adult social care and children's services. Councillors also agreed an additional £5m capital (one-time) investment in roads and pavements and £1.2m revenue (ongoing) investment in potholes, drainage, and verges. All parties proposed budgets or amendments that included a 4.99% rise in council tax.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Council Meeting 22 February

The meeting **on 22nd February** was extremely positive, with the focus on setting the budget. At such a difficult time for councils across the UK, with so many at a financial crisis point, SODC's financial position remains positive and no reductions to services were considered. Since 2019 the progressive partnership administration has worked tirelessly to improve and then maintain the council's position through careful budgeting work and targeted investment in council operations. It was especially encouraging that the Community Hub (originally a Covid lockdown initiative) will continue to provide support, and there will be increased funding for homelessness prevention, as well as an expansion of the housing team. I spoke at council about the vital work carried out in homelessness prevention and the statistics to support this.

The budget also includes £500,000 to support community projects, such as to help improve residents' quality of life, to improve local facilities and increase action on climate change. £60,000 will be made available to support the arts across South Oxfordshire and £405,000 to improve the facilities at Cornerstone Arts Centre.

The council's capital budget includes significant planned investment in social housing and decarbonisation of leisure centres to reduce energy usage and ongoing costs.

The council tax for 2024/25 has been set at £146.24 for the year for a Band D property, meaning residents in South Oxfordshire will continue to pay one of the lowest rates in the country for services provided by a district council.

As well as setting and voting through the budget, council also marked two years of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by passing a motion to call on the Minister for Immigration to remove uncertainty around the ability for Ukrainians to remain in the country beyond the three-year temporary visas, many of which are due to expire in 2025. Council also resolved to continue to collaborate with Oxfordshire councils and statutory and voluntary sector partners in the development of a strategic approach for supporting people seeking sanctuary from any background. 2

Changes to Garden Waste Services in 2025

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have agreed the introduction of a permit scheme from April 2025 which will include a sticker for subscribers' bins to identify them as fully paid-up garden waste customers. This kind of scheme is offered successfully by many other local authorities, including in neighbouring West Oxfordshire.

When customers sign up and pay for the scheme in 2025, they will be sent a garden waste permit sticker to put on their bin(s), which will help the waste collection crews identify which bins should be emptied. The permits will act in a similar way to a parking permit as a proof of subscription payment. All subscribers will receive a new sticker annually each time they renew.

This will help to ensure that only households that have paid for the service have their brown garden waste bins emptied. The changes are part of the councils' ongoing work to improve the efficiency and value of public services.

The garden waste subscriptions currently run via annual direct debit payments from the date people signed up for the scheme. Next year, the councils will stop taking direct debit payments for the service. Customers will instead make a single annual payment by debit or credit card - so that everyone's payment year will be the same and will run from 1 April to 31 March each year. The council will directly contact all customers, via letters and email, in plenty of time to remind them to renew.
Benefits to customers include an all-new online system so they can manage their account and change their details much more easily. This will also mean the councils can contact people quickly if there are any disruptions to the service, such as during adverse weather.

Current subscribers will receive notification of the changes with this year's invoices.

Extra garden waste weeks
Got a brown bin? Planning a garden clear out to get ready for summer? Between 15 and 26 April you can put out extra garden waste on your normal brown bin day.

You'll be able to put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste next to your brown bin. If you have more than one brown bin subscription, it's four additional sacks per subscription.

The extra waste must go in standard sized (60 litre) sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants or branches. It can be also go in boxes or containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.

Please do not leave out rubble or builders' waste bags as these won't be collected

Save The Date!

AN NUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will be held at12:00, 4th of May 2024 in the Village Hall. Free snacks will be at hand, and the cash bar will be open.

On top of the annual updates from various groups that operate in the village, this meeting is a **special one**. We are hoping to have as many villagers turn up as possible, so we can all have an input on how best to spend the one-off sum of money we are receiving from the Community Infrastructure Levy (due to the new houses being built in the village). The money has to be spent on developing the local area.

The Parish Council, Village Shop and Village Hall have a joint proposal for some of the money to be spent on using solar panels to reduce the electric bills of the shop, and securing its financial future. If you have any other ideas or suggestions, this is the meeting to put them forward.

If nothing else, it's a great opportunity to get the village out and under one roof!

If you are unable to attend, but would like your voice heard, please email: ed.horwell@gmail.com with the subject heading "Parish Council Annual Meeting" and your ideas will be put forward.

The Little Milton Parish Council

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: APRIL2024

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

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
7th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Alistair Jackson	
14th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local arrangement	
21st April	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	David Harper	
28th April	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
5th May	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local arrangement	

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR APRIL2024

Sunday 7th April

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

Sunday 14th April

9.00 Holy Communion — St Mary's Great Milton
10.30 Family Worship — St James' Little Milton

Sunday 21st April

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

Sunday 28th April

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

Sunday 5th May

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

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR APRIL

W/E 7th April – Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 14th April – Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 21st April – Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield
W/E 28th April – Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 5th March – Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

W/E 7th April - Teresa Quested
W/E 14th April - Teresa Quested
W/E 21st April - Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 28th April - Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 5th May - Jane Willis

Teresa Quested 278922

RECTOR'S PINT

March ended, literally with Easter Sunday, it was the last day of the month, and the clocks went forward an hour. This may well have tested the mettle of anyone who went to a sunrise service on Easter morning. I know what I am like in the early morning!

The Sundays following Easter give us a glimpse into the mind-set of the early disciples and not least, Thomas, who we call 'doubting Thomas'. He is in fact my favourite disciple because he's the one who asks the awkward questions. I think that his doubts are to his credit; he wasn't going to believe in a story or a rumour without evidence. On the Sunday after Easter, his story, recorded in John's Gospel (Chapter 20) tells us that he refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without evidence: "*Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe"*.

We read that Thomas had to wait a week for the evidence to present itself. We don't often get what we want when we want it! "*Although the doors to the room they were in were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you". Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe". Thomas answered him," My Lord and my God".*

I love that story, and that Thomas, who we accuse of being the doubting one, was, in fact, the first among the disciples to declare that Jesus was Lord and God.

Anyone who has ever been at a baptism that I have conducted, will know that I always tell the visitors and guests that I do what I do essentially because I believe this to be true, that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. I believe in the truth of resurrection from the dead because of Him. I have had plenty of times of doubt over the years, about how it all works in the face of the world's complexities and sorrows, but I can't get round this, that those who wrote these accounts down believed them to be true, and that conviction has stayed with me for many years now.

I rarely recommend films that try and tell us this story, but I am very happy to do so with *Risen* which stars Joseph Fiennes as the Roman Tribute who oversaw Jesus' crucifixion and who is then tasked with finding his body when rumours circulated that Jesus had been seen alive. It takes a different and unique view on the resurrection story. It can still be found on Netflix, and I think it is encouraging and uplifting.

Christ is risen.

Simon

I'd like to let you know that all three of our churches are holding their APCM's over the coming month. These Annual meetings are open to all members of the congregation, and anyone who lives in the villages, and are an opportunity to hear about the work of the PCC and the church in our community over the year. Please come along and have a chat, or ask questions, you'll be very welcome. Great Milton's APCM is on Sunday 21st April at 11.30 in St Mary's, Little Milton's APCM is on Sunday 19th May at 11.30 in St James', and Great Haseley's APCM will be at 12.00, following the Benefice Service in St Peter's on Sunday 26th May

Simon

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

March

1st	No;	44	Gill Hill	£10.00
2nd	No;	45	Layla Morgan	£8.00
3rd	No;	25	Chris Coward	£6.00

Diane Austin (Organiser)

Spring Fling
Jazz evening

Get ready to swing with the Carpathians 16 piece Big Band

Friday 3rd May
Little Milton Village Hall
Doors open 7:30 pm

£16 per person inc. smoked Beef brisket roll.

Tickets at the village Shop or online on Little Milton Village hall website https://lmvh.org.uk/

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

Don't miss the "**Spring Fling"**. We have booked an outstanding 16 piece Jazz Band for **Friday** evening **3rd May** with doors opening at 7:30pm. Tickets are £16 and include a smoked beef brisket roll . They are on sale in the village Shop and online on our new website https://lmvh.org.uk/page/news

Also don't miss the **VILLAGE RESIDENTS (ANNUAL PARISH) meeting on Saturday 4th May** at the Hall at **12:00**

Regular activities in the Hall include:
Mondays at 10.30 am **Yoga & Fitness** with Yvonne (y.cartwright@btinternet.com)
Tuesdays at 9:30 am, **Thursdays** at 6:00 p.m. and **Friday** at 9.30am Keep **Fit** on with Alyce (alycefwf@gmail.com)
Wednesday 9:30 am Advanced **Textile** on workshop with Amarjeet (amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)
Thursday's 8:00 pm Dance school (megan_ah@hotmail.com)
Little City once a month on a Thursday (**rosie@littlecityuk.com**)
WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. contact Kath Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk
Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month **at** 7:00 p.m. contact Kath Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk
Parish Council 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further details contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
Village Hall committee 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m. For further details contact giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at www.littlemilton.org.uk , or contact ***Linda Lovegrove*** *linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com*

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

As I write I am hopeful that April is going to be a warmer month with less rain than we have had for the last few months. We are fortunate to have rain where so many other countries are suffering from drought and water shortages, but I think Oxfordshire is now full! This month the extra sunshine accelerates vegetation growth and especially the grasses. Young bunnies will be about. You may even glimpse a young badger being taken out by the adults further from the sett or even playing on the path. Did you know that an adult badger can sprint at 40mph, nearly as fast as a horse! There are a couple of barn owls about, sometimes appearing in the barn and I suspect two squirrels have taken up residence in the old Black Poplar and have therefore kicked them out. I have noticed an increase in squirrel numbers over the last few years and suspect they are doing well in the milder recent winters. Birds are very busy nesting. Yellowhammers nest on the grown in rough grasses next to hedges. We have created a fair amount and the numbers have increased. It is especially important to keep your dogs out of this area from now until the end of July to ensure the chicks are not abandoned and grow to maturity. Skylarks tend to be further into the fields and you may have noticed that the 4 main arable fields have still not been planted up this year. Following the deaths of Paul and Guy Philips last year it is still unclear who will manage these fields and how. In the meantime, the fields are left fallow and it will be an interesting time to observe the changes in wildlife numbers.

If you walk around the reserve you will see a fair amount of work still being done. The overgrown hedge at the top of Blenheim Road has been cut back and laid. Just under half of the hedge along the bridle path at the far end has been laid. The rest will be done next winter. We have also been inspecting some of the newly planted hedgerows and replacing the useless cardboard plant guards with the more traditional plastic guards as the former have fallen apart and have actually rotted the plants. Fortunately the newer plastic guards are more easily recycled. Some of the fences have been repaired especially at the end of Long Meadow to prevent the Dexters from crashing through and falling into the brook!

This month work party jobs will include mending stiles, further maintenance of new hedges and any other jobs that might come along. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to know more about Wells Farm or would like to join me with one of the work party activities. Date for the next work party will be Saturday 13th April from 10am - 1pm.

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

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In March we held our AGM and revealed the 2024-25 programme. This was followed by a talk from Alex Pyle about SODC Waste & Recycling. SODC are the best performing council for recycling in England with nothing going to landfill, it's either recycled or incinerated. The biggest problem is contamination such as dirty pizza boxes or tin foil.

The impromptu theatre club is also taking off with eight of us going to see The Drifter's Girl at the New Theatre in March. A very clever show with just 6 actors taking on many roles, following the story of one of the first African American women to manage a band, plus great music.

On **Thursday 11 April** we're running a **Block Printing workshop** with Karen Fido, making cards, wrapping paper, present and tote bags. 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

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

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

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

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

This month we are meeting on Wednesday 24th April from 11.00 a.m. onwards. The venue is at Spring 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

DORCHESTER ON THAMES
FESTIVAL
3 MAY-12 MAY 2024
THE OLIVIER AWARD WINNING
SHOWSTOPPER!
THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL
restore
working for mental health
Box office 0333 666 3366 www.dorchesterfestival.com

Saturday 18th May – concert
St Katherine's Church, Chiselhampton
7pm for 7.30pm start

£10 ticket (inc drink & nibbles) – fundraising for St K's
(massed fiddles – jigs, reels, airs from UK, Ireland, USA)
- parking – follow signs on day
Contact Moyna de Sélincourt moynades@hotmail.com 07710074015

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

We would like to begin this newsletter by saying a huge thank you to all those of you that have volunteered to help us with jobs around our school site. We are extremely proud of our wonderful school and consider ourselves extremely privileged to work in such a salubrious setting. When we visit other schools, we often come away with a renewed sense of gratitude that our buildings, for the most part, are well maintained, that we have attractive gardens surrounding the school and that our facilities, for the size of our school, are exceptional. Talking to the children, they too seem genuinely appreciative of their school's surroundings, with some commenting that they enjoy the proximity to wildlife, the views and the sense of history associated with our Victorian main building.

Without the help of our volunteers from the school community, the upkeep of our fantastic school would be far more challenging, both physically and financially, so thank you to all of you who have kindly offered help, either recently or in the past. We are always grateful for any help that you might be able to offer!

We would also like to express our gratitude to Louise Aukland for running a well-attended and hugely informative session on 'The Developing Brain and How to Support the Learning and Wellbeing of your Child'.

We were excited to celebrate 'Book Week', and the children participated in a wide variety of activities designed to enhance their enjoyment of reading. We are already passionate about reading, and all things books here at Little Milton School, so it rarely takes much encouragement for the children to settle down and get stuck into a jolly good read. It was great to welcome so many parents into school to share 'a book and a biscuit' with the children. Walking around the classrooms there was so much warmth and joy and, obviously, so much reading going on!

If you are keen to get more involved in supporting our school, please see the ad in this newsletter for a new chair of governors.

Hannah and James Co-Headteacher

VACANCY FOR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS AT LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Are you looking for a rewarding key voluntary role in your local community?
High quality training is available but in the first instance we are looking for someone who can demonstrate many of the following skills and attributes:

- commitment to the school and its mission
- personal integrity
- good understanding of the environment in which the school is operating
- good understanding of the role and legal responsibilities of the board and its members
- strong relationship-building and communication skills
- negotiation and diplomacy skills with the ability to have courageous conversations
- ability to think strategically and objectively, take the long view and prioritise
- capacity to process information quickly and understand relevant data, drawing valid conclusions with a considered approach to risk
- ability to chair meetings well, encouraging debate and facilitating decision-making
- ability to build and get the best out of a team while addressing any skills or experience gaps
- ability and willingness to delegate and trust others

Interested? If so, please contact the school office to find out more about this exciting opportunity to join and lead our friendly team office.3755@little-milton.oxon.sch.uk

The current chair has been in post for six years and will be standing down in July 2024.

"The chair of the governing board is one of the most important leadership roles in education." National Governance Association, 14.09.22

LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL: VACANCIES

Support Assistant

Fixed Term Contract until the end of July (possibility of extension).
Full-time 8.45am – 3.15pm daily (includes lunchtime supporting role). Salary band: Grade 4 FTE.

Are you passionate about working with children? Are you patient, calm and confident with enthusiasm to help children reach their potential? Then this could be the role for you… This role may be working with a small group, or it could also involve supporting a 1:1 child with emotional needs for some of the time.

We can offer

- A small, friendly and supportive team in a positive working environment.
- A small, idyllic setting with views across beautiful countryside.
- Training opportunities
- Plenty of cake and biscuits!

In return the successful candidate will need to have:

- A positive attitude.
- Flexibility in their working approach.
- Enthusiasm and commitment.
- The ability to maintain discretion and confidentiality, demonstrating sensitivity to the needs of all children.
- Successful and satisfactory background check received from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) after interview and before appointment.
- A commitment to safeguarding children.

Apply at https://hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/116616

Lunchtime Support Volunteer

Volunteer required to help with school lunch service from 11.50-12.50.
Please note this is an unpaid position, but rewarding in many other ways!
A DBS check will be undertaken as you will be in contact with children.
Please contact the office if interested on 01844-279310 or email office.3755@little-milton.oxon.sch.uk

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

April 1st is the start of our new contracts. Welcome to Richard and the Simpson family. Great to see lots of activity on the plots although plot 1 is now owned by the badgers who I am struggling to get agreement on the terms of the contract as well as payment

The soil has been very soggy on top but it does dry out pretty quickly. Raspberries, Blackcurrants and Gooseberries all do well on the site. With a bit of attention and protection strawberries work well too. Potatoes are good especially Pink Fer Apples, Charlottes and Desiree. Beans can go in later this month. Plant one for you, one for the birds and one for the mice to make sure you have enough. Get your squashes going under cover (greenhouse) and with a bit of love they will do well for an autumn crop.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com

VIEW FROM VIEWS

There is an old saying that mentions "February Fill Dyke" certainly true this year, looking at my monthly rainfall records covering the last 10 years or so, we have exceeded our average of 50mm, by 100%, having recorded 101. This is interesting as it seems the February average can vary from4mm last year to 99.5 in 2020. Never known it as wet as at present, we can speculate as to the reason, Global Warming, but more likely the intensive development along the Thame valley. It is this over development that is causing not only this flooding but also the pollution of all water courses. If we are to stop this unacceptable situation, we must halt all development until proper mitigation action is taken. I have seen pictures of the chalk streams (the Test) in Hampshire, having sewage pumped into it this must stop, enough is enough, and to note the state of our flooded meadows when the floods recede, is beyond belief. Moreover I note that Southern Water have stated that they are to continue to extract water from these streams, during dry periods, probably until 2035 having agreed to 2027. These are just more examples of us human pressure on nature.

By the end of the first week of March, at last it looked as if we might soon be able to do some field work, first operation was to put on the first dose of fertiliser, which we did manage, now that could well be in the river. The next task will need to be attack weeds

which do not seem too bad, I guess due to the inclement weather, then of course disease will be the next problem just beginning to show. The condition of the crops is still presenting us with conundrums, we are still not sure what we should do with the Barley, much more of it looks as if it could produce a half decent crop, than it did this time last month. The Wheat is fine, if readers can remember one field we planted straight into a standing crop that had been killed the day before and, was still standing at 18" tall, this is a much better looking piece than the crop in the adjacent field planted on the same day. Now with more rain everything is back on hold.

Needless to say many water birds have benefitted from the floods, being constant visitors mostly gulls but, also Egrets. March is the month of the "Mad march Hare" luckily, I can report that the population of this wonderful creature is on a path to recovery. Grey/English Partridge continue to increase here, although they are thought of as a game bird and this many would think of little importance, nearly become extinct due to the introduction of the "Red legged/French Partridge" as they are more prolific therefore, better bet to introduce for game shooting. The "Greys", I am told are not so savvy as the "Reds" so need more nurturing, so it is somewhat of an achievement to be hosting them. The traditional Blackthorn Winter has seemed never ending, with it flowering over a much extended period this spring.

There is a debate around food security and, use of home-grown crops to produce green energy, this is an argument which is difficult to answer. How about years ago we used to grow oats to feed draught horses which gave us the power to plough, so what is different to now producing fuel from crops to power our tractors.

The PM recently attended the NFU annual conference, very rare for a PM to do this but, of course it is an election year. He did though make some very reassuring noises leading us to believe that he understood our problems, it remains to be seen what happens as we have heard it all before. Recent news on the subsidy schemes makes us believe that they are not only becoming more user friendly but also set at more realistic rates all very encouraging. Having said that there did not seem much for us in the budget. Not that anyone could expect much as the country is on its knees financially, as we cannot, repair the roads, support the NHS, or the Police, Railways are in disarray, and Education, all needing more investment, to mention just a few. The country has to recover financially somehow from being devastated by Covid and, now Ukraine.

Last month I mentioned the M & S building in London, where quite rightly Michael Gove said it should not be pulled down, for all sorts of very good reasons one being the waste of perfectly usable materials, but he has been overruled, by someone or system that has no regard for our valuable raw materials. Whilst on the political front, I understand that our previous district councillor is to stand as an MP for this constituency, all I can say that if she looks after us in the way she did as a councillor, then we will have an excellent MP.

Next Month sees us yet again partaking in the "Chiltern Vintage Tractor run", 19th May in aid of the "Air Ambulance", and this year we are fielding 4 tractors between us. Last year we collected £1782.50, which of course does not include those who donated to a communal "Just Giving" fund. Obviously, I ask as many who can to give generously, either directly or, for this most worthy of charities, via my "Just Giving" page;- "www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charles-peers5".

Charles Peers

Walks Programme 2024

APRIL

Tuesday 2nd	**Meet at Warborough church for a leisurely 7 mile walk via Berrick Salome.**
Thursday 4th	**Meet at Bradenham for an undulating 7 mile walk via West Wycombe.**
Tuesday 9th	**Gentle, social 2½ mile walk from Chinnor High Street. Refreshments available at the Village Centre at the end of the walk.**
Thursday 11th	**Meet at Nuffield, church car park, for a 7½ mile walk, hopefully with plenty of bluebells.**
Saturday 13th	**Meet at the Stanton St. John Village Hall car park for a 7 mile walk through villages and fields.**
Monday 15th	**Meet at Bradenham NT car park, Smalldean Lane, for a 5 mile walk. Quiet roads, tracks and hills, though not too steep.**
Thursday 18th	**Meet at Bledlow for a 9 mile circular walk in the Chilterns. Bring a picnic.**
Thursday 25th	**Meet at Holton, lay-by junction A40 and B4027, for a 5½ mile walk via Forest Hill, skirting Stanton Great Wood and through Holton Wood.**
Saturday 27th	**Meet at Wheatley, car park off Church Road, for an 8 mile walk up and down ridges and valleys. Bring a picnic.**

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.

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

The NHS launched the **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)** on 31st January (see NHS Pharmacy First Service (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
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Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6

John Howell MP writes March 2024

Issues around the environment are never far away as there are so many important issues to pay attention to. As I write this month it's The Big Plastic Count. I'm joining lots of people across the country counting the single use plastic that I use this week. It will be interesting to see the data for this year to see how we are doing in moving away from single use plastics. It does take time to change our habits and indeed the manufacture of products. Since the introduction of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England in 2018 significant progress has been made to address plastic pollution, including a ban on microbeads and restricting the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, plastic-stemmed cotton buds, plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.

Just as the need to reduce our plastic has become more widely known so too are concerns on the testing on animals of chemicals used as ingredients in cosmetics. The Government has recognised the public concern around this and has recently introduced measures to ensure that no new licences will be granted for animal testing of chemicals that are exclusively intended to be used as ingredients in cosmetics products. This is more good news.

Another concern raised with me recently is for our hedgerows which are an important part of our landscape. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is moving forward on several fronts on this. There are schemes to encourage farmers to maintain and restore existing hedgerows, while also planting more. Defra is also supporting farmers in assessing the condition of hedgerows, and to manage them in a way that will work for wildlife and improve biodiversity. However, it's not all about business. There are also plans in progress for domestic hedgerow regulations which will, among other things protect nesting birds in the season.

Another area which I know is of interest to constituents is the growing dependence on new technology and the risk of alienation that this can lead to for some people. We live in an increasingly online world and it is not going to change. This means that digital skills are important - from the basics that people need to make the most of online connectivity, to the skills needed in every job, to the high-level skills for the growing number of specialist jobs in the economy. The Government is committed to helping those who need support to acquire basic digital skills and is also working to remove barriers. This is all part of its broader strategy to reduce digital exclusion and very welcome.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

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 **May 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th April**. The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published.

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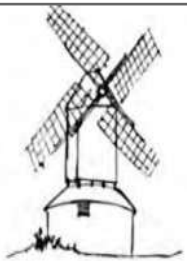

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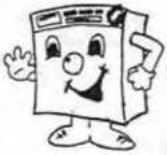

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KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Church: St James	01844 278349	Revd. Simon Cronk
Doctors	01865 872448 111 0845 345 8995 999	Morland Surgery Out of Hours Service NHS Helpline Medical Emergencies
Little Milton Shop	01844 278175	Alison Shelton (Manager)
Little Milton School	01844 279310	Hannah Blest and James Bell Co-Head Teachers
Milk Deliveries	07773006485	SHT Ltd (Alan Woods)
MUGA	Bookings for the courts are made at the Post Office	
Neighbourhood Watch	01844 279468	Mark Willis
Newsletter	01844 279150	Raymond Fergusson (Editor)
OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180 01844 875635	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278605 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Steve Willis (Chairman) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
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