

Great Milton Parish Council

Clerk: Jacqueline Wren

Email: clerk@greatmilton-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Pavilion on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm

Present:

Malcolm Horsley (MH - Chair)

David Harms (DH - Vice-Chair)

Richard Oliver (RO - Councillor)

In attendance:

Andrew Webster (AW - Parish Clerk)

Jacqueline Wren (JW - Parish Clerk)

5 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Sarah McMahon (Councillor)

Andrew Noble (Councillor)

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

MH presented the Chair's Report - see Attachment 1.

5. Financial Report for year ending 31st March 2026

The Clerk (JW) summarised the Council's finances for the last financial year.

Income to the Parish in the year was around £39,000.

This comprised the precept (£23,000) plus around £10,000 in Community Infrastructure Levies, as well as income from allotment rental and bulletin advertising.

Next year the precept will increase only slightly to £24,000 and the Council does not foresee any significant changes.

6. Report from County Councillor - Judith Edwards

The annual report from the County Councillor was received – see Attachment 2.

7. Report from District Councillor - Georgina Heritage

The annual report from the District Councillor was received – see Attachment 3.

8. Reports from;

a. Great Milton Recreation Ground Management Committee

Rob Cartwright gave an update from GMRGMC.

- The wi-fi is now working in the Pavilion.
- Around £26,000 has been raised towards refurbishment of the playground, including donations from the Parish Council, the Sheppard Trust, and funds raised by the croquet tournament, quiz night and go-fund-me campaign.
- The zip wire will be refurbished as the next priority.
- The committee was unsuccessful in their Everyone Active scheme application, but will apply for the SODC Capital Grant Scheme, which is a more appropriate source of funding for the refurbishment.
- The cricket nets have been replaced during the year, and the pavilion has been repainted inside.
- More regular bookings are taking place in the pavilion than before.

MH asked whether the cricket club was winding up, but RO noted that cricket was continuing in the village, probably in conjunction with Great Haseley.

b. Allotment Coordinator

Report received from Andrew Noble:

As ever there is some good news and some less good news.

On a positive note all the plots are let and paid for, although it is clear that many are not being cultivated.

This is primarily down to the weather. We have had wet winters where the water table has risen to a point at which over wintered crops and plants have succumbed to the excessive moisture and rotted.

We have had dry springs where it's been almost impossible to prepare seedbeds and get crops started, and of course hot and dry summers where growing anything is almost impossible. It would be difficult to describe this as climate change as we have experienced extreme seasons in the past, but to have so many extremes so close together is a more recent phenomenon.

We now face a further problem as some plots are becoming unusable. Some Parish Councils in the past 50 years have decided to plant trees around the allotments, and as these trees have matured their roots have made it impossible to cultivate some plots, and of course the trees themselves take moisture and nutrients from the soil which would normally be needed by the crops on the allotment.

Here's hoping for a better and more productive 2026-27

c. The Sheppard Trust

John Catterall presented a report of the activities of the Sheppard Trust - see Attachment 4.

d. The Old Field Charity

Adrian Buckmaster provided the annual report from the Old Field Charity - see Attachment 5.

e. Neighbours' Hall

Christine Donnelly presented the Neighbours' Hall Management Committee Chair's Report on behalf of the new Chair Hazel Hagggar – see Attachment 6.

RO asked if the construction at the Manoir was causing any problems, so far none have arisen.

9. Questions

There were no questions.

10. Any other business

None

The meeting closed at 20.01.

Attachment 1

Chairman's Report - Annual Parish Meeting 2025/26

Over the past year Great Milton Parish Council has been active across a wide range of issues affecting the village and wider community. Much of the Council's work focused on representing residents' concerns regarding the proposed Haseley Trading Estate waste vehicle depot development and the wider issues surrounding the process undertaken by South Oxfordshire District Council. The Council worked closely with neighbouring parish councils, residents, planning consultants and local representatives to challenge the proposal, seek greater transparency and ensure the concerns of the community were properly represented throughout what many residents viewed as a deeply unsatisfactory process. I represented the village at the planning committee alongside Great Haseley and Little Milton. The village also rallied round to fund a potential Judicial Review, however, it was decided that spending £70k plus of peoples' money in the form of donations, was too high a risk given that the outcome would have likely been the same. Planning permission was ultimately granted, and the Parish Council continues to monitor the implementation of the scheme and press for mitigation measures to reduce its impact on surrounding villages.

Alongside this, the Council continued to monitor a significant number of planning applications within and around the parish, particularly in relation to Green Belt and "Grey Belt" concerns, housing developments and infrastructure pressures. The Council sought to balance the need for appropriate development with protecting the character and amenity of Great Milton.

During the year the Council also saw significant changes in leadership. Following the resignation of long-serving Chair Steve Harrod, I was honoured to be elected Chair in October 2025, with David Harms later elected Vice Chair following Bill Fox's retirement after 13 years of dedicated service to the parish. Richard Oliver was also co-opted to the Council during the year, although vacancies remain and we continue to encourage residents to consider joining the Council and supporting village life. Both Steve Harrod and Bill Fox have been ever present in village life, with the former also representing us as a District and County Councillor, and the pair of them being instrumental in ensuring we continue to have a village pub. On behalf of the parish I would like to thank both of them for their service.

The Council continued to work closely with residents and local organisations to support community projects and amenities. Particular attention has been given to the Recreation Ground playground repairs and fundraising efforts, with the Parish Council committing financial support towards the restoration of this important village facility. The Council also supported local initiatives including the Village Larder, village litter picking, donations to local charities and schools, and continued engagement with Le Manoir during its redevelopment plans and temporary closure.

In May 2025 our village Post Office and local shop finally closed its doors as Christine and Pat Donnelly retired from their long-standing post. The shop and they were the hub of village life and even had to endure at least one armed robbery. They remain in the village and a key part of our village life. A small team in the village looked at ways to keep a community shop going, even using the existing premises as a base, however, it was not deemed financially feasible at this time. I would like to thank Christine and Pat for all they have done for the community over many years in the village.

Highways, speeding and road maintenance remained recurring concerns throughout the year. The Council continued to press Oxfordshire County Council regarding potholes, drainage, congestion and road safety issues, particularly around Thame Road, Church Road, The Forties and the A329 junctions. Additional Speed Indicator Devices were approved to help address speeding concerns within the village, and the Council continued to encourage residents to report issues through FixMyStreet in order to improve response times.

I would like to thank all councillors, our Clerk, local volunteers and residents for their continued support, commitment and constructive engagement throughout the year. The Parish Council remains committed to protecting the character of Great Milton while supporting sensible improvements and ensuring the village continues to thrive as a strong and active community.

Cllr Malcolm Horsley

Chairman, Great Milton Parish Council

Attachment 2

Annual Report: County Councillor for Chalgrove & Thame West

Cllr Judith Edwards – April 2026

Introduction

This has been my first year as County Councillor for the Chalgrove & Thame West Division. It has been a challenging but rewarding year, focused on understanding County Council processes, representing parish priorities, and ensuring rural and market-town communities are properly reflected in county-wide decision-making.

As you will be aware, I was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer in December 2025 and have had to step back from council duties to focus on treatment. This report therefore reflects work undertaken prior to that point. I am pleased to say I am nearing the end of my treatment and hope to return to work in early May. I am very grateful for the support and kindness shown by parish councils across the division.

Representation and Council Work

I attended **Full Council**, scrutiny committees, locality meetings and extensive member training during the year. I serve on the **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee** and the **People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**, focusing on NHS services, public health, adult social care and safeguarding.

In September, I made my **maiden speech at Full Council**, speaking in support of Family Centres and highlighting the work of the **Chalgrove & Watlington First Steps Family Hub**. I also volunteered as **Chair of the Henley & Thame Locality Committee**, reflecting my interest in neighbourhood governance and strengthening links with parishes.

Working with Parishes and Communities

I attended parish and town council meetings across the division, including Berrick and Roke, Brightwell Baldwin, Chalgrove, the Haseleys, Great Milton, Little Milton, Newington, Stadhampton, Tetsworth, Tiddington and Thame Town Council. Where attendance was not possible, I encouraged direct contact and follow-up.

I also represented the County Council at a range of community and civic events, the flag raising ceremony for Armed Forces Week, including **Thame Pride**, village family events and the **Chalgrove Horticultural Show (60th anniversary)**, which highlighted the vital role of volunteers and community groups.

Highways, Flooding and Infrastructure

Highways and flooding were among the most significant issues raised by parish councils.

I worked closely with parishes and officers on repeated flooding issues in **Tiddington, Little Milton, Great Haseley** and **Newington**, pushing for both immediate mitigation and longer-term solutions. The move to **annual gully clearance**, supported by additional county funding, has already made a difference in some areas, although legacy issues remain.

I also followed up on potholes, drainage failures, road safety concerns and structural issues such as the weight-restricted bridges over the River Thames near Tiddington.

Planning and Strategic Issues

The proposed development at **Chalgrove Airfield** has been a major issue. Homes England's exhibition indicated a forthcoming planning application, and from a county perspective, **traffic and highway capacity** remain key concerns. I met with county officers, district councillors, our MP and **Martin-Baker Ltd.**, who have stated the proposals are incompatible with their operations. This remains an ongoing concern, and I remain concerned about the whether we are being listened to. The recent case where a refusal of planning permission for further housing development on the edge of Chalgrove was overturned at appeal is a concerning precedent.

In response to the planning permission for **Great Haseley Industrial Estate**, where there was a proposal to use the site for a depot for waste disposal trucks, I focused on highways impacts linked to HGV traffic through surrounding villages. I was pleased that planning permission ultimately included conditions to reduce local traffic impacts.

Local Government Reorganisation, Health and Other County Matters

Local government reorganisation has been a major theme, with three unitary options submitted to government. I raised concerns about the "**Greater Oxford**" proposal and favour an option that keeps Oxfordshire coherent, is simpler and least disruptive to services. We expect to hear from the Secretary of State about the decision for Oxfordshire in June 2026. Elections for a shadow authority are likely to take place in May 2027.

Through my scrutiny roles, I focused on NHS provision, adult social care, safeguarding and preventative approaches such as the "**Age Well**" programme. It was encouraging later in the year to see **Ofsted and the CQC report effective progress on SEND services** in Oxfordshire.

Other county-wide issues included the introduction of the **Oxford Temporary Congestion Charge** and the **Fire and Rescue Service Review**, where I encouraged parish input to ensure rural needs were recognised. In the latter case, I'm pleased to report that that revised proposals are now being discussed that avoid fire station closures or the reduction of fire engines in Thame from 2 to 1.

Supporting Communities and Looking Ahead

I promoted support available to residents, including the **Resident Support Scheme** and **Home Upgrade Grants**. My **Councillor Priority Fund** was allocated to **Cosy Homes Thame**, **Thame Pride** and the **Chalgrove & Watlington First Steps Family Hub**. These three causes tie in very closely to my driving principles of community inclusion, tackling climate change and supporting families.

I look forward to resuming work and continuing to support all parish and town councils across the division from early May.

Attachment 3

District Councillor Report
Haseley Brook ward
Annual Report May 2026

Cllr Georgina Heritage
georgina.heritage@southoxon.gov.uk



It continues to be a privilege to represent the Haseley Brook ward and I'm pleased to offer my annual summary of council activity over the past twelve months:

Since the government produced their local government reform white paper in December 2024, all council work has been against the backdrop of **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution**. The first part of Government's programme is LGR, which affects counties like ours which operate under a two-tier system of District and County councils. All such councils are set to be abolished and, in their place, new unitary authorities. Government will decide on the size and shape of the new unitary council for our county, but affected councils throughout the UK were recently invited to submit a proposal. There are three proposals on the table for Oxfordshire. We're still waiting for more information from Government on the direction for Oxfordshire and we expect news from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government before this summer's parliamentary recess.

For councils' "business as usual" activities, very few commitments can be made which take us beyond the next two years. This will inevitably present challenges. We want to be a council that gets things done and leaves strong legacies. However, whichever direction Government chooses for our county, it's important that residents experience a smooth transition, and we are committed to working constructively on the process in order to achieve that.

What this means to residents in terms of the next local elections in 2027 is that we expect to be voting for a Shadow Authority – ie the councillors who will ultimately replace District and County councillors in 2028.

At SODC, our **first full council meeting** of the new council year in May 2025 saw us break our administrative partnership with the Green party. With new members joining the Lib Dem administration following district byelections, it was an appropriate time for the Liberal Democrat group to make a friendly and respectful break from our partnership with the Green party. We enjoyed working with the group and continue to do so, albeit from an opposition perspective.

In July 2025 the council was delighted to approve up to **£10M towards approximately thirty homes for use as social housing**, through an addition to the council's approved capital programme. This funding was made available through money that had originally been earmarked for the proposed new

building at the Gateway site in Didcot. Council approved the financial transfer and decision to cease to further work on this project in light of impending Local Government Reorganisation.

On 1st October the council received hugely disappointing news that South & Vale's forward-looking **Joint Local Plan** was recommended for withdrawal over a single issue - "duty to co-operate", specifically with Oxford City Council. It's no secret that there's disagreement within Oxfordshire on how many homes the rural districts should provide on Oxford's behalf. Nevertheless, all councils in Oxfordshire are working towards what they believe to be in the best interests of their residents and their area.

The government later changed direction on this point and on 3rd December 2025 we were in a position to confirm to the Inspectors that we wanted to resume the local plan hearings. Government removed the "Duty to Cooperate" pass/fail test early in the new year, though cooperation would still need to be shown as part of the soundness test. The JLP Procedural Meeting took place on 12th February, and we are now set for the standard hearings which will be in the week commencing 6th July 2026. As an aside, unfortunately we're already required to start working on a new Local Plan, due to the government's new housing targets and NPPF, so that will no doubt be a topic for next year's annual report!

February 2026 was **Budget** month for councils, and at SODC full council we approved a balanced "people first" budget for 2026/27, setting out plans to protect local services, invest in community facilities, provide affordable homes and manage public money carefully. I'm particularly proud of our community grant schemes which many councils are not in a position to offer. The latest budget includes:

- Funding for our leisure centres, including decarbonisation projects to reduce emissions and save energy.
- Significant commitment to investment in housing, which now totals £25 million, both for homelessness emergency accommodation and for those most in need on the housing register, in addition to financial support for community-led housing projects.
- New ongoing funding to support community cohesion, backing local projects that bring people together, reduce isolation and help strengthen community ties, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised residents. This is in addition to the council's Community Hub, which will continue to help residents with housing issues, cost-of-living pressures and access to advice and support when they need it most.
- A record amount of grant funding at over £2 million, including £590,000 for community grants and £750,000 for infrastructure grants. This funding will help to deliver community-led projects such as village hall upgrades, improved facilities, energy efficiency projects and improvements to public spaces.
- Continuing to invest in climate action in a way that delivers real local benefits. A new £100,000 Climate Action Fund will accept bids for nature recovery and climate adaptation including flood alleviation and access to nature for local residents, while the council will continue to make its own buildings and facilities more efficient, helping to lower long-term running costs while also tackling climate change.
- Funding for the Wheatley flood alleviation scheme to help to protect at-risk homes and businesses.
- Funding to continue the council's economic development work, helping businesses to start up, expand and adapt, supporting high streets, rural employers and the local economy more widely.

Residents pay an average £156.24 per year for services provided by SODC in 2026/27 - £3 per week - with its share of the council tax increasing by £5 a year for a typical Band D household. This small increase helps to protect frontline services and fund investment in local facilities, while ensuring the district's council tax remains one of the lowest in the country.

Locally, I've been particularly active in planning matters over the past twelve months and have called several applications to planning committee hearings, where I've spoken on behalf of residents. The ward has experienced a difficult year with some large applications as well as enforcement matters to deal with. Like most residents, I understand our villages can't stand still in time and we need housing for our younger generations. I've been supportive of many developments within the ward. However, quality of life is important and I don't agree with housing estates without infrastructure. The new higher national housing targets may have changed the scene but I'll continue to speak up for appropriate housing, not just any old housing, and to protect our village pubs and shops.

We still have some contentious applications and issues in the system, not all of which are housing developments, including the proposed Postcombe & Lewknor solar farm and the ongoing unauthorised traveller site enforcement case in Tetsworth, both of which I continue to liaise closely with parish councils and officers on.

One of the planning applications I've worked hardest on over the past 12 months involved the purchase of **Haseley Industrial Estate** by South & Vale councils, to be used as a depot for the districts' waste vehicles. As it was the council's own application it was not decided by an SODC planning officer but instead went to a cross-party planning committee in October 2025. I registered to speak as ward member and spoke on as many concerns as possible that residents had raised with me in correspondence, while focusing on the unsuitability of the A329 through Little Milton as a vehicle route. I had worked closely with County Councillor Judith Edwards and Freddie van Mierlo MP on this, including meetings with both OCC Highways and SODC officers prior to the committee date as well as research into local freight policy. We were relieved that our collaborative work - alongside the parish councils - resulted in traffic route conditions being imposed by committee members. Residents' three main areas of concern - drainage, lighting and vehicle route management - were all addressed via amended conditions. The traffic route plan will be developed soon.

Works to the new depot have been slightly delayed due to nesting birds and bats, however I had the opportunity to visit the site recently and look at the works carried out so far. I learned more about the installed Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the areas that attenuation has been introduced, and also that changes to the landscaping plan will result in deeper planting around the perimeter of the site - ie increased screening. In terms of the site work, I was pleased to learn that efficiencies on site are resulting in a 97% recycling rate.

In summary to this report, working as a local councillor is my full-time commitment and I always aim to be approachable and responsive, and to yield results and answers for residents. It is my job to represent you and I take this responsibility very seriously. If there's anything about SODC that you'd like information about, or if I can be of assistance to you in any way, you are always very welcome to get in touch with me.

Attachment 4

The Sheppard Charitable Trust

Report to Great Milton Parish Council covering the year ending 31 December 2025

The Sheppard Charitable Trust is a registered charity required to apply its income "for any charitable purpose for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Great Milton". The trust holds a permanent endowment which at 31 December 2025 was valued at £353,023. The endowment fund is invested with CCLA; approximately 88% is in their COIF Charities Mixed Investment Fund and 12% in their COIF Short Duration Bond Fund.

There were six trustees during the year: Rev Simon Cronk as ex officio Chair resigned on 31 October 2025; PCC nominated trustees John Catterall and Anthony D'Anger; Parish Council nominated trustees Ann Price and Pat Cox; Co-opted trustee Jacqueline Wren. John Catterall is acting Chair until a new Benefice incumbent is in post. There is scope to appoint a second co-opted trustee. The trustees met three times during the year, ably supported by Jane Willis our secretary.

During the year the trust received £12,525 investment income and paid out £12,448 in grants and £300 in expenses, resulting in a small deficit for the year of £233. At the year end the trust had £19,462 available for distribution which included interest of £800 for the year.

Beneficiaries during the year were as follows:

- Great Milton Neighbours Club – covering 2024/5 £1,000
- Great Milton Neighbours Club – covering 2024/5 £1,000
- Great Milton Senior Citizens Annual Party – 2025 £700
- St Mary's Church – Fete Committee £2,520
- St Mary's PCC – graveyard upkeep £800
- Great Milton Freecycle £1,500
- Great Milton School £1,000
- Great Milton Senior Citizens Annual Party – 2026 £1,000
- Great Milton Neighbours Club – covering 2025/6 £1,000
- History Society £100
- St Mary's Church – Christmas Fair £300
- Support for monthly coffee mornings £240
- Grants to five individuals £2,288

The Trustees are mindful that there has been considerable uncertainty in financial markets over recent months and whilst the trust income has held up well the capital value of the endowment fund fell 3.8% during the year. The CCLA fund managers have assured investors that they consider the fundamentals to be sound and have taken some action to improve financial outcomes. Future financial performance will be kept under review by the trustees as it is important to ensure that the endowment retains its value in real terms.

John Catterall - Chair

Annual Report

The Old Field, Thame Road, Great Milton

Allotment for Exercise and Recreation (Old Field)

Charity Number 283269

The pathways and walking routes through the field remain our priority and throughout the year we have kept brambles and overgrowth away from the paths. The viewing area adjacent to the pond had become thick with brambles and this has now been cleared. During the summer we allow the field to become a wilding area, cutting only once every September. When it is at its height, it is a delight to see the variety of wildflowers that grow naturally and the insects that thrive on them. It is now our policy to trim the walkways to a narrow width to maximise the area of wilding and also to keep the footpath route as green as possible, so it is less muddy in the winter.

Last year the weather was at times turbulent, and we have suffered a number of fallen trees within the woods. We are working through a plan to cut down any vulnerable or dangerous boughs and to use them as a lining to the walkways through the woods.

The large Oak that is in the corner adjacent to the bend in the road is starting to overgrow its own strength and new growth is causing the perimeter boughs to touch the ground. With the help of our newest volunteer, Tim Scott and his arsenal of equipment we have trimmed it back and it now spreads out, off the ground by a healthier 6 feet. This will give more light to the growth under the tree and improve the whole balance of the area.

Sadly, we also have a large number of Sweet Chestnuts that are suffering from an, as yet unknown problem, causing a loss of leaf growth. We have engaged with Forest Research and are taking their advice and making further investigation into the cause.

At present they have advised leaving the dead wood in situ as it still provides a habitat for insects and other fauna. It remains unique to this species so we are hopeful we can deal with the long-term health of the woods.

We are making contact with the sponsors of any of those trees that we planted as memorial trees to ask how they would like us to continue their remembrance, perhaps through alternative planting.

In early spring we managed to install our Camera Birdbox, adjacent to the picnic tables and Owl carving. We researched the optimum location, leeward of the sun and less than 4m from the ground, and it has been successful in attracting our first family of Great Tits. The mother, Greta, laid six eggs and all six have thrived through to May, and are about to fledge. The progress of the family has been recorded at each stage and shared on the Village Whatsapp. We expect two nestings each year, and it is most likely the same family will use this nest repeatedly as they are territorial.



The accounts show that our costs have stabilized and we have been able to control the use of water to keep the pond operational. Apart from one very dry period the charges have been standing charges only through the year. The insurance is the only other large cost.

The value of our investment in the trust has dropped over the last two years, but we still get a regular dividend from the capital, and this has allowed us to maintain our balance sheet within a reasonable level.

Overall, the facilities of the field continue to improve, and we hope all of the villagers will come and enjoy the walks, the range of trees and birds, the pond life and, for those that have commemorative trees, take time to sit at the picnic table and reflect.

We are grateful to all the volunteers and committee members who give their time to maintaining the facility and hope that our new projects will attract even more people from the village to our precious field.

I will submit the financial report from our Treasurer, David Mackrory, separately.

Adrian Buckmaster (Chairperson)
April 2026

Attachment 6

Neighbours' Hall Management Committee: Chair's Report 2025/26

This past year has been a mixture of loss, change and joy.

The Committee said good-bye to Simon Cronk who, on his retirement, moved west, and to Tony Jefferies whose sudden death in the summer sent shockwaves throughout the village. Fittingly, the departure of each of them was celebrated with a service at St Mary's followed by a gathering here at the Neighbours' Hall. In addition, Greg decided that it was time to retire as caretaker of the Hall.

Fred Cabbage and I joined the Committee last year, with Fred taking on responsibility for the promotion and publicity of events, while I became Chair after Mike Robinson stepped down and became Facilities Manager. The cleaning of the hall and associated responsibilities are now in the capable hands of Leyla Nagy.

The Hall's exterior has been re-decorated and there has been a general sorting out and tidying up both outside and inside; the stage area in particular has lost a number of the mysterious parcels and packages that were stored there. Mike continues to ensure that the Hall is not lost in time: new lights have been installed to lighten up the stage while a robot – who occasionally loses his bearings – is helping out with the cleaning. Various photographs depicting the village both past and present and highlighting some of the annual events and village characters associated with them are now dotted about the main hall. And the kitchen boasts additional crockery and cutlery and new tablecloths. Thanks to the work of Helga and Fred, the Terrace Garden continues to be a source of great pleasure. Following the planting of many bulbs in the Autumn, the garden's display of Spring flowers has been splendid. I'm also delighted to announce that Project Toilet revamp is underway, so watch this cubicle.

The Neighbours' Hall website is up and running thanks to Fred who built on the preliminary work carried out by Pippa and Christine. We anticipate that the website will help to promote the Hall and facilitate booking arrangements.

To a degree the successful running of the Hall is dependent on the regular events and bookings: yoga classes; flower groups; Neighbours' Club; coffee mornings; band practices; quiz nights; group meetings. A feature of the Hall's uses, however, is also the variety of events it hosts: plays, lectures and talks, celebratory gatherings, pop up sales, gigs, book and jigsaw library etc. And, of course, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party in April. Janet, as the committee member with responsibility for the bookings, continues to be at the heart of all this activity.

Plans for immediate future improvements include replacing the current sign outside with one that is larger and more attractive, the removal of rubble from the car park area and the selection and framing of photographs to hang in the Orchard Room.

Bookings are on the increase and our current financial balance is satisfactory. We are, however, no longer receiving a regular income from the Manoir for use of the car park, and in order to take on

any major maintenance or improvement projects we may need to begin considering making applications for grants.

I am new to the Committee having only joined a year ago, and my predominant feeling is one of admiration for, and gratitude to, the many people within the community who give time and energy to enable the Hall to be a community hub. Most of all, my thanks go to the members of the committee, each of whom has specific responsibilities, but all of whom are always willing to 'turnup' and 'help out' whatever the task. This truly lovely place is **dependent on the commitment, enthusiasm and energy of these good people of Great Milton.**

Thank you

Hazel Hagger 13/3/26