

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

November 2024

Published by the Parish Council

No. 602



## Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides rights of public access to information held by Public Authorities. The Parish Council adopted a new publication scheme in November 2019: details can be found on the Parish Council Website at <https://www.great-milton.co.uk/freedom-of-information/>. Residents can see records of the policies and practices of the Parish Council including minutes, financial information and responses to planning consultations, on request from the Parish Clerk or via the website.

## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	<b>Bill Fox</b>	<b>01844 279716</b>
Ward:	Thame Road, inc Fullers Field and Green Hitchings	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>David Harms</b>	
Ward:	The Green from Priory Bank to Tara/Applewood	
<b>Councillor:</b>	—	—
Ward:	The Old Garage to North End Cottage, Lower End	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Sarah MacMahon</b>	<b>07580 581655</b>
Ward:	Thame Road from Green Hitchings to A329	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>Andrew Noble</b>	—
Ward:	Milton Common	

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: tba**  
**contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk**

## Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee:	James Cunningham (Chair), Michele Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity:	Adrian Buckmaster (Chair), David Mackrory (Treasurer)
Hard Surface Play Area:	Mark Nethercleft (Chair), Dan Bennett (Treasurer), Sarah MacMahon (Membership)
Neighbourhood Watch:	Rod Snowdon
Kent & Couling Charity:	Simon Cronk, Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham
Sheppard Trust:	Simon Cronk, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall:	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

**Front Cover:** Ruth Ligget from Wheatley Birds of Prey holding Chaos, a 12 year old Peregrine x Lanner falcon at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons **Photo:** Nick Belcher.

## Key Contacts:

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk
Great Milton Parish Council Stephen Harrod (Chair) (Clerk)	01844 278068 —	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk Fixmystreet.com
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OCC Highways	0845 310 1111	highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Housing	01235 422422	housing@southandvale.gov.uk
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	planning@southoxon.gov.uk

### Services

Emergency - Police, Fire, Ambulance	999	
Police non-emergency	101	thamesvalley.police.uk
GP Surgery, Morland House	01865 872448	morland-house.co.uk
NHS non-emergency	111	nhs.uk
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	nationalgrid.com/uk/safety/
Electricity Outage	0800 072 7282	sse.co.uk
Burst pipe or leak	0800 714 614	thameswater.co.uk
Floodline	0345 988 1188	gov.uk/check-flood-risk

### Local information

St. Mary's Church: Rev. Simon Cronk		simon.cronk@btinternet.com
Methodist Church: Rev. Stephen Spain	01865 763676	
Neighbourhood Watch: Rod Snowdon	07836 728919	bigsnodi@hotmail.co.uk
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire	03444 111 444	caox.org.uk
The Maple Tree Children's Centre	01865 873916	mapletreecc@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Great Milton Neighbours Hall	07970 264667	
Great Milton Pavilion & Recreation Ground	01844 278116	
Great Milton Website		contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk http://www.greatmilton.co.uk
Great Milton Bulletin	01844 278347	contact@clerkgreatmilton.co.uk gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk
Great Milton Primary School	01844 279388	gmilton.org
Wheatley Park School	01865 872441	www.wheatleypark.org

### Transport

Comet - for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	info@oxfordbus.co.uk
Arriva (280) Bus	0344 800 4411	arrivabus.co.uk
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	oxfordtube.com
Park & Ride		oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	nationalrail.co.uk

## **Parish Council Notes**

Present: Cllrs S Harrod (Chair), B Fox (Vice-chair), M Horsley (MH), D Harms (DH), S MacMahon (SM), A. Noble (AN), In attendance: Allison Leigh (Locum Clerk), Tim Darch (former Parish Clerk, observing), and a member of the public.

### **Appointment of Locum Parish Clerk**

The Council resolved to formally appoint Allison Leigh to the role of Locum Parish Clerk/RFO for Great Milton Parish Council until a permanent appointment is made.

### **Appointment of Councillor**

The Council resolved to co-opt Andrew Noble to the role of councillor. Cllr Noble completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and completed the Register of Interests which the Locum Clerk will send to SODC.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Georgina Heritage, Freddie VanMierlo (MP and County Councillor)

Variation of order of business: The Council resolved not to vary the order of business.

Declarations of members' interest (if any): None.

Matters to Report: No reports were received.

The Chair noted that there is an opportunity to vote on the South and Vale Local Plan process. It was noted that a local group looks at the Plan from a whole area point of view. D. Harms will work with the Chair on this.

Correspondence and Public Discussion: None.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The Council approved and signed the minutes of the meeting of GMPC held on Monday 16th September 2024.

The Vice Chair mentioned that with regards to Item 109/24 of from the September meeting, he had been in touch with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) Planners regarding the request of the owner of Newton Cottage to create a surfaced parking space outside their house on a strip of grass verge maintained by the PC. SODC responded that this would almost certainly constitute a change of use, requiring a planning application to be submitted. M Horsley had informed the owner accordingly, suggesting they liaise directly with the Planning Authority.

### **Planning Applications**

The Council considered the following planning applications.

A Milton Pools Fishery near Milton Common OX44 7JE

To consider the following planning applications received from SODC.

Erection of 2 x extensions to main building (Units 2 and 4); erection of building

(Unit 3).

Lawful Development: no comments required.

Saracote, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NP

Partial conversion of existing garage and workshop to ancillary domestic use including internal and external stairs and construction of a first floor/mezzanine (As amended by plans received 06 September 2024).

Following further consultation with neighbours (who had no objections to the amended plans) and given the restricted window for comment which precluded discussion at this meeting, the Parish Council has expressed its support for the amended plans to the case officer at SODC. Subsequent to this, permission has been GRANTED for the proposed development.

B The Council noted the following planning decisions received and any outstanding planning matters.

The Bull, The Green, Great Milton

Demolition of existing single and two-storey extensions, erection of single-storey side extension, single and two-storey rear extension, internal alterations and dormer window to rear (amended drainage plans received 16 August 2024).

Permission granted.

It was noted that all that has been done has been in accord with the original application.

The Old Vicarage Church Road Great Milton

Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans) and 3 (Materials) on application P24/S0994/HH (Alterations and refurbishment of the main house. Demolition of log store outbuilding and garage and replacement with new oak framed garage and new double storey extension to the Coach House. Alterations to the Apple Store for use as a gym. New outdoor swimming pool and pool house & associated landscaping) - to allow for a change in the approved roof material for the new pool area house from clay tiles to corrugated iron.

Permission granted.


Common Cottage, London Road, Milton Common OX9 2NU

Single dwelling.(as amplified by noise assessment and additional information received 9 August 2024).

Application withdrawn.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Land east of Junction 8a, M40 Waterstock OX33 1HT

Demolition and clearance of existing buildings and structures to allow for the construction of up to 120,000sqm of Use Class E employment floorspace 

comprising Research and Development units, Light Industrial units, ancillary offices, ancillary amenity buildings (up to 2,400sqm), Creche (up to 600sqm), Forest School (up to 150sqm), along with new site accesses, internal roads and footpaths, surface and multi storey car parking, open space, landscaping, biodiversity enhancements, drainage features including SUDs and other engineering operations, infrastructure and associated works. All matters of detail reserved.

This inquiry has been and will be heard at a public inquiry on 15-18 Oct, 29 Oct-1 Nov, 5-8 Nov, 12-15 Nov 2024, 14-17 Jan & 21 Jan 2025 at 10.00 am. The inquiry will be held at The Great Hall, Fair Mile, Cholsey, OX10 9GW.

### **Financial Resolutions**

A The Council authorised the following payments:

Shield Maintenance Dog Waste September £92.82

Tactical Facilities Management - September £635.60

Moore (External Audit): £252

Tim Darch: temporary administrative support during hiatus between Parish Clerks: £600

BT Office/e-mail package: £14.83 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

Hugo Fox: web support: £23.99 (paid by monthly Direct Debit)

JM Dudley (GM bulletin -October): £335.20

It was noted that perhaps a schedule of grass cutting would be useful and could be considered for the 2025 2026 contract.

B The Council reviewed and signed the monthly bank reconciliation, accounts and bank statements.

It was noted that in minute reference 78/24 from the May 2024 meeting, the Council agreed to utilise the CIL funds from the Milton Common development for the purchase of the speed indicator devices. The Locum Clerk will follow up with the District Council to receive those funds.

C Annual Governance and Accountability Return Form 3 for the year ending 31st March 2024.

The Council acknowledged the Conclusion of Audit for the financial year 2023-24. The External Auditor's Report and associated documents from the Annual Governance and Accountability Review are available to view on the GMPC website.

The Council considered the actions from the 2023/2024 External Auditor's Report and the Locum Clerk has circulated a plan for the Council to follow to address these actions.

2024/2025 Internal Audit: The Council resolved for the Locum Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for the 2024/2025 internal audit.

2025/2026 Budget: The Council resolved for the Clerk to use 2024/2025 as a template for the 2025/2026 budget and did not yet have any new items for the 25/26 budget. The Council wanted to ensure that tree maintenance remains in the budget. The Council asked the Clerk to check on the status of the tree works planned for 24/25.

### **Requests for grant funding**

The Council resolved to donate £50 to Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice, who offered support or advice to 23 residents of Great Milton covering 70 issues in 2023-24.

The Council resolved to donate £50 to Hope After Harm, who provide long-term solutions to the challenges people face in relation to crime and social exclusion across the Thames Valley.

### **Parish Clerk and Councillors' update of matters in hand**

The meeting scheduled with Oxfordshire Highways on Monday 23 September to discuss highway-related issues in the village was postponed due to bad weather. The meeting will be rearranged. It was noted that Fix My Street has been responsive in the parish recently.

The website has been updated to reflect the current cohort of councillors. The Locum Clerk will add AN to the website. It was noted that there are some updates to the bulletin needed on the website. The Locum Clerk will look into this with Tim Darch.

The proposed meeting with the school to discuss parking-related issues was discussed. It was noted that the issues are increased when special events such as sports days occur. DH will look to arrange a meeting with a school representative and a recreation committee member.

The Council rescheduling of the Parish Council's monthly meeting to the second Wednesday of the month is still yet to be formally agreed. The Council will keep the current meeting schedule at this time.

### **Plans for redevelopment of Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons**

The Chair noted that he had correspondence from Le Manoir regarding the planned redevelopment indicating there is no plan for them to close for two years, but there may be some disruption. The Chair noted he is due to meet with Le Manoir on Monday the 28th October. A discussion was had as to whether Le Manoir might attend a future meeting of GMPC so that GMPC can communicate any information to residents. The Chair will mention this at the meeting on the 28th October.

### **Security in the village**

DH spoke to head of security at Le Manoir and they've had some apples



and a beehive stolen.

It was noted that someone had recently been knocking on doors to see who is in. This was reported.

### **Bus Data Capture Exercise**

Tim Darch noted that OCC is seeking to capture data on the current state of bus shelters. The Council asked the Locum Clerk to forward the information to GMPC again.

The Chair thanked Tim Darch for standing in as Clerk through mid-October.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th November starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm.

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## **Maintaining our Church**

Part of maintaining our church is keeping it clean. We have had a large team of volunteers who have taken it in turn to do this in pairs and this has worked well over the years. Unfortunately, many of these people can no longer help due to illness, age or moving house. It is important that the church is well looked after to provide the best environment possible for services, weddings, funerals etc. We also receive visitors from all around the world on a daily basis, judging from the visitors book.

We are keen to recruit people to join our cheerful band of cleaners. This would entail 1 hour 3 times in a month with a cleaning partner, maybe once or twice a year but doing more or less is welcome too. So this could be just 3 hours out of your year. It is usually one person vacuuming and one person dusting and tidying.

We are also looking for extra paid support once a month. We wish to employ someone for 2 hours once a month for £12/hour or 2 people for one hour. Two people working together would be our preference. If 18-20 year olds wish to do this, the salary would be £8.60/hour and £6.40 for 16-17 year olds.

If we enhance our team with paid support, this obviously puts pressure on our church finances so we would be thrilled if someone would like to sponsor the extra paid support for a year (£280/year).

Can you help with any of the following?

- Joining our rota of volunteers to help clean the church
- Paid cleaning once a month
- Sponsorship of supplementary cleaning once a month, should we find anyone to do this.

The churchwardens or Rector would love to hear from you.


## Benefice Services for November

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 3rd		Holy Communion 9:00am  Service for the Commemoration of the Departed 4:00pm	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by Service of Holy Communion 10:45am	Remembrance Service with Tony Jefferis 10:45am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial followed by Service of Remembrance Service with Tony Garfitt 10:45am
Sunday 17th	Joint Service with the Methodists at The Methodist Chapel 11:00am (no service at St. Mary's)		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP 9:00am	

## Benefice Services for December

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 1st <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

## The 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 10th November, or on the following day, which commemorates the armistice that was signed on Monday, 11th 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 3rd November 4.00pm**

Come and give thanks and light a candle as you remember those whom you love but see no longer.

## Great Milton Methodist Church Services

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

November 2024				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
10th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev. Miriam Moul	
17th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Rev. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
24th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Sue Barratt	

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## Great Milton Bellringers

We have been ringing together for 30 years. We were taught as a band – that is, taught together – and went on to practise every week, ring for services, for weddings, funerals, and special days in the Village, and in the Country. We rang with all the other towers for the Millenium, for Queen Elizabeth, and more recently, for the King.

We have always enjoyed our ringing – we have had our share of sadness within the Tower, but again, together, have come through, and overall it has been a happy Tower. The Bellringing network is solid – we have made many friends in the neighbouring ringing world, and we have been lucky to have had two fine Captains to lead the way.

However, times change, and in spite of many invitations to the Village, there has been little or no interest. We have a clean, warm Tower, eight excellent bells (regularly maintained) and the oldest church clock in Oxfordshire. We have ringers who can teach, and between us have many skills that would help a new band.

So, as Great Milton Bellringers, we say 'Goodbye' – it has been over a quarter of a century of friendship, village life, many a laugh and lots of stories. Sincere thanks to those who have enjoyed the bells, and supported us along the way.

*GMB*

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## Village Christmas Card 2024

After the roaring success of last year's Village Christmas card, we are really excited to start fundraising for and preparing the 2024 Great Milton Christmas Card! The form for contributions is below. Please complete it and return it to the Village Shop by Sunday 1 December.

**What is it?** The Village Christmas Card is a great way for us all to wish our neighbours a Merry Christmas, whilst raising much needed funds for charity. It is a card containing Christmas messages from anyone in the village who wishes to be involved, distributed to all households in the village.

**How does it work?**

All households that want to be involved should:

- complete the below form with a festive message and return it to the Village Shop by Sunday 1 December; and
- make a donation to the Oxford Children's Hospital Charity. This can be via Just Giving (link/ QR code below), cash or cheque (cheques payable to Oxford Hospitals Charity please). Please enclose cash or cheques in an envelope with your completed form when returning it to the Village Shop.

We will collate the messages and arrange for the card to be professionally designed and printed, and distributed to every home in the village in time for Christmas.

Copies of the form are also available at the Village Shop and The Bull, together with examples of last year's card.

**Which charity are we fundraising for?** This year, we are raising money for the Oxford Children's Hospital Charity. The Charity provides vital support for our local Children's Hospital and, from personal experience, we know that it funds the extras that make time in hospital a bit more bearable for children and their families.

Last year a huge number of households came together to raise nearly £2,500 for charity through the card, and we were so grateful for your support.

**How much does it cost?** There is no minimum donation (unless you wish to enter the prize draw – see below) and every pound raised will go to the Oxford Children's Hospital Charity because we are being supported by local businesses.

We are grateful to Juliette Langlais of Morgan & Associates and Ben and Charmaine at The Lamb in Little Milton for generously sponsoring printing costs. Design is provided by Baseline Arts in Oxford and all incidental costs are covered by a benefactor. The images on the front of the card were taken around the village by Nick Belcher last Christmas (so you may see your house on the card!)

**Prize draw** Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons has offered dinner for two for one lucky household that contributes to the card. The minimum contribution to enter the draw for the prize is £10 (although more generous donations will be very gratefully received!).

If you have any questions about the card, please let one of us know (rebecca.longshaw@longshaws.com).

*Rebecca Barry and Laura Putt*

**GREAT MILTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD 2024:  
CONTRIBUTION FORM**



**Name(s)**

.....

**Address**

.....

**"Unique" Greeting** (12 words maximum please)

.....

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**Donation** .....

Cheques payable to "**Oxford Hospitals Charity**" (we can also accept cash, but cheque preferred) OR pay via Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/gmchristmascard2024>



QR code for Just Giving

Donated via Just Giving (please delete as appropriate): **YES / NO**

NB If you are donating via Just Giving, **you still need to complete this form with your message and return it to the Village Shop!**

Please place your completed form and any cheque or cash donation in a sealed envelope with "Village Christmas Card" written on the outside and return to the Village Shop **by Sunday 1 December.**

**Many thanks**

**Rebecca Barry & Laura Putt**

If you are a UK taxpayer, we can increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must agree to the following declaration:

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

## **Benefice Breakfast**

**Come and hear Alyson Frost, Head of Great Milton School**

Our next Benefice Breakfast will be at 8.30 am on Saturday 16th November at Northend Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton.

This breakfast is open to all and will give us an opportunity to hear from Alyson about her life, her teaching career, today's children (our future!) and the relevance of the Christian ethos of the school.

Croissants, bacon baps, fruit juice, coffee and tea will be served.

Everyone is welcome, church-goer or not: but please tell Tony Jefferis on 01844 278743, or 07813 790678 or [afjefferis@btinternet.com](mailto:afjefferis@btinternet.com) if you would like to come.

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## **Senior Citizens' Party Committee**

### **Quiz Night - 4th October**

Ten teams took part in the quiz and, for the first time in the history of the event, two teams finished level on 80 points, the teams being 'Easy Tiger' and 'Gropey Beth'.

Proceeds from the evening totalled £367.11 in support of the Senior Citizens Annual Party Fund.

Special thanks to Paul Dennis for once again taking on the role of Question Master. Thank you to everyone who supported the event in any way.

*Ann Price - Secretary*

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## **Great Milton Neighbours Club**

### **Outing to Richmond-upon-Thames**

Club members and fellow travelers couldn't fail to discover new facts during their October trip to Richmond/Twickenham. The stark factors that led to the establishment of The Poppy Factory, now over 100 years ago, are well known. The complete and moving story behind The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was new to many as was that the Royal Family have a wreath which they have designed for the duration of their reign. The King's new wreath was on display.

The relatively small Eel Pie Island Museum was like an Alladin's cave, packed with details about the Doggett's Boat Race (which has been running longer than the Varsity race), for example, the background to the Island's boatyard plus memorabilia

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and plenty of photos on a who's who from 1956 to the 70s music industry. Even the Rolling Stones performed for five consecutive days prior to their global fame. An Island resident, the inspirational inventor Trevor Bayliss CBE also has a gallery (he opened the attraction just two weeks before his death). The Club had exclusive access but anyone can visit for just £3 but please check opening times in advance. (The picture depicts some of the group hearing about the Island's musical heritage.)

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## Great Milton History



### War years - 1940 - 45 (I was 8 years old)

The day Great Milton was invaded – don't panic Mr Mainwaring! There would not be many folks around now that would remember the occasion, it was when our own troops were on manoeuvres and paid Great Milton a visit. They were with us for about 2 weeks if I remember correctly – mostly in the Recreation Ground and down Ives Lane and Ives field below Chilworth Farm. They were all under camouflage. They had light tanks, brengun carriers mostly and I think there were a few Churchill tanks if my memory serves me right. I shall always remember when they left – the farm ditches were full of uneaten porridge – several wheelbarrows full, and yards of communication wire in the hedgerows!



## **The Sheppard Charitable Trust**

At their meeting in May, the Trustees agreed grants to Noah Reeve, William Peers and Jonny Hook, to boost their fundraising activities for overseas expeditions, St Mary's Church Fete Committee and Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee who asked for help with the cost of replacing the well-used and rather dilapidated cricket net, concrete base and astroturf.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th November, to be followed by another in late February/early March. The Trustees look forward to receiving your requests. Under the terms of the Trust Deed, support can only be given to organisations based in Great Milton, and which benefit the citizens of Great Milton.

Applications should be sent to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton, OX44 7QE, or by email to sheppardtrustGM@gmail.com to arrive by Wednesday 6th November

*Jane Willis*

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## **Great Milton CE Primary School Governor News Bites**

### **Be Smart Online**

#### **Keeping Children Safe in Education**

Governors, in particular the one appointed with Filtering and Monitoring Responsibility, support school's provision of a safe environment to learn and work when online. Safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material is a priority and the provision is reviewed annually.

Messages about staying safe online are embedded across Great Milton CE Primary School curriculum, not only through PSHE and Computing. Here are a few reminders to help our children stay safe while enjoying the many benefits of being online when at home. Following these guidelines whilst being a positive role model with your own screen time will make the internet a safer place for them.

**Keep personal information private:** Teach children never to share their name, address, phone number, or school name online without permission from a trusted adult.

**Use strong passwords:** Encourage the use of strong passwords and to not share them with anyone except parents or carers

**Be careful with strangers & what you write:** Just like in real life, children should not talk to strangers online. Explain that not everyone they meet on the internet is who they say they are. And that what you post is there for eternity so its important to be

measured and thoughtful beforehand.

Parental guidance: Set limits on screen time and monitor the sites and apps children are using. Install parental controls if needed.

Be kind online: Teach children to be respectful and kind to others, and to report any bullying or inappropriate content they come across.

You can read much more about school's overall approach to e safety on its website.

Diary Dates:

7 November, Monsters Disco, School Hall

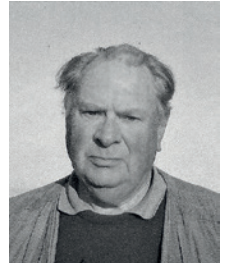
6 December, Christmas Fair, School Hall

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## View from Views

I failed to mention last month that September 28th 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 13th October then on the 14th 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 can 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 22nd 23rd 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 loosing 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 murmur-ation.

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*

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## **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 14th, 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 [www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

Pine Lodge website: [www.lmvh.org.uk](http://www.lmvh.org.uk)

Kath Stacey 01844-279438 [tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:tonstogetherwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

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## **Morland House Surgery**

### **Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only

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

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



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Ordering Repeat Prescriptions: Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the 'prescriptions' page on our website.

Check and Cancel – you may now check and/or cancel an upcoming appointment via our telephone system. From the main menu, just press 1.

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](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) For example:

- Medical Records and Test Results - guidance on how to access this information.
- Pharmacy First Service (PFS), whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.
- Group Consultation Clinics – Group clinics are currently being offered for the menopause and hypertension. Eligible patients are being invited to attend, but if you would like to know more, please do contact us.
- Whooping Cough infections, symptoms and treatment
- Drink Coaches – take the quick and confidential text
- Travelling abroad – what MHS can and cannot do for you

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## **Cyclists Suff(olk)Ering**

### **Four Punctures And A Decking**

In September 2005, the Gt Milton Cycling Association took itself off to Symonds Yat on the river Wye for a long weekend of getting lost in the Forest of Dean. Every September for the next 12 years, we inflicted ourselves on a different part of the country, the last one being a trip to North Norfolk in 2017.

After a hiatus of seven years, the Association decided to reprise this tried, trusted and highly enjoyable format for old times' sake, and last September, 14 of your village's finest, now increasingly white of hair and stiff of knee, headed to the Crown Inn in the delightful Suffolk village of Westleton, close to the bird sanctuaries at Dunwich and Walberswick, and the Minsmere Nature Reserve.

The Saturday dawned bright, and after a hearty breakfast – several of our party availed themselves of something called “the full East Anglian” (basically, a heart attack on a plate) – we set forth for our first official stop: coffee at the magnificent Snape Maltings.


Suitably refreshed, our next port of call was lunch at the Jolly Sailor PH in the lovely village of Orford, voted among the 20 most beautiful villages in the UK by Conde Nast Traveller. Across the river Alde lies Orford Ness, a foreland shingle spit of land internationally renowned for nature conservation. It was formerly administered by the Ministry of Defence, and it was where the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment had a base where they conducted tests to determine the functional performance of weapon components. Many of the buildings from this time loom eerily in the distance and are clearly visible from Orford Quay. Amazing what you learn on a cycling weekend!

Expertly led by Mark Richardson, we ended the day having cycled 43 delightful, trouble-free and largely harmonious miles.

Dinner that evening followed a familiar format. Aware of the noise we were making – the decibel level has risen over the years as the aural acuity has deteriorated – the hotel banished us to a side room to avoid upsetting other guests. After a champagne “celebration” of Helga’s 70th, and a sumptuous meal, Mark reprised his role as the earthly representative of the mystical Chairman of the British Order of Locally-Organised Cycling Societies, conveying the Chairman’s delight at the resurrection of this great event and presenting a couple of silly awards.

After Saturday’s organisational triumph, Sunday started less promisingly. The Richardsons discovered their car had a flat tyre, and both Wendy R and Graham Orriss (yes, he and Sally were back among us!) experienced punctures before we had even left the hotel car park. Mark then led us to Walberswick down a sandy track where Malcolm Horsley unwittingly provided the next entertainment, pedalling furiously as his road bike sank further into the sand until he gently subsided to the floor. Having crossed the river Blyth, coffee was taken in Southwold where we then cycled the entire length of the promenade past lots of signs saying “No Cycling”.

The next to suffer misfortune was your correspondent. Turning too sharply into the gravelled car park of the Queens Head PH, Blyford, my wheels slid from beneath me and I hit the deck. No damage done apart from a bloodied finger. This was followed by Mark having a puncture, thus giving the Richardsons the full set: car and both bikes!

On our way back to base, Mark guided us to the church of St Andrew at Bramfield. This is one of Simon Jenkins’ 1,000 must-see churches in the UK and comprises 

a thatched 13th century church, and a completely separate 12th century round tower, both Grade 1 Listed. There were no further disasters as we cycled uneventfully back, having completed another life-affirming 37 miles.

Overall, the weekend was a triumph. Mark's routes were stunning, all on back lanes, byways and cycle tracks, and the patience of the Suffolk drivers was admirable. When you're stuck behind a gaggle of 14 ageing cyclists, with minimal opportunities to pass, the temptation to hoot, swear or offer the finger must have been overwhelming..... but they resisted.

Another first for these weekends was that every single cyclist cycled every one of the 80 miles we covered over the two days – not bad for a group in which only Malcolm was under 60 – although he did help notch up our average weight! Other than those already mentioned, the group comprised Paul and Mary Wakefield, Wendy Harbottle, Tony and Jane Jefferis, Clare B-F, and Clare Fox.

Of course, you don't have to be borderline DNR to join the Club, and if you'd like to know more about us, don't hesitate to contact me: [wjfox@aol.com](mailto:wjfox@aol.com) We really do have a lot of fun!

*Bill Fox*

*Bibo Ergo Sum*



# **GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **GREAT PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY!**

Due to an unexpected change in circumstances, Great Milton Parish Council needs a Parish Clerk to start as soon as possible.

The Clerk's duties, while crucial to the smooth functioning of the Parish Council, are not onerous, consisting mainly of administrative tasks such as:

- Preparation of the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting, with notes to guide Councillors
- Attendance at the Parish Council meeting – currently the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 1930h in the Pavilion
- Taking of minutes at the meeting and circulating as necessary
- Making out and distributing cheques following signing at the meeting, and recording these outgoings in the ledger
- Managing planning applications through the process of investigation and approval by the relevant councillor
- Some basic accounting functions are required but full training is provided for these
- On-the-job training is provided for all Council functions and the role has the full support of the Parish Councillors
- Other general administrative duties as required.

Some computer literacy is required, together with organisational and administrative abilities. The position is the only formally employed role on the Parish Council and carries a salary of around £600+ per month, requiring about 30 hours of work each month.

The Council would welcome applications from any interested parties, with a view to appointing to the role as soon as practicable.

Please apply directly to the Chairman, Great Milton Parish Council, by email at [stephen@wildhorn.co.uk](mailto:stephen@wildhorn.co.uk) or talk to your local councillor.

If you have any questions, please call on 07944 077 209.

**Steve Harrod**

*Chairman*

Great Milton Parish Council

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### **Ambulance crews are trained to look for the green stickers**

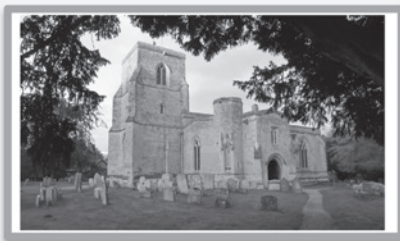
#### **You can pick up your free bottle from:**

Morland House Surgery  
Health centres  
Pharmacies

Or contact Rod Snowdon (Neighbourhood Watch)  
on 07836 728919 or via the Village WhatsApp group.

It would be useful if you could let Rod know if you're using this scheme or if you find anywhere else that distributes the bottles.

Thank you.



**St Mary's Church**, an intrinsic part of the local community for over 900 years, invites *you* to discover more about its history and its unique features by connecting with the Info-Point inside the building. Anyone with a device containing a modern web browser can use Info-Point's Wi-Fi hotspot to gain free access to the content.

- ❖ Take the 11-point interactive tour around the building.
  - Learn about the unique organ.
  - Listen to the church bells.
  - Discover the mystery of the empty external niches.
  - Find out about the musical instruments which were once displayed (and now illustrated) near the south door.
- ❖ See a bird's-eye video of the historic building.
- ❖ The early 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dormer Monument, regarded as one of the most important monuments of its period in the county, has just been extensively restored.
  - Find out about the professional conservation work.
  - See photographs of the monument both before and after restoration.
  - Learn about the Dormer Family.

St Mary's Church is open every day with access via the North Door. Purchase a copy of the 'St Mary's and Great Milton' booklet (available in the church) for more comprehensive information about the Church and the Village.

How to connect to the Info-Point is clearly displayed inside the Church.



  
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The Three Villages Car service exists to help people who are having difficulty in getting to their doctors' appointments.

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Janet Smith on 07970 264667



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## BULLETIN ADVERTISING

The Bulletin is produced 11 times per year and 360 copies are distributed. Advertising rates are as follows:

**1/4 page (w62mm x h90mm) £5 or £50 per year**

**1/2 page (w128mm x h90mm) £10 or £100 per year**

**Full page (w128mm x h185mm) £20 or £200 per year**

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Adverts for community or fund-raising events can have quarter page free. Larger sizes are charged at half the normal rate.

Please contact (tba)

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**All payments must be settled in advance. Please make  
cheques payable to "Great Milton Parish Council"**



**Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm  
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for  
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Please visit [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) for lots more information

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## **Great Milton Post Office and Stores Opening Hours**

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Monday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Tuesday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Wednesday	8:00 – 1:00	9:00 – 12:30
Thursday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Friday	8:00 – 5:30	9:00 – 5:30
Saturday	8:00 – 12:30	9:00 – 12:30
Sunday	8:30 – 11:00	Closed

**Bank Holidays – Closed All Day**

# BULLETIN ADVERTISING

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£5 or £50 per year

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### Apple Weekend

Sat 12 & Sun 13 Oct, 10am till 5pm

A great family day out where you will be able to sample and buy many of our different types of juices. Advice and information on growing, planting, apple identification and selecting trees and rootstock will be freely available on the day. Buy goodies at the craft and food fair, take a tour of the orchards & fruit sheds including a behind-the-scenes visit to see our apple press in action (tours £4 per adult or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders). Not forgetting the Tea Shop will be offering a fruity menu all weekend so be sure to visit whilst you're here!

### Waterperry Spooky Halloween Hunt

26 Oct - 3 Nov

Take part in the Waterperry Spooky Halloween Hunt throughout the October half term. £3.95 per child with a prize (children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies). Open daily from 10am till 5.30pm (5pm Nov).

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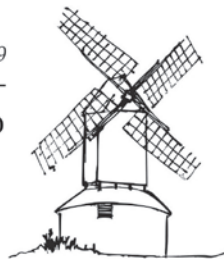
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# Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*  
Arts & Crafts Club – The Pavilion. 1st Monday of each month. 6:30 – 9:00pm  
*contact carina.martin@gmail.com*
- Tuesday Athletics Club. Year 8+. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*
- Wednesday 2nd Wed: Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel. 10:00am – Midday
- Thursday The Neighbours Club. Alternate Thursdays. *contact Janet Earl – 01844 279432*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm.  
*contact Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269 www.sandylanefarm.net*  
Athletics Club. Year 4–7. 6:00–7:30pm. Horspath Sports & Athletics Ground.  
*enquiries.gmac@gmail.com*  
Badminton – Great Milton School Hall. 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
*contact Daphne Holland – 01844 214198*  
Bellringers – St. Mary’s Church Tower. 7:30pm – 9:00pm  
*contact Pat Cox – 01844 279300. www.gm-bellringers.freeuk.com*
- Friday Vinyasa Flow Yoga – The Neighbours Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 5:30pm. *contact: see Thursday*
- Saturday Old Field: 2nd Saturday of each month. 10:15am – 12:00pm.  
*Contact Alex Kirkman – 01844 278090*  
Sandy Lane Farm Market. 10:00am – 2:00pm. *contact: see Thursday*

## November

- |           |   |         |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 16th Sat  | Benefice Breakfast at Northend Cottage, Lower End | 8:30am  |
| 18th Mon  | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion            | 7:30pm  |
| 19th Tues | Christmas Fair at The Oxfordshire Golf Club       | 9:30am  |
| 22nd Fri  | Book Library at The Neighbours’ Hall              | 11:00am |

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th November 2024**.

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The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the Parish Council.  
The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication, and to edit those which are published.



## **Volunteers Needed to Spread the Joy of Reading in Oxfordshire**

Children's literacy charity **Schoolreaders** is looking for more volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in primary schools across Oxfordshire.

Every year, 1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

Schoolreaders recruits volunteers to listen to children read one-to-one in primary schools, focusing on schools where children require the most support. Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a minimum of a year.

**Please visit the website [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org) to join or call 01234 924111 for further information.**