

GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

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Great Milton Parish Council

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

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Jacqueline Wren
clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Representatives

Rec Ground Committee	Caroline Smith (Chair) Mike 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: The Harvest Auction Committee.

Photo: Nick Belcher.

Key Contacts

Local Governance

Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422	Oxfordshire.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	01235 422422	Southoxon.gov.uk
County Councillor: Judith Edwards	—	judith.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor: Georgina Heritage	07951 477144	Georgina.Heritage@southoxon.gov.uk

Great Milton Parish Council

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

Services

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

Local Information

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

Transport

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

Highlights from the meeting of the Great Milton Parish Council on 15th Sept 2025

Haseley Trading Estate

The Council discussed the application by SODC to redevelop the Haseley Trading Estate into a waste vehicle depot (P25/S1653/FUL):

The Chair noted the Council's recent response to the latest amendments and emphasised the need to decide who will speak and prepare a speech for the planning committee on 8th October (date not yet confirmed). The Chair has requested that each Parish Council (Great Haseley, Great Milton, Little Milton, Stadhampton) get a separate 5 minute slot rather than one slot for the 4 PCs as is customary. He is awaiting a response.

The Council discussed the extremely limited response from SODC to the Freedom of Information request regarding the purchase of the Haseley site and the pre-application process. The documents returned were heavily redacted and key documents were not released on the basis of confidentiality. It was agreed that there is sufficient grounds to suspect that due process may not have been followed. There was discussion as to whether the Council should request a Judicial Review (JR) should planning permission be granted. To apply for a JR the Council would need a definitive reason they believe the process did not conform to legislation and supporting evidence. The next step would be to engage a planning lawyer to review the FOI response and give their opinion on whether there are sufficient grounds to apply for a JR. The cost of this legal counsel at the application stage is likely to be £2000-£3000. There is a 6 week time limit to apply for a JR from when planning is granted so the Council agreed we should make preparations now if considering this. It was also noted that if a JR is granted this process is likely to cost more than £20,000. At this point the Council and members of the public present felt that further funding may be forthcoming from some local residents.

Cllr Horsley questioned whether the outcome of a JR would change the reality of the site being used as a depot given SODC have no contingency plan. There was also discussion about whether a JR would find fault with the process if the inaccuracies and omissions are in supporting documents from other agencies e.g. Highways.

The Council agreed to an expenditure of up to £2500 on legal advice to apply for a Judicial Review should the planning be approved.

Cllr Horsley and Cllr Harms to liaise with other PCs and decide who will speak at Planning Committee and draft speech. Speech may be reviewed by Planning Consultant if requested. It was also noted that the consultant may continue to advise

the Council on this issue and has recommended all in opposition should continue to lobby for support from businesses, politicians and press contacts.

Litter and Dog-fouling

The Council discussed the particular problem of dog-fouling in Old Field and the suggestion by some residents that monitoring or fines should be instigated to further encourage people to clear up after their dogs. It was noted that Old Field is not under the PC's ownership so the Old Field Committee are within their rights to determine their own enforcement measures. The Clerk noted that the land owners are within their rights to fine people on the spot or with visual proof. An Old Field representative was present and agreed to share this discussion with the committee.

Le Manoir Temporary Closure

The Council discussed the recent announcement that Le Manoir will close in January for a period of 18 months while their redevelopment works are carried out. The Chair noted that he had met with the Manoir's management team and they explained it was a financial decision by Belmond that it would not be viable to try and operate the business while doing the work. It was noted that this will have an impact on the village as a whole, there will be many redundancies and consequently a loss of income for village landlords, including The Bull.

It was noted that the bus service will continue during the closure.

The Chair

Chair noted that he will step down in October and resign as Chair and Councillor since he is leaving the village in November. Cllr Horsley stated he is willing to stand for Chair but unable to attend on 20th October. The Council resolved to move the next meeting to Monday 13th October.


Planning Applications

The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S2509/PIP

Land east of 14 Thame Road, Great Milton OX44 7HY

Erection of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine residential dwellings (of which two dwellings would be self/custom build).

It was noted that neither Orpwoods Cottage nor 6 Thame Road were included on the list of consultees despite sharing a boundary with the proposed site. Cllr Fox expressed concern that allowing building on a green field site may set a precedent – other Councillors agreed. It was noted that Orpwoods Cottage was built as an agricultural residence and is not an extension of the settlement boundary – therefore the land is not an 'infill' plot as suggested. Concern was raised regarding drainage on Thame Road and the impact of increased traffic where many are already not 

obeying the new 20mph limit. Cllr Horsley noted that on a positive note new houses could benefit village businesses.

P25/S2646/FUL

Land to east of Chilworth Rd, Great Milton

Change of use of land from grazing to an equestrian use, addition of a stable block and area of hardstanding for horse box access, and use of land to the rear of the stable as a small paddock.

The Council did not identify any concerns but Cllr MacMahon will speak with neighbours to check whether they are aware and happy with the proposal.

P25/S2248/HH

Farriers Cottage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

New garden room with end store. New car port to existing gravel parking area.

The Council did not express any concerns with the application. A member of the public noted that the existing garage included variations to the agreed plans and raised a concern that any windows in the planned carport should not overlook neighbouring properties.

P25/S2539/HH

Watt Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NF

First floor extension to rear. Replace existing conservatory with new single storey extension. New PV panels to south facing roof slopes.

The Council had NO CONCERNS regarding this application and were all in support.

P25/S2434/LB & P25/S2433/HH

The Old Vicarage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Replacement 2x vehicular driveway gates. The gates will be secured to new posts which will be set close to the boundary wall but won't actually touch the boundary wall.

The Council had NO CONCERNS regarding this application.

P25/S2618/LB

The Old Vicarage, Church Rd, Great Milton OX44 7PB

Installation of a Starlink satellite dish on chimney 4.

The Council had NO CONCERNS regarding this application.

P25/S2016/PIP

Fairview, Old London Road, Milton Common OX9 2JR

Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with 6 new detached (self build) units.

The Council had NO CONCERNS regarding this application.

The following planning decisions were noted:

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. - PERMISSION GRANTED

P25/S1522/O

Land adjacent to The Old Stable Yard, Thame Road, Great Milton

Outline planning application for the erection of detached self build dwelling with access parking and amenity space.- PERMISSION GRANTED

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 13th October starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the October meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday 1st Oct 2025

Complete minutes and supporting documents can be found on the Parish Council website – www.greatmilton-pc.gov.uk

**CELEBRATORY AUTUMN CONCERT AT ST PETER'S CHURCH GH
FRIDAY OCTOBER 17TH, 2025 AT 7PM
PROGRAMME OF MUSIC AND SONG SHOWCASING LOCAL TALENT**

*MORLAND HOUSE STRING QUARTET
CHOIR WITH TIM SUTER
EMILY BOOTH (SOLOIST)
JANE COULCHER (FLUTE)
ARCHIE WHITE (ORGAN)
JOHN GIBBONS (ORGAN)*

TICKETS ARE £20 FOR ADULTS AND FREE FOR CHILDREN
(INCLUDING A GLASS OF WINE / SOFT DRINK)
TO PURCHASE IN ADVANCE PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT TO:
A/C - GREAT HASELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
SORT CODE - 208573
A/C NUMBER - 40430056
REF - CONCERT

**THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN DURING THE INTERVAL - 1ST PRIZE
DINNER FOR TWO AT LE MANOIR AUX QUAT' SAISONS
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT!**

Benefice Services for October

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 5th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Harvest Festival (Pegg's Farm) 10:30am
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion 9:00am	Harvest Festival 10:30am	
Sunday 19th	Family Worship 10:30am		Holy Communion 9:00am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Holy Communion (Simon & Cath's final Sunday) 10:30am		

Benefice Services for November

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 2nd	Remembering Service 4:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am

On Sunday 2 November, in addition to the regular services, there will be a special Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at 4.00 pm in St Peter's, Great Haseley. This is an opportunity to remember family members and friends who have died recently, or not so recently. Their names will be read out, and you can light a candle in their memory. It's a lovely quiet moment of reflection. Do come and join us, or if you can't make it on the day, send the name(s) to Toby Garfitt, 07941 164038.

The Rector's Pint

At the end of July, Cath had a scheduled operation on two of her finger joints. A few days later she was back in hospital in great pain. An examination revealed that the site was badly infected. Cath was beginning to spike a temperature, and she was rapidly administered IV antibiotics, given a local anaesthetic and the wound was cleaned. She was admitted to hospital and remained there for nine days.

I could focus on the few days of missed opportunities which led to her admission, but I want to move on from that. Once admitted the care she received was second to none. The healing is long and arduous and involves weekly trips to the JR and I have been taught how to dress the wound in between visits at home!

During all this, we have both appreciated the quality of the care and the kindness of those who have looked after her. I've also enjoyed the excuse of every appointment to indulge in what is now my standard Pret A Manger breakfast Muffin and Cappuccino!

A recent visit found me in a reflective mood. Hospitals are remarkable places, life and death, joy and hope, pain and sorrow, all are to be found there. Why do we do it? As a race, why do we invest so much into human care? I think it reflects the heart of God. Jesus manifested this in his healing miracles, acts of restoration born of compassion. 'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made', Cath quoted that from Psalm 139 as she surveyed a model of the complexities of the human hand in the hand therapy room. The capacity of the body to heal is a remarkable thing. The care and compassion of those called (and it is a calling) to work in the world of healing is equally remarkable.

I have always believed that the mark of a civilisation is how it responds to those who are most vulnerable. I know that our own health service is ferociously costly, and tough choices have to be made in the allocation of care. There are those, of course, who would have it transformed into a system that basically allows access to the best services only to those who can afford to pay. I think that is a terrible prospect.

Cath's infection took her dangerously close to septicaemia. Yes, mistakes were made that could have prevented that, but once recognised, her treatment has been extraordinary. We are filled with gratitude; I believe that hospitals are in every sense sacred places. They should be cherished as should all those who work in them, at every level and in whatever role.

My final Sunday as Rector of the Benefice is October 26th at the 10.30am service at St. Mary's, Great Milton, to which everyone will be welcome. I will offer a few thoughts one more time for the November 'pint'.

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

November 2025			
Date	Time	Preacher	Comments
2nd	11:00am	Paul Spray	Morning Service
9th	11:00am	Local Arrangement & Church Council	Remembrance Day
16th	11:00am	Revd Stephen Spain	Joint Service & Holy Communion
23rd	11:00am	Margaret Sawyer	Morning Service
30th	11:00am	Revd Miriam Moul	Morning Service

Free Coffee Morning – Wednesday 12th November at 10:30am to midday.

A vignette from a book by Amor Towles:

‘And in that moment, Pushkin felt a great sense of joy. For to serve the ones we love and receive their approval in return, need life be any more complicated than that?’

Harvest Festival

We celebrated our Harvest Festival at a beautifully decorated St. Mary's on Sunday 21st September.

Thank you to our dedicated team of flower arrangers and gardeners. The fresh local produce, including a magnificent box from Le Manoir, was given to the Porch for their wonderful cafe. They provide between 50 and 60 hot meals every day to the homeless in Oxford.

After our worship we gathered at the Pavilion for a celebratory lunch with our Methodist friends. Many thanks to all who contributed delicious food, helped to set up and wash up afterwards.

Church Wardens

Harvest Auction

The Annual Harvest Auction fundraiser for the Senior Citizens Party Fund took place on Saturday 6th September and raised £1029.

Thank you to all who planted, harvested, baked, pickled, donated, spotted, sold, folded (raffle tickets) and bid.

A very special thanks to Simon Alden who claimed his auctioneering skills were rusty but then disproved that with a very cool display of how to magic money from pockets.

Thank you to Flora for all her help and use of the garden space at The Bull - I have yet to discover the request that is met with anything other than 'cool, I can do that'.

A very, very special thank you to the previous committee who mostly stood down this year. The foundations they laid made it easy to continue. Thank you Mick Kimber, Ann Price, Chris Tite, Colin Chadbone, Trevor Paczoska, Val and Ray Plested, and the late Chris Simmons.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas lunch in April 2026. If you don't get an invitation in early April let us know - you are clearly too youthful looking.



Great Milton History



The History Society of Great Milton has had a long and productive past – large public meetings (with wine!!), good speakers, Neighbours Hall packed. We then moved to the Bull (via the Parvaise Room) and there we lived for 13 years. Visitors from all over including Australia (remember the Tempero family) – it was indeed a special time and our thanks to those who influenced and helped us get really settled.

However, times change and we had to move. Eventually we were given the Cabin behind the Old Garage, a smaller building but warm and dry! We moved in with some gusto and a lot of help, use the loo for storage and have slightly altered our calling!! We now look upon ourselves as an information and help organisation (historically that is). We have all our records to hand, and contacts as necessary, so let us know if we can help – a lost grave, a question of dates, photos of old properties etc.

GMH

Ride & Stride – Cyclists at It Again

Readers of this organ will by now be au fait with Ride & Stride, an annual event during which individuals or groups secure sponsorship for walking or cycling to as many churches as possible to raise money for the upkeep of these magnificent buildings through the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

On 13 September, seven elderly representatives of the Gt Milton Cycling Association, augmented by village escapees Graham and Sally Orriss, their forbearing friend Adrian, and the sage of Denton, Allan Smith, set forth on their quest.

The first stop of note was the delightful St Andrew's, Wheatfield, a church set all by itself in the middle of a field and which used to be in the grounds of Wheatfield Manor, owned by the Spencer family. Sadly, the main house burnt down in 1814 and now only the church and nearby stables and coach house remain.

We continued east to the churches in Adwell, South Weston and Lewknor before turning south to Shirburn, Pyrton, Watlington and Britwell Salome. Our last church before a deserved lunch stop was St Mary the Virgin at Ewelme, which, together with the cloistered almshouses and school, was built by the Earl and Countess of Suffolk in 1432. She was Alice Chaucer, grand-daughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, and her magnificent canopied tomb lies beside the altar. Also interred in the graveyard is the author of *Three Men in a Boat*, Jerome K Jerome. The K stands for Klapka, should you be interested!

After lunch at the Waterfront Café, we popped into St Helen's, Benson where a range of vintage bicycles were on display, including two beautifully-restored penny-farthings. These magnificent machines have a fixed wheel and no brakes, and when going downhill, the main way to slow down is to ease yourself down from the saddle and apply your foot to the rear wheel! I doubt they were hugely popular in Brill! The banana bread here was also sensational!

The next treat was St Mary's at Chalgrove. Here, as you may know, the chancel is "decorated" with wall paintings thought to date from 1310 to 1313. In 1547, these were covered in limewash on the orders of Edward VI who issued an injunction banning all such images. They were discovered in 1858 during renovation work, since when there have been several attempts to preserve the paintings, most recently in 2015 when a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund enabled the whole display to be properly cleaned and preserved. As a bonus, the group were treated to a 15-minute video narrated by Bob Heath-Whyte showing how the original images might have appeared, and what they represented. Well worth a visit if you're ever in the village.

We completed the trip by knocking off our two village churches, but not before a

visit to St Peter's, Haseley where Toby Garfitt regaled us with the story behind its "new" pipe organ with his customary bristling enthusiasm! It was actually being installed at the time of our visit, and was apparently rescued from a skip outside a church in Worthing, E Sussex. A concert celebrating, inter alia, completion of the installation will be held at St Peter's on Friday, 17 October at 7pm.

Thus ended a most entertaining, and ultimately highly educational day – 18 churches; 34 miles. To date, we have raised £230, but if you would like to retrospectively sponsor us, its not too late to get donations (cash, or cheques to OHCT Ride & Stride) to Clare B-P. Thank you.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to submit a cycling piece without paying tribute to our dear friend, Tony Jefferis. Tony and Jane have been loyal supporters of the Ride & Stride since our village cycling group first took part 17 years ago. Tony's passing has left a massive void in the lives of all those he touched, and our enjoyment of the day was diminished without his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for these magnificent buildings.

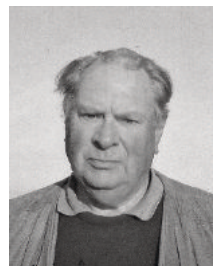
Bibo Ergo Sum

Bill Fox



View from Views

After a trouble-free harvest, over in double quick time even by modern standards, no problems with wet grain and the consequent cost of drying. However, the net result is an estimated reduction of 25% of total farm income, not a very good outcome for all the work and effort put into growing and harvesting. The Beans and Poppies were an absolute disaster, it would have been more appropriate to have had a wheelbarrow to take the produce into store, might have needed a big one on reflection.



Sod's law, having mentioned drying costs, we have invested, over the last couple of years in equipment not, only to dry the odd parcel of grain but, also to condition it whilst in store. The first was the purchase of a mobile dryer, which in reality has to be stationary to be practical in our case, this is just a small item so that we can deal with the odd load or two, this is just to give us a little more flexibility in difficult harvest conditions. The other being a control system for our grain ventilators when in store, these are fans that suck air through the grain to keep it cool, we already had the fans, but they had to be manually switched on and off, when we felt the conditions were right, this new gadget takes the guess work out by monitoring the difference between the ambient air conditions and that of the stored grain, brilliant but not cheap.

This year we had decided we must get as much of our harvested ground into a catch crop, this being one of the measures to help us build the soil structure that we are striving to accomplish, which in turn will aid carbon sequestration. Unfortunately due to dry conditions, has meant that only the residue of the previous crop, plus the accepted weed population has grown. I was elated when the barley stubble first showed green, thinking that what we had planted 4 days before had started to grow, not the case! Nothing really happened until we got the deluges in the first week of September, when we had more rain than in the whole of August. How much we shall benefit from these crops remains to be seen, whether they grow enough for the desired effect or not we will still have the cost of the seed. It's all such a gamble, I suppose you could say farmers are addicted to gambling as everything we do is a gamble, on the other hand it does make life interesting.

I suppose it was inevitable that after such a dry period once it started to rain, it would with a vengeance, actually it was good, in that we had showers not continual rain, allowing each shower to sink in rather than run off if, it had been continual. The only problem was that it did fall out of the sky in a way I have never have I seen the likes before. One storm was so heavy it beat all our precautions and, got into the grain store again, luckily not too bad this time.

Whilst on the subject of rainfall my records show that we actually had 41mm rainfall during August with a 13-year average of 48mm, the real deficit came between March and end of July, the average for that period being 218mm, with this year's average of 109mm with March only having 6 mm. I think this trickle of moisture and the heat, has meant that the quality of the grain has been altogether acceptable rather than having shrivelled grains, and must also be the reason why there is such an abundance of Autumn fruit, I am fearful an awful lot will go to waste, at least the wasps will be happy.

What sort of country are we in now and how is it we allow our lords and masters not only to deceive us but also allow Government contracts to run wildly over budget, whilst at the same time let not challenging certain measures that just run riot and cost us a fortune unnecessarily. Headlines of the daily media on one day PM “Starmer hid £35bn of Chagos surrender”, “White working-class pupils are being written off, says Phillipson”, “Two-month delay for Prostrate cancer care”, not to mention potholes in most all our roads, being forced to pay extra on water bills because others have benefited from being the managers of this decline. We then allow developers to flaunt the rules, overloading the sewage works, with the water companies not getting the finance to up grading their facilities to keep up with current development. Add to all this we now have a set of new unknown ministers shaping our industry, six new secretaries of the Environment in 4 ½ years, how can we stop this national trend?

Sorry about the above rant and I haven't even mentioned wild life.

Charles Peers


Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In September we were back at the Pine Lodge for a talk on Hedgehogs from author, ecologist & spokesperson for the BHPS, Hugh Warwick. We should all start thinking about how to make our village more hedgehog friendly, time for more hedgehog doors!

A big thank you to Roz, Adele, Julia and Lisa for helping at the Horticultural show café and all the cake makers and buyers.

On Thursday 9th October, our very own Wendy Newby is running a decoupage shell workshop (learnt on a cruise!). Get your creative juices flowing and create a cute dish. Everyone always welcome, men too!

Visitors £6 or become a 2025/26 member for £25.50.

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/Impinelodge

Pine Lodge website: www.lmvh.org.uk

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

South Oxfordshire Christmas Fair Returns to Spread Festive Cheer and Support Local Charities

The much-loved South Oxfordshire Christmas Fair will once again transform The Oxfordshire Golf Club, near Thame into a festive showcase of independent businesses, inspiring gifts, community spirit, and seasonal joy. On Tuesday 18th November the very best of our carefully curated makers, growers and artisans will come together to provide a magical shopping experience whilst raising funds for two local charities that touch hundreds of lives each year: SeeSaw and Style Acre.

With Hamptons Estate Agents – The Home Experts onboard as a major sponsor even more money goes directly to the charities. The Oxfordshire branches of Hamptons are generously contributing to the running costs of the Fair.

“We’re delighted to support this wonderful event that brings the community together while raising money for such important local causes,” says Charlie Wellbelove of Hamptons.

So, forget the hustle and bustle of crowded high streets and the soulless scroll of online shopping. The South Oxfordshire Christmas Fair celebrates our local community with nearly 60 stallholders, 10 of them from Oxfordshire itself, and many more within 35 miles. A few local highlights include:

- Pied Beauty Flower Farm – located just 1.2 miles from the gates of the venue, bringing seasonal, sustainably grown flowers and festive arrangements.
- Memara jewellery – from the workbenches of skilled local craftspeople, offering unique handmade pieces you won’t find anywhere else.
- Jacobs Field Lavender of Oxfordshire – transforming homegrown lavender into soothing gifts, from oils to bath products.
- JoJos vineyards and winemakers – English wines perfect for Christmas celebrations or gifting.
- Cotswold Hipster, leather artisans – beautifully crafted gifts for people and pets alike.

With seven indoor shopping areas, free parking just steps from the entrance, and the chance to pause for coffee, lunch, or afternoon tea, it's Christmas shopping as it should be: local, relaxed, and full of festive cheer.

This year the Fair is supporting two charities at the heart of Oxfordshire - SeeSaw and Style Acre. Style Acre empowers people with disabilities and autism to live fulfilling lives in Oxfordshire. SeeSaw provides free grief support to over 400 children and families each year across the county.

Every purchase makes a difference. Profits from entrance fees, raffle tickets, the cake stall, and 10% of all stallholder sales will be donated to these worthy local charities.

Last year, despite snowy conditions, shoppers raised an incredible £13,703. This year promises to be even bigger and better!

Open from 9:30am, visitors can expect a warm welcome from local volunteers, friendly parking stewards, and stallholders passionate about what they make and sell.

Whether you're shopping for unique Oxfordshire gifts, catching up with friends, or simply soaking up the festive atmosphere, the South Oxfordshire Christmas Fair is Christmas shopping with heart – rooted in and giving back to our community.


Tickets available at the door. Come along, shop independent and support Oxfordshire this Christmas.

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

Paul Willmott, Chairman

Ten years ago, Wheatley Playing Field Trust (WPFT) was formed to manage the Wheatley Playing Field at Holton., opposite the entrance to Wheatley Park School The Joint User Agreement between Oxfordshire County Council was finally being terminated after 42 years and Wheatley Parish Council was seeking new ways to manage and develop its playing field.. WPFT gained charitable status in July 2015, Registered Charity Number 1162945.

A new activity, Walking Football 'kicked off' in November 2024 and proved very popular amongst its players. As its name suggests, only walking is allowed – no running or even jogging! It is a non-contact sport aimed at men over 50 and women over 40 but this will not prevent those from younger age groups playing who want to improve their fitness but are unable to play the normal game. Usually it is played by teams of 5 or 6 players. So far, only men have signed up but there have been some enquiries from women.

Play takes place on Friday afternoons at 3.30pm. Players meet at the car park 

outside Wheatley Rugby Club. There is a small charge of £2 per session. Unfortunately, some players have had to stop – mainly on age grounds – so Wheatley Walking Football is looking for new players.

If you would like to join this activity, please register your interest by emailing your contact details using the email address at the bottom of this article. Alternatively, please leave your contact details in the Wheatley Parish Office in the Merry Bells.

Finally, if there is anyone who is thinking about playing netball, football or rugby or just wants to improve their fitness, please contact the clubs directly or use the Trust contact details below.

Do get in touch at:

www.wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk or email: enquiries@wheatleyplayingfieldtrust.co.uk

Wheatley Union Football Club

Paul Willmott, President

Wheatley RUFC are looking to recruit new players.

If you are interested, whether you want to start playing rugby, have just moved to the area or looking for something new to try and get fitter, join Wheatley RUFC today!

The Club was formed in 1971 and competes in the local Berks, Bucks and Oxon leagues. Training and coaching takes place on Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Wheatley Playing Field, Holton. (Opposite the entrance to Wheatley Park School)

All levels are welcome. The Club has a friendly atmosphere and organises social activities throughout the year.

Game time is guaranteed at minimal cost to players.

The Club prides itself on being fully inclusive and all are welcome whatever your ability.

If you are interested, please contact us at info.wheatleyrufc.com.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



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 17th 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.



LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS, A BELMOND HOTEL, OXFORDSHIRE
ANNOUNCES VISIONARY REDEVELOPMENT & HONOURS ENDURING LEGACY OF
FOUNDER RAYMOND BLANC OBE

Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, A Belmond Hotel, Oxfordshire, is set to embark on a visionary redevelopment as it enters the next chapter in its history. This pioneering manor house hotel, renowned for Michelin-starred garden gastronomy and founded by Raymond Blanc OBE in 1984, will begin its transformation in January 2026, with a grand reopening scheduled for summer 2027.

To our community and neighbours

As we prepare to close Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons at the end of this year, I want to take a moment to speak directly to you, our friends, neighbours, and supporters who have stood by us for over four decades.

Since founding Le Manoir in 1984, I have been humbled by the extraordinary warmth and loyalty of our community. Your support has been instrumental - not only in helping us secure planning permission for the upcoming redevelopment, but in shaping the spirit and soul of Le Manoir itself.

Beginning in January 2026, Le Manoir will undergo a visionary transformation, led by Belmond, with a grand reopening planned for summer 2027. This redevelopment will honour our shared legacy, enhancing the hotel's accommodation, gardens, and culinary experiences, while remaining true to the ethos of sustainability, seasonality, and inclusivity that you helped us cultivate.

I am proud to continue working closely with Belmond throughout this journey, ensuring that Le Manoir's philosophy of garden gastronomy and responsible luxury remains at its heart. As I transition into the role of Founder and Lifetime Ambassador, I will remain deeply involved, guiding the future of Le Manoir with the same passion and care that has defined our past.

Le Manoir has always been more than a hotel - it is a place of celebration, learning, and connection. I look forward to welcoming you back in 2027 to a Le Manoir that is reimagined, yet still unmistakably ours.

With my deepest gratitude and warmest wishes,

Raymond Blanc OBE and Niall Kingston





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10.00-11.00am
&
Wednesday 5th November
1.30-3.00pm

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***We look forward to welcoming you to our
school.***

**Contact: office@greatmiltonschoo.co.uk
01844 279388**

WALKS PROGRAMME OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025

Date	Start Place	Dist Miles	Notes
October			
Wednesday 1 st	Bledlow	6	Undulating via Lodge Hill
Sunday 5 th	Great Hampden	5½	Leisurely, via Hampden House
Tuesday 7 th 10:15	Oxford, Frideswide Square	7	Canal and river walk
Thursday 9 th	Charlton-on-Otmoor	7	Easy tracks via RSPB Reserve.
Tuesday 14 th 10:30	Wheatley, Mill View Garden Centre	3	Leisurely, gentle social walk. Optional coffee at 10 and lunch at finish.
Friday 17 th	Garsington	5	Lovely views. Pub stop at finish.
Sunday 19 th	Bledlow	8	Hilly with lovely views. Bring a picnic.
Wednesday 22 nd	Ewelme, Cow Common car park	7	Via Ewelme Park.
Saturday 25 th	Cadmore End	6	Undulating, via Walkers café at Fingest church, to purchase tea and cakes.
Thursday 30 th	Bledlow	5½	Via Horsenden and Lodge Hill
November			
Sunday 2 nd	Piddington, near Dashwood Arms PH	6½	Scenic, hilly walk with some stiles.
Wednesday 5 th	Swyncombe church	5½	Pleasant walk with good views.
Saturday 8 th	Tiddington Village Hall	4½	Leisurely, pre T&W AGM walk.
Tuesday 11 th	The Dinton Hermit, Ford	2½	Leisurely, gentle social walk. Coffee at finish.
Friday 14 th	Whiteleaf Cross car park	5	Undulating, with good views from Pulpit Hill and Whiteleaf Hill
Sunday 16 th 10:30	Watlington, town car park on Hill Rd	6	Visit ArtsHub's 'Into the Woods' exhibition or lunch in town at the finish.
Sunday 23 rd	Tetsworth, village green	6	Via Latchford and Stoke Talmage.
Thursday 27 th	Oxford, Thornhill P&R	6½	Via Shotover Country Park.
Saturday 29 th	Towersey, nr Three Horseshoes PH	6	Mainly flat with hard surfaces.
December			
Tuesday 2 nd	Tree Barn, Christmas Common	5	Hilly. Seasonal items to see at finish.
Thursday 4 th	Piddington, near Dashwood Arms PH	6	Good views, woods and commons
Tuesday 9 th	Thame Museum	2½	Leisurely, gentle Christmassy walk.
Saturday 13 th	Stadhampton	5	Walk precedes T&W Xmas lunch (advanced booking required).
Tuesday 16 th	Oxford, Queen's Lane Coffee House	5½	Parks, canals and Thames Path.
Sunday 28 th	Cookley Green	6	Passes Swyncombe church.

All walks are circular and start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and whether walks are suitable for dogs can also be found on the website.



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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 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.



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: 1st Saturday each month, 9:30am–12pm (5 April, 3 May, 7 June)
- Textile Fibre Group: 1st & 3rd Monday each month, 2–4pm

For news and updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page or visit wheatleylibrary.org. For library queries, phone us or email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk . Access our library website directly at 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 care navigators on 01865 872448 for more information.

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

A 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.

Winter vaccinations from MHS and the NHS are available to provide protection against serious illnesses like flu and COVID-19. Vulnerable groups can have their vaccinations from 1st Sept and remaining eligible groups from 1st October. If eligible you will have been contacted by MHS to book your vaccines. To check eligibility, visit the MHS website.

Weight Loss Medication is in the news and GPs can now prescribe Mounjara one of the leading drugs. Eligibility criteria are very strict and only a very small number of MHS patients will be eligible and contacted directly by the Surgery.

Changes to the routine childhood immunisation schedule from July 2025 designed to provide even better protection for babies and children. The recent rise in measles cases mean it is more important than ever to ensure your children's vaccinations are up to date.

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](#)

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

- **Medical Records and Test Results** - guidance on how to access this information.
- **Travelling abroad** – what MHS can and cannot do for you. Also remember to get your free UK Global Health Insurance card (GHIC) to facilitate state health care if needed.
- **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



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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



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

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

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 or phone 01865 877411 if you would like to discuss the possibility further.

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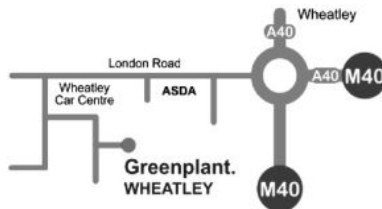


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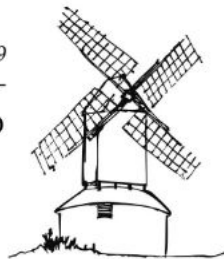
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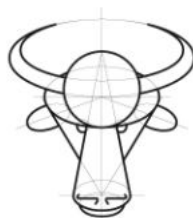


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Diary

- 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

October

- 15th Wed Great Milton School Open Day 10:00am
18th Sat Freecycle Live at The Recreation Ground 10:15am

November

- 5th Wed Great Milton School Open Day 1:30pm
18th Tue Christmas Fair at The Oxfordshire Gold Club, A329 near Thame 9:30am

All copy (except adverts) to gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk by **13th October 2025**
Sheppard Cottage, Lychgate Lane, Great Milton, Oxford OX44 7PD
Adverts to the Clerk, Jacqueline Wren
clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk

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