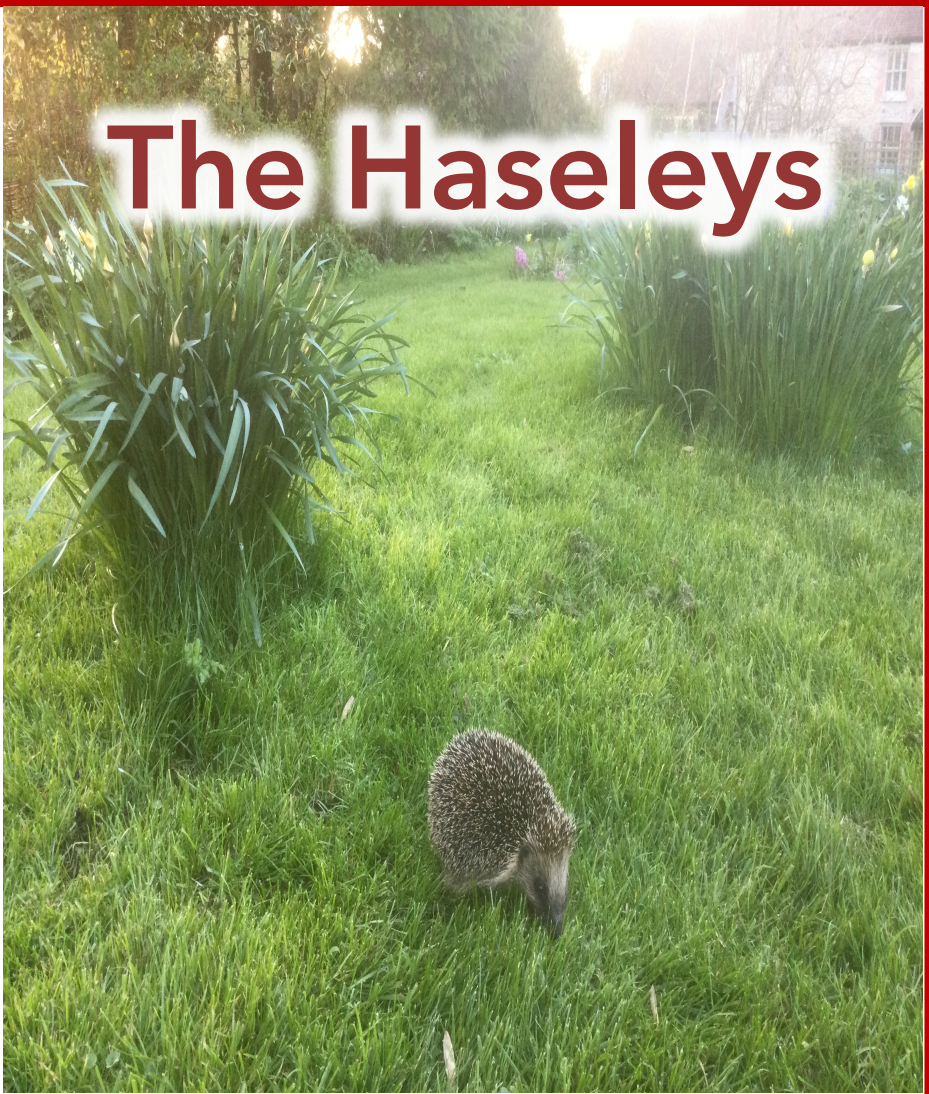


The Haseleys




The monthly magazine of
Great Haseley Parish

Issue 523, June 2024
www.thehaseleys.co.uk

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Foreword

As we, hopefully, welcome in summer we have a gratifyingly hedgehog-heavy edition of The Haseleys this month, with an article and cover photo all courtesy of Richie Sheehan.

There are a number of events in and around The Haseleys taking place over the next couple of months which are flagged up in the magazine, please have a look.

The magazine takes a break in August so if there is anything else that needs to be publicised for the summer period we will need to receive it before next month's deadline. As always, any contributions, like the recipe from Hazel Leigh in this edition, are welcomed.

Finally, don't forget to sign up for the Pop-up pub and Quiz in aid of Sobell House in the village hall on Friday 7th June

Martin and Fiona
Editors.thehaseleys@gmail.com

Events This Month

- Friday 7th June – Pop up pub and Quiz in aid of Sobell House Hospice
- Thurs 13th June - Haseley Coffee Club from 10 to 12 at the Village Hall
- Saturday 15th June Sustainable Wheatley Swap Shop, Merry Bells, Wheatley - BRING stuff 0900-1015, TAKE stuff from 1030-1200
- Bible Study House Group - Wednesdays between 2 and 4pm every two weeks. Contact Ian or Sally Ann Dennis on 01844 278029 for details
- Saturday 22nd June Benefice Breakfast at NorthEnd Cottage, Great Milton
- Saturday 29th June Traditional Midsummer Afternoon, Latchford Farm
- Rubbish Collections:
 - Tuesday 4th June - Black & Food
 - Tuesday 11th June - Green, Brown & Food
 - Tuesday 18th June - Black & Food
 - Tuesday 25th June - 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 13 May 2024

This was the first meeting of the new civic year and as such the first items of business were to elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr Tim Suter was duly elected Chairman and Cllr Richard Sheehan duly elected Vice Chairman.

Councillors with specific responsibilities remain unchanged as follows:

Planning & Communication – Cllr Lindsay

Footpaths – Cllr Webster

Allotments – Cllr Brown

Millennium Wood – Cllr Sheehan

Miss Cross Field & Playing Fields - Cllr Groves

Village Hall – Cllr Woodrow

Matters Arising

Following discussion in March related to the financial donation by the Pumpkin Show for a bench in Millennium Wood, Cllr Sheehan had circulated three options together with costs.

Option 1: 'Standard' picnic bench setup of 1 x 1800mm table and 2 x 1800mm benches £1,494.02 excluding vat.

Option 2: Two x 1800mm tables to be set around the central oak tree in Millennium Wood - £1,277.51 excl. vat. Sleeper benches to be sourced at a cost of £70-£100 each to provide seating. This will also work with 1200mm tables, though cost reduction is minimal.

Option 3: One x 2400mm table, quote to be obtained but given prices above anticipate £700 - £800 excl. vat. Benches to be sourced as per Option 2, although may be able to purchase 1 x 2400mm bench within budget if required.

Resolved to support Option 1 and purchase 1 x 1800mm table and 2 x 1800mm benches.

Planning

The following application was noted:

P24/S1156/DIS - Land off Rectory Road, Great Haseley

Discharge of conditions 4 (Surface water drainage), 5 (Foul water drainage), 8 (Glazing) and 15 (External lighting) on application P22/S4565/FUL (Erection of a 4 bedroomed detached family dwelling with integral garage, and associated access and landscaping).

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

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

P24/S0783/FUL - North Weston Farm, North Weston, OX9 2HA

Change of use of existing grain store building to storage.

It was further noted that the following application had been withdrawn prior to determination:

P23/S4303/S73 - Land off Rectory Road, Great Haseley, OX44 7JS

Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) in application P22/S4565/FUL (Erection of a 4 bedroomed detached family dwelling with integral garage, and associated access and landscaping- Variation of approved plans) - to allow for single story rear extension

Drainage Issues

Berrick Salome Parish Drainage Group has written to town and parish councils in the area to gauge the extent to which there are similar issues related to drainage and to ask whether councils would consider a joint approach to be beneficial or at least whether sharing information will provide reinforcement and enable councils to take stronger action independently.

It was agreed the Chairman will respond to the questions raised and confirm support of the initiative.

Projects

Public Art

Next step is to consult the village on the public art strategy.

Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS)

The District Neighbourhood Plan team has confirmed the number of responses to the consultation is adequate to move forward. The next stage is to draft the Neighbourhood Priority Statement.

Miss Cross Field & the Recreation Ground

Following work identified in the RoSPA play inspection report, members considered quotations received from a play equipment supplier. It was agreed to approach the landscape maintenance company who cut the grass to see whether they can quote to level the ground and install grass matting where required. Further quotes will be sought to purchase new swing seats and chains for equipment on the recreation ground. Repainting the swing frames will be added to the list of jobs for the next Tidy Day. A new basketball net will be purchased and installed.

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

FRIDAY, 7TH JUNE 2024



**POP-UP PUB
&
QUIZ**



**£5 per person - tables of up to 8
Book ahead to avoid disappointment
Viki 07775 851318
Cash only**

**Great Haseley Village Hall
6.30pm doors open
7.15pm Quiz**

IN AID OF SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE
(Registered Charity no. 1118646)

The Natural History of Haseley: Hedgepig

I can't begin to describe how delighted I was to find a hedgehog wombling around the garden the other day. These lovely little animals, endearing to watch and very useful to the gardener for their services in munching up slugs and other bugs, are much scarcer than they used to be - I remember seeing several at a time fairly regularly in the garden when I was small but now a sighting is a rare experience.

The Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) is Britain's only native spiny mammal. Just under 30cm long, round, brown and covered by around 7000 banded spines (actually modified hairs), it is one of our most familiar and recognisable wild animals. They are generally solitary, nocturnal and very wide-ranging, travelling 1-2 km per night in their search of the bugs and crunchy beetles that they enjoy eating (as well as the occasional bowl of cat or dog food left out by kindly people). This time of year (May-June) is the peak of their breeding season (a noisy affair that, understandably, involves a lot of perseverance and care from the hopeful male), and consequently a good time to provide safe and secure nesting sites. Suspected nest locations should not be disturbed as this risks the mother either deserting or eating her young, but with luck patience will be rewarded by the sight of hoglets tottering around the garden when they emerge from late June onwards.

There is considerable evidence for a dramatic decline in hedgehog numbers, other than anecdotal evidence such as my childhood memories; the population has declined by about a third since the millennium and is listed as 'vulnerable to extinction' on the IUCN red list for British mammals. The causes of this decline vary across their habitat range, with different pressures in urban and rural areas, but include factors such as increased use of pesticides, loss of hedgerows, overdevelopment and an increasing badger population (which considers hedgehogs to be the perfect midnight snack). Fortunately, hedgehogs love gardens and so there are many things that people can do to help prevent further decline and even help them to thrive once more, so that the sight of a hedgehog

snuffling in the garden is a common occurrence once again and not just a fond memory. There are a lot of gardens in Haseley and I would challenge everyone who enjoys the sight of these little animals to take the time this summer to do something to help give these lovely little animals a bit of a leg-up (for hints and tips on how this can be achieved visit www.hedgehogstreet.org).



How to help hedgehogs

HEDGEHOG STREET

CITY OF WILDLIFE

GARDEN FOR HEDGEHOGS

Wildlife features like log piles, leaf piles, compost heaps and an undisturbed 'wild patch' will provide shelter and insect food for hedgehogs.

MAKE YOUR GARDEN SAFE

Remove hazards like litter, netting and chemicals, and check thoroughly before strimming and mowing. Ensure ponds have a sloped side or escape ramp for any hedgehogs that fall in.

LET THEM IN!

Give hedgehogs access to your garden with 13cm x 13cm square Hedgehog Highways in or under your fence, and encourage neighbours to do the same.

BED AND BREAKFAST

Hedgehog houses can be bought online or built with our instructions. Supplementary food is also a great way to help – meaty cat or dog food and a shallow dish of water!



Find out more and become a Hedgehog Champion at hedgehogstreet.org

© Duncan Barnes

people's
trust for
endangered
species



www.hedgehogstreet.org



HASELEY EARTHSHOT ACTION GROUP

'Global Change through Local Action'

Email: Haseleyearthshot@gmail.com

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



Earthshot Newsletter - Summer 2024

June, the month of midsummer and the ideal time to be making the most of being outdoors. Though there is not much being organised at group level over the summer months, other than our monthly water testing commitments, but we would greatly encourage all members to see what they are able to achieve for nature in their own gardens. This could include:

- Making a pledge to grow wildlife friendly food in 2024 (visit www.mycoronationgarden.org).
- Support the Hedgehog street initiative (www.hedgehogstreet.org), and commit to hedgehog friendly gardening.

The Wildlife Trusts have an extremely useful advice page that gives huge number of project ideas, hints and helpful tips on the many different things that can do at an individual level to help wildlife at home - from building a bug hotel or bat box to digging a pond or planting a wildflower area (<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>).

Looking ahead to our autumn and winter projects, we intend to re-run our Millennium Wood Apple Pressing day in September (date TBC) and complete the hedge planting on the Great Haseley Recreation Ground, with hopefully a few other projects in the mix too - but more on that in the autumn.

Wishing everyone a pleasant and productive summer.

Summer Garden Open Days 2024 - in aid of CPRE Oxfordshire

£10 per head, £5 for under 16s, under 10s free. Teas will be available – donations welcome.

Places limited so please reserve in advance – see www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Wednesday 5 June, 3pm-7pm College House, Stanton St John

The 800-year old St John the Baptist Church forms a unique backdrop to this wonderful garden, complete with fruit trees, walled garden and even the odd guinea fowl! June should be the perfect time to see the herbaceous borders in all their glory.

Sat 6 July, 2.30pm-5pm Coopers & Woolstone Lodge, Woolstone

Two wonderful gardens, within walking distance of each other, together offering topiary, herbaceous borders, wild garden, vegetable garden, rock garden, stream and open views across countryside and White Horse Hill.

All proceeds to CPRE Oxfordshire, the Countryside Charity.

Asparagus and Pancetta risotto [By Hazel Leigh](#)

Serves 4

Time to cook 40 mins.

450g (1lb) asparagus spears
30ml (2tbsp) olive oil
2 x 70g packets pancetta (or bacon) roughly chopped
25g (1oz) butter
1 large onion, finely chopped
350g (12oz) risotto rice
1 litre (1¾pt) hot vegetable stock
300ml (½pt) dry white wine
50g (2oz) Parmesan cheese (finely grated)
45ml (3tbsp) fresh roughly chopped parsley

1. Trim the asparagus spears and cut off the tips. Cook the tips in a pan of boiling salted water for about 3-4 minutes until just tender. Drain and rinse under cold water, then set aside. Finely chop the rest of the asparagus spears. Heat 15ml (1tbsp) of the olive oil in a large, deep frying pan and fry the pancetta until just crisp. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside.
2. Add the remaining oil and the butter to the frying pan and fry the onion under tender and lightly browned. Stir the risotto rice in and cook for 1 min. Mix together the vegetable stock and wine. Pour 300ml (½pt) of the stock mixture into the pan and simmer gently, stirring until all the liquid has been absorbed.
3. Add the chopped asparagus and continue adding the stock mixture, about a ladleful at a time, until nearly all the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender. Season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Stir in the grated parmesan cheese and the chopped parsley and cook for 1 min. then gently stir in the asparagus tips and fried pancetta.

This is a very good basic risotto recipe and when asparagus is not in season, mushrooms and peas can be used instead.

Traditional Midsummer Afternoon, Saturday 29 June, 2-5 pm

Fun for all the family!

Step back in time and join us in the countryside for traditional games and homemade teas, with plenty for all the family to enjoy.

****Bring a rug or folding chair to sit on****

Have fun trying **TRADITIONAL GAMES**



(AUNT SALLY, SHOVE-HA'PENNY, SKITTLES)

**TUG OF WAR, TREASURE HUNT
TOMBOLA, RAFFLE** with amazing prizes

Relax with tea and homemade **CAKES, SCONES, SANDWICHES** in the peaceful surroundings

of **LATCHFORD FARM** (end of Latchford Lane, half a mile after Long Row), **OX44 7BG**.

Plenty of parking space, or you might like to cycle or walk!

**Saturday 29 June, 2-5 pm
In aid of St Peter's Church**



Benefice Breakfast

Tim Suter renowned local musician, church organist and choir master, former member of the BBC board and many other things will be interviewed on his Life, his Music and his Faith at breakfast on Saturday 22nd June 2024.

This simple breakfast of bacon butties and croissants is being hosted by the three churches of St Mary's Great Milton, St James' Little Milton and St Peter's Great Haseley.

Place; Northend Cottage, Lower End, Great Milton OX44 7NF

Time: Saturday 22nd June at 8.30 - 9.50

The timing is arranged to enable all who come to start their usual Saturday activities at 10.00, though those who want to linger will be welcomed.

Please come.

This is open to all but please let Simon Cronk (Rector) or Tony Jefferis know if you would like to come and also if you can help with catering. Please also let them know if you have any dietary intolerances.

Simon Cronk simon.cronk@btinternet.com

01844 278349

Tony Jefferis afjefferis@btinternet.com

01844 278743

Great Haseley History Group

DO YOU HAVE A WELL IN YOUR HOUSE OR GARDEN?

The History Group is keen to talk to anyone who has a well, spring or pump on their property. We are trying to map how people got their water before the mains water came to the village in the 1950s. We have heard of a few but there must be more!

Great Milton History Group has done a similar survey and found evidence of nearly 100 wells. Has Haseley got more than this????

Contact either Jane Simcox (jane@janeanddavid.co.uk), Margaret Howlett (howlett690@btinternet.com) or Mark Bibby (markwbibby15@gmail.com)

What's happening at THE PINE LODGE – Little Milton

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 (alycefwf@gmail.com)

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

Wednesday 9:30 am Advanced Textile workshop (amarjeetnandhra@virginmedia.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@littlecituyuk.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 May we were transported to The Hindu Kush & Northern Pakistan with extensive traveller, Carol Turner. Carol is quite a draw so we had a great turnout with nine visitors. We also welcomed new members, Julie & Nicky.

On Thursday 13 June, we will be finding out from Graham White all that the Oxfordshire Library Service has to offer, from libraries, to online and even home deliveries.

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

The Rector's Pint

June 2024

I'm old enough to remember the 'winter of discontent' at the end of the 1970s, and the state of our public services, which were nationalised at the time. We might now ask, following forty years of privatisation, have things worked out for the better?

This last, very wet, winter and early spring brought things to a head with innumerable cases of discharge of untreated sewerage into our rivers and streams. The reason given is that this is due to 'unprecedented rainfall'. This was followed by a warning that there could be water shortages this summer, because we don't have the capacity to store enough water for all our needs in the face of possibly drier summers! We have been hearing for years that the weather is likely to become more unpredictable, but there seems to be a total lack of planning for that.

The water company shareholders will naturally expect a good return, but it seems this is at the cost of much-needed infrastructure. Agriculture also has a role to play. I love the lower Wye, but it has become heavily polluted, and the river flows a muddy brown and slime covers the rocks on the river bed. I wouldn't swim in it. The main culprits are the industrial-sized chicken farms in Herefordshire and Powys that have been licensed over the last decade. With so much dependent upon farming in the region I can't help wondering if there has been a conflict of interest in the granting of licenses. I can no longer now sing the hymn Jerusalem; 'In England's green and pleasant land' without some sadness.

The importance of creation lies at the heart of Christian theology. It goes right back to the first story in the Bible: 'and God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' I do not believe that the first chapters of Genesis should be read as science. The understanding and culture of that time suggested that creation was the by-product of capricious forces, and that humans were the unfortunate victims. However, the Book of Genesis presents a very different picture, of a good God making a good creation, and in which humanity is given 'stewardship' in partnership with God, over this creation.

But stewardship is not permission to exploit. This is a very contemporary theme, but the Bible got there first! We must learn to do things differently. In the case of our rivers, when profit is king, they do not run clear.

On a happier note, June 8th sees the Great Milton Fete. The other two villages will not be hosting Fetes this year, instead there will be a Garden Party at Latchford Farm in Great Haseley on 29th June, and a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" at Little Milton Manor on August 31st, so there's something wonderful to look forward to in all three parishes. I hope I'll see you there.

Simon

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to everyone...all of the distributors, collectors, Lent Lunch hosts and coffee morning hosts for making the week such an amazing week! The total is looking pretty good but will not have been added up by the time the June Newsletter/Bulletin goes to press so watch this space for the totals which will be posted in the July Newsletters/Bulletins...Sally Ann Dennis

**Come to St George's Chapel, inside Windsor Castle,
for Evensong on Sunday 9 June at 5.15 pm. Over 20 of us went last year and
had a great time despite the thunderstorm. The silver communion set that
belongs to our church will be on display. If you are interested, please let Toby
Garfitt know in good time (07941 164038).**

New Info Point in St Peter’s Church

The village has a brand-new resource which you, your family and your visitors will enjoy. It’s called Info-Point, and it’s now up and running in St Peter’s Church. It’s a digital, interactive visitor guide to the village and the church, with audio soundtrack, lots of pictures, puzzles, a special children’s trail with lots of activities, a recording of the bells, and of course it’s packed with information. It’s entirely free to use, and all you need is a smartphone or iPad to connect to the local wi-fi network. Follow the simple instructions on the noticeboard inside, and enjoy exploring!
Toby Garfitt

Benefice Services This Month

May 2024

2 nd June	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Haseley
9 th June	9.00am	Holy Communion	Great Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Little Milton
	5.15pm	Evensong	St George’s Chapel Windsor
16 th June	9.00am	Holy Communion	Great Haseley
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Milton
23 rd June	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Great Haseley
	10.30am	Benefice Morning Worship	Little Milton
30 th June	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Little Milton

July 2024

7th July	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Milton
	10.30am	Family Worship	Great Haseley

Great Milton Methodist Church Services

May

2 nd June	11.00am	Great Milton.	David Harper
9 th June	11.00am	Great Milton.	John Anderson
16 th June	11.00am	Great Milton.	Rev’d Miriam Moul
			Holy Communion
23 rd June	11.00am	Great Milton.	Joanna Tullock
30 th June	11.00am	Great Milton.	Simoeon Mitchell

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

Patients aged 75 or over (or will turn 75 by 30 June 2024) are being invited for a COVID booster vaccination. Also, appointments can be booked online at <https://www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination> or on the NHS App. You can find your nearest COVID-19 vaccination walk-in site at <https://www.nhs.uk/covid-walk-in>. **30 June 2024** is last date to get a booster vaccination .

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

There has been a surge in **Blandford Fly** bites in the area. While very unpleasant there is normally no need to visit a GP or MIU. For more information on what to do visit <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/miu-update-patients-with-blandford-fly-bites/> Alternatively call NHS 111 or visit your local pharmacy for advice.

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 -



A great place to grow

Hello from The Maple Tree! Summer is almost here!

Please check out our Website and Facebook page for full details of our under 5s sessions and our summer programme which is open for our older children too. Just like last year we will be visiting some of the local villages and delivering a play session in the local community centres and village halls.

We would like to dedicate this space in the newsletter this month to our lovely volunteers; Leslie, Diane, Linda, Tina, Georgina, Wiebke, Grace, Julia S., Anthea, Jane Chris and Kate S., and our back-up volunteers Kate T. and Alice. Also, to the wonderful volunteers who have helped us over the past year and have needed to move on; Julia F., James, Monika, Matt and Rachel. Thank you so much for your dedication to The Maple Tree! They have made hundreds of cups of teas and coffees and cut up and served countless healthy snacks. The volunteers have offered helpful advice to parents and helped children to extend and find meaning in their conversations and play. They are also invaluable at clean up time (if you know the mess that one child can make, multiply it by 20, and you will know what we mean!) We could not possibly run The Maple Tree without you so a big THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts from Laura and the team!

Please contact us below if you too would like to volunteer at one or more of our sessions! 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre. Charity number:1174117

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager



John Howell MP writes...

May 2024

The quality of the water in our rivers has been an ongoing concern for some time. It is therefore welcome news that DEFRA has announced that Wallingford Beach is to be given designated bathing waters status. Although the site is just over the bridge in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency I know that it is something that will be welcomed by people in this constituency. The site will be subject to the requirements under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and will be included in the Environment Agency's bathing water monitoring programme from this month. The Regulations require public information about water quality and potential sources of pollution to be available at all bathing waters during the bathing season, with local authorities in the areas responsible for providing this information. The Environment Agency will prepare a bathing water profile for the site, which will be available on its Swimfo website. They will also assess what action is needed to improve water quality to meet the standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations.

The internet is something that we have come to rely on for our daily business, for education, and for information and for leisure. However concerns to protect children have rightly been raised. In the middle of this month there was a debate in Westminster Hall on the impact of smart phones and social media on children with a call to ban smartphones for under 16s. I very much acknowledge the dangers of social media for young people and endorse the Online Safety Act which introduced measures to protect young people. However I do not agree with the proposal to ban young people from having smartphones. I believe that this is a decision for parents and not one for legislation. So rather than potentially criminalise people I think that, alongside the Online Harms Act, we should be looking to educate our young people on the risks and harms of social media. Many parents want their children to have a smartphone, as they provide benefits to children and parents, not least allowing them to stay connected while travelling alone. As this was a Westminster Hall debate it was an opportunity to formally raise the issue but there was no vote. I am sure that there will be further discussion on the issue.

There are many people in the constituency who live here on the basis of a visa. It is important to be aware that UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are rolling out a digital immigration system which is more secure. Anyone who does not already have an eVisa will be required to have set up an online record by the end of this year. This information is also important for employers and landlords who will be able to check the immigration status of applicants much more easily.

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. You can find updates and replies to standard campaigns run by lobby organisations on my website: <https://www.johnhowell.org.uk>

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Useful Information

- Bell Ringing: John Hughes-D'Aeth, 01844 279965, john.hd@btinternet.com
- Childline: 0800 1111
- St Peter's Church, Great Haseley: Rector, Simon Cronk, 278349.
simon.cronk@btinternet.com
- Great Milton Methodist Church: The Reverend Stephen Spain;
Stephen.Spain@Methodist.org.uk; 01865 763676
- Doorstep milk delivery: Allan Woods, 07773 006485
- Doctors: Morland House Surgery, London Road, Wheatley, tel. 01865 872448. For out-of-hours service call 0845 345 8995. To arrange transport to the doctor or Thame hospital contact Jane Jefferis on 278743 or Wendy Richardson on 278479
- Education Centres: Wheatley The Lodge, Wheatley Park School, Holton: 01865 872664. Thame, Towersey Road, Thame: 213400/213114
- Elder Abuse: Silver Line 0800 4 70 80 90
- Flooding: Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 807060.
- Great Haseley Village Hall: Bookings: gill.seymourtaylor@gmail.com
Committee Chairman: Paul Woodrow: 278363
- Great Haseley & District Horticultural Society: Membership Secretary: Carys Lindsay, 07984250752, caryselindsay@gmail.com
- Libraries: Wheatley: 01865 875267, Thame: 212288
- Little Milton WI: Kath Stacey 279438, kathstacey@yahoo.co.uk
- Local News: Thame.net, Thametoday.co.uk, Oxfordmail.co.uk
- Thame Market, Upper High Street, Tuesdays 8.30-4.30, Farmers Market 2nd week of month
- Organic farmers' market, Sandy Lane Farm, Milton Common, Thursdays 2.30-6 pm, Saturdays 10am – 2pm
- Member of Parliament, John Howell: 01491 613088
- Neighbours Club: For information contact Janet Earl on 279432
- Playing fields and/or pavilion hire: Margaret or Mike Howlett 279409, howlett690@btinternet.com
- Parish Clerk: Andrea Oughton: 875635, 30 Rectory Meadow, Chinnor OX39 4PJ, email clerk@thehaseleys.co.uk
- Post Offices (both will organise dry cleaning): Great Milton Post Office & Shop: 279455 - will deliver newspapers Monday to Saturday and is open Sunday morning. Little Milton Post Office & Shop: 279001
- Pubs: La Table D'Alix, Great Haseley: 279283, The Bull, Great Milton: 279726, The Lamb, Little Milton: 279527
- Refuge: 0808 2000 247, nationaldahelpline.org.uk
- Refuse Collection: Tuesdays except after bank holidays
- Samaritans: 116 123, email jo@samaritans.org.
- Swimming Baths: Thame Sports and Arts Centre: 215607
- Tennis at the Recreation Ground: Lucy Foster 01844 278466 / 07887 678938.
- Thames Water: To report leaks call 0800 3169800