

A black and white historical photograph of a street scene in Great Milton, showing several houses and people. The title 'GREAT MILTON BULLETIN' is overlaid in a large, arched, orange font with a white outline.

# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

November 2025

Published by the Parish Council

No. 613



## Freedom of Information Act – Parish Council Publication Scheme

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

## Great Milton Parish Council

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Malcolm Horsley</b>	<b>07970 924194</b>
Ward:	Kings Head House/Red Roofs to Wheatley Boundary	
<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>	—	—
Ward:	Church Road to Monkey Farm/The Priory	
<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	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	Tricia Treanor, Sue Denham, Trudy Timbs
Sheppard Trust	John Catterall, Jane Willis
Neighbours' Hall	Mike Robinson (Chair), Christine Donnelly

**Front Cover:** A classic car at The Bull event.

**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

Malcolm Horsley (Chair)	07970 924194	
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: Trudy Timbs, Margaret Rogers		<a href="mailto:trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk">trudytimbs@yahoo.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:margaretrogers851@gmail.com">margaretrogers851@gmail.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:mapletreec@oxfordshire.gov.uk">mapletreec@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		<a href="http://gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk">gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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 13th Oct 2025**

### **A New Chair**

Cllr Malcolm Horsley was unanimously elected as the new Chair of Great Milton Parish Council following the resignation of Cllr Steve Harrod who is leaving the village after 23 years.

### **Haseley Trading Estate**

This application was considered by the SODC Planning Committee on 8th October where Cllr Horsley spoke on behalf of GMPC. The application was granted permission to proceed with conditions regarding drainage, lighting and transport. There has been concern that the outcome was to some extent predetermined. There followed a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of pursuing a Judicial Review (JR) of the planning process with regard to this application. The specialist planning solicitor has advised the initial cost would be £7,500 to examine the information and determine whether there is a case and produce an application for a JR. It was noted that in order to proceed with a JR the costs would likely be £70,000 - £100,000 which would need to be available in a designated account. Funds should be held separately to the GMPC account which may require formation of a company for this purpose. Cllr Horsley noted that generous donors have pledged £50,000 so far. It was suggested that some of this money could be used to fund an initial investigation and application for a JR but further funds would be needed to complete the process.

Little Milton PC have initially stated they do not have the funds to contribute. Great Haseley PC are also asking residents whether they are willing to donate. Council members are in touch with the Le Manoir management team who are considering their position.

The response from the Monitoring Officer as well as the complaint submitted to the Information Commissioner's Office was noted.

Concerns were raised that if a JR is undertaken to review the planning process this may not scrutinise the site selection process which we suspect to be at fault. In which case a JR would be costly and would not change the outcome in planning terms. Cllr Harrod expressed that a JR should examine the whole process, not just planning.

A member of the public explained that there may not be grounds for a JR given that the Council may be seeking discovery to make a claim. He also felt that the FOI requests will not return sufficient detail to make a case. It was noted that a JR is usually for high level governance issues. It was noted that if you lose the case you may be liable for all costs from both sides. The member of the public also noted that to request a JR you must have evidence that a decision has been made illegally. There was discussion

about a possible alternative to a JR being a pre-action protocol.

Cllr Harms noted that the Council have already resolved to spend £2,500 on legal consultation which has not yet been spent. The Council resolved to ask the current donors whether they would give the additional £5,000 to engage a lawyer to examine whether there is a case and submit an application for judicial review if appropriate. If the funds are secured Cllr Horsley will instruct the lawyer.

### **The Village Larder**

The Council noted the recent introduction of a ‘Village Larder’ in the form of an honesty shop outside the old shop which has already proved very popular with many residents. Unfortunately there has been some theft. The Council agreed that they are fully in support of the initiative and hope it is a success.

### **Parking on village green spaces**

The Council discussed the principle of residents parking on village greens and whether the existing policy should be reconsidered. Currently GMPC’s position is that residents with properties adjacent to village greens have a right of access across the land but do not have permission to park on this land. Where residents have no alternative parking available they may apply for planning permission to park on this area. The Clerk noted that in the past the process for applying for planning permission has been unclear.

The Council has received an informal request from a resident to park on an area of grass owned by the PC with the condition that the resident would also maintain the area in question. There are past cases where residents have sought planning permission to gravel these access points.

The Council also noted that with the increasing prevalence of electric vehicles residents will need access to charging points. Where residents do not have off-street parking this will result in the need to park on verges or install roadside charging points.

A member of the public asked who is responsible for the upkeep of these access points as many are so frequently used that the surface is failing and there are potholes and a scruffy appearance. Concerns were raised about setting a precedent and losing the amenity and appearance of our village greens.

The Council resolved that the current policy will remain unchanged that parking on village greens is not permitted, but residents can apply for planning permission to do so. The Clerk will seek information to clarify the process for gaining this permission and the responsibility for maintenance of these areas. The issue of electric vehicle charging will be added to a future meeting agenda.

### **Greater Oxford Unitary Authority**

The Council discussed recent correspondence from the Oxford Green Belt Network who are a group of parish councils opposing the Greater Oxford Unitary

Authority. All agreed it seems unlikely that we can affect the decision but resolved that Cllr Noble will attend the meeting on 27th October in Wheatley and the Clerk will sign the petition on behalf of GMPC.

### **Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S2845/HH

Fairway, The Green, Great Milton, OX44 7NP

Two storey rear extension. Rebuild of existing garage to create habitable space attached to main house using glazed link. Loft conversion.

Consultation period due to end 9th October – extension requested to 14th Oct.

The Council noted that the immediate neighbours are a let property and close family of the applicants. Neither have expressed any concerns about the plans. The issue of parking and access across the village green was noted. The Council resolved to support the application but note the concern about increased vehicle movements and parking on the green.

P25/S3043/PIP

Land south of Thame Road Great Milton Oxon

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

Consultation ends 21st October.

It was noted that this application is very similar to a previous application for PIP for 5 to 9 houses on land to the east of 14 Thame Road, which was granted last month. SH noted that there is a housing need to be met and this location may be preferable compared to other places in the village. After some discussion the Council resolved to object on the same basis as the previous PIP in this area. It was also noted that some neighbouring properties were not consulted, as with the previous application. Clerk to investigate whether there have been errors in the statutory consultee list.

The following SODC planning decisions were noted:

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).

PERMISSION GRANTED

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.

PERMISSION GRANTED

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.

PERMISSION GRANTED

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.

PERMISSION GRANTED

P25/S2618/LB

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

Installation of a Starlink satellite dish on chimney 4.

PERMISSION GRANTED

P25/S1224/FUL

Mount Pleasant Farm, Thame Road, Great Milton, OX44 7HX

Erection of Two x 4 bedroom dwellings with x1 double garage and x1 single garage (resubmission of previously approved P19/S2605/FUL)

PERMISSION GRANTED

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 17th November starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the November meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday 5th Nov 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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## **Poppy Appeal**

Please support your door to door collector this year.

We have no shop now to put a box in they always made the biggest total.

Many thanks to all of you who support this charity.

If there is anyone who would like to help with the collecting please contact me.

*Sue Denham*

## Benefice Services for November

	<b>St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton</b>	<b>St. James's Little Milton</b>	<b>St. Peter's Great Haseley</b>
Sunday 2nd	Service of Commemoration for the Departed 4:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 9th	Act of Remembrance At War Memorial followed by service of Holy Communion 10:45am	Remembrance Service 10:45am	Act of Remembrance At War Memorial followed by service of Holy Communion 10:45am
Sunday 16th	Joint Service at The Methodist Chapel 11:00am		Holy Communion By Rt Rev Bishop Gavin of Dorchester 9:00am
Sunday 23rd	Holy Communion BCP 9:00am		Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday 30th (First Sunday of Advent)		Holy Communion BCP 9:00am	Benefice Morning Worship 10:30am

## Benefice Services for December

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

## Last Orders: The Final Pint!

By the time this is read I will have celebrated my final service in the Benefice, 10 years and one week after I was licensed here as the Rector. There is a tradition that incoming parish priests ring a Church bell, if there is one, at their licensing service, with the number of tolls corresponding with the number of years they will be in post. It is not binding of course, but at St Mary's I consciously rang the Bell ten times, I always planned to be here ten years. If any of you go to the service welcoming my successor, whenever that will be, count the number of times the bells are rung!

I don't for a minute regret coming here, even though at times it has been very challenging. The first year was a very big adjustment, having left a single Church with several substantially larger congregations. Whilst of course I would love to see our churches filled and thriving, I have also grown to love the intimacy of this 'ministry in the small' - to know every person who worships and be able to administer communion

by name has been a privilege. If a rare visitor comes along, I make it my business to find out their name. I have though, particularly enjoyed being a parish priest with a focus, and not simply on the Church.

The management of Church buildings has never been my first love, and I have been so grateful that that has largely been taken off my hands. I realise that they are precious, and I love the history they contain, and the centuries of prayer they have absorbed, but there is a constant danger that our buildings take priority over the people who use or visit them. I believe they should be signposts to something else, something that is not built in stone; they were never meant to be the final destination!

There have been high points and low points. Getting the latter out of the way first, most will be aware that I had to take a few months off a few years ago, the result of an accumulation of circumstances. Oddly, one of the high points was in fact during Covid, when we were not able to be in our buildings at all. It was an extraordinary experience, from the first fumbling days we tried it, to welcome so many people to our zoom services, all conducted from my study desk. Who among those who came will ever forget the Shepherd yodelling for her sheep (My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me, John 10, 27-28). You had to be there!

There is so much else to say, but I will end simply with a huge thankyou to you all, from Cath and me, for your friendship, your acceptance and your love. We look forward to a new phase of our lives, but leaving this one will not be easy.

*Simon*

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## **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)**

<b>November 2025</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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.**

## **In my opinion – October 2025**

It was February 2006 when Graham Orriss told me they needed young blood on the Parish Council, it met once a month, it was fun, and we went to the pub afterwards.

Fast forward 19 years and 9 months and the truth comes out: the blood isn't so young anymore, it's not all fun, and the pub is closed on a Monday when we meet! But we do still only meet once a month.

Going through my Parish Council files recently, one of the first things I came across was a Housing Needs Survey the PC conducted in 2008 and it brought to mind the various issues we have dealt with over the past 20-odd years. Things like the Children's Centre in 2010, which eventually got sited in Wheatley and has proved a great success; the furore when the Manoir cut down two protected trees to make way for the beautiful orchard in 2011; the Parish Plan that was painstakingly drawn up by a separate committee in 2012; the battles we have fought and lost, like the nearby solar farms next to the M40; the on-going battles against Chalgrove and Harrington over-development; the waste truck depot currently focussing our attention; the fight to save but lose the 103 bus in 2015, thankfully replaced by the 46 service in recent years.

And then there have been the planning applications that caused some controversy, and I went back through my annual reports to remind myself of these: Brook Bank, in 2013; Crofts Furlong Farm in 2014; Milton Lodge – 2019; The plans for Le Manoir, submitted in 2019 initially, causing much consternation in the village, and ultimately approved in 2023; and most recently the plans for the redevelopment of the Bull, largely welcomed by all.

Common themes over the years have included roads, traffic and parking problems, with no solution in sight even now; sporadic incidents of anti-social behaviour have been reported over the years, but are thankfully of minimal overall impact; speeding, which was addressed in 2022 with the installation of the speed indicators at the three entrances to the village, and the adoption of the 20mph speed limit; and the constant battle to keep the greens free of parking and other obstructions.

The Bull was saved in 2013 and kept alive for ten years, through Covid, by a diligent management committee and a series of landlords, each with their own style of running the pub. It was purchased from Greene King by the community on 15th April 2013, and sold to Bob Hutton on 6th April 2023, with much of the long-necessary renovation work being implemented and underway as we speak. Long may it thrive.

But the time has come for change. My personal circumstances were flipped on their head in January this year, with the death of my wife Catherine, and I have made the

decision to relocate to a family property in Herefordshire in early November, hence my standing down now, 13th October, as chairman, and as councillor from the end of October 2025.

My years on the PC have been invigorating and exhausting, interesting as well as dull, sometimes challenging, always different, mostly fun (except for the dog bins), and have kept me involved in the community for nearly 20 years, including six years as a District Councillor, and another seven years as County Councillor, representing this community at all levels of local government, which has been both a privilege and an honour for me. I leave the village now with a heavy heart, but also with loads of happy memories, and a clear plan for the future.

I can confidently hand over the reins to Malcolm Horsely, who will take over as chairman, and wish him and the rest of the council good luck in their upcoming skirmishes, with the District Council over the waste truck depot application especially, and with whatever curved balls the future has in store. This is a beautiful village, and in my opinion, worth fighting to preserve as long as possible.

Thank you all for your support and commitment over the years and I end with a quote from Keith Mitchell, former head of SODC, that I found in some notes from a meeting with him in October 2007, where he said, “The Parish Council is the bedrock of democracy. We need to keep listening to you.” If only.....

Good luck, and don't let apathy rule!

*Steve Harrod, Chairman, Great Milton Parish Council*

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## Great Milton History



One year we had rows of black pipes stacked on the corner of the village Green ready for putting the water through the village.

A group of us children decided to hold hands and run across them I didn't run fast enough and down I went bringing others down with me I badly knocked my knee.

The following morning I couldn't put my foot to the floor.

After visiting the doctors I was told to rest it.

The Head Mistress was not going to have me missing school she managed to find a pushchair and I was wheel to school in it.

We used to play a game of tracking putting chalk arrows to enable us to be found. It was the girls turn to be found.

Off we went through the allotments and out onto the road then down to Mr.

warners field which houses the sewerage now.

We ended up in the barn I was to be the look out so sat by the gate.

Well I got bored with that and went home.

Monday evening there was a knock at the door asking for me when I went to the door who was there but a policeman.

We all got a warning never to go onto the farmers.

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## **Neighbours' Hall October Matinee**

The Neighbours' Hall in Church Road, opened in 1924, was funded by the Revd Percivall Pott and Edith, his wife, as a shared amenity for the villages of Great Haseley, Great Milton and Little Milton. The venue has obviously seen countless different events (public and private) but on October 19th over 30 persons discovered numerous filming location secrets at the 'Lights-Action-Camera' presentation. They also enjoyed prosecco at the start which was used to celebrate the Hall's belated 100th birthday and give thanks for all the many, many volunteers who over the years have ensured the building maintains high standards. Special mention was made of immediate past chairmen and the late Tony Jefferis in particular who drove the latest significant major refurbishment. The Hall is operated as a 'small charity' and, like many of the Village's amenities, is entirely dependent upon volunteers. In recent months the entire exterior was redecorated and the heating has been upgraded, The latest event was primarily to remind everyone that the facility exists as a place for varied entertainment. Other suggestions for different events are welcomed. Contact details are always available within the advert pages.

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

### **Friends of Great Milton School (FOGMS)**

This is a well over due offer of thanks to all parents and FoGMS for their on-going financial support. Recent purchases using their much appreciated funds include a new sound system for the Hall, a couple of iPads and Chromebook's, white boards for two class rooms, subscriptions to online schemes, storage sheds as well as picnic tables. The current big project in need of funding is a new playground surface. This is required due to tree root movement damage. Prizes are a great way of raising money

for our school whether via raffles or auctions. If any of you can suggest a company they could approach or are even able to donate a prize yourself we would be immensely grateful. In the first instance please email [ian.ross.bnc@gmail.com](mailto:ian.ross.bnc@gmail.com).

There is a FOGMS Monsters Disco on Thursday 6th November, just one of a whole host of events and fundraising activities running throughout the year.

### **'Music for Youth' at Royal Albert Hall**

Seven children across Years 4 and 5 are performing at the Royal Albert Hall on the 10th or 11th November. The Music for Youth Proms showcases the brilliance of young musicians from across the whole UK. Known for its electric atmosphere and diverse musical performances, each night, over 1000 amazing young musicians will perform on the iconic Royal Albert Hall stage in ensembles, bands, and choirs large and small. From orchestral classics to traditional folk and roots and from big band jazz to big sound rock and pop. We look forward to hearing more about this exciting event & wish all the performers, but especially our Boreal and Eagle Owls, every success.

### **Term Dates**

This half term runs from November 3rd to December 19th.

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## **Community Coffee Morning**

Following the reaction to the September experiment, The Pavilion is now the meeting place for communal conversation, a fresh cup of coffee and the choice of cakes every fourth Wednesday of the month (December excepted) from 10.30. Everyone welcome on 26th November. Mention it to your neighbours.

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## **GM Athletic Club – 2025 summer Track & Field Season**

Great Milton athletic club are coming to the end of their summer of Track & Field competitions. One of the highlights is always the county championships in May, and this year Abby Kirkman won a gold medal in javelin with a 22.41m throw. This performance saw her selected to represent Oxfordshire U15s in an inter-counties match in mid-September, where she finished 10th. Abby also took a bronze in discus, whilst Stanley Bradley won a javelin silver with a club record throw of 28.67m, and Ruby Jane took a high jump bronze.

Other stand outs this season have been Fleur Wilson and Alice Cavalier swapping the 300m club record several times, and it finally resided with Alice at 46.19. 

Alice also took the 100m CR with 13.57, and Fleur claimed the 200m with her 29.00. Dora Twycross finally broke the 2:40 barrier in the 800m with her 2:39.90 club record. Dora has been picking of Phoebe Coleman's records one by one, but Phoebe's impressive 1500m CR for U15 girls of 5:38 from 2018 remains out of reach.

The Y4s and Y5s have a fun introduction to athletics with Quadkids, where they compete in four events, a 75m sprint, long jump, vortex howler throw, and the 600m. In the 600m, Hugo Szekely broke the boys club record when he led from the gun to the tape and ran 2:04.

The club finished the summer season with a series of medals, awarded to those who trained most, and competed most often. Two athletes in the junior squad each won a training medal, Alice Mosley and Stanley Bradley, who both attended 35 training sessions. In the senior squad the medal was won by Dora Twycross (44). Most frequent competitor medals went to junior Rupert Holliday (12) and for in the seniors it was Dora (17).

The club are blessed with a supportive parent community and a number of teenage athletes who help coach the juniors – Luke Duffell, Gracie Wilson, Grace Mosely, Dora Twycross and Fleur Wilson. We couldn't do it without them, and we truly appreciate their enthusiasm and expertise.

Potential new members from school year-4 upwards are always welcome, and parents can find more information on the village website.

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## View from Views

Unbelievable after a long hot, dry summer, with little growth in tilled crops, the weather took a change after these crops had been harvested, and we witnessed a little rain. This just gave enough moisture in the ground to allow early planted catch crops to make an attempt to grow, these are crops we grow to give us ground cover between crops to help sequester carbon. The later planted catch crops showed no signs of growth until a bit of rain just about 2 weeks before we wanted to plant the next crop hy! ho! That's life!. But miracles do happen sometimes as once we decided we had waited long enough for some soil moisture, we planted on the Tuesday Rolled on the Wednesday, just to press the seed onto any moisture there might have been, then that night right on cue we had substantial rain just what was needed. All the soil we have cultivated this autumn has worked beautifully this Autumn and growing conditions could not be better so after a long and arduous summer things



might be coming back to something like normal, and by the time this is read perhaps we may have finished all our autumn planting.

This really has been an odd year I mention above all tilled crops but no mention of top fruit, of which I know little, the abundance of fruit has been unbelievable, with very variable keeping qualities. I can only believe that the conditions were right when the fruit first formed with no frost in the late spring, plus these plants/trees/or bushes are well established and have a large root system enabling them to withstand long periods of drought. Some trees I guess will suffer but these will mainly be ones that have been recently planted or transplanted on which we have quite an area, of course this remains to be seen.

The farmers that will really suffer this year will be the livestock producers mainly the Cattle and Sheep as the grass they rely on will be in extremely short supply, and thus expensive, at the moment livestock farmers will be experiencing late summer growth which at the moment is extraordinary, unfortunately this late grass is mainly water with little nutrient value. This lack of feed will mean they will have to turn to cereals to get the nutrients they need which should giving us Arable farmers a bit of a lift. Needless to say this will not be the case as our wonderful Government did a trade deal to the benefit of the USA not UK, as all that has happened to cereal prices is that they are falling out of bed. To add insult to injury the Dairy companies have made a substantial reduction in the retail price of milk, due to over production or lack of demand, it seems we cannot win at the moment.

On the wildlife front the Swallows have flown to their winter quarters, and we await the arrival of Field Fares and other winter visitors. I have to mention at this stage that one of our endangered farmland birds, the Grey Partridge, have had a good breeding season, I can only think this is because being ground nesting the dry has suited them. I also think we are getting to understand more about their preferred habitat, to have coveys of over 10, with some of 15, is quite exceptional. A distressing fact was pointed out to me the other day that a Buzzard had tried to take a half-grown Hare not a baby leveret, we have been led to believe these raptors, like the Red Kites will only take carrion (dead not live) any animal that is hungry will I maintain take any food it can, so much for the experts. That may be a little hard as I think Buzzards would be more inclined towards live prey on the whole.

This of course is why we should question the pressure by the vocal minority that we should be introducing species that have not been on our shores for hundreds of years. A case in point, the Hare population has diminished since we came to the Views some 50 years ago, is this due to the reintroduction of the Red Kite in the 90's, of course modern agriculture will have contributed to this as well.



I am sorry if some readers felt my last month's comments were a little out of order, all I can say is that there is in this country what is known, believe it or not, as freedom of speech. I am just sorry that the comments were made to Newsletter editor rather than me, as I believe I have that I have read that "any views made in this publication are not those of the Parish Council or the Editor". The trouble is that there are those of us who have been around a long time have seen so often gross errors in Government policy costing us the taxpayer a fortune in many cases and, just laugh it off, just think of HS2, planning laws made to save the environment modified to suit the government policy, water companies allowed to fleece the country, to name but a few, I could go on, do we just sit back and say nothing? There are those of us who have had to earn a living the hard way, see the country ruled by those who, can only do things by the book to satisfy the vocal minority.

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

In October we all made gorgeous decoupage shell dishes. A big thank you to Wendy for running the workshop and to Lucinda & Helen for the teas and birthday posy.

On Thursday 13th November, we're making mincemeat ready for Christmas. All ingredients will be provided, just bring a bowl, spoon and jars. We'll also be attempting to make a paper stained-glass window for Little Milton Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6 December.

### **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/lmpinelodge](http://www.facebook.com/lmpinelodge)

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

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



**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





*With Love We Flourish*

**Open Days 2025**  
**Wednesday 15th October**  
**10.00-11.00am**

**&**

**Wednesday 5th November**  
**1.30-3.00pm**

**Refreshments and talk from Mrs Frost**

**See the whole school in action, meet the team  
for a guided tour with Q&A**

***We look forward to welcoming you to our  
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**Contact: [office@greatmiltonschool.co.uk](mailto:office@greatmiltonschool.co.uk)  
01844 279388**

## WALKS PROGRAMME OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025

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



## **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 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** are available to protect against serious illnesses like flu and COVID-19. To check eligibility and get information on booking visit [Winter vaccinations and winter health - NHS](#). MHS has finished vaccinating for the 2025/26 winter season, but vaccinations are still available from local pharmacies.

**You and Your General Practice** – this new NHS guide can be downloaded from the MHS website. It is great resource for all NHS patients, full of useful tips and helpful information in clear and simple language.

**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](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. 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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## 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)

### Book and Jigsaw Library

Friday 28th November 2025

11.00 - 12 noon

Neighbours' Hall



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.



### Great Milton History

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## **Neighbours' Hall**

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Hall benefits from a bar, stage and smaller room opening on to an enclosed patio garden area overlooking Le Manoir orchard. The Hall has good car parking facilities. It is ideal for community groups, children's parties, family get togethers, company functions, weddings and special celebrations.

**Available for hire by the hour or the day.**

**Cost for hiring**

**£15 per hour, £120 for the full day**

**Please contact our Booking Secretary**

**Janet Smith on 07970 264667**

## **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**

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**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](mailto:annabel.haycraft@rcc.ac.uk) or phone 01865 877411 if you would like to discuss the possibility further.

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## 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)

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# Waterperry Gardens

## What's On this November

**EXHIBITION: 15th November until 24th December**  
**THE PRINTED GARDEN - FREE IN THE GALLERY**

**EVENT: 16th November**  
**GROUNDDOG DAY (SUPPORTING O.A.S.)**

**\* WATERPERRY FESTIVE FUN \***

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
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Gift boxes galore, decorations, festive food,  
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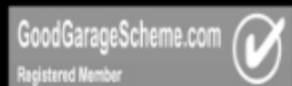
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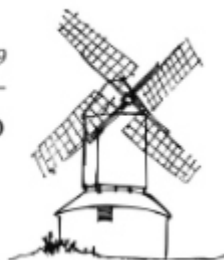


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## Diary

- Monday Spark Yoga – The Neighbours’ Hall. 9:15am  
*contact Claire – sparkyoga1111@gmail.com to book or for more details*
- 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*

## November

- |      |     |  |         |
|------|-----|--|---------|
| 5th  | Wed | Great Milton School Open Day                                 | 1:30pm  |
| 12th | Wed | Coffee Morning at The Methodist Chapel                       | 10:30am |
| 17th | Mon | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion                       | 7:30pm  |
| 18th | Tue | Christmas Fair at The Oxfordshire Golf Club, A329 near Thame | 9:30am  |
| 21st | Fri | Quiz Night at The Neighbours’ Hall                           | 7:00pm  |

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

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