

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN



August 2025

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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:** Flowery fun at the Fete.

**Photo:** Nick Belcher.

## 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: Judith Edwards	—	<a href="mailto:judith.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk">judith.edwards@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 21st July 2025**

### **Oxfordshire County Council**

The County Councillor gave an update on certain matters in hand, noting that the largest pothole on the Forties has been filled but others have not. Several Councillors expressed their frustration with the incomplete nature of these repairs and JE noted the frustration and inconsistency and said she would feed this back.

AN raised the issue of severe congestion in Milton Common following the closure of the A40 for roadworks and access problems for the emergency services. The road closure has not appeared on Google Maps until today so many vehicles are still coming off the M40 unaware that the A40 is closed. Residents have reported damage to front gardens and verges and local farmers have raised concerns due to the timing of the closure as it is harvest time and tractors and trailers frequently use that route. AN expressed disappointment that there seems to have been a lack of consideration for the wider community when planning the timing of the works. The Chair also raised concern that there had been poor communication. AN also raised the question of where motorway traffic would be diverted to if the M40 were closed due to an incident. JE noted that in this instance traffic should be routed all the way around Thame but all agreed that in reality this is unlikely. JE agreed to feed back these concerns to the relevant department. AN said he would report back to residents when he has a response from Highways.

### **South Oxfordshire District Council**

The District Councillor Georgina Heritage noted that since she wrote her report the planning application for the Didcot Gateway development has been approved and noted that whatever the future purpose of the site a site with planning permission is of more value. GH also noted that due to the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the Council will not proceed with the building of council offices until the new organisational structure is determined. GH also noted that the money in budget for the development of Didcot Gateway will now be going towards social housing which is a very positive redirection of funds.

GH noted that the Capital Grant programme is still open for applications; the Performing Arts Grant will open after this has closed and the District Councillor Grants Scheme will open on 18th August with more funds available than previous years - £7500 to distribute in Haseley Brook. GH emphasised that it is therefore a good time to start considering smaller projects.

## **Haseley Trading Estate**

The recently submitted planning application for development of the Former Ariens Factory Site on the Haseley Trading Estate was discussed (P25/S1653/FUL):

The Chair opened discussion by expressing his disappointment with the response from our local representatives. He noted that MP Freddie van Mierlo (FvM), JE and GH have all stated how representation of their constituents is close to their heart but also seem to be accepting the proposal as a *fait accompli* rather than representing overwhelming objection from community. The Chair explained that he would like to see a more robust response and representation of local residents concerns. He went on to ask that if SODC is delaying the relocation of the new head office due to LGR, shouldn't the relocation of this vehicle depot also be delayed for similar reasons? GH noted that SODC can delay building council offices as they have that provision already but they will not have the provision to deliver statutory service for refuse collection beyond summer 2026.

GH responded by explaining that any objections that Councillors put forward need to be in line with planning law. She explained that JE, GH and FvM met with SODC recently and were all keen to pick up residents' concerns. GH emphasised that it won't be SODC making the decision it will be the Planning Committee, and she will be speaking as Haseley Brook ward member and raising objections on behalf of the residents.

MH asked whether planning application has been discussed at SODC meeting, GH noted that the decision to purchase the site was obviously discussed and agreed to share the amount the site was purchased for. GH also noted that it was deemed that the Haseley site would be a good investment regardless of whether planning went ahead for this purpose. She also noted that SODC had not been accepted in the first tranche of LGR so did not know about this when we bought site. GH noted the concern about the rationale for buying the Haseley site and the process of discounting others. She also explained that SODC did try and extend the lease at Culham but not possible.

MH noted the FOI request he has submitted for this information and asked why SODC didn't purchase the Culham site when it was for sale? GH not able to answer that – predates her time in office.

The Chair noted that the Council are exasperated that this move has been known about for 7 years and yet we are now facing a last minute planning application with mitigation looking more likely than rejection.

MH and DH both raised concern that due process was not followed in spending tax payers' money on the site and submitting planning at the last minute without due consideration for residents' concerns.

GH confirmed that the only contingency she is aware of if planning is not granted

is for refuse vehicles to park on council owned land at another location. AN noted that Grundon are based in Crowmarsh Gifford with their own site but Biffa's contract was extended by two years so it seems unlikely Grundon can takeover the contract in time.

MH raised concern regarding accountability of refuse contractors taking care in local area, GH reassured that the buck stops with SODC.

JE noted her meeting with Highways regarding this planning application and talked particularly about traffic movements on A329, and the number of HGVs going through Little Milton. Both JE and GH say they are applying pressure to get some form of planning condition which limits movement through Little Milton.

The Chair reiterated the frustration that the message from our Councillors seems to be how can we mitigate problems at this location and not is this the right location. JE noted the need to consider on both fronts – need to consider planning concerns that we can work with as well as bigger question of location.

JE noted that the Highways team seem to feel it would be difficult to enforce planning condition on those terms but also expressed her determination for something to be done. The Clerk noted that the pre-application Traffic Assessment makes no mention of the new Manoir entrance on A329 or the impact of HGV traffic through Little Milton. JE and GH are aware and this is also their main concern.

The Chair noted that GMPC have engaged a Planning Consultant who will be representing the Council at the Planning Committee meeting. He proceeded to summarise the GMPC letter of objection and agreed to send a copy to Councillors.

The Chair asked GH if someone offered to buy the site for more than it was purchased for would Council consider it? Also whether SODC are still considering alternative sites. GH confirmed that they are still looking at alternative sites.

A Member of the Public asked JE about OCC's green/sustainable objectives and their 'active travel' policy. It was noted that the modelling says most employees would have to get to work in private cars. Discussion followed on the proposed crossing over the A329 which seems unsafe and the local difficulty with employees using public transport or walking or cycling to work. The question was raised of how the Councils will be able to meet their own objectives in this regard. Both JE and GH agreed with these concerns but noted that the refuse collection contract is currently out to tender and therefore we don't know where employees to site will be travelling from.

DH noted that the response from Environmental Protection was extremely limited and does not address the many concerns with regard to drainage, air quality etc. GH suggested that some of the points may have been covered in the application's supporting documentation.

The Chair noted that GMPC's letter of objection will be submitted by the

consultation deadline and he and other GMPC Councillors thanked JE and GH for attending the meeting and for their consideration.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S1864/S73

11 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY

Removal of condition 4 of planning permission ref P83/N0457 regarding the use of the garage.

The Council resolved to respond in SUPPORT of the application since the existing condition is unnecessarily restrictive and the applicant's intended use for the premises would be beneficial to the community.

P25/S1940/DPO

Views Farm Barns, Windmill Hill, Great Milton OX44 7NW

Discharge of obligation in respect of the restrictive nature of the residential occupation of the residential unit on the Section 52 Agreement dated 24 July 1987.

The Council resolved to respond stating they have NO CONCERNS regarding this application.

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th September starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion. Agenda items for the September meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday, 3rd Sept 2025

Complete minutes and supporting documents can be found on the Parish Council website – [www.greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)

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## **An Afternoon in Stratford-upon-Avon**

The absolute latest date for submitting a booking form for the Neighbours' Club outing to Stratford is 2nd September. The trip, on 9th September, allows about two hours free time in the town followed by a 90 minute boat cruise, as described in the last Bulletin. Cost for non-Club members is £40.

For further details and booking form, please contact Fred Cubbage on 01844 279683 or via [fred.cubbage@btinternet.com](mailto:fred.cubbage@btinternet.com) asap.

## Benefice Services for August

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 6th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Lammas Service (marking the beginning of the harvest) 10:30am
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am	
Sunday 17th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Holy Communion at Rycote Chapel 10:30am There will be no BCP		
Sunday 31st			Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am

## Benefice Services for September

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7h		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Harvest Festival 10:30am	
Sunday 21st	Family Worship 10:30am Harvest Festival Lunch (TBC) 12:30pm The Pavilion, Great Milton		
Sunday 31st			Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am

## Benefice Services for October

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7h		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

## The Rector's Pint.

For many, August is the month when much-anticipated holidays are taken. I have already had mine, at the end of June and the beginning of July. The second week was spent in our house in Gloucestershire but for the first week we rented a cottage near Penzance. Whilst there I was in communication with a friend, and commented to him about the sense of peace I was experiencing. The reply I had back was a heartfelt cry of despair about the world and how nothing made sense. This was my response. (He is not a Christian, although he is not un-sympathetic, but writing this felt like a bit of a risk!)

“Well, I agree with the diagnosis, can we though find healing? I do believe that in the face of chaos and mayhem, we can find and know peace. It is peace in the knowledge that there is ultimate hope and meaning. It is peace in incarnation, death and resurrection, the defeat of darkness and the presence of hope. Despite my foolishness (there remains plenty of that) it continues to seek me out, find me, often rebuke me, but always to restore me. It is the hound of heaven. It is ‘the Peace of God that passeth all understanding’ (from the Book of Common Prayer).

It is so easy to catch the spiritual malaise that results from what you have described here. I know it in myself, (the danger of vicar-ing is simply going through the motions) but when I purposefully seek it out, yes, there is true peace and clarity. The key is desire and spiritual thirst and to recognise it for the poverty it is. Then we encounter a renaissance moment, that there is reason, and truth, there is goodness and there is love. It defies the madness and stupidity that we as a race succumb to. It is a ‘holy discontent’ with the world. It rises up and shouts out against the control and coercion. It defies the complacency and indifference of the age. It cannot be beaten. You can’t keep Christ, God as man, down. He is the source and bringer of peace. He will defy the lie, defeat the cynicism, and restore the hope.

We have to be willing partners in this as it can only be by God’s grace that we find the way. God though is a ‘gentle’ man, he does not tarry where he is not welcome. He is, at the same time the greatest power and strength we could ever hope for or know. but I believe true peace is there. ‘Seek and you shall find.’”

While away, of course I heard the very sad news about Tony Jefferis. It was very complicated to get Tony home but he was repatriated to the JR in Oxford. Sadly, this was a brief pause before Tony’s final journey. He died peacefully surrounded by his family on 24th July. Tony will be greatly missed, he was a supportive colleague and a friend to me and his ministry and service around the Benefice was hugely valued.

*Simon*

## 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)

August 2025			
Date	Time	Preacher	Comments
3rd	11:00am	Alistair Jackson	Morning Service
10th	11:00am	Joint Service at Watlington	with Andrew Maisey
17th	11:00am	Sue Barratt	Morning Service
24th	11:00am	Local Arrangement	Morning Service
31st	11:00am	Stephen Spain	Holy Communion

### Free Coffee Morning – Wednesday 13th August at 10:30am to midday.

Loving God leads to loving others. Loving others leads to loving God.

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## Christian Aid Week 2025

Apologies that this article was missed off from the July Newsletter as intended but here it is now...

Another AMAZING year in spite of a limited (but very successful) house-to-house collecting this year. The total raised this year within the Benefice is £2,146.85 made up of:

Five Lent lunches .....	£910.75
Two Church collections .....	£377.50
House-to-house collections in Little Milton .....	£868.60
.....	£2146.85

£911 of the money given was Gift Aided and the above total therefore includes and extra £227.75. So thankyou to everyone who filled in your Gift Aid slip. THANKYOU to all those involved this year...Lent lunch hosts and Le Manoir for delicious Bread Rolls, Deliverers and Collectors and Simon and the Church Reps. Above all, thankyou to each of you who gave money this year enabling us to raise such a fantastic total.

P.S. A further £100 has been donated since this total, thereby raising the overall total to £2,246.85.

*S.A. Dennis*

## Old Field Nature Conservation Area

Rural communities only survive through the support of volunteers. The most conspicuous (and essential) example is the Parish Council but there are many organisations in Great Milton who are dependent on volunteers. One smaller body is the Old Field Management Committee (OFMC), responsible for the registered charity set up in 1996 (with the Parish Council as “Custodian Trustee”). Many will know the area in the extreme southeast of the village, bordered by the Thame Road and the A329. The land was originally given to the village over 180 years ago! The aim is to ensure the land is managed as sustainably as possible and allow continued public access.

The OFMC held its latest AGM on a sunny evening in July, gathered around the picnic table in the Old Field. Chairperson Adrian Buckmaster reported on the continued efforts to improve the pathways through the field, around the perimeters and through to the windmill. The exceptional heavy rain experienced at the beginning of 2025 showed that there are two low spots on the new reinforced pathway which now need to be raised. It is also intended to further extend the pathway to beyond the pond line in the next few months.

Looking to the future, a camera bird-box with long-range wi-fi capability has been purchased. It is now necessary to procure a solar power pack to complete the set-up. The intension is that next spring villagers, schoolchildren and twitchers alike will be able to access live images of bird activity. Earlier this year, and in response to reports that butterfly numbers have dwindled, a couple of buddleias were planted, the first phase of the introduction of insect friendly plants around the area.

Join the volunteers who come along to the Field every second Saturday in the month to spend around 90 minutes ensuring the paths and landscape is kept at its best for everyone.

*(Photo: July AGM) Fred Cabbage*



## **Lights – Camera – Action!**

Advance notice: On 19th October, at the Neighbours' Hall, a Sunday afternoon's illustrated presentation on over 40 UK film or tv locations which have featured in at least twice as many productions over the last 40 years. Refreshments will be served in the interval.

Look out for tickets and further publicity in September.

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## **Harvest Festival @ The Bull**

**Saturday 6 September 2025**

In aid of The Senior Citizens Christmas Party fund

See forthcoming social media, posters and fliers for further details.

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## **Dear Villagers and Friends,**

**As ever, thank you all so much for supporting our church fete.**

The scores are almost in... we have provisional figures and it looks as though we have made between £7-8000. This is made up of takings, £1100 in sponsorship and costs of over £1200. This is a brilliant total and we think another record. This money goes towards running of the Church.

We enjoyed our Landlady's splendid opening of the fete and heartfelt speech. We loved having the children from the school perform the Maypole for us. Thank you to the tug of war organiser and to the children who gave it a go... finally the boys beat the girls, so it wasn't a clean sweep again – everyone needs to get in training for next year's rematch!

The whole event was beautifully accompanied by MusicLand and Jazz Antidote.

We are extremely grateful to those of you who sponsored the fete and/or made/donated items to sell on the stalls or for the raffle. Well done to those who won any of the amazing raffle prizes or the prizes on the tombola, hoopla, games and dog show.

Special thanks must be given to our hard working stall holders who collected and sold their goods, made teas and cakes, grew a brilliant show of plants, cooked the bbq, served drinks, to the organisers of the games arena (did you beat the goalie? – thanks to him too!) and to the brilliant friend who made the new skittle alley. Didn't the hanging baskets look amazing on the plant stall? Thank you also to Le Manoir aux

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Quat' Saisons for allowing us to use their facilities for our marmalade making, it went down very well.

Thank you also to those who displayed their amazing vehicles, didn't they look fabulous? We're not sure who organised the fly past – but thank you to them too, can we have it again next year?

We wanted to make a particular mention and thank you to our raffle ladies, who have been loyal helpers for more years than we can count.

A HUGE thanks go to the men and women who collected and returned the furniture/infrastructure and to the helpers who helped set up in the morning, and then took everything down and put it all away at the end; also to the various friends who lent us the equipment, to the friends who put up and then took down the noticeboards and posters. Also the friends who helped collect, return and set up the loudspeaker systems and to our young friend who helped get it working and to the friend who ensured the recreation ground's grass was cut! The fete would not be possible without all these brilliant people who continue to support it every year.

As well as our wonderful volunteers and villagers, we thank the following for their support, in no particular order: Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, The Bat and Ball at Cuddesdon, Nick Belcher Photography, Roald Dahl Museum, Waterperry Gardens, Spark Yoga, Monkey Puzzle Cafe, Jules Yoga, Sisters Edge Hairdressers, Sandy Lane Farm, Hollands Farm, Bruin Café Wheatley, The Peers Centre, Joes Teas, Wheatley Farm Shop, Cornfields Bakery, Crick's Butchers, Asda, The Bull and Great Milton Stores and Post Office.

Now with a thought to next year..... we are very grateful for the additional volunteers who stepped up this year. We now have further retirees and none of us are getting any younger, so we still need extra support to ensure we can continue next year. Being on the committee does not require any special skills, we meet for ~30min every 4-6 weeks (you don't even have to come to the meetings!) there are tasks to suit all abilities from Feb-May, more things in June and then several on the day itself, which will be 13th June 2025. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Thank you all again!

*The fete committee, Alan, Alex, Celina, Clare, Dee, Ian, Jo, Linda, Peter, Pippa, and Rachel*

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Photos: Nick Belcher



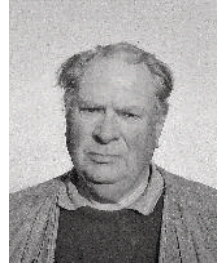
Photo: Amanda Garrett





## View from Views

Owing to the extreme weather this spring and summer we completed our Winter Barley Harvest, 100 acres, between 1200 noon and 2030 on the 8th of July, probably only about 10 days earlier than normal (whatever that maybe). Of course, this is nearly the same as 1976 when we finished cereal harvest by the end of July, then in those days we did not cut 100 acres a day, 30 if we were lucky. The yield was about what I expected probably 2/3's of a best hoped for crop which, considering the season not too bad. To compare with 1976, this year we have had dribbles of rain throughout the growing season which may have made a difference, was not any evidence of dying off like in '76. Possibly this is due to the more care we are taking with our soils, thus allowing plants to find more moisture further down. With the conditions being so dry the straw, what there was, was almost dust, and when baled came to very few bales. This being all part of our income does not help the profitability so, the chancellor will once again not do too well out of farming this year.



This continual dry has had a dramatic effect on our so called floristically enhanced margins, round most of our fields, notably a dramatic fall in Oxeye Daisy's, as well as the Vetch population. Noticeably, there is an increase in Lady's Bed Straw, Scabious, and Knap Weed, plus many other species, either doing well or suffering. One notable absence is, thankfully Ragwort, as I religiously pull as much out every year as I can. I would like to think that as I have been doing this for several years now it has had some effect, pity BBOWT aren't able to do the same at wells farm, as the infestation there would worry me. There was a time in the distant past when it was an offence not to control Ragwort, as it is extremely poisonous to horses, I guess now, that horses are not so important to the economy the authorities not so worried about it. Having said that about horses, cattle can eat it as long as it is still green, meaning it is not a problem in silage. One noticeable increase is in Butterflies and Moths, but not so many Dragon and, Damsel Flies, don't know if there is any connection. I guess all birds will have fledged by now there does seem an abundance of young life around the fields at the moment, which is reassuring.

They say you are never too old to learn, we have quite a lot of Chicory growing in our field margins and hedgerows, I have never noticed before that they only flower in the mornings and by lunch or middle afternoon the flowers have closed up, a fact I was not aware of. Another, point is regarding Swallows and Swifts, I always understood that

if they were flying low it was likely to rain, and if high it was likely to be fine, this is due to where the insects were flying. One day I stood and watched these flying, and noticed some flying high and some low, not noticed this before, was it that Swallows fly low and Swifts high or what? Whether this is the case I just don't know, and anyway it is difficult to tell the difference at the best of times when in flight.

There is a lot of controversy over game shooting, this is quite understandable in this day and age, why is it sport to hunt and kill wild beings, it does need a deal of explaining, I am not sure I am in a position to make judgement suffice to say the human being has always been a hunter gatherer, it's all part of our eating habits I suppose. Some will ask how can you people think this is a nature friendly occupation, to have any sort of decent game shooting requires a lot of conservation work as well, as to encourage birds to stay on a particular piece of land, the habitat has to be right, this in turn will encourage other wildlife. Recently there was a report that illustrated how shooting actually enhances the environment. A recent survey by the "Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust" (GWCT), has shown 15 times more butterflies, 40 times more bumblebees and, 90% more plant species in game strips than surrounding areas, 65% more hedgerows per square kilometre on estates with released game bird management, plus the fact that many songbirds visit the game bird feeders, so game shooting is not all bad, and the environment would suffer were it to be banned. So, there are spin offs, you could say every cloud has a silver lining and maybe the shooting fraternity do more good than was once thought. Here at Views Farm through measures we have taken we have seen the increase in the population of Grey Partridge (a red list species) and Brown Hares, which does prove we can make a difference.

Being worried, as many others in my profession, I invited our recently elected MP Freddie Van Mierlo, to the farm only to put my point of view. I was pleasantly surprised to understand his views on the current Governments attitude towards us, of course there is very little he can do but, really reassuring to hear him say he understood our predicament and, if push came to shove, we would have his support. After he had left, I felt the whole operation was worthwhile and, not a waste of time like so many interviews with MPs.

Just reported 60% more river pollution due to sewage spills what do we expect when we continue to build, build, and build, leave alone road improvements, which we the tax payer will have to pick up the bill when those that create the problem get off "Scot free".

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

**FRIDAY 12th SEPT @ 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 or 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 shared by the Village Hall and the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch.

There will be a prize for the winners.  
*Look forward to seeing you there.*

between Watlington & Thame  
via Little Milton or South Weston

116 117

Tuesdays & Thursdays except Public Holidays

No service on any other day

	route number	116	117
Watlington Library	0900	1040	
Cuxham The Half Moon	0904		
Chalgrove The Red Lion	0910		
Little Milton Old Field	0921		
Little Milton Old Chapel	0923		
Little Haseley Green	0927		
Great Haseley Horse Close Cottages	0930		
Great Milton The Bull	0935		
Shirburn Castle Road		1045	
Lewknor Ye Olde Leather Bottel		1048	
South Weston Rectory Lane		1050	
Postcombe Salt Lane		1053	
Tetsworth The Green		1058	
Milton Common Common Cottage		1103	
Moreton War Memorial	0945	1111	
Thame Town Hall	0953	1118	

	route number	116	117
Thame Town Hall	1210	1325	
Moreton War Memorial	1218	1333	
Milton Common Common Cottage		1342	
Tetsworth The Green		1347	
Postcombe Salt Lane		1352	
South Weston Rectory Lane		1355	
Lewknor Ye Olde Leather Bottel		1357	
Shirburn Castle Road		1400	
Great Milton The Bull	1228		
Great Haseley Horse Close Cottages	1234		
Little Haseley Green	1237		
Little Milton Old Chapel	1241		
Little Milton Old Field	1243		
Chalgrove The Red Lion	1252		
Cuxham The Half Moon	1258		
Watlington Library	1302	1405	

valid from 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Book and Jigsaw Library

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 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.



## Great Milton History

has a new home behind  
**The Old Garage**

Browse the Archive

Purchase Books

Study Old Maps

Contribute to the collection  
of village Family History

Open on Wednesdays

10:30am – Midday

or by arrangement

[http://www.great-milton.co.uk/  
great-milton-history/](http://www.great-milton.co.uk/great-milton-history/)

## WALKS PROGRAMME JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025

Date	Start Place	Dist Miles	Notes
<b>July</b>			
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thame Town Hall	10	Via Chearsley. Bring a picnic.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lewknor	6	Leisurely
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:30am	Wheatley, St. Mary's Church bus stop	2½	Leisurely, gentle social walk. Coffee at Bruin's cafe at the finish.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Great Haseley, Rectory Road	6	Level walk
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Headington, Bury Knowle Park	6	Through parks
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Brill, the windmill	5	Boarstall Woods
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> 11am	Chalgrove	7	Leisurely walk, stopping at Half Moon PH in Cuxham for lunch (pasta/pizza!).
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford, by Queens Lane Coffee Hse	6	Optional pub stop at the end
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> 6pm	Worminghall	3	Leisurely evening walk with optional supper at Clifden Arms PH at the end.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Stadhampton	5	Uses new gate installed by T&W Rblrs!
<b>August</b>			
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 11am	Brill, the windmill	7½	Bring a picnic. Tea and cakes at the church at the finish.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Piddington (West Wycombe)	8½	Undulating. Bring a picnic.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Uffington, Whitehorse Hill car park	5 / 9	Booking required. See website.
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chinnor Village Centre	3	Leisurely, gentle social walk via Kiln Lakes. Coffee at cafe at the finish.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Whiteleaf Cross CP	6½	Scenic Chilterns walk.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Little Milton Village Hall CP	6	Level walk. Option for refreshments at Community shop at finish
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Haddenham, the Church	7	Part 2 of the Wychert Way
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Dorchester, Queenford Lakes, Wandering Kitchen café	5	Leisurely. "Meeting of the Waters walk"
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Great Kimble (off B4009)	6	Via Chequers and Pulpit Hill NR.
<b>September</b>			
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Swyncombe	8	Undulating. Bring a picnic.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Waddesdon Manor CP	5	Through grounds and to Eythrope.
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford, by Queens Lane Coffee Hse	2½	Leisurely. Meet for coffee 10am, walk starts 10:30.
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Swyncombe	5½	Scenic. Couple of ascents.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Swyncombe	5½	Leisurely, via Ewelme Park.

*All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.*

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

[www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html](http://www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html)

*or phone 01844 213608*

*See website for leaders' contact details and whether walks are suitable for dogs*



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## **VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED**

**Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer?**

**We need people with your experience to help us support local young families facing tough times.**

- Just 2-3 hours commitment per week.
- Full training, expenses and on-going support provided.
- Opportunities to support families through home-visiting and at groups.

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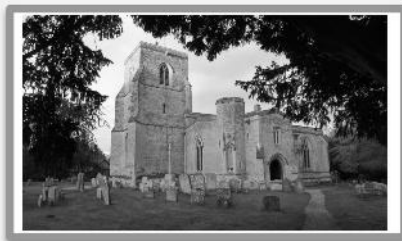
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Charity no. 1108612 Company no. 5375011



**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.



## **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



**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.
- **Travelling abroad** – what MHS can and cannot do for you
- **Stay safe and well in the summer heat** – including **Hot Weather Toolkit**
- **Hay Fever** – advice and support
- **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)**, whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.
- **Group Consultation Clinics** – Successful 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



**SOBELL  
HOUSE**  
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?

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

### Do you...

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

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

### We provide...

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

**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.

## **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,  
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sports events.**

**Table and chair hire also  
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**For booking and more info,  
call 01844 278116**

## 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  
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**Please contact our Booking Secretary**

**Janet Smith on 07970 264667**

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### Home Move

We assist with selecting removal services, coordinating logistics, and unpacking your belongings—helping you settle in smoothly and confidently.

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07970 100301**



## 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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Website: [www.caninecalm.co.uk](http://www.caninecalm.co.uk)



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[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)



# Waterperry Gardens

## What's On this September

**OPEN DAILY**  
10:00AM - 5:30PM

---

**FESTIVAL: 5th - 7th September**  
OXFORD STORY TELLING FESTIVAL

---

**EVENT: 11th September**  
RHS HERBACEOUS PLANT EXPERT GROUP VISIT

---

**EVENT: 16th September**  
NGS OPEN DAY

---

**EXHIBITION: 20th September until 2nd November**  
THE PRINTED GARDEN - FREE IN THE GALLERY

---

**COURSE: 26th September**  
HERBACEOUS BORDERS OLD AND NEW\*

---

**COMING UP: 4th & 5th October**  
APPLE WEEKEND

---

\*Please see website for any changes and to book.

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ.  
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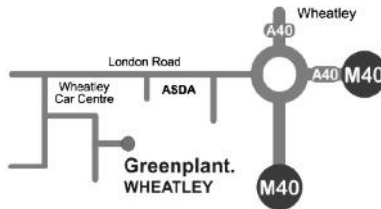
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[mail@greenplant.ltd.uk](mailto:mail@greenplant.ltd.uk)

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**Our friendly and helpful team will help you achieve the look you are after, with the minimum of fuss, so that your time spent with us is a relaxing experience.**

**Please call us to book an appointment, or discuss your requirements, and we will be more than happy to help you in any way possible.**

**Tel: 01844279503 or 07760252486**

**Email: [sistersedge@btinternet.com](mailto:sistersedge@btinternet.com)**

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

**Lynday, Thame Road, Great Milton. OX44 7NY**

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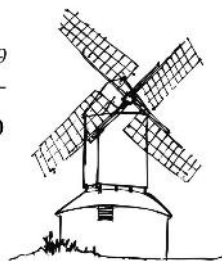
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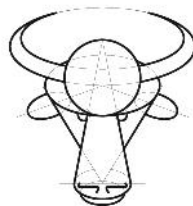


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## Diary

- 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*

## August

22nd Fri Book and Jigsaw Library at The Neighbours’ Hall 11:00am

## September

6th Sat Harvest Festival at The Bull —

12th Fri Quiz Night at The Neighbours’ Hall 7:30pm

15th Mon Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion 7:30pm

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th September 2025**  
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