

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

May 2025

Published by the Parish Council

No. 608



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## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Stephen Harrod</b>	<b>01844 278068</b>
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery 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 McMahon</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: Jacqueline Wren**  
[clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee	James Cunningham (Chair) Michelle Block (Vice-Chair)
Old Field Charity	Andrew 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:** Great Milton Freecycle volunteers in their new Hi-Vis vests funded by a grant from the Sheppard Trust. **Photo:** Miranda Cook.

## Key Contacts

### Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	<a href="http://Oxfordshire.gov.uk">Oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	<a href="http://Southoxon.gov.uk">Southoxon.gov.uk</a>
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438	<a href="mailto:freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk">freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
District Councillor: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	<a href="mailto:Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk">Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk</a>

### Great Milton Parish Council

Stephen Harrod (Chair)	01844 278068	
Jacqueline Wren (Clerk)	—	<a href="mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk">clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk</a>
Report potholes, fly-tipping, vandalism, broken paving		<a href="http://Fixmystreet.com">Fixmystreet.com</a>
OCC Family Information Service	08452 262636	<a href="mailto:fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk">fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
OCC Highways	08453 101111	<a href="mailto:highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk">highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Missed Bin Collection	03000 610610	<a href="mailto:admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk">admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk</a>
Bulky Household Waste Collection	01235 422406	<a href="mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk">waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk</a>
SODC Housing	01235 422422	<a href="mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk">housing@southandvale.gov.uk</a>
SODC Planning Applications	01235 422600	<a href="mailto:planning@southoxon.gov.uk">planning@southoxon.gov.uk</a>

### Services

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

### Local Information

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

### Transport

Comet — for people without access to suitable public transport	01865 323201	<a href="http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet">oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet</a>
46 Bus Service	01865 785400	<a href="mailto:info@oxfordbus.co.uk">info@oxfordbus.co.uk</a>
Arriva (280) Bus	03448 004411	<a href="http://arrivabus.co.uk">arrivabus.co.uk</a>
Oxford Tube (Buses to London)	01865 772250	<a href="http://oxfordtube.com">oxfordtube.com</a>
Park and Ride		<a href="http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride">oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parkandride</a>
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	<a href="http://nationalrail.co.uk">nationalrail.co.uk</a>

# Highlights from the meeting of the Great Milton Parish Council on 14th April 2025

## Village Shop

Following the public meeting to discuss the future of the village shop on 31st March a member of the newly formed Working Group was invited to give an update on the current situation. A member of the village has offered to fund the salary for a Shop Manager, so this job vacancy has been advertised and more than 10 applications received. The Working Group have noted that to be financially viable any future shop in the village will need to be in a different format and will require some level of starting capital. The Working Group are considering different operational models, looking at possible venues, visiting other community shops and gathering information from the community on what is most wanted. It was noted that there is significant interest within the community about the future of a shop in the village and with this in mind the Working Group are planning to give a more comprehensive update in a couple of weeks time.

## Thames Water

Correspondence was noted and in particular there was discussion regarding a letter from Freddie van Mierlo MP requesting feedback on the service provided by Thames Water within the parish - specifically sewage dumping, 24hr tankering, drainage problems and raw sewage on peoples' properties. The Council noted recent problems in Waterstock, Wheatley and Tiddington. It was agreed that as far as the Council are aware there are no specific issues within the parish to report. Clerk to reply.

## Planning Applications

The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/SO791/S19

Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PD

Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) on planning application P21/SO428/LB (Listed Building consent for internal and external alterations and minor extensions, repair and refurbishment works to the Grade II\* Manor House) – for amendments to the approved scheme to address the increased guest expectations and operation requirements.

P25/SO866/S73

Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PD

Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans) and 28 (SUDs scheme Surface Water) on planning application P21/SO343/FUL (Full planning permission for the erection of a new Wellness Spa, Bistro, Garden Villas, Garden Rooms, Pavilions and Storage Barns, extensions and alterations to the existing Grade II\* Manor House, former

Stables building and Staff Facilities building, new highway access, internal road and car parking areas, limited demolition and associated works).

It was noted that both of these applications are for a Variation of Conditions to the previously approved applications for Le Manoir. The variations detail several relatively minor changes to the plans with an overall reduction in scope. The Council agreed that they had no strong views on these variations and therefore no concerns.

P25/SO998/HH

Lych Gate Cottage, Church Road, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Single storey rear extension & reduction of rear garden to provide extended patio.  
(Consultation deadline 3rd May)

The Council noted that after informal consultation with the immediate neighbours there were no concerns regarding this application.

The following planning decisions were noted:

25/S0336/HH and P25/S0337/LB

Tanners Cottage Lower End Great Milton OX44 7NF Single storey glazed extension to side/rear. Infill existing covered bay to rear.

PERMISSION GRANTED

P25/SO543/A

Brimpton Grange Access to Hotel From A40 Milton Common OX9 2JW

Replacement signage.

PERMISSION GRANTED

### **Councillor Vacancy**

It was noted that the next meeting will include the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. There followed discussion regarding the outstanding vacancy for a Councillor on the Great Milton Parish Council. It was agreed that this vacancy should be readvertised and that anyone interested in getting involved with the PC should in the first instance contact the Clerk - [clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th May starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. Agenda items for the May meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday 7th May 2025

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## **The Rector's Pint,**

I rarely stray into comment which might be seen in any political light, but I feel compelled to do so now.

I understand that as a nation, we face enormous financial challenges. 

## Benefice Services for May

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 4th		Holy Communion 9:00am	
	Special Rogation Service will be held at Field Farm, OX9 2HQ (the turning for Barr Builders on lhs just past The Oxfordshire Golf Club 10:30am		
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11:30am	
Sunday 18th	Family Worship 10:30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11:30am approx		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 25th		Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP 9:00am
Thursday 29th <i>Ascension Day</i>			Holy Communion 7:00pm

## Benefice Services for June

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

However, I believe that decisions from the Government, as outlined in the recent Spring Statement, will penalise those who are the most vulnerable, particularly disabled people. This is morally wrong and could fuel also a narrative of the 'undeserving poor'.

In January, a group who call themselves Patriotic Millionaires polled over 2,300 respondents from G20 countries who represent the richest five percent in the world. Seventy four percent of those polled supported higher taxes to help address the cost-of-living crisis and improve public services. What I find significant is that those with the broadest shoulders are saying that it would be morally reasonable to ask them to bear a heavier load rather than further penalise those who are already overwhelmed. I'm aware excessive wealth does not necessarily lead to excessive generosity, but I see some hope in that poll; it is a profoundly Christian view.

Therefore, I was very glad to see the following statement from the Diocese of Oxford:

“Our work across the diocese with foodbanks, Warm Spaces and the like, tells us that a huge proportion of people in poverty are disabled. Nearly half of families living in poverty already include a person with a disability. Two in five people receiving disability benefits experience hardship, or are unable to afford enough food, heat their home adequately, and/or pay household bills. Disabled people are disproportionately relying on food banks – 69% of people referred to food banks are disabled, and 75% have at least one disabled person in their household.

“As a church we stand against the benefit cuts, which we believe will penalise some of the most vulnerable in our society, and will push more people into poverty.

“These cuts are significant – the Government plan to take £5bn from welfare provision by 2030, focused on restricting the PIP (personal independence plan) qualification. This means that between 800,000 and 1.2 million people will lose support they currently receive (of between £4,200 and £6,300 per year)”.

In response, the Area Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Gavin has said:

“Churches are the largest providers of food banks. Instead of closing these down, as we might hope to be able to do, we’ll be opening more of them as we respond to the increased need that will inevitably result from these cuts to vital welfare payments. We cannot know the extent of the impact of these cuts, but what we can be certain of is that they will affect some of the most vulnerable people in our society. People who are already struggling will face challenges far greater than they should be.”

If you feel strongly about this, you can make your views known by writing to our MP. There is also a consultation on the green paper that is asking particularly for the views of disabled people. If you are interested, simply do an internet search for ‘pathways to work consultation’.

I believe that where we, as Christians, feel that Government plans do not reflect our Christian values, we should take the opportunity to make our views known; to stand up and be counted.

Simon

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## **Sewing Group**

Many thanks to Sarah McClean for hosting the group in April. This month in May the group meets at Maggie’s home in Chiltern View on Wednesday May 18th from 11.00 onwards...Anyone new to the village (or old in the village) is welcome to join us. For further details telephone me on 01844 278029.

S.A. Dennis

## Methodist Church Services

For further information please contact Revd. Stephen Spain on 01865 763676 or visit the Oxford Methodist Circuit website: [www.oxfordmethodists.org.uk](http://www.oxfordmethodists.org.uk)

May 2025				
Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comments
4th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Local Arrangement	
11th	11:15am	Gt. Milton	Revd. Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
18th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	Mrs Liz Spain	
25th	11:00am	Gt. Milton	David Harper	

**Village Coffee Morning – Wednesday 14th at 10:30am**

**All are welcome!**

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## Christian Aid Lent Lunches

These have once again proved popular and this year truly inclusive and Ecumenical as the Methodists in Great Milton also hosted a lunch. Warm thanks to all those who hosted these five Lent Lunches – Judy, Jane and Tony, Sally Ann and Ian, Trudy and the Chapel and to all who gave much needed help at each of the different venues... The individual lunches raised £170, £290, £180, £120 and £122. Envelopes were available for one of the lunches enabling people to Gift Aid and adding an extra £26.25. The Grand Total this year came to £908.25. THANKYOU to those who hosted, those who came, those who gave and to the Manoir for the delicious Bread Rolls...

*S.A. Dennis*

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## The Sheppard Charitable Trust

At the February meeting, grants were made to the Neighbours Club, the Senior Citizens Annual Party Committee, and two individuals to support an overseas expedition and music lessons.

The second meeting of the year will be held on 21st May – and the third will be in November. Please put in your requests now – or face a six month wait before the next opportunity! The terms of the Trust Deed state that “the income of the Charity for any charitable purpose for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Great Milton”.

Please send applications to Jane Willis, Briarwood, Haseley Road, Little Milton,

OX44 7QE, or via email to sheppardtrustGM@gmail.com to arrive by Friday 16th May.

*Jane Willis*

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## **Great Milton Church Fete 2025**

**June 14th, 2pm-4pm. The Recreation Ground**

Dear Villagers. We hope you are looking forward to our Church Fete.

There will be stalls, the History Society displays, local entertainers, games, Pimms and teas served in the Pavilion.

We are still looking for helpers, if you have time in advance, or on the day, we'd love to hear from you...

- Helping to set up and set down on the day
- Working on a stall on the day
- Running a stall or game and coordinating its set up beforehand
- Growing or donating plants
- Joining the committee to help with organisation (it's not too late to join us)
- Providing sponsorship to cover expenses like the bouncy castle and Jazz Band
- Donating a Raffle Prize (big or small)
- Donating paperback books, bric a brac, gifts and toiletries, accessories (jewelry, scarves, bags, etc), cakes and jams, tombola prizes and bottles.

Please start preparing for the following Competitions:

Dog Show

Children's Tug of War

Raffle - We have great prizes with the top prize of a meal for two at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons. Tickets will be available shortly.

Vintage cars or bikes - bring any along as we would love to see them

Let us hope the sun comes out and we look forward to seeing you.

*The Committee*

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## **Calling all villagers!**

Shape the future of our village shop! Join us for an Open Day on Saturday, 24 May, 10am to 12pm at the Pavilion. Your thoughts and opinions matter – come take part in our survey and share your vision!

More information and updates will be coming soon.

## Great Milton History

Three well known and well loved Great Milton men – this photo is from the Fete in 2013. Colin Chadbone, Brian Tame and Tony d'Anger.

The Village is lucky to have so many strong characters who can tell a tale, remember old friends and make a good solid basis for our special Village.

What a trio!!



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## Great Milton Neighbours' Club

Following an enjoyable (but surprisingly competitive!) bowling trip to The Ferryman in March, the Club are planning a visit to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) and Woodstock on Thursday 22nd May. The Museum, opened in 2014, is an appropriate destination following the VE 80th Anniversary celebrations. The visit will allow time for the neighbouring free Oxfordshire Museum plus lunch and shopping in Woodstock. In addition to the interesting permanent displays this year sees two special exhibitions: 'E.H.Shepard – Before and Beyond Winnie the Pooh' and 'From Conflict to Peace -Celebrating VE and VJ Day'. The former features a collection of Shepard's work, including some of his beloved children's illustrations alongside a wealth of his Great War sketches and comic art, come to the museum on loan from the University of Surrey Archives and The Shepard Trust – on show for the first time in Oxfordshire.

The outing leaves the locality at 11.00 and will return late afternoon. An optional guided tour by the Museum Director is available on 'first come basis'. Entry to SOFO for everyone and coach travel is £30 (£25 for Club Members).

Bookings (open to anyone aged 55+) must be made by 15th March at the latest. For details, please contact Fred Cubbage on 01844 279683 or via [fred.cubbage@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.cubbage@btinternet.com).

## Easter Garden Craft Morning

Several excited children arrived at the Pavilion eager to learn how to make an Easter Garden. They paid close attention to the demonstration and all made beautiful gardens with individual touches. There was a craft table for colouring and making cards.

After well earned refreshments they listened attentively to Sally Ann's Godly story. The questions and answers that followed showed good understanding.

We finished with a hymn with actions led by Simon! They had learnt the true meaning of Easter.

Many thanks to all who came and helped to make it a special morning.

*Simon and Trudy*

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## Great Milton Freecycle

Thank you to all our supporters, group members, volunteers and everyone who has contributed to and attended our Freecycle Live events. We'd like to share an update on our group and our achievements over the last year for which we are immensely proud.

We held five Freecycle Live events and during these we processed **3,107.26Kgs** of items which may have otherwise ended up in landfill. Of this sum, **1,874.87Kgs** were Freecycled at the events, **678.71Kgs** were Freecycled afterwards and **408.45Kgs** were recycled afterwards. For comparison, for the period April 2023 to March 2024 we processed **1558.29Kgs** of items. If our maths is correct, this is a **99%** increase in the amount of items we processed this year compared to last year.

Sadly **145.23Kgs** did end up in landfill this year. This however, accounts for only 4.6% of all the items we processed.

**502** people attended the live events by either dropping off or bringing items to Freecycle. And **154** hours of volunteer time went into Great Milton Freecycle over the last year. We have been a team of five volunteers with new members joining us this year.

### Future Freecycle Live events

We have two more events planned for this year:

**Saturday 26 July**

**Saturday 18 October**

As always they will be held in the Pavilion, Great Milton Recreation Ground and Wheatley Scouts will be back to run a pop up cafe.

A reminder that drop off of items for Freecycle is 09.15am to 10.00am. We 

cannot accept items bought after 10.00am unfortunately and we do enforce this.

We accept most items for Freecycle such as:

- Clean clothes, shoes, bags and accessories
- Electrical items. PAT testing is done on all electrical items
- Books/DVDs
- Toys
- Clean and unbroken 'other' items e.g Household items, crockery, cookware, sports equipment, baby and childrens items and toys

We cannot accept and kindly ask that these are not brought along:

- Building or DIY materials
- Large items of furniture
- Liquids e.g. garden and household chemicals, cleaning products, beauty products, drinks and alcohol
- Knives
- Broken or damaged items

The doors open from 10.00am to take stuff away. Please don't forget to weigh out before you leave!

## **Funding**

Over the last year, we have been supported by the Sheppard Trust. With part of the grant we received, we were able to purchase the hi-vis vests for our volunteer team. Funding from Great Milton Parish Council and CAG Oxfordshire also contributed to pay insurance costs and venue hire. Thank you to these organisations for their continued support without which the Live events would not be possible.

We have started to leave a donation bucket at the weigh out at the Live events. Any donations left also contribute to our running costs. Thank you to all who have donated.

## **Contacts**

You can join our Facebook group to find out more information about our Live events and other opportunities to Freecycle including those items we cannot accept at the Live events. Find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/19UojV2Gdu/?mibextid=wwXIfr>)

We can also be found on Mycelium Map (<https://mymap.eco/>) a website that connects people in their local communities to take action on climate.

You can also get in touch via email: [greatmiltonfreecycle@gmail.com](mailto:greatmiltonfreecycle@gmail.com).

Here's to another great year!

## GM Athletic Club – 2024/25 winter cross-country season

Our departing winter brings the curtain down on another wet and muddy cross-country (xc) season for Great Milton Athletic Club. Our members participated in the Oxfordshire xc league, the Oxon xc championships, the England National xc championships and the UK Inter-counties xc championships. The latter is the selection race for the World Championships.

The local xc league is made up of clubs from Oxfordshire and surrounding counties, with 26 clubs competing over age categories from under-9s to adults. Five races took place across several counties, with some challenging weather and amazing mud. All credit to the competitors from Great Milton and the surrounding villages who participated.

Gold medals for completing all five races were awarded to Rupert Holliday, Georgia Batey, Alice Mosely, Emma Bingham, Dora Twycross and Grace Mosely. Silver medals (four races) were won by Hugo Szekley, Cody Scott and Rufus Blanche. Ben Earnshaw from Great Milton also ran several races. Many of these names you will recognise as current or former GM school pupils. A very proud Georgia Batey, an under-9, won the trophy for the club's top xc competitor calculated using an age-graded table.

In the county-championships run at a wet and cold Shotover Park in January, the U11 boys' team (Cody, Ben, Hugo) were GMAC's best performers, coming 5th out of 21 teams.

The National xc championships were run at Parliament Hill Fields over Hamstead Heath in London in February. Alice Cavalier (U13) and Dora Twycross (U15) competing in fields of 300 athletes at what is the spiritual home of English xc running. The iconic men's start of almost 2,000 runners charging up the 500m hill with the backdrop of London behind them is one of the greatest sights in English athletics.

Dora was selected to represent Oxfordshire under-15 girls in the UK Inter-counties championships in Nottingham, where her team came 19th out of 43 counties. Her successful run there in March closed the winter season for us.

On a lighter note, the club enjoyed a Christmas Handicap xc race in Le Manoir field in December. It was wonderful to see Phoebe Coleman back from university come out to race against the younger members and parents in this fun event. Our thanks to Le Manoir for their support as ever.

The club is grateful to Alex Kirkman for managing all our xc entries and volunteer marshals, to all the parents who helped, and to the Sheppard Trust for their donation several years ago which was used to buy a tent that once again proved to be a blessing in the downpours we faced at most races.



The club now turns its attention to the summer track and field season, with the county T&F championships in May, and many events either side. Potential new members from age-8 upwards are always welcome, and parents can find more information on the village website.

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## View from Views

“Manna from heaven rain at last, see below”

“March in like a Lamb out like a Lion”, not so this year a lamb at each end of the month and, very little rain to boot all I measured was 6.5mm, others locally I know had more, at least we had a month without the river being in flood. When walking a recently planted field we planted of Barley, I thought what a treat to be looking at a growing crop that was actually even all over, without bare patches where the ground had been too wet for seedlings to grow, which has not been the case for some 3 years. Unfortunately, the first few days of April remained the same as the last weeks of March, with these crops now looking decidedly desperate for a drink, inspecting a crop of beans planted three weeks earlier some seeds had not even chitted. I had hoped that we were going to have a reasonable season but, it looked very uncertain just before it rained in the middle of April when, we had some soft refreshing rain (just what was needed). Hopefully now things will start to move on as they should do, the worry now is will once it starts to rain it may well forget how to stop, it looks though as if we may only get April Showers which will be fine, a balance so once again fingers crossed.

Has spring finally come and at last after a long dormant period, crops and plants in general have started to grow it has been a very slow spring so far, making it a late one. Lawns had only needed mowing twice up to mid-April. It is though, a joy to hear the birds singing again, with some migrants, of the feathered verity, suddenly being obvious. Recently when we first heard the Chiff Chaff it seemed you could hear them everywhere, making us think do they all come over together as a flock then spread out over the countryside, do all other birds do the same, there must be research somewhere that will tell us the answer. We now await more feathered migrants, Swallows, Cuckoos etc, to name but a few, they will all come and go again quicker than we like to think, then we will be back in to winter again.

This is more than can be said for Government support and, recognition of what we do, like, feed the nation! as they seem determined to cut out all our support. It concerns me that some people now do not understand why it is that we get Government support anyway, I think it is important to get the message over as to why it is. This system was



introduced many years ago to keep the price of food low, and to make sure we could produce as much of our own food as possible, that now does not seem to matter. Now unfortunately the supermarkets have such a hold over the market that it would be difficult to change. Of course, most other countries subsidise their agriculture, this in turn alters the price of food anyway, so in order for home production to continue it has to be supported to compete, daft I know, like all fiscal plans. The whole system of support that is an essential part of farm income but is governed by Westminster, (or now it seems by Donald Trump). Now that we have a Parliament that does not have any members with a countryside or farming background it is difficult for them to understand our plight. As an example of this fact I understand our deputy PM is suggesting that we should be grazing less sheep in moorland areas, does she not understand that it is sheep grazing that will help to keep dead vegetation to a minimum, it is this dead vegetation at times of dry weather makes the countryside prone to wildfires. Even the Moorland association have appealed to Angela Raynor to halt her campaign against sheep.

The recent cover of the "Little Milton Newsletter" there was a lovely picture of a curlew, a bird that was becoming extinct is now breeding on the banks of our own river "Thame", thanks to the conservation works carried out by the "River Thame Conservation Trust" and of course, local farmers/landowners. It is a pity that it is this area that there is a planning application for a large residential and industrial development, I don't think the two will mix somehow. We are continually being bombarded by our before mentioned and, beloved deputy PM, that we must build, build, never mentioning that investment in sewage plants and other infrastructure must go hand in hand. Are we not surprised at being continually informed in the news, of sewage spillages in the sea and rivers, that our biodiversity is worse than any other country in the world, it is only common sense that the more you build the greater the pressure on nature and our sewage treatment works. Then of course to correct some of these ills, it is the taxpayer who is expected to pick up the bill, not those who are profiting from development who are expected to right these wrongs. I maintain there should be no more development until the sewage systems can cope otherwise, we will disappear under a heap of you know what, greater protection of nature must be part of any development. Fancy it is not safe for the traditional ducking of the Cox after the boat race, just what do we think we are doing, don't our lords and masters understand!!

Please don't forget to sponsor me for the Tractor Run on the 1st June I have a justgiving page and also there should be a sponsorship from, in Great Milton the shop and the Bull, in Little Milton the Post office and shop.

[www.Justgiving.com/fundraising/Charles-peers5](http://www.Justgiving.com/fundraising/Charles-peers5) many thanks in advance.

Charles Peers

## **Tons Together (Little Milton) WI**

A big thank you to Alyce Hoban for talking to us in April about keeping fit and healthy. We even tried out some simple stretches and exercises we could do at home and some are now going to try out her class on a Thursday morning. Also thanks to Lucinda for the lovely tea & cakes.

On Thursday 8th May 7.30pm, Simon Booker is going to present 'Strictly Nature', a talk about being a wildlife photographer, showing his films and photos. Everyone always welcome, men too! Visitors £6 or become a member for £51.

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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## **Wild Oxfordshire**

### **Swift Awareness Week 28th June – 6th July**

See if you can spot any swifts this month and sign up to our monthly Bulletin to hear all about events and walks taking place <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

### **Let it Bloom June!**

Enjoyed 'No Mow May'? Bring even more wildlife to your wildflowers and take part in 'Let it Bloom June'! Mowing at the end of May removes the free buffet you've created for your bees and butterflies. Let it Bloom June allows the nectar source to stay that little bit longer. Why not leave an area that's got the most flowers? If you're able to, a way to provide nectar all through the summer is to leave this section uncut until September and then trim it. All these options give your garden even more of a chance to diversify and provide for wildlife.

### **Wildlife friendly gardening jobs for June:**

June is another bustling period for garden wildlife. Birds diligently seek caterpillars to nourish their chicks, while bees, moths, butterflies, and other pollinators thrive

amidst blooming plants and sunny days. At night, hedgehogs forage for beetles, millipedes, and other invertebrates along our borders to provide for their young. As if this wasn't enough, this season's amphibians will venture from garden ponds in search of cool, moist refuge for the first time.

### **1) Put out and top up water**

Water is crucial for wildlife beyond drinking. Keeping the bird bath topped up means birds can drink and bathe in dry weather. With clean feathers, birds are better able to regulate their body temperatures, fly from predators and are less likely to get disease. Amphibians like newts, frogs, and toads use water for shelter and breeding, while butterflies obtain essential minerals from muddy water. Any water source, from puddles to ponds, attracts and helps wildlife – particularly now we're in the warmer months! Make sure you've got water sources in your garden.

- Try placing water dishes and bird baths near trees or shrubs so that wildlife can get to safety easily.

- Also try putting water at ground level in dishes or a dug-in pond so that hedgehogs can drink (make sure your pond has an easy escape route).

- You could also put in butterfly puddling stations which are shallow dishes of gravel and water to help butterflies get the minerals and hydration they need.

### **2) Create a cool, damp spot for amphibians to take shelter**

Make a log pile or 'hibernaculum' in a shady corner. If doing a log pile, bury the bottom layer of logs and fill nooks and crannies with fallen leaves and moss to make it good for amphibians. Or use the Wildlife Trust's 'how to' to make a hibernaculum. This is a dug-down structure that can be used by reptiles and amphibians for shelter in the summer and hibernation in the winter.

### **3) Avoid deadheading roses so that they create rosehubs for the birds later this year**

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

*Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer*  
<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>

# **QUIZ NIGHT AT THE NEIGHBOURS' HALL**

**FRIDAY 9th MAY @ 7:30pm**

Our next quiz is scheduled as above and all are welcome. Do come along and enjoy an evening's testing of your knowledge in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Tickets are £5pp and are available from Alan Pickett at The Old Forge in Thame Road. You can pre-order on the village WhatsApp or by email at [alan.pickett@outlook.com](mailto:alan.pickett@outlook.com)  
Tables of up to 6 people please.

All funds raised will be for the village Neighbour's Club. There will be a prize for the winning table.

*Look forward to seeing you there.*



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

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm  
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for  
*prebooked* consultations only

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

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

A new Morland House Surgery **Facebook Page** has been created. This is to keep patients up to date with surgery news and health issues. Please like and follow.

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

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

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

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

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



## **Wheatley Library**

Welcome to spring! Joining the library is free, allows you access to all 44 county libraries, and everyone is welcome. 😊 We offer more than just books!

We also provide free digital support every Thursday 2:30 – 3:30pm. Book yourself in for guidance from our Digital Helper for a variety of needs including using your mobile phone, laptop, or tablet. You can

also learn to access our free audiobooks or e-books on BorrowBox, Libby and PressReader, as well as Which?, Ancestry, Find My Past, Naxos, & Playlist for Life, among other online resources.

Please join us for the following regular events in the library:

- NEW Storytime from 22 March: every Saturday, 10–10:45am, kids 4-8yrs old
- Rhymetime: every Friday, 10:30–11am, kids 0-5 yrs old
- Digital Help: every Thursday, 2:30–3:30pm
- Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month, 9:30am–12pm (5 April, 3 May, 7 June)
- Textile Fibre Group: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month, 2–4pm

For news and updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page or visit [wheatleylibrary.org](http://wheatleylibrary.org). For library queries, phone us or email [wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk). Access our library website directly at [bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary](http://bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary).

### **Opening Hours:**

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2 - 7pm
Wednesday	9.30am - 1pm & 2 - 5pm
Thursday	2 - 5pm
Friday	9.30am - 1pm & 2 - 6pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed

We have a new phone number!  
Call 01865 815204

Wheatley Library  
The Merry Bells  
High St., Wheatley  
Oxford, OX33 1XP

GREAT MILTON SCHOOL

# SPRING FAIR

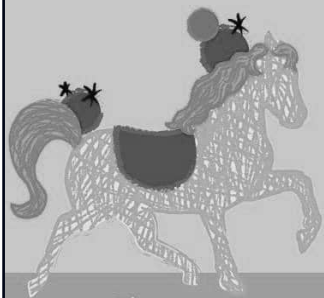


Saturday 10th May  
12 to 3pm

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  - Class Stalls •
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HOSPICE



## Palliative care bereavement support service

We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

### Are you...

- warm, empathic and a good listener?
- able to support other people's expression of grief and distress?

### Do you...

- have 16 hours a month to spare?
- have your own transport?
- want to make a difference?

### We provide...

- foundation level training (apx. 60 hrs).
- ongoing training, supervision and support.
- travel and phone expenses.
- online mandatory training (apx. 8 hrs).

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years.

Training will take place from September to December 2025 and it is essential that all training is attended.

**Closing date  
for applications:  
30 June 2025**

**If you are interested in finding out more  
or applying, please contact us on:**

W: [sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer](https://sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer)  
E: [pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk)  
T: 01865 225944/01865 225868



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# WANT TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

If you are passionate about your local community, we need you. Councillors can make a big difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect our community.

## Great Milton Parish Council have a VACANCY - Are you interested in becoming a Councillor?

We are inviting applications from local people to join Great Milton Parish Council since we have a vacancy for one Councillor. This Councillor will be appointed by a process called co-option.

In terms of eligibility, you must be a British, Commonwealth or European Union citizen, over 18 years old and are registered to vote in the area; or have lived, worked, or owned property here for at least 12 months.

### **Responsibilities of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining our green spaces, considering the impact of planning applications in the village, representing our community and advocating for their best interests to local authorities and supporting projects which would benefit our community; among many other things! It also determines how much money to raise through the council precept to deliver these services to the residents of the parish.

### **What kind of person do we need?**

You should have an active interest in local issues and things that affect local people and a willingness to represent the views of the community. You should be able to commit the time and effort to the role and to attend as many monthly Council meetings as possible.

### **How to apply**

To apply, please send a letter of application to Jacqueline Wren, Parish Clerk at [clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk) or deliver to 1 Close Cottages, Lower End, Great Milton. In your letter you may wish to include your connection to the parish, why you want to be a parish councillor and what skills / experience you can bring to the Council. Applications will be looked at by Councillors and voted on at the next meeting of the Council. You will be invited to attend and say a few words to the Councillors.

# **GREAT MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

## **LION “MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE” SCHEME**

These bottles are designed to hold important information about you and your medical needs. In case of an emergency, ambulance crews know where to find your bottle and ensure you get the care you need.

### **The bottles are free and could save your life**

All you need to do is complete the enclosed form, with details of your next of kin and any information about diagnoses, medication, allergies etc. Then pop the bottle in the shelf of your fridge door. You'll also find two green self-adhesive labels in the bottle. Put one on the inside of your front door and the other on the outside of your fridge.

### **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.

## **Library Volunteers Wanted**

The Library at Ripon College, Cuddesdon is seeking volunteers to assist with shelving, tidying and general library housekeeping duties. There has been a college in Cuddesdon (a village 6 miles outside Oxford) since 1854, training ministers for ordination in the Church of England. The historical collections require working at height, and there is no lift currently to the first floor library space. A contribution towards travel expenses and free lunches during term time are available to those able to make a regular commitment. Any availability (from 2 hours per week or more) would be very welcome and please contact the Librarian/Archivist, Annabel Haycraft on [annabel.haycraft@rcc.ac.uk](mailto:annabel.haycraft@rcc.ac.uk) or phone 01865 877411 if you would like to discuss the possibility further.



## **Widow Tree**

Widow Tree offers online monthly peer support meetings for widows of all ages in Oxfordshire.

The meetings aim to create a welcoming community where hope, connection, and personal growth can flourish.



For more info, see the Widow Tree Facebook page or email [contact@widowtree.co.uk](mailto:contact@widowtree.co.uk)

## **The Three Villages Car Service**

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

If you have to get to your GP surgery or Thame Hospital for an appointment and need help getting there, give us a call and we will help if we can.

**Jane Jefferis – 01844 278743 or  
Wendy Richardson – 07763 800467.**

## **Need a venue? The Pavilion & Recreation Ground**

**Ideal for children's parties, meetings, family get togethers, classes and lessons, corporate days and sports events.**

**Table and chair hire also available**

**For booking and more info, call 01844 278116**

## Book and Jigsaw Library

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

11.00 - 12 noon

Neighbours' Hall

Great Milton



Come and take, swap or donate a book or two; we also have a good selection of jigsaw puzzles.  
Tea, coffee and cakes are provided in the Orchard Room to enjoy whilst you browse on either the third or fourth Friday of the month.  
Please feel free to make use of the Library any time you visit the Neighbours' Hall, Great Milton.

Due to your great generosity, the Library has now reached full capacity. We are therefore unable to accept bulk donations.

## Neighbours' Hall

A large recently refurbished community Hall with Wifi, central heating, new lighting and well-equipped kitchen. The Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

Available for hire by the hour or the day.

Cost for hiring

£15 per hour, £120 for the full day

Please contact our Booking Secretary

Janet Smith on 07970 264667

## 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**

**• Full back page colour £35 or £350 per year •**

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

Please contact the Clerk

Email: [clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)



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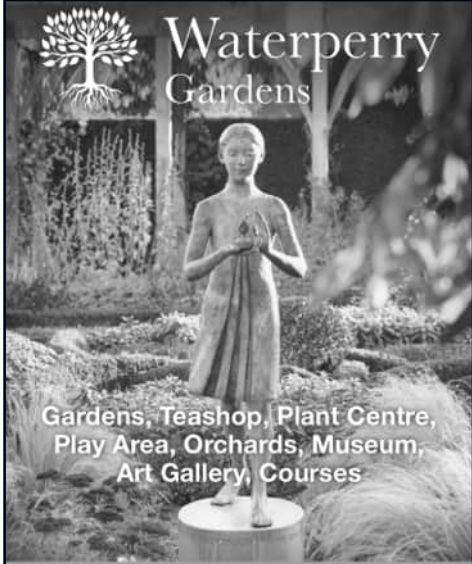
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*What's On this May*

**CELEBRATION: 10th & 11th May**  
THE MUSEUM CELEBRATES  
BEING OPEN 25 YEARS

**EXHIBITION: 10th - 18th May**  
OXFORD ARTS WEEK IN THE  
GALLERY - FREE TO ENTER

**WORKSHOP: 17th May**  
WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES\*  
\*Please see website for any changes and to book.

**EVENT: 24th May**  
SAXIFRAGA DAY IN THE  
WALLED GARDEN

**HALF TERM: 24th May - 1st June**  
GNOMETASTIC TRAIL



**OPEN DAILY**  
10:00AM -  
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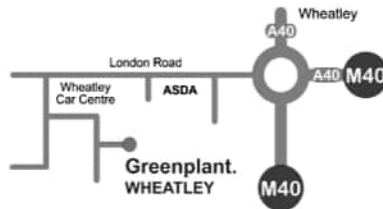
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[mail@greenplant.ltd.uk](mailto:mail@greenplant.ltd.uk)

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**Web Page: [sisters-edge.co.uk](http://sisters-edge.co.uk) or [sistersedge.co.uk](http://sistersedge.co.uk)**

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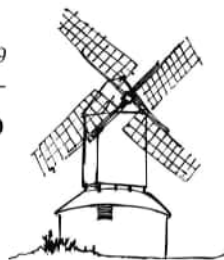
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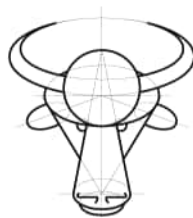


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## Diary

- 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*
- 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 Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269. www.sandylanefarm.net*
- 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 Sandy Lane Farm – 01844 279269. www.sandylanefarm.net*

### May

- |          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| 9th Fri  | Quiz Night at The Neighbours’ Hall            | 7:30pm  |
| 10th Sat | Great Milton School Spring Fair               | 12:00pm |
| 19th Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion        | 7:30pm  |
| 23rd Fri | Book & Jigsaw Library at The Neighbours’ Hall | 11:00am |

### June

- |          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| 14th Sat | Great Milton Church Fete at The Recreation Ground | 2:00pm |
|----------|---|--------|

All copy (except adverts) to **[gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk)** by **20th May 2025**  
Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PD  
Adverts to the Clerk, Jacqueline Wren  
**[clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)**

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