

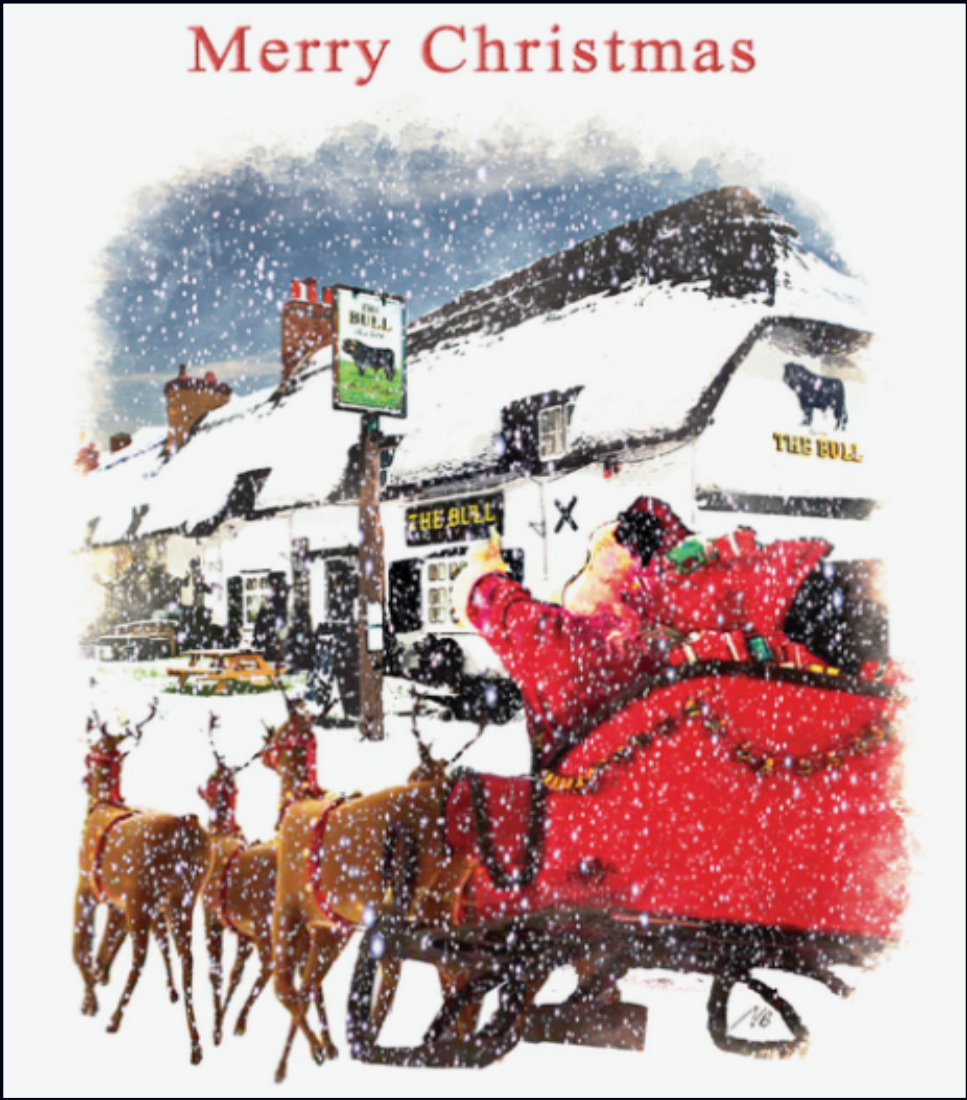
# GREAT MILTON BULLETIN

December 2025

Published by the Parish Council

No. 614

## Merry Christmas



## 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>	<b>Richard Oliver</b>	—
Ward:	Church Road to Monkery 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:** Merry Christmas!

**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 17th Nov 2025**

### **A New Parish Councillor**

Mr Richard Oliver was unanimously co-opted to the position of Parish Councillor. The Council welcomed Mr Oliver and agreed that they look forward to working with him to promote the interests of the Great Milton community.

Following the resignation of Stephen Harrod there remains a Councillor vacancy. We would encourage all interested parties to contact the Clerk or the Chair (Malcolm Horsley) in the first instance.

### **Haseley Trading Estate**

The Chair updated the Council that although the community have pledged a substantial amount of money this was not quite sufficient to apply for a Judicial Review; concern was therefore raised regarding spending Parish Council funds in combination with community donations given the uncertainties that a JR would inevitably bring. The Council voted and unanimously resolved to call a halt to legal proceedings and not pursue a judicial review. Whilst we the Council still firmly object to the development, we do not have the support of our local and district councillors who support the development going ahead. It was agreed that the best strategy from this point is to ensure that the District Council meet the conditions of the planning permission, to mitigate the negative impact of the development on the community.

### **Oxford County Council – Judith Edwards**

Cllr Edwards spoke about the following issues; Chalgrove Airfield Development, Local Government Reorganisation, Devolution and a Mayoral Combined Authority, Oxford Congestion Charge, Fire Service Review.

With regard to the newly introduced Congestion Charge in Oxford Cllr Harms noted that travel time into Oxford from Wheatley has been significantly increased (by 20-30mins) for school children travelling by bus. Public buses are also being delayed by the system which is supposed to improve travel times. Cllr Edwards noted that she would definitely report this issue, as it is a concern.

### **South Oxfordshire District Council – Georgina Heritage**

Councillor Heritage noted that with regard to the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation SODC has backed the Ridgeway Council proposal – which would combine South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse and West Berkshire into a single unitary authority.

Cllr Heritage explained that she has called two planning applications to committee, both of which are traveller sites in Tetsworth and Stadhampton. She is working with

both Parish Councils regarding these applications which have generated significant objection.

Cllr Heritage noted that there is still availability for the Councillor's Community Grant Scheme, which may award up to £7,500 towards community projects in her ward. Applications close on 5th December at midday.

#### Highways Asset Response Team (HART)

This new initiative aimed at enhancing Oxfordshire County Council's reactive highways maintenance service and deepening their engagement with local communities. The Parish Council will look to identify priority areas within Great Milton and would welcome your feedback on issues that you would like to see improved. The HART team will carry out a range of essential maintenance including;

Street Furniture Cleaning      Cleansing signage and pedestrian refuge island bollards to ensure visibility and regulatory compliance.

Pedestrian Safety Enhancements      Removing damaged railings, street furniture, and footway plates, and addressing associated surface deterioration.

Vegetation Management      Clearing minor highway vegetation encroaching onto footways and cycleways to improve accessibility.

Surface Debris Clearance      Sweeping isolated areas of loose debris from footways and residential carriageways to maintain cleanliness and safety.

Visual Amenity Improvements      Removing outdated flyposting from street furniture to improve the overall streetscape.

Street Clutter Reduction      Collecting and removing redundant barriers and obsolete Chapter 8 signage to declutter public spaces.

If you would like to report areas for attention please contact the Clerk ([clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)) or report to your ward Councillor.

#### Planning Applications

The following planning applications were discussed:

P25/S3171/HH

1 Hillcrest, The Green, Great Milton OX44 7NS

Single storey side extension.

The Council were in agreement that these plans are in line with the applicant's intentions for local business which is beneficial to the village as a whole. The extension itself will be in keeping with the existing building and is likely to be executed to an excellent standard. The Council resolved to support this application.

The following SODC planning decisions were noted:

P25/S1653/FUL

Former Ariens Factory Site, Haseley Trading Estate, Great Haseley OX44 7PF

Redevelopment of the site as a Vehicle Depot retaining one of the buildings as a workshop to contain offices and welfare. Works to include all associated external works. (Amended and additional plans and information received 28 August 2025).

PERMISSION GRANTED

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).

PERMISSION GRANTED

The Chair noted that the applicant may be willing to attend a future PC meeting to discuss further planning permission for this site.

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.

PERMISSION GRANTED

The next meeting of Great Milton Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th December starting at 7.30pm in The Pavilion.

Agenda items for the December meeting are due to the Clerk by Wednesday 3rd Dec 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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## **Photo book of 2024 and 2025 Church Fetes**

Nick Belcher has kindly put together photos of the last two Fetes into a nice book as a record. This is going to be kept in the History Society Room. Do go and look at it when the History Society is open ( Wednesday mornings). You might spot yourself.

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## **Poppy Appeal**

The total for the village this year is £673.77

That's brilliant Thankyou to everyone who supported the local door to collectors.

*Sue Denham*

## Benefice Services for December


	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 7th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Sunday 14th	Carol Service 4:00pm	Family Service 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP 9:00am (Change from usual rota)
Wednesday 17th	Carols around the Tree 6:00pm		
Sunday 21st	Family Service 10:30am	Carol Service 6:00pm	Holy Communion 9:00am Carol Service 4:00pm
Tuesday 24th		Crib Service 4:00pm	Midnight Mass 11:15pm
Wednesday 25th	Christmas Day Holy Communion 10:00am		
Sunday 28th		Benefice Service 10:30am	

## Benefice Services for January 2026

	St. Mary the Virgin Great Milton	St. James's Little Milton	St. Peter's Great Haseley
Sunday 4th		Holy Communion 9:00am	Family Worship 10:30am
Monday 5th			Compline by Candlelight 5:00pm

## Food for Thought

“Amidst a constant stream of horrendous, heartbreaking news,” said the veteran conductor Daniel Barenboim this summer, “our recent tour with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has been a welcome antidote. For two weeks, musicians from Israel, Palestine and different Arab countries have sat side by side. They engaged in spirited debate, and they made music together, in some of the world’s leading festivals. I am so proud of their perseverance in coming together, making music together, and really seeing and accepting the other.”

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra was founded in 1991 for musicians from 

across the Middle East, especially Palestinians and Israelis, to come together and find common ground through music. It takes its name from a famous collection of poetry by the eighteenth-century German writer Goethe. From the outset, the orchestra's musicians have remained committed to dialogue and nonviolence, even in the most difficult moments of conflict.

Here is part of a recent post on the orchestra's website: "Over the past two years, the violence between Israel and Palestine has deepened wounds that were already profound. For many of us, this is not only a political crisis but a deeply human one. As we move through this shared grief and trauma, we must resist the impulse to cancel or erase one another's pain and history. Instead, we seek a way forward that honours complexity, and where listening becomes an act of recognition rather than denial. Within this shared grief, we reaffirm our commitment to the vision of our founders, that music could hold differences without denying them, and that dialogue itself can be a form of courage."

Peacemaking is not a soft option. It takes courage, determination, and self-sacrifice. And courage, as I was reading in my Bible-study notes recently, is not the absence of fear, but fear that has said its prayers.

Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are the peacemakers." Jesus is known as the Prince of Peace. The short letter of St James (the brother of Jesus) also deals with peacemaking. James speaks of wrong wisdom and right wisdom. The wrong kind stirs up disorder and ultimately war; the right kind brings peace. Peaceable wisdom brings forth a "harvest of righteousness", or of justice.

Peacemakers, for James, are active promoters of justice and righteousness, not domineering but ready to listen and get their hands dirty. The members of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra are peacemakers, not trying to impose simple solutions, but listening, affirming each other's story and trauma, and working together despite everything. Music of course can help enormously, not to deny stories which can only be told in words, but to provide a common language without words. We can all think of other peacemakers in our society, who may sometimes nevertheless need to use force to defeat disruptive and dangerous elements.

Whatever our personal beliefs, let us give thanks for peacemakers, and pray for those who are constantly working to achieve peace and justice for us all.

May you all know the blessedness of peace this Christmas.

*Toby Garfitt – Lay Minister*

## 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)

December 2025			
Date	Time	Preacher	Comments
7th	11:00am	Revd Miriam Moul	Holy Communion
14th	11:00am	Paul Rosentall	Morning Service
21st	3:00pm	Revd Stephen Spain	Carol Service
25th	9:30am	Local Arrangement	Christmas Morning Service
28th		No Service	

**Free Coffee Morning – Wednesday 10th December at 10:30am to midday.**

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## Be a Gift This Christmas

Everything we are, and everything we have, begins as gift. Life itself is given to us — not something we earn, create, or control, but something we can only receive. Our talents, our capacity for love, our ability to create, to care, to bring joy — all these are signs of a generous God who delights in giving.

When we speak of gifts, it is easy to think first of possessions or achievements. But the truest gifts are woven into who we are. Each one of us is made in God's image and so carries within us something of God's goodness — a spark of creativity, a gift for kindness, a way of listening, a quiet strength. These are not meant to be hidden away or compared, but to be shared. Gifts, by their very nature, are for giving.

God's purpose is fulfilled in us not when we cling to what we've been given, but when we offer it freely in love. When we give of ourselves — our time, our patience, our laughter, our compassion — we allow God's generosity to flow through us into the world. The gifts we share become signs of hope, small but powerful expressions of divine love in action.

This truth stands at the heart of the Christian story. God's own way of being is self-giving love. We see it most clearly in Jesus, who is God's gift to the world. The gift at the heart of Christmas. Through Jesus, we learn what it means to give ourselves completely: to serve, to forgive and to love without counting the cost.

The practice of giving — whether through words, actions, or presence — can become a kind of prayer, shaping us into people who reflect the image of the God 

who gives all things. And as we give, something remarkable happens: our own hearts are enlarged. We can discover that generosity does not diminish us but deepens us.

So as we move through this season, remember that every good thing we hold is a gift — and that those gifts find their truest purpose when they are shared. For it is in giving of ourselves that we most fully live out the love of the God who gives Himself to us.

Why not drop-in to one of the village Christmas services as we remember the first Christmas and the wonderful gift of Jesus.

Have a blessed Christmas

*Rev Stephen Spain*

Great Milton Methodist Church

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## Remembering Ian Melton



Ian was a good friend to us all- a steady gentle balance to all points of view. He was our Treasurer – meticulous in all the records and financial dealings. He was interested in every aspect of the Village, was a bellringer, supported the 'Coffee in the Chapel', regularly enjoyed a meal at the Bull and was intrigued by the family histories and records of the 'old' Village – but without doubt, his legacy is his beautiful book 'Great Milton's Wells. He traced and photographed almost 100 of the wells and water sources in the Village. He is generous in the introduction of his book, but the credit is all his - his beloved wells.

We miss him in our small group – he is remembered throughout the Village – we are lucky to have known him.

*GMH*

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## Senior Citizens Party Fund

The Great Milton Senior Citizens Christmas Party Fund is an amazing entity and provides a Christmas lunch every April (yes April) for anyone of retirement age, or a widow or widower, who wishes to attend. It is a proper Christmas lunch with turkey and the trimmings, crackers, a drink or two, entertainment and a small gift for all attendees.

There are fundraisers through the year such as quizzes and the Harvest Celebration at The Bull. The Dads Band make a generous donation.

The Sheppard Trust are great supporters.

It has crossed my mind that there is a very easy way that you can contribute after Christmas if you wish :

How many of us don't use all the crackers in a box - why not donate the odd ones? We could have a wonderfully eclectic mix. All those Christmas bottles that aren't quite your taste/party surplus - why not donate? Low value gift sets, chocolates, biscuits, please be mindful of best before or sell by dates - why not donate.


Please give to any committee member or call/message 07955300353 before end March. Christine Donnelly, Janet Smith, Pippa Read, Trevor Paczoska, Lynn and Fred Cabbage.

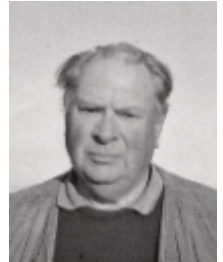
PS Why April? I believe that it is because people are less available in December and the nights are darker but I prefer Why not?

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## View from Views

Last month I related to how the winter barley had just been planted in as good a condition as we could have hoped for followed almost immediately by some needed rain to start it off which means it has had as good a start in life as could be expected, I can now follow that by stating that the Winter Wheat had an equally good start albeit having severe check from the application of a pre-emergence herbicide, caused by perfect rain too soon after planting (could say perfect storm). We hope it will recover, as at the moment it is a waiting game and, we are not at all sure, again one of those gambles we make every day, do we spray as conditions are perfect and/or, is it going to rain? On a more positive note, our farm is no different to any other, as most recently planted crops, look really good without those horrible bare patches, that we have become used to over the last few years, where conditions have been adverse either too wet or too dry. This bodes well for a decent harvest, wishful thinking, it will depend so much on what the weather does and, how the wheat recovers. With the cereal prices on the floor at least some 10-15% lower than the last couple of years, it is sorely needed.

How fortunes change back in the 1990's Red Kites were reintroduced into the UK, as we all know just up the road in the Chilterns. These birds were introduced from Spain, in the hopes they would spread across the country and eventually mate with the few remaining ones in Wales, this took longer than hoped, we in this area were so enamoured by these wonderful creatures, that we fed them too well so they stayed around longer than they should. Now we learn that Spain faces the same problem as we did that they 



were in danger of being extinct so we are sending them chicks, how things change.

One would assume that once the drought came to an end there would be flooding etc, as it happens this has not been the case so far, except in some isolated areas. The threat of flooding is constantly there nowadays, whether due to climate change or not. In spite of this threat, the Government wants to amend, amendments to the planning bill, which would otherwise have restricted the building on flood plains. Now we learn that many MPs are so concerned about the pressure on productive land for other uses, building, roads, green energy, and have produced a report to this effect. It seems to me that one part of the administration wants to build baby build, while the other is saying hold on a minute what are the consequences. Many of us local will have been to view the plans for Chalgrove airfield and come away totally bemused that certain criteria have not been explored fully. Martin Baker who are vital to our defence and export industry, have not been properly involved; after having stated they have no wish or ability to move. No proper cognisance has been made to the extra flood risk to Stadhampton, or a bypass for Little Milton, leave alone any plans for sewage treatment/disposal. Add to this the cost of moving a large runway which, will be near to the development, with the inevitable access available to the young living there. All balmy and the decision of the mad house, not sensible people we expect our politicians to be.

At the moment the agricultural industry is almost on pause, a situation caused by the fact that no farmer has the confidence to invest in the future, just for the chancellor to plunder their business assets with IHT, meaning it may not be able to continue as it is at the moment. This is now made worse through government meddling and making a real "Horlicks" by altering the dates for Countryside stewardship scheme/CS extending the closure date to coincide with the opening of a new scheme Sustainable Farming Initiative/SFI, which closed last spring, due we are told through a lack of funds. All CS' were due to close 31st December this year so many relying on this payment would be out of pocket needless to say ploughed up some, or all, their conservation areas meaning the loss of years of environmental management, now when it is too late we have this welcome but too late for some announcement. This again follows on from some of my previous remarks about our lords and masters not having a clue, and we all suffer, saying a government C--- up yet again.

Now of course, as I write these pearls, we see the results of Claudia the River Thames is in flood again, let's just hope it is only for a few days, as although the we need the precipitation our Wheat still needs a little dry to get over the shock I refer to above.

As the next View From Views will be next year (already!) I would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*Charles Peers*

## Tons Together (Little Milton) WI

In November we all made mincemeat, some of which Sharon will use for the December meeting mince pies! A big thank you to the committee for organising such a fun evening.

On Thursday 11th December, Jayne Abbott will be talking to us about Quirky Christmas traditions. This will be followed by Christmas treats and mulled wine, plus tea & coffee. 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](http://www.facebook.com/Impinelodge)

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

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

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## The Maple Tree – A great place to grow

### Merry Christmas from The Maple Tree!

Have you checked out our new schedule?

Mondays: Little Learners at 10:00-11:30am and Twins' Club at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Smart Start at 9:30-11:30am

Wednesdays: Maple Babies at 9:30am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme at 9:30-11:30am

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall from 10:30am-12:00pm

Mums' Café at 1:00-3:00pm

Fridays: Creative Corner at 10:00-11:30am

Saturdays: Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am on December 13th and January 10th

### Here are some additional dates for your diary;

22nd November – Wheatley Singers with the Cumnor Choral Society; The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace – all proceeds got to The Maple Tree!

28th November – The Maple Tree Tombolo at the Wheatley Christmas Fair

5th December - last day to place your Christmas Tree order



13th December – Christmas Tree collection event

19th December - Christmas Disco

17th January – Silent Auction

Check out our website and social media for details about our programme and special events, including our popular Emergency Paediatric First Aid for parents and carers.

Wish List:

- A bookkeeper who is familiar with SAGE
- A volunteer on Monday and Thursday afternoon sessions from 1:00-4:00pm
- A fundraising-loving trustee!

In other news, we have been supporting some displaced families in the Ramada by the M40 and the Travel Lodge in Wheatley. Thank you for all the recent donations; food, equipment, clothing, nappies, toys and books! The families are putting everything to good use in the hotels and then in their new homes.

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700.

Email: [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk)

Website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](http://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley)

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

*Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager*

**PILATES CLASSES**  
in Little Milton

Thursdays  
1.15pm

The Pine Lodge  
Little Milton  
Village Hall

POP-UP PILATES

**Pilates classes in the heart of your community**

Thursdays 1.15pm

Relaxed and welcoming classes led by physiotherapists

Individual assessments and tailored advice

Our physiotherapists have extensive experience with:

- Back pain
- Neck pain
- Arthritis
- Injury Prevention
- Balance and strength for over 65s
- Menopause

Limited spaces - booking essential.

07521 180448

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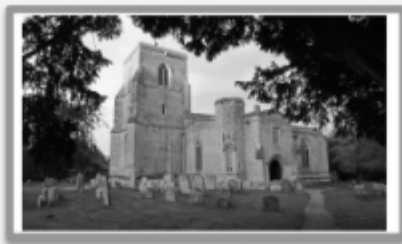
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POP-UP PILATES



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

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

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

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



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Website: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley](https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley)



## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

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Tree size	Price	Quantity
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5-6 ft	£47.00	
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Total		

Name	
Email address	
Telephone number	
Payment method	

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO THE MAPLE TREE BY BACS  
ACCOUNT NAME: THE MAPLE TREE  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 83011852  
SORT CODE: 20-65-20  
REF: SURNAME/XMASTREE  
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ORDER DEADLINE: **5TH DECEMBER**

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Registered charity No: 119419  
Email: [info@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk)  
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The man himself will be arriving by horse and sleigh at 11am!  
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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



# 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.



**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.

**Care Messages:** The NHS App is now being used by MHS and other health providers to send you simple, secure messages on your phone about your care e.g. appointments, test results, reminders. Much quicker than waiting for a letter or phone call. See MHS website to find out how to turn on notifications in the NHS App and receive Care Messages.

**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.
- **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 women
- **Whooping Cough** infections, symptoms and treatment

## **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.**

## **Book and Jigsaw Library**

**Friday 19th December 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.

## **Neighbours' Hall**

**A large recently refurbished community Hall with Wifi, central heating, new lighting and well-equipped kitchen.** The

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

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**Please contact our Booking Secretary**

**Janet Smith on 07970 264667**

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## Widow Tree

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

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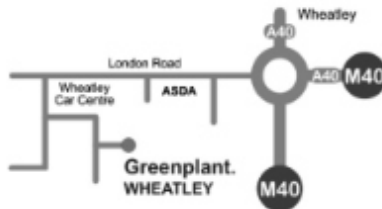
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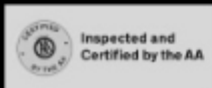
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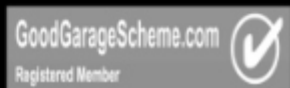
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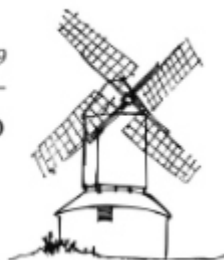


*\*subject to T&C's*



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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*

## December

- |           |                                                 |         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 13th Sat  | Christmas Fair at The Pavilion                  |         |
|           | Storytime with Santa at The Pavilion            | 11:00am |
| 15th Mon  | Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion          | 7:30pm  |
| 19th Fri  | Book and Jigsaw Library at The Neighbours’ Hall | 11:00am |
| 25th Thur | Christmas Day!                                  | —       |
| 26th Fri  | It’s only for the kids...                       |         |
| 27th Sat  | Bah, humbug...                                  |         |
| 28th Sun  | :-D                                             |         |

All copy (except adverts) to [gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmbulletin@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th December 2025**  
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Adverts to the Clerk, Jacqueline Wren  
[clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk)

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