





The Haseleys

The monthly magazine of
Great Haseley Parish

Issue 521, April 2024
www.thehaseleys.co.uk

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Foreword

Welcome to Spring, it seems to have finally arrived!

Firstly, we wanted to thank Caroline and David for all their efforts in distributing The Haseleys around Horseclose Cottages and wish them well with their move. If there is anyone around Horseclose who would like to take up the distribution role, please get in touch with the editors. Equally, if anyone fancies contributing any articles, whether book, film or play reviews, or indeed anything which may be of interest, please do send them in to us

There is also a date for the diary, Saturday 27th April is the village tidy day, all volunteers welcome

Happy Easter to all

Martin and Fiona

Editors.thehaseleys@gmail.com

Events This Month

- Thurs 4th April - Haseley Coffee Club from 10 to 12 at the Village Hall
- Monday 8th April – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
- Saturday 27th April – Village Tidy Day
- Bible Study House Group - Wednesdays between 2 and 4pm every two weeks. Contact Ian or Sally Ann Dennis on 01844 278029 for details
- Rubbish Collections:
 - Wednesday 3rd April - Green, Brown & Food
 - Tuesday 9th April - Black & Food
 - Tuesday 16th April - Green, Brown & Food + extra garden waste
 - Tuesday 23rd April - Black & Food
 - Tuesday 30th April - Green, Brown & Food

If you wish to hire the playing fields or pavilion call Margaret or Mike Howlett on 01844 279409 or email howlett690@btinternet.com

Summary of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 March 2024

Planning

P23/S4333/FUL – Bavaria, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JW

Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a two-storey house

This application was not discussed following receipt of information from the applicant at the beginning of the meeting that he intends to withdraw the application prior to determination.

P24/S0493/HH - Olive Cottage, 3 Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Single storey garden room to rear plus two rear facing ground floor windows

Resolved to Support the application

P24/S0666/AG - Abbey Farm, North Weston, OX9 2HB

Extension to hay barn

This application was noted with no further comment.

P24/S0685/SCO - Chalgrove Airfield, Chalgrove

Request for EIA Scoping Opinion for the a residential led, mixed use development.

Resolved to respond as follows: In line with the Parish Council's response to the recent consultation on the Joint Local Plan (JLP), it agrees with the delisting of this development site from the JLP and is of the opinion that development on Chalgrove Airfield should not take place.

It was further noted that the District Planning Authority has granted permission for the following applications:

P23/S4235/HH - Vine Cottage, 23 Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JQ

New swimming pool to the rear garden of Vine Cottage with associated pool house, hard landscaping and planting. (As amplified by filter pump details submitted on 12 February 2024).

It was noted that the Parish Council has not been included as a consultee on planning application P24/S0073/FUL – Common Cottage, London Road, Milton Common. It was agreed the Clerk will contact the Planning Officer and ask for an extension to enable the Parish Council to consider the application at the next meeting.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Cllr Sheehan had looked through the survey, not all questions were relevant to the village but it will be useful to comment on areas that are valuable. For example, continuing interest in the SSI and Haseley Brook, green spaces, water quality, pollution prevention and drainage. The consultation is open until 31 March 2024. It was agreed that Cllr Sheehan formulate a draft response and circulate it before submission.

Churchyard Path & Kissing Gate

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has obtained two quotations for work to the path in the churchyard which had been circulated. It is proposed to build a new path, 1m wide from the main gates to the south door of the church and then into the churchyard.

Resolved that the unspent funds of £1,449.00 from the refurbishment of the war memorial be donated towards the cost of the path.

Village Tidy Day

It was agreed to hold the annual Village Tidy Day on Saturday 27 April 2024. Cllr Woodrow will draw up a list of tasks. Cllr Webster and Linda Woodrow will provide refreshments.

Projects

Public Art

The working group met and a specification has been drawn up. The next stage is to consult the village. It was agreed to circulate proposals via the Village WhatsApp group, in The Haseleys and provide information in the village hall on the morning of the village tidy day.

Neighbourhood Priority Statement

There have not been many responses to the consultation. It was agreed to publicise the consultation at the next Pop-Up Pub, the village tidy day and at any other appropriate opportunities.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8 April 2024, primarily to discuss planning applications, related planning matters and approval of payments.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 13 May 2024, commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on 13 May 2024 on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Please visit the Parish Council website to read full minutes of Parish Council meetings. Andrea Oughton, Parish Clerk

Councillor contact details

Cllr Tim Suter – Chairman: chairman@thehaseleys.co.uk

Cllr Richie Sheehan – Millennium Wood, richies.ghpc@gmail.com

Cllr David Lindsay – Planning & Communication – davidl.ghpc@gmail.com

Cllr Chris Groves – Recreation Ground & Miss Cross Field

– chrisg.ghpc@gmail.com

Cllr Jen Webster – Footpaths jenw.ghpc@gmail.com

Cllr Paul Woodrow – Village Hall – paulw.ghpc@gmail.com

Cllr Jake Brown – Allotments – jakeb.ghpc@gmail.com

Clerk – Andrea Oughton clerk@thehaseleys.co.uk



HASELEY EARTHSHOT ACTION GROUP

'Global Change through Local Action'

Email: Haseleyearthshot@gmail.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/haseleyearthshot>



EarthShot Newsletter - Spring 2024

At our AGM in February the decision was made to revert from a monthly to a quarterly Newsletter. It seemed appropriate to devote the rest of this update to passing on what else was discussed at the meeting and the opportunities and projects that we have decided to pursue this year.

Regarding routine business there is no change in the Haseley Earthshot committee, and thank you very much to Jake and Carys for their continued support. We are also going to try and make more use of the facebook page, and that of the Haseleys, for routine communications and project/volunteer opportunity updates, so keep an eye out. As for projects there are several ideas in the pipeline. Over the Spring and Summer we are going to focus on easy projects that people can do in their own gardens. This includes:

- Encouraging members to sign up to the Wildlife Trusts' 'Coronation Gardens for Food and Nature' initiative (www.mycoronationgarden.org) - making a pledge to grow wildlife friendly food in 2024.
- Asking members to continue to support the Hedgehog street initiative (www.hedgehogstreet.org).
- Potential seed/plant/produce swaps, along with organised talks on wildlife and organic gardening.

We will also be continuing to support the River Thame Conservation Trust with water testing on the Haseley Brook, along with considering supporting their water vole and mink monitoring projects. We will also scope the potential for pond creation, although this is unlikely to take place this year.

Looking ahead to our big autumn and winter projects, we will be building on the successes of the past year and re-run our Millennium Wood Apple Pressing day, complete the hedge planting on the Great Haseley Recreation Ground and hopefully continue with biodiversity improvement work in St Peter's Churchyard - with luck we will be able to once again enlist the help of Oxford Conservation Volunteers, who provided much needed muscle and volunteer labor over the past winter. Finally, we will also look into the possibility of a village recycling scheme for hard to recycle items.

So there you have it - a busy AGM and what promises to be a busy and productive year ahead. I very much look forward to seeing people at our various events and volunteer days, or even just hearing how people have got on in their own gardens.

The Natural History of Haseley: Blackthorn Winter

March is generally the month when the hedgerows around the Haseleys start to wake up. As the weather turns warmer the first new leaves, blossoms and spring flowers start to appear amongst the tangled brown stems that have been the backdrop to country walks all winter. Deer start to browse on the new shoots and hibernating animals (such as hedgehogs and bats) begin to emerge, whilst nesting birds use the dense growth to shelter from predators and the worst of the weather. However, late March often has a sting in the tail; as the blackthorn bushes start to blossom, covering the hedgerows in what appears to be heaps of white snow, a final cold spell often arrives - an occurrence so well known in the past that the period was called the "blackthorn winter".

The blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), also known as the sloe, is a spiny, densely branched shrubby tree that can grow to a height of around 6–7m and live for up to 100 years. It is native to the UK and can also be found in much of Europe, western Asia and even as far away as New Zealand. It grows best in moist, well-drained soil and thrives in full sunlight, growing naturally in scrub, copses and woodland, but is commonly used as a hedging plant due to its dense, prickly growth; though its dark black-purple bark is smooth, the twigs form straight side shoots that develop into wickedly sharp thorns which will keep even cattle at bay. The beautiful white flowers of March and April appear before the leaves start to emerge. These flowers (five petalled with red-tipped anthers) are hermaphrodite, meaning both male and female reproductive parts are found in one flower! Once pollinated by insects, these flowers develop into the familiar, small, blue-black fruits known as 'sloes' - the basis of the old hip-flask standby of sloe gin.

Blackthorn is an incredibly useful tree, and not only for its use as a hedging plant. It provides great value to wildlife; early flowers provide a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects at a time when little else is available; the foliage provides food for the caterpillars of both moths and butterflies; birds nest among the dense, thorny thickets, eat the caterpillars and other insects from the leaves in spring and summer and feast on the sloes in autumn. It also has also great utility for man. Blackthorn timber is hardwearing and tough and is traditionally used to make walking sticks, riding crops, tool parts and was the traditional wood for making Irish shillelaghs (fighting sticks). It burns well, so is a good choice for firewood, and over the centuries has also been used in a wealth of remedies including tonics and syrups that 'cleansed the blood', aided digestive complaints and eased rheumatism. It even has some more arcane uses - blackthorn was long associated with witchcraft, and it is said that witches' wands and staffs were made using blackthorn wood. Sadly, for such a useful plant, it also has some traditional bad press - bringing blackthorn blossom into the house said to be likely to bring calamity or death.

In light of the unpredictable weather we've already had this year, maybe it's best not to take the warming spring weather for granted. Make sure that you have an

extra jumper to hand when the blackthorn blossom appears this year and, just in case there is truth in old superstition, try and avoid bringing any into the house.



A great place to grow

Happy Spring from The Maple Tree!

Have you visited our lovely Children's Centre recently? All sessions are drop-in, except our popular Maple Chefs, which is bookable via Eventbrite.

Mondays: Messy Monday at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Once Upon a Rhyme-Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Maple Chefs at 1:00-3:00pm
(Spaces are limited, so book in advance – bit.ly/mapletreeeb)

Thursdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 9:30-11:30am and The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall at 11:00am-12:00pm.

Fridays: Little Chatterboxes at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday every month

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details and look out for our next Paediatric First Aid training.

As we start our new financial year on April the first, we have the challenge of raising nearly £100,000.00 to keep The Maple Tree running for the next year. One of the ways to support our charity is to become A Friend of the Maple Tree, offering monthly financial support. Another way is to volunteer at one of the sessions above. We need support on Mondays and Wednesday, both mornings and afternoons. Are you able to help? (Charity number:1174117)

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Email: info@mapletree.org.uk Website: www.mapletree.org.uk



GREAT HASELEY SPORTS CLUB



MEMBERSHIP APRIL 2024 to MARCH 2025

Family membership £45

Adult £27

Junior (under18) £17

Senior Citizen £17

*If you would like to use the courts or be involved in coaching,
membership is mandatory.*

Please pay online using the following bank details:

Great Haseley Sports Club.

NatWest Bank Sort Code 60-21-21 Account no: 69403538

Ref: your surname.

Please email Victoria (victorianixey@hotmail.co.uk) once payment has been made with membership details and a contact email and telephone number.

Once you have paid, we will email you the new codes for the padlocks.

Name _____

Type of membership
required _____

Email

address _____

Payment type: Online banking

Great Haseley History Group

The History Group has been given a large number of postcards in sepia of twelve different scenes of old Great and Little Haseley. I know these were around some years ago but if anyone would like copies, please let me know otherwise they may end up in the skip and I would not want to do that if anyone wants any of them.

Jane Simcox. 01844 279631 (jane@janeanddavid.co.uk)

What's happening at THE PINE LODGE – Little Milton

Don't miss the "Spring Fling". We have booked an outstanding 16 piece Jazz Band for Friday evening 3rd May with doors opening at 7:30pm. Tickets are £16 and include a smoked beef brisket roll. They are on sale in the village Shop and online on our new website <https://lmvh.org.uk/page/news>

Also, don't miss the VILLAGE RESIDENTS meeting on Saturday 4th May at the Hall at 12:00

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 18.00 Keep Fit on with Alyce (alycefww@gmail.com)

Wednesday 9:30 am Advanced Textile workshop (amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.com)

Thursday 6.00pm Dance school (megan_ah@hotmail.com)

Friday 9:30 am Keep Fit (focus on mobility and stretching) on with Alyce

WI 2nd Thursday of each month at 19:30 contact Kath Stacy (kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Council 2nd Wednesday For further details contact clerk@littlemilton.org.uk

Little City once a month on a Thursday (rosie@littlecituk.com)

For details of, news, booking info and the online events calendar please view the Pine Lodge webpage at www.littlemilton.org.uk , or contact Linda Lovegrove linda.pinelodge@yahoo.com

Little Milton WI - TONS TOGETHER

In March we held our AGM and revealed the 2024-25 programme. This was followed by a talk from Alex Pyle about SODC Waste & Recycling. SODC are the best performing council for recycling in England with nothing going to landfill, it's either recycled or incinerated. The biggest problem is contamination such as dirty pizza boxes or tin foil.

The impromptu theatre club is also taking off with eight of us going to see The Drifter's Girl at the New Theatre in March. A very clever show with just 6 actors taking on many roles, following the story of one of the first African American women to manage a band, plus great music.

On Thursday 11 April we're running a Block Printing workshop with Karen Fido, making cards, wrapping paper, present and tote bags. Everyone welcome, men too! Visitors £5, or join up for £48 (2024-25).

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 at 7.30pm

Too shy to come by yourself or need a lift? Contact us & we'll find you a WI buddy.

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

March ended, literally with Easter Sunday, it was the last day of the month, and the clocks went forward an hour. This may well have tested the mettle of anyone who went to a sunrise service on Easter morning. I know what I am like in the early morning!

The Sundays following Easter give us a glimpse into the mindset of the early disciples and not least, Thomas, who we call 'doubting Thomas'. He is in fact my favourite disciple because he's the one who asks the awkward questions. I think that his doubts are to his credit; he wasn't going to believe in a story or a rumour without evidence. On the Sunday after Easter, his story, recorded in John's Gospel (Chapter 20) tells us that he refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without evidence: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe".

We read that Thomas had to wait a week for the evidence to present itself. We don't often get what we want when we want it! "Although the doors to the room they were in were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you". Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe". Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God".

I love that story, and that Thomas, who we accuse of being the doubting one, was, in fact, the first among the disciples to declare that Jesus was Lord and God.

Anyone who has ever been at a baptism that I have conducted, will know that I always tell the visitors and guests that I do what I do essentially because I believe this to be true, that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. I believe in the truth of resurrection from the dead because of Him. I have had plenty of times of doubt over the years, about how it all works in the face of the world's complexities and sorrows, but I can't get round this, that those who wrote these accounts down believed them to be true, and that conviction has stayed with me for many years now.

I rarely recommend films that try and tell us this story, but I am very happy to do so with *Risen* which stars Joseph Fiennes as the Roman Tribune who oversaw Jesus' crucifixion and who is then tasked with finding his body when rumours circulated that Jesus had been seen alive. It takes a different and unique view on the resurrection story. It can still be found on Netflix, and I think it is encouraging and uplifting.

Christ is risen.
Simon

I'd like to let you know that all three of our churches are holding their APCM's over the coming month. These Annual meetings are open to all members of the congregation, and anyone who lives in the villages, and are an opportunity to hear about the work of the PCC and the church in our community over the year. Please come along and have a chat, or ask questions, you'll be very welcome. Great Milton's APCM is on Sunday 21st April at 11.30 in St Mary's, Little Milton's APCM is on Sunday 19th May at 11.30 in St James', and Great Haseley's APCM will be at 12.00, following the Benefice Service in St Peter's on Sunday 26th May.

Benefice Services This Month

April 2024

7 th April	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Haseley
14 th April	9.00am	Holy Communion	Great Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Little Milton
21 st April	9.00am	Holy Communion	Great Haseley
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Milton
28 th April	9.00am	Benefice BCP Communion	Little Milton
	10.30am	Benefice Worship	Great Milton

May 2024

5 th May	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Haseley

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

March

7 th April	11.00am	Great Milton.	Alistair Jackson
14 th April	11.00am	Great Milton.	Local Arrangement
21 st April	11.00am	Great Milton.	David Harper
28 th April	11.00am	Great Milton.	Rev. Stephen Spain
			Holy Communion

For further information please contact Rev Stephen Spain on 01865 763676



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 reception team on 01865 872448 for more information.

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

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 – We are excited to offer group clinics for certain health conditions, currently menopause and diabetes. The benefits are many including 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.

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

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



John Howell MP writes...

March 2024

Issues around the environment are never far away as there are so many important issues to pay attention to. As I write this month it's The Big Plastic Count. I'm joining lots of people across the country counting the single use plastic that I use this week. It will be interesting to see the data for this year to see how we are doing in moving away from single use plastics. It does take time to change our habits and indeed the manufacture of products. Since the introduction of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England in 2018 significant progress has been made to address plastic pollution, including a ban on microbeads and restricting the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, plastic-stemmed cotton buds, plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.

Just as the need to reduce our plastic has become more widely known so too are concerns on the testing on animals of chemicals used as ingredients in cosmetics. The Government has recognised the public concern around this and has recently introduced measures to ensure that no new licences will be granted for animal testing of chemicals that are exclusively intended to be used as ingredients in cosmetics products. This is more good news.

Another concern raised with me recently is for our hedgerows which are an important part of our landscape. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is moving forward on several fronts on this. There are schemes to encourage farmers to maintain and restore existing hedgerows, while also planting more. Defra is also supporting farmers in assessing the condition of hedgerows, and to manage them in a way that will work for wildlife and improve biodiversity. However, it's not all about business. There are also plans in progress for domestic hedgerow regulations which will, among other things protect nesting birds in the season.

Another area which I know is of interest to constituents is the growing dependence on new technology and the risk of alienation that this can lead to for some people. We live in an increasingly online world and it is not going to change. This means that digital skills are important - from the basics that people need to make the most of online connectivity, to the skills needed in every job, to the high-level skills for the growing number of specialist jobs in the economy. The Government is committed to helping those who need support to acquire basic digital skills and is also working to remove barriers. This is all part of its broader strategy to reduce digital exclusion and very welcome.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

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