

Little Milton *Newsletter*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: JULY 2024

Sun	2nd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon	1st	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	2nd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	3rd	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge
Thurs	4th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	5th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Sun	7th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion CW St James'
Mon.	8th	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues.	9th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	10th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Parish Council – Pine Lodge
Thurs	11th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge WI – Pine lodge
Frid	12th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	14th	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship – St James'
Mon	15th	10.30-11.30 a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	16th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	17th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Craft Evening – Pine Lodge
Thurs	18th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	19th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit – Pine Lodge
Mon	22nd	10.30-11.30a.m.	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	23rd	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	24th	9.30 – 3.30 p.m. 11.00 a.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge Sewing Group- 40 Chiltern View
Thurs	25th	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.	Exercise Class – Pine :Lodge
Frid	26th	9.30 a.m.	Keep Fit - Pine Lodge
Sun	28th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP -St James'
Mon	29th	10.30-11.30a.m	Fitness/Yoga – Pine Lodge
Tues	30th	9.30– 10.30 a.m.	Exercise Class- Pine Lodge
Wed	31st	9.30 – 3.30 p.m.	Adv. Textile workshop – Pine Lodge

PLEASE NOTE If in doubt please check with the event organiser that the event is still taking place at the date and time stated.

SUMMARY FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2024

Below is a summary of some of the topics and discussions which took place at the Parish Council meeting held in June.

Planning

There were no planning applications to discuss.

The following Discharge of Conditions was noted:

P24/S1581/DIS - The Site of Milton House, Gold Street, Little Milton

Discharge of condition 7 (Surface water drainage works) on application P24/S1147/S73 (Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans), 3 (Construction Traffic Management), 4 (Archaeology), 6 (Tree Protection), 7 (Surface water drainage works), 8 (District Licence certificate), 12 (Vision splay protection) and 13 (Parking & Manoeuvring Areas Retained) on application P22/S1241/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide 4 dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access)).

It was further noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following Variation of Condition Application:

P24/S1147/S73 - The Site of Milton House, Gold Street, Little Milton

Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans), 3 (Construction Traffic Management), 4 (Archaeology), 6 (Tree Protection), 7 (Surface water drainage works), 8 (District Licence certificate), 12 (Vision splay protection) and 13 (Parking & Manoeuvring Areas Retained) on application P22/S1241/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling. Redevelopment of existing site to provide 4 dwellings with associated development including access works to Gold Street access)).

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

It was noted that mobile SIDs require planning permission. It was therefore agreed to purchase a SID sign to be fixed in one position and therefore will not require planning consent.

The SID will be powered by a solar panel and installed on a pole. It will be positioned on Church Hill facing traffic coming down the hill (exact position to be agreed with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways team).

Resolved to purchase one SID at a cost of £4,039.00 including installation. OCC will purchase and install the pole at an additional cost to the parish council. Total costs will be drawn from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

FCC had requested further information related to the grant. This information has been submitted and it is hoped to receive the Funding Agreement shortly. The Agreement will be signed by either Cllr van der Merwe or Cllr Horwell. Once the Agreement has been signed and returned to FCC the contractor will be contacted to schedule a start date for the refurbishment project.

Lighting – a revised quotation of £5,900 excluding VAT has been received. Work includes changing the lights and cabling. Trenching for armoured cabling will be dug by a different contractor at an additional cost. The cabling from the MUGA to the meter box in the car park has been checked and does not require attention. It is expected that work will start at the end of June.

Finance

The Internal Audit Report for 2023/24 was received. There were no issues that needed reporting and the Internal Auditor had completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24 on page 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 – Form 3. The parish council extended its thanks to Mr Ian Dennis for carrying out the Internal Audit.

External Audit / Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023-24 Form 3

Resolved that Section 1, Annual Governance Statement on page 4 of the AGAR be approved.

The Financial Statements (unaudited) including the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024 and the Income and Expenditure account for year ended 31st March 2024 were received.

Resolved that Section 2, Accounting Statements 2023-24 on page 5 of the AGAR be approved.

The Notice of Public Rights will commence on Monday 17th June 2024 and finish on 26th July 2024. During this time members of the public have the right to view the parish council's accounts. In accordance with the Transparency Code financial information will be published on the council's website

Open Green Space/Highways

Permission has been granted to plant four trees in Old Field, planting will take place in September. To save costs all four trees will be planted at the same time. Cllr Harrison will confirm the cost of the trees at the next meeting.

The Senior Bridge Technician at OCC has confirmed funding to fix the bridge parapet has been approved and he is waiting for the contractor to schedule the work.

Biffa has confirmed work to clear the pavement on Church Road has been scheduled.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10th July 2024**, in Pine Lodge, commencing at 7.30pm.

Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings.

Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Current Council members

Councillor Francois Van Der Merwe (Chairman)	07740 438770
Councillor Howard Harrison	01844 279946
Councillor Adam Sheppard	01844 279217
Councillor Ed Horwell	07527 346187
Councillor Giles Denby	07484 187852
Councillor David Wakeling	01844 278014
Parish Clerk Andrea Oughton	clerk@littlemilton.org.uk
County Councillor: Freddie Van Mierlo	07944 492438 freddie.vanmierlo@oxfordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Georgina Heritage	georgina.heritage@southoxon.gov.uk

SODC: WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The minimum charge is £49.50 for up to 3 items and £9.50 for each additional item. There is a maximum of six items per collection day: if you have more than six, you'll need to book another collection day. Please note that a bed and mattress counts as 2 items and a three piece suite (consisting of 1 settee and 2 chairs) counts as 3 items.

Before you contact us to book your bulky waste collection, have a good think about whether you have any other big items to dispose of. Once we have processed your booking, we are unable to make any alterations or add any other items – even if you have only booked one or two items.

To arrange this service residents can call the Public Amenities Team on 01235 422406 or book on line from the Council's website www.southoxon.gov.uk

Give your furniture to a good home

Have you considered donating your furniture to charity or a good home? Emmaus is an Oxford based charity that will come out to all areas of the county and collect unwanted furniture free of charge. For legal or practical reasons this does not include soft furnishings without a fire label, safety items, or any item that is not in a saleable condition. Please [visit the Emmaus website](#) for more details.

BIFFA: WASTE COLLECTION DATES – JULY 2024

	Brown	Grey	Green	Food
2nd July	No	Yes	No	Yes
9th July	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
16th July	No	Yes	No	Yes
23rd July	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
30th July	No	Yes	No	Yes

GENERAL ELECTION JULY 4th 2024

Voting at the Pine Lodge

You can vote at the Pine Lodge on 4 July between 7am and 10pm.

Registered voters should receive a poll card shortly before the election which will tell you where you need to go to cast your ballot

To vote at a polling station you must bring photo ID with you – a wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark – you can see the full list of accepted ID on the Electoral Commission website – [electoral commission](#)

People are encouraged to help friends and family members who may not have access to the internet or who may struggle to upload a photo for their ID application.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: GEORGINA HERITAGE

My Meetings and Activity

Since my last report we have welcomed in a new council year, including new cabinet and committee appointments. In the past 12 months I have enjoyed sitting on Licensing, Grants and Planning committees, and found them to provide an excellent foundation in my work as a district councillor. With the new council year came new responsibilities, and it was a privilege to be elected to a cabinet position by my colleagues. This means I will not be able to sit on those committees I was previously involved with, however I have a large and interesting portfolio to focus on, which I'm hugely motivated by and which I know will keep me very busy!

The 2024 reshuffle means that SODC's cabinet is now made up as follows:

- Cllr David Rouane – Leader
- Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers – Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Hub, and Statutory Deputy Leader
- Cllr Robin Bennett – Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Deputy Leader
- Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker – Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets
- Cllr Sam James-Lawrie – Cabinet Member for Environment
- Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
- Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson – Cabinet Member for Planning
- Cllr Georgina Heritage – Cabinet Member for Communities

'Everyone Active' grant scheme now open

SODC's "Everyone Active" grant scheme aims to help fund projects that help communities keep active, and a new funding round is now open.

SODC is providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000. Applicants need to show that their projects will help communities to become more active or sustain activity, and the grant is open for a wide range of groups and organisations in the district. Examples of what the funding could be used for include projects that encourage physical activity, leisure/playground equipment, community gardens, training courses to improve physical and mental wellbeing, projects that support access to green spaces, projects that address rural deprivation – and many more - as long as the project benefits more than one person becoming active, or supports ongoing activity to groups of residents in South Oxon.

More information about the grant scheme can be found at southoxon.gov.uk/grants or organisations can contact the council's Community Enablement team on 01235 422405 or grants@southandvale.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is 22nd July 2024 (midday).

Funding Advice

There will be a funding advice session at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Thursday 20 June from 1pm-5pm. If you have a project you'd like to discuss, have any questions about eligibility or the application process for the above scheme or other upcoming grant schemes, you can book a face-to-face meeting with SODC. If you are unable to attend in person, a phone call or Teams chat can be arranged for an alternative day. Email grants@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422405.

New partnership to tackle crime in rural areas

The Rural Crime Partnership is bringing together Thames Valley Police, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse District Councils and the Community Safety Partnerships to tackle crimes such as fly-tipping, burglaries and theft in rural areas. There will also be more support for local communities on crime prevention as well as an increase in the gathering and sharing of information about rural crime.

Rural crime affects victims' livelihoods, physical and mental wellbeing and that of the wider community. In 2023 the National Farmers' Union reported a 22 per cent increase in the value of rural crime with costs reaching a total estimate of £49.5 million across the UK. Rural crime can have a very serious impact, particularly for farmers who have

to replace stolen equipment or pay to have fly-tipped rubbish removed from their land. By having more surveillance and increased support for local crime prevention we hope to reduce the problem and catch those involved.

The project has been made possible due to £156k funding which the partnership secured from the PPC for Thames Valley and the Home Office's Safer Streets initiative.

Initiatives include:

- New covert cameras to be used by the Police's Rural Crime Taskforce alongside off-road bikes to target criminals in hard-to-reach areas.
- Working with farmers to improve security. Farms will be eligible to sign up for security checks and will be given DNA marking kits for agricultural machinery. These kits include property marking labels to deter theft, and where theft happens enable machinery to be tracked back to the farm.
- A new Rural Crime Advisor will work to promote rural crime prevention and engage with rural communities, industries, farms and organisations such as Young Farmers and the National Farmers' Union, to help them become harder to target for criminals.
- New surveillance equipment will help district councils catch fly-tippers and tackle hot spot areas.

Cash boost for local rural projects

More than £350,000 has been injected into projects that support businesses and community organisations in South Oxfordshire. Drawn from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), SODC has allocated funding for several projects across the district. For example, Thomley (near Thame) received funding to create an Eco Woodland Outdoor Adventure and Learning Centre, and an eco-friendly interactive water feature. An exciting site for people with disabilities and their families, the charity hosts activities to help visitors develop the skills they need to enhance their day-to-day lives.

While the council is finalising a range of plans for this year's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, there is further funding to award through the next round of the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Example projects that could be supported include sustainability infrastructure, the creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses, and purchase of equipment to support rural and community owned businesses.

The next round for applications has now opened and organisations can apply for the scheme via [the council's website](#).

GREAT MILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES: JULY 2024

For further info. Please contact Rev. Stephen Spain on 01865 763676

Date	Time	Church	Preacher	Comment
7th July	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Local Arrangement	
14th July	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Rev Stephen Spain	Holy Communion
21st July	11.00 a.m...	Great Milton	Liz Spain	
28th July	11.00 a.m.	Great Milton	Sue Barratt	



St James' Little Milton Church
presents

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party!

Saturday August 31st 2024

The Manor, Gold Street, Little Milton

*Afternoon Tea, Beer Bar, Pimms Stand,
'Best Hat' Competition, Live Music,
and activities for the whole family*

Grand Raffle with Fabulous Prizes

Gates open 3pm

Entry by FREE Ticket fom
Little Milton Post Office

BENEFICE SERVICES FOR JULY 2024

Sunday 7th July

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Family Worship (Pet blessing service)	St Peter's Great Haseley

Sunday 14th July

9.00	Holy Communion	St Mary's Great Milton
10.30	Family Worship	St James' Little Milton

Sunday 21st July

9.00	Holy Communion	St Peter's Great Haseley
10.30	Family Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 28th July

9.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Benefice Worship	St Mary's Great Milton

Sunday 4th August

9.00	Holy Communion	St James' Little Milton
10.30	Lammas Service marking the beginning of Harvest	Pegg's Farm Great Haseley

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR JULY

W/E 7th July	–	Mrs E. Summers & Mrs Wendy Newby
W/E 14th July	–	Mrs A Blagg & Mrs Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 21st July	–	Mrs M Davies & Mrs S A Dennis
W/E 28th July	–	Mrs L. Lovegrove & Mrs C Coward
W/E 4th August	–	Mrs A Jones & Mrs Sarah Holifield

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA FOR JULY

W/E 7th July	-	Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 14th July	-	Cathy D'Aeth
W/E 21st July	-	Sally Ann Dennis
W/E 28th July	-	Sally Anne Dennis
W/E 4th August	-	Sally Anne Dennis

Teresa Quedstedt 278922

RECTOR'S PINT

When I was a thirty-something curate, thirty years ago, I had responsibility for the parish's church youth group. On one occasion I arranged for us to go to a youth event that was taking off at the time in Gloucester Diocese, where I was based. 'Alternative' worship was very much a thing back in the 1990's, and we later hosted the event ourselves.

After both of these occasions, I wrote to the assistant bishop expressing concern that what I felt I was witnessing was manipulative control by the leader of this event. Our youth group, who were a discerning and intelligent lot, had also expressed concern, and we never went again. The bishop was very angry with me for challenging something that was attracting young people and re-vitalising the church, and I received a severe rebuke. The leader moved on to another post shortly afterwards, and the event folded.

I have written before about abuse in the church as I reflected on my ordination in Gloucester Cathedral by Bishop Peter Ball, who, towards the end of his life, was imprisoned because of his abusive behaviour towards young men.

In 2023, another sad story hit the headlines, this time about another youth event, ‘Soul Survivor’. Once again this was bucking the trend, as many young people were coming into the Christian faith because of it, and a whole generation of Church leaders today were nurtured in Soul Survivor. However, last year it started to emerge that the behaviour of the leader of Soul Survivor was abusive, and many people have been damaged. More recently, high-profile Christian leaders have come forward with more detailed information.

I once listened to this man preach at the Spring Harvest Christian festival. I remember being angered by what I saw as manipulation. My daughter Ellie, who at the time was a psychology undergraduate, was watching it on our chalet TV with another friend of ours. When I got back, both were appalled at what they had just witnessed. I took it to the head of Spring Harvest, who apologised and agreed with me that it had been wrong, and he would be ‘having words’. Recently, Ellie has reminded me that as a teenager she had badgered me to be allowed to go to Soul Survivor, but I refused. She now believes that in this I had been right.

I have just completed my latest round of safeguarding training. Safeguarding is something we might moan about, and many in the Church have questioned why we do it. Reflecting on these, and other sad stories of abuse in the church, I no longer question it. The church should be a place of safety for all, reflecting the Good News that in God we find true safety and are secure. There is no place here for fear or coercive control, all are welcome and should have confidence that they are completely safe.

“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe”
(Proverbs 29 verse 25)

Simon

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024

WOW...Amazing you smashed it!!! The total raised this year between the four villages of the Benefice is £2,962.59...made up of:

Three Lent Lunches		£580
Church collections	}	
Coffee Morning in Great Milton	}	£2,382.59
Envelope Delivery in the Haseleys	}	
House-to-house Collection in Little Milton	}	

£1,432.90 of the money given was Gift Aided and so the above total includes an extra £358.24, so thankyou everyone who filled in your Gift Aid slip.

THANKYOU everyone...Lent Lunch hosts, Collectors, Deliverers and above all to each of you who gave money this year enabling us to exceed last year’s total by £438.43... THANKYOU.

S.A. Dennis

FRIENDS OF LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL- 200 CLUB

May

1st	No 21	Julie Ashmore	£10.00
2nd	No 20	Louise Hill	£8.00
3rd	No 9	Becky Nunn	£6.00

June

1st	No 50	Mrs Mogford	£10.00
2nd	No 31	Mrs Mogford	£8.00
3rd	No 20	Louise Hill	£6.00

Diane Austin (Organiser)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PINE LODGE

The AGM took place in the Pine lodge on 10th June and it was very poorly attended by villagers. In fact only one non committee person attended. This might be an all-time low in the history of AGM non committee attendees! The lack of visible support at the AGM was disappointing but activities run by the Committee have in general terms been well supported. There is always a requirement for new blood on the committee and if AGM's is not your thing please contact Steve Willis or Giles Denby if you would like to help with future events or who knows join the committee.

The Chairman Steve Willis gave a report on the activities of the Committee during the year ending March 2024. He also thanked the Committee for their dedication and hard work. A report on the finances was given by Raymond Fergusson and they continue to be in good shape.

In June the exterior of the hall will be repaired and repainted. As part of the works a new **Meeting Room** with seating for up to 10 people is to be built. The plan is to also use it as a bar for large events on the Recreation ground. Once built the room will be available for booking through the Hall web site.

Regular activities in the Hall include:

Mondays at 10.30 am **Yoga & Fitness** with Yvonne
(y.cartwright@btinternet.com)

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, and **Thursdays** at 6:00 p.m. **Keep Fit** on with Alyce
(alycefwf@gmail.com)

Tuesday 6:00 pm Dance school (megan_ah@hotmail.com)

Wednesday 9:30 am **Advanced Textile** on workshop with Amargeet
(amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Friday 9:30 am **Fitness with Focus** (mobility and stretching) on with Alyce
(alycefwf@gmail.com)

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. contact Kath
Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Crafts 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. contact Kath
Stacy kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk

Little City 08:30 - 13:30 once a month on a Thursday (rosie@littlecituyk.com)

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m. For further details
contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

Village Hall committee 2nd Monday 7:30 p.m. For further details
contact giles.pinelodge@gmail.com

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at <https://lmvh.org.uk/>, or contact **Linda**

Lovegrove linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

GREAT MILTON SCHOOL GOVERNOR NEWS BITES (JULY)

A busy & happy term (no bullying or racist incidents reported & no children were excluded) hurtles towards its last day. As the 23/24 academic year ends staffing is strong with a full complement of teachers and teaching assistants (no staff resignations and no vacancies). This year's Y6 Leavers' Service is in Christchurch Cathedral (date below). Various activities and outings lie ahead including Y3 to Harcourt Arboretum, Ys 1 & 2 to Cotswold Wildlife Park, EYFS to Science Oxford & a Camp Out for KS2.

Admissions

Transition arrangements are in full swing for 30 pupils who were offered and accepted places for September. Teachers are carrying out home visits, liaising with nurseries & parents and children are coming into school for 'stay and play'. The school roll next academic year will be 166 and the largest class will in fact be Reception.

Sport

Sports Day, held as ever on the Village Recreation Ground, at the end of last month, was blessed with sun and a good time was had by all. The children were grouped into colours and Red were the winners (you know who you are!). It was good to see many parents and relatives supporting the teams. Other sporting activities this term have included KS2 cricket sessions with Chance2Shine & Snowy Owls have had weekly swimming lessons.

OxTrail 2024

School's involvement in OxTrail 2024 has been a good opportunity to use its creativity whilst engaging in a community-focussed project for Sobell House. Every child has their fingerprint on the ox. We can discover the trail from 6 July when for 8 ox-traordinary weeks there will be 30 Ox sculptures in and around Oxford. Great Milton's mini ox will be on display in Wallingford. Le Manoir's ox will be in University Parks. Thanks to Great Milton Youth Club for donating its tuck shop profits to the school's OxTrail fund.

SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) that Y6 pupils take each May in English & Maths) results are published July 9th. A summary of academic achievements in relation to the School Improvement Plan will be in a future Governor News Bites.

Diary Dates

Year 6 Leavers Service, Christchurch Cathedral, Thursday, 4 July.

OxTrail, 6 July - 29 August

End of Term, Wednesday, 24 July

Autumn Term starts, Wednesday 4 September (Inset days 2 & 3 September)

**STADHAMPTON
SUMMER ON THE GREEN**

YOU CAN FIND US AT THE
STADHAMPTON VILLAGE FETE ON
SATURDAY 6TH JULY!



AKRVENTURES.CO.UK



@WHEATSHEAFKITCHEN



@THEWHEATSHEAFKITCHEN

PIZZA TUESDAY

AT THE LAMB INN, LITTLE MILTON
TUESDAY EVENINGS, FROM 5PM - 8:30PM
ENJOY IN THE PUB OR TAKE-AWAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO PRE-ORDER OR INFORM US OF ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
PLEASE EMAIL US: [INFO@AKRVENTURES.CO.UK](mailto:info@akrventures.co.uk) OR MESSAGE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FRIENDS OF WELLS FARM

July is here and this is the best month to see butterflies on the reserve. Each species prefers particular plants until they emerge in their "imago" winged state. Orange and brown gatekeepers can be seen along the top path hedgerow. Meadow browns in the fields and also hedgerows. Look out for small orange delta winged skippers fluttering in tall grasses by the hedges. Marbled whites are particularly splendid with their white wings with black marbling. June's survey showed a significant drop in overall butterfly numbers presumably because of the periods of heavy showers this year. Hopefully the dry spell in the latter part of June will improve things. Take a walk and enjoy this special month for butterflies.

One of the fields was covered in spear thistle and the decision was taken to remove them. There were thousands but they have all been cut back, being careful to avoid areas where skylarks might be present. It is difficult to judge how farmers manage the land when no farming can lead to a quick reversion to scrub which is no good for many species. But the reserve remains an oasis, with its challenges and its successes.

Hopefully you have managed to enjoy the amazing display of poppies in Linz field this year. BBOWT like to sow three varieties of poppy in a field which provide seeds but also does not smother the other plants underneath that are so important to many bird species.

I am now allowed out on the tractor to cut the paths although the top path is a bit tricky to get to with the boggy area in the ford and poplar fields. But this should mean we can keep things under better control. It is important for wildlife too as some bees and plants prefer shot grass or even bare earth.

Some work has been done to improve parts of the boardwalk which is rotting at the edges. Works is being done to keep the gates and paths clear. Feel free to take your secateurs with you and prune back any bramble leaders reaching across the paths.

Paul Jeffery - Reserves Warden (paulj201@hotmail.com)

TONS TOGETHER (LITTLE MILTON) WI

In June we learnt all about the Oxfordshire Library Service. They offer libraries (books, audio books, large print & a warm space), online services (reservations, eBooks, magazines & newspapers) and even home deliveries if you can't get to a library. You can access it all from an app and one card covers the whole of Oxfordshire.

The next two meetings we're going out. On **Thursday 11 July** we're going for a **tour of Pied Beauty flower farm** in Rycote from the earlier time of **7pm**. Non-members cost £10. Our annual August day trip, this year on **8 August is to Chiltern Open Air Museum**. Let me know if you'd like to come to either trip. Everyone welcome, men too! Children welcome on the August trip.

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

Pine Lodge website: www.lmvh.org.uk

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

DATE OF NEXT SEWING GROUP

This month we are meeting on **Wednesday 24th July** from 11.00 a.m. onwards. The venue is at Maggie Guinness 40 Chiltern View. Please telephone Sally Ann on 01844 278029 if you would like to come along and join us. We'd love to see anyone new, especially if you have just moved into the village and want to meet a few locals

Sally Ann Dennis

NEWS FROM LITTLE MILTON SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Great Start

What a wonderful Maypole evening we enjoyed recently! Thank you so much to everyone who helped the event to take place from the hard-working staff who supported the children's dancing (especially Mrs Austin, Mrs Ford & Mr Hill), to the fantastic Friends of Little Milton School who organised the food and drinks as well as the

children and everyone who attended. We are delighted that more funds were raised to help support the school to provide enriched learning for the children.

We are also grateful to parents who volunteered their time to work on improving the school grounds. Thank you so much to Caroline for arranging the group and thank you to everyone who came to help, the school looks so much better now!

We have been proud to welcome several visitors to look around our school recently and it was wonderful to have very positive feedback. One such visitor was a county moderator because we were selected to be moderated for our KS2 writing this year. The afternoon was very thorough but went well and we were extremely pleased that she noted the high-quality teaching and support that all the children receive at Little Milton Primary.

We would also like to celebrate the efforts and hard work of our fantastic year 4 children, who completed their statutory multiplication times tables check. This is a national assessment completed in year 4 and we were very impressed with their improved times tables knowledge. The younger children have completed their statutory phonics screening check this week. We are extremely proud of how they approached the test, and they all did their absolute best.

Maple class did some time travelling recently as all the children came to school dressed as Romans for their Roman day! It really did feel as if we'd gone back in time. Thank you very much too all the parents for supporting this. We had a fantastic day, and our Roman banquet was a particular highlight, although we didn't actually eat stuffed dormice! Several children also developed a keen enthusiasm to play the Roman game Terni Lapilli. There is more time travelling to come soon as Willow class go back to Victorian times and Maples take part in a Roman workshop at the Ashmolean.

Rowan class have set off on their week long Woodlands residential trip. We can't wait to hear about all their adventures when they get back because it's always a fun-filled week of enriched activities.

We look forward to welcoming our new reception children and their parents soon for the first of their transition afternoons. We can't wait to meet them and welcome them to Little Milton Primary to start their exciting learning journey.

James & Hannah Co-Head teachers

WELLS FARM ALLOTMENTS

Well all this rain has created a jungle at the allotments. Christmas comes early as you need to hoe hoe hoe to keep things in check on the plots. But sometimes the saying "if at first you don't succeed" rings true. My third attempt at long green beans without being eaten by anything is in. The weather has really played a part this year and the slugs have been bountiful. Alas it appears that muntjac deer have taken a liking to broad beans and have eaten the tops out of all the plants. But raspberries are looking really good for several plots. Sometimes we have to just go with the flow. I have managed to harvest some Peruvian potatoes (purple) and they are so so good. Potatoes are a pretty good bet and interesting varieties are worth a try.

In June with the aid of a brush cutter the track was cleared along with some of the paths. Thank you to all of you who have mown around your plots.

If you haven't already done so, it is time to plant squashes. They need lots of good manure or something similar. Moisture in dry weather. Create mounds around each plant so water collects at its roots. My bet is a dry late summer which is perfect for them.

Paul. (paulj201@hotmail.com)

VIEW FROM VIEWS

My how the weather has kept us on our toes every time it seems to dry up it rains again and outcome the floods, as far as our river meadows are concerned least said the better, a complete right off for this season yet again thanks to the lack of control of surface water from all the developments up stream. Still by the middle of June most of the flooded area still will not carry any machine however light, it is almost impossible to walk over, growing mainly Docks with most of the grass dead, a complete right off for this season yet again.

How things change in a month not only politics but also in agriculture, I can now be more optimistic over the disaster that I thought had befallen our crops, the areas of Barley that were affected by the wet looking as if they had died seem to have come back to life. Although these areas will not produce a good crop, I think could be an acceptable yield in the end, so all is not gloom and doom when these crops are harvested and the grain is in the barn will be the time to really know. The wheat on the other hand still looks good. The spring planted crops have also suffered the conditions, the lupines a joint attack from birds and slugs, with the poppies having to be planted twice, the first planting being destroyed by slugs, however now the second planting is growing away, we can only hope they both continue to grow away. When these crops are harvested and the grain is in the barn will be the time to really know.

Some of these issues plus the fact the one plant that seems to have flourished, in spite of our efforts of control, is black grass. Sadly, we think that some of the problems we have encountered mainly Slugs and Black Grass is due to our farming system. We have in recent years followed a policy to disturb the soil as little as possible, the idea being that this will help build up the soil structure, this in turn is supposed to sequester carbon. The problem with these practices is that they leave a lot of trash on the surface, which is ideal for Slugs particularly in a wet time when, they will flourish not the crop, black grass will react in the same way, and so by employing what we thought to be good practice, we have built up another problem for ourselves. Something that is not uncommon in Agriculture. Also in the same vein we have come to the uncomfortable decision that our companion crop of Clover has not worked out, and this year has proved also to be a harbour to Slugs, it has not really suppressed the weeds that much, all it has done is to lessen the yield of any crop we have tried to grow, which somewhat defeats the object of the trial. The idea was brilliant but you cannot grow two crops at once and expect a sensible yield from either. Apparently, some have been successful in doing this, the theory seems to make sense but, the reality does not, we have to try these things now and then without experiment we would get nowhere, and never know.

I have been for some time now suspicious that the nitrate pollution in rivers that is always blamed on agriculture, is in fact from other sources, basically in the ground anyway. Due I guess to the wet winter, springs appear in areas which tend to be wet, these have run at a pace most of the winter and still mid-June only just beginning to slow up. I thought it would be interesting to see how high the nitrates were in this spring water, so I did a test and it was off the scale. This proves that this is not from current applications of nitrogen on our land, as there has been none applied for nearly a year,

now where this comes from is anyone's guess, it could be miles away, or there through actions many years ago we will never know but don't just blame us.

Lately I have been dismayed by the number of times I have seen both at home and Wells Farm, people ignoring wildlife. Walkers with dogs off the lead, (putting them back when they see one of us, therefore knowing they are in the wrong), and not keeping to the designated paths, and, not clearing up after their dogs. I realise that a lot of people do not think they are doing any harm, that is not the case, to take the argument to its extreme every footprint will destroy some natural being, especially at this time of year when birds are nesting or have fledglings about, a dog running around can be disastrous by disturbing a nest the parent may well desert it's young. We here at Views have gone to great trouble and expense to enhance our field margins with wildflowers (with limited success I must confess), for the benefit of pollinators, and wildlife, so to see members of the public just walking everywhere and letting their dogs roam and mess everywhere, is pretty galling. So, I would urge those who like a walk in the countryside to bear in mind these points, as we are told that our country is the most nature depleted country in the world, a fact I don't actually believe, if it really is the case this is one of the reasons not enough of us care. We welcome people on our land as long as nature is respected, by keeping to the footpaths with dogs on leads. I am sorry this year it has not been possible to keep our paths clear due to a machinery breakdown and, the ground conditions being too wet for them anyway, I only hope by the time you read these notes this fact will be rectified.

Charles Peers

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Walks Programme 2024

July

Friday 5th 6pm Leisurely 4 mile walk with views over open countryside, starting from the White Horse PH in Forest Hill.

Sunday 7th Leisurely 6 mile walk from Lewknor, including Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and National Trust Juniper Bank.

Tuesday 9th 10:30am Gentle, social 2 mile walk from Wheatley, including Wheatley Heritage Trail and a walk across Westfield. Option for coffee at end of walk.

Thursday 11th Opportunity to walk Thame Outer Circuit (Part 2 – 8 miles from Long Crendon to Towersey). Linear walk starting at 9:30am with bus from Thame Town Hall. Details on website.

Thursday 18th Hilly, scenic 6½ mile walk from Lane End via Skirmett and Moor Common. Bring a picnic.

Wednesday 24th Meet in Warborough (south side of the Green) for a 7½ mile walk through Earth Trust woodland coming out part way up Wittenham Clumps. Lovely views and then back down to the river and through Dorchester.

Tuesday 30th 6pm Leisurely 3 mile evening walk from Worminghall with optional supper at Clifden Arms PH at the end.

All walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

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

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

or phone 01844 213608

Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can also be found on the website.

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Whooping cough, a bacterial infection that affects the lungs, has been rising in many countries since December 2023. It is a cyclical disease and a peak year is long overdue. Vaccination in pregnancy and childhood are important for protection but both have fallen in recent years. It is treated by antibiotics. For more information on symptoms and treatment visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/

The NHS launched the **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)** on 31st January (see [NHS Pharmacy First Service \(PFS\) | NHSBSA](#)) Appointments can be booked directly with participating pharmacies for the treatment of 7 common health conditions namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. Pharmacists can offer advice to patients and supply NHS medicines where clinically appropriate. This will help reduce the pressure on Morland House Surgery. As an example, appointments with Wheatley Pharmacy can be booked (often the same day) by phoning 01865 874047 or via the website www.wheatleypharmacy.com/book

Group Consultation Clinics – A group clinic is currently being offered for the menopause and probably other conditions. The benefits include a more thorough examination of your condition, having your questions answered, sharing issues with others going through the same issues, and spending longer with a GP.

Morland House Surgery Website For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk. The new updated MHS website went live in June. If you open the website home page and it still looks the same you will need to click the ‘refresh’ button.

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>



The calling of a General Election for 4th July took most people by surprise. I write this on the last day of this Parliament after which there will be no MPs until results are announced in early July. I announced in April 2023 that I would stand down as your MP at the next General Election. My decision was taken on the basis of my age and that I did not want to be an MP into my 70s. As such today is my last day as an MP and the day brings to a close the 16-year period during which I have had the honour of being the MP for the Henley Constituency.

In that time I have enjoyed meeting very many constituents in many different circumstances, some happy, some less so. I have visited all of the schools in the constituency – many several times, met with a wide range of businesses, talked with local councillors, police, NHS staff and leadership teams to name but a few. I have lobbied on behalf of constituents on various issues from disabled access at stations, support for home educators, and demands for cleaner water. It is impossible to mention everything as the work of an MP involves so many aspects of life.

Much of the work is behind the scenes, helping individuals and families to resolve personal issues – lobbying ministers or organisations on their behalf. Perhaps some of the more public achievements have been in contributing to the success of the Europa School in Culham and in working with others to establish the new Townlands Hospital in Henley. My work in Parliament to introduce Neighbourhood Planning, thus giving communities a real say in the future of their areas, has been widely taken up. I am pleased that so many villages and towns in this constituency have got such plans in place. I have also had the privilege of serving in Parliament as a Parliamentary Private Secretary to four Secretaries of state, as a Trade Envoy to Nigeria, and most recently as Leader of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe.

Of course no one can do the work of an MP without the support of a team, and I have been blessed with a strong and loyal team supporting me over the years and I am deeply grateful to them all.

I am also grateful to our local magazine and newsletter editors who have given me space to share thoughts with constituents in these regular publications. Thank you too to those who have sent me copies so that I have been able to keep abreast of what is going on in the 113 settlements across the constituency.

At this General Election the name changes to the Henley and Thame Constituency, and the area covered reduces. Wherever the administrative boundaries place you I wish you all the very best. Whether we have agreed or not, it has been one of the greatest honours of my life to have served as your MP.

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Please note that unless articles are in the hands of the Editor by the 18th of the month (unless otherwise stated), such articles will miss the scheduled Newsletter. The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Parish Council. All material for inclusion in the **August 2024** Newsletter should be with the Editor at 27 Chiltern View, Little Milton, by 8.00 p.m. on **18th July** The Editor reserves the right not to print items submitted for publication and to edit those items, which are published

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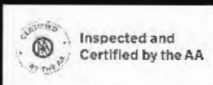
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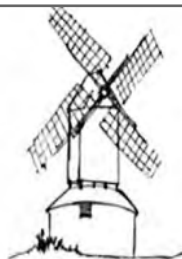
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OCC	01865 792422	All enquiries
Parish Council	01844 278180 01844 875635	Francois Van der Merwe (Chair) Andrea Oughton (Clerk)
Pine Lodge	01844 278605 01844 279535 0844 7255568	Steve Willis (Chairman) Linda Lovegrove (Bookings) 24/7 Call out service
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Southern Electric	0800 0727 282	Emergency Number
Thames Water	0800 3169 800	Emergency Number
The Lamb	01844 279527	Ben & Charmain
Biffa (Verdant)	03000 610610	All enquiries

For all other numbers go to website www.littlemilton.org.uk

Front Cover: Poppies in BBOWT- Angie Jones

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