

Newsletter

Milcombe Newsletter will be produced each month and will be available from the New Road Shop only while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place

The Milcombe Newsletter is funded by the Milcombe Parish Council



February 2021
Issue 68



Contributions, by email (Microsoft Word 2010 compatible), to be received by 18th of month prior to publication to
milcombepc@gmail.com or
marlene.cowell@milcombe.com

All contributions are published 'as recieved' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council.

Milcombe Parish Council

www.milcombepc.co.uk

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Tuesday 5 January 2021



Vacancies – Due to resignations, there are two vacancies on the Parish Council. The role entails attending a Parish Council meeting every other month, for around 2 hours and you can put in, as much or as little time as you have available, in-between the meetings. If you would like any further information, please contact the Clerk on 01295 710965 or email milcombepc@gmail.com

Wheelie Bins – Residents are kindly requested not to block the footpaths with their wheelie bins, where possible. If they could also be collected back in as soon as they had been emptied, this would avoid the footpaths being blocked for those pedestrians with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

Play Area – The Section 106 funds from the Oak Farm Phase 2 development were due to be paid to Cherwell District Council shortly. Quotes for the new play equipment were in the process of being sought. Cherwell District Council were due to cut back the trees which are overhanging from the Dovecote into the play area.

Dog Fouling – Residents are asked to ensure that they clean up after their dogs because a lot of mess had not been picked up, especially along Main Street. Dog waste bags are available from New Road Stores and the Church porch.

Snow Warden/Grit Bin – If anyone in the village would volunteer to be a Snow Warden to help clear the footpaths in adverse weather conditions, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. A new grit bin had been installed at the entrance to Dovecote Close.

Village Hall – The Hall was still closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, however the Committee is planning something for children at Easter as Christmas activities were cancelled. The Parish Council agreed to make a financial contribution to the event.

Highways – Repairs which were required to potholes should be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> New road

markings had been painted on the road by the junction at the Horse and Groom.

Grass Cutting Contact – The contract for 2021/2022 was awarded to Nigel Prickett.

Trees/Bushes/Hedges – Residents were reminded that trees/bushes/hedges should not be causing an obstruction because they were overhanging a boundary onto a footpath or road. If an obstruction was occurring in the village, it should be reported to <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Planning – Farnell Fields, Paradise Lane, Milcombe – An application for minor internal works and external works to rooflights and rainwater goods was approved.

Covid-19 – The latest guidance on the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Adverse Weather:

Oxfordshire County Council works closely with all its partners to monitor the weather and as a reminder there are some numbers that you can call to report weather related issues if you become aware of them:

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999
- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101
- If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down please report it by calling 105
- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit online - <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com> – and I will summarise the key numbers to call below:
- If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on 999
- To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline on 0345 310 1111
- To report flooding from a main river contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline (Tel: 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60) or visit their website
- If your property is at immediate risk of surface water flooding please contact Thames Valley Police on 101

Planning applications and comments could be viewed on Cherwell District Council's web site at:
<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as>

Meeting Dates – Future meetings, all starting at 8.00pm would be held on Zoom, until further notice. Please contact the Clerk for the details to join the Parish Council meetings.

- Tuesday 2 March 2021
- Tuesday 4 May 2021 (Milcombe Annual Parish Meeting)

All welcome to attend!

Agendas and minutes are available on www.milcombe.com or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at milcombepc@gmail.com or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours.

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

CDC are unable to supply any dog bags at the present time so please make sure you take a bag of some description with you to clean up after your dog, particularly along the footpaths, Low field and Paradise field. There is a penalty if you are caught allowing your dog to foul public footpaths or other land and not picking it up. There are plenty of dog bins around the village for you to use or take it home and place in your green bin. Thank you.



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Reminders:

Roads (including potholes)/footpaths/street lighting/overhanging trees/hedges: Report to Oxfordshire County Council <https://fix-mystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Faulty Street Lights: Report on freephone 0800 317802 giving exact destination and pole number if possible.

Dog Bags: These are available from New Road Stores and in the Church porch. Please clear up after your dog - it is an offence not to.

Electricity: SSE 0800 294 3259 or text phone 0800 316 5457, UK Power Networks - 0800 169 9970, Western Power Distribution - 0800 096 3080

Water: Thames Water 0800 009 3652 or text phone 0800 316 6899, Anglian Water 03457 91 91 55

Power failure: If there's a power cut call the free number 105 to check what's happening with your local provider



MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALLS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES, due to their communal nature, are vulnerable to the spread of Coronavirus. Managers of community facilities have discretion as to whether it is safe to re-open such premises and whether they can put in place the necessary protection. Much depends on the size of the facility and space available as the 2- meter social distancing must be strictly adhered to and consideration given to pinch points such as entrances and exists and particularly in Milcombe Village Hall the narrow passageway to toilets and kitchen area. Further information can be found on COVID 19 GUIDANCE FOR THE SAFE USE OF MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITIES issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 5.1.2021. Due to this latest guidance and the 4th lockdown currently in place, regrettably Milcombe Village Hall remains closed. It is an ever- changing situation which the trustees of the Village Hall will continue to monitor.

THE VILLAGE HALL IS STILL DESPERATELY IN NEED OF A TREASURER.

There must be somebody in Milcombe who cares enough about the village and the Village Hall who would be willing to take on this task.

A NEW COVERED AND LOCKABLE NOTICEBOARD is still sitting in the foyer of the Hall awaiting a volunteer to remove the old one and install the new one.

Raychel Pomroy is still kindly carrying out weekly checks on the Hall and she is thanked for volunteering to do this.

The Village Hall Committee (Milcombe Charities Trustees) is overseen by the following members: Rev. Dale Gingrich (Chairman - office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk), Marlene Cowell (Minute Secretary - marlene.cowell@milcombe.com), Amy Jackson (Bookings), Sally Ashmole, Sacha Cowley, Raychel Pomroy and Suzette Watson.

All members can be reached on the following email: villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com



Tel: 01295 722142

horseandgroominn@gmail.com

thehorseandgroominn.co.uk

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The Countryside Code

The Countryside Code gives advice on how you can enjoy your visit to the countryside and also act responsibly to protect the countryside. The code explains that it is important to plan ahead, stay safe, control your dog near livestock and prevent fires.

The code

The following simple messages make up the Countryside Code.

Respect the people who live and work in the countryside. Show courtesy and consideration to everybody. Be a friendly visitor with a responsible way. Know where you are allowed to go

Most land is private property and access is only available with the goodwill and tolerance of the owner. Whilst most landowners do not object to recreational users on their land, some do. Always respect a landowner's wishes.

Keep to paths across farmland

Help prevent damage to crops by walking around the edge of a field unless there is an existing path across it.

Avoid fields where there are animals, as your presence may cause them stress and endanger your own safety.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls. **When crossing fences**, hedges and walls, use the nearest gate or stile. Damage to fencing can allow animals to stray. If you must climb a gate because it is difficult to open, always do this at the hinged end.

Leave gates as you find them

If you find a gate closed, close it when you pass through to prevent animals straying. Farmers sometimes leave gates open to allow animals to pass from one field to another to graze or drink. Help a farmer by leaving gates as you find them. If in doubt, close a gate.

Do not interfere with livestock, machinery and crops. These are valuable commodities and should be left alone. Interference with animals and equipment may endanger you. Pay attention to warning signs as these are for your protection.

Keep dogs under control

Keep your dog on a lead when walking on roads or when close to farm animals. A dog can cause distress to animals and endanger you. Keep your dog under control always so as not to disturb wildlife or annoy or frighten other visitors.

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Leave all natural places as you find them. Never uproot plants as they will be lost forever. Keep your distance from wild birds and animals to prevent disturbance and stress especially to adults that are with young and in winter when food may be scarce or weather harsh. Keep all water sources clean

The public water supply is not available to everyone living in the countryside. Take care with your personal hygiene and do not pollute water. Don't interfere with water troughs which provide clean water for livestock.

Take your litter home

All litter is unsightly. Glass, tins and plastic bags can be dangerous to people, livestock and wildlife. Keep the countryside clean by taking home your own litter and any which you may find. Guard against all risk of fire

The countryside is vulnerable to fire especially during dry weather. Accidental fires pose a great risk to farmers and foresters. Be careful to extinguish all used matches and cigarettes. Use a stove for cooking rather than a fire. Never throw cigarettes from a car window.

Make no unnecessary noise

One of the attractions of the countryside is its peace and quiet. Do not disturb this with noise or disruptive behaviour which might annoy residents and visitors or frighten farm animals and wildlife.

Respect other recreational users

Behave responsibly. Where possible, warn others of your approach and slow down or stop if necessary. Irresponsible behaviour could lead to you and your activity being banned from the area in the future.

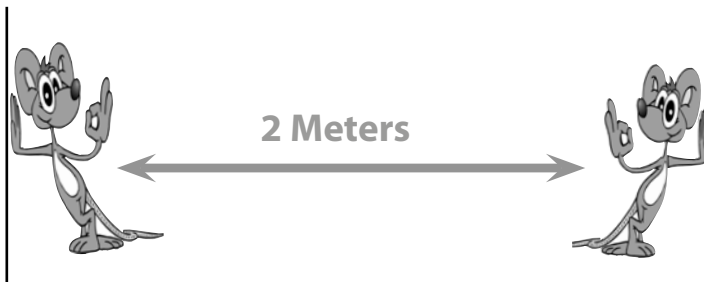
Take special care on country roads

Always drive carefully with reduced speed on country roads. Consider others when parking and avoid blocking entrances, gateways or other drivers' visibility. Walkers should take special care on narrow country roads and if uncertain should walk in single file.

Consider your personal safety

If possible do not go alone. Wear suitable clothing and footwear as the weather can change very quickly.

"social distance
please"



MILCOMBE PLAY AREA

THE PLAY AREA IS OPEN and children should be accompanied by a parent/guardian who are encouraged to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands.

Parents should remind children NOT to touch their faces, to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm if tissue not available, and not to put their mouths

on the equipment or their hands in their mouths. Food or drink are NOT allowed in the Play Area.

ALLOWING CHILDREN INTO THE PLAY AREA AND ON THE EQUIPMENT IS ENTIRELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

(See Covid-19 Guidance for Managing Playgrounds and Outdoor Gyms issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 6.01.2021.) Please note that this is the situation at January 2021 and may change at any time due to Government guidelines.

ST. MARY'S
THURSDAY
CANCELLED
TILL FURTHER NOTICE
ST. MARY'S members e... from 10.00am-

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FREE Adverts for local business

FREE Adverts for local business

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Barking Mad
Happy Dog. Happy Holiday.
Happy You.



CANCELLED
TILL FURTHER NOTICE

MILCOMBE SENIORS CLUB

TEA AND TOAST

ZOOM MEETINGS

Hosted by Jan Ogilvy from 9.30am onwards every Friday morning. Joining details are the same each week. Open to anyone who would like to join for a chat whilst drinking your own coffee!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7100540468?pwd=ZipMTY3RHhXZC91MHBbWS9vYUswUT09>

Meeting ID: 710 054 0468

Password: b1a8ta

Contact Jan Ogilvy 720054 if you have any problems

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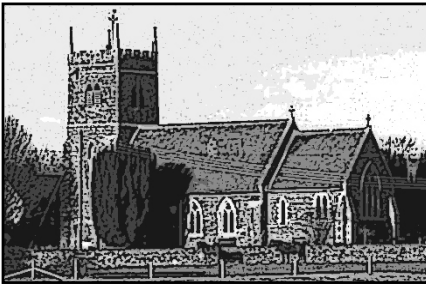
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CHURCH NOTES

SERVICES IN ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH

We are currently in a third lockdown and, although not all Churches are closed for public worship, it has been decided for safety reasons not to hold any Services during February. Because fewer members have been attending Sunday Services due to the Government guidelines to stay at home, it was agreed that this would be for the best. However, even though there are no Services, the Church will still be **OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AND WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS. PLEASE STAY 2 METRES APART IF THERE IS ANYBODY ELSE IN THE CHURCH AND ALWAYS WEAR A FACE MASK IN THE BUILDING.** It is for your own safety as well as for the safety of everybody else. You may, of course, walk around the Churchyard and tend graves but it is still necessary to keep to the 2m social distancing unless with a member of your own household.

At present there is a Service of **HOLY COMMUNION EVERY SUNDAY MORNING IN ST. MARY'S, BLOXHAM, AT 9.30am.** There is better seating capacity and St. Mary's is better able to offer 2m social distancing. All members of the Benefice are welcome to attend this Service. There is also a 6.00pm Benefice Zoom Service every Sunday and details can be found in the Weekly Sheet. Copies of the Weekly Sheet will be available for people to pick up when the Church is open for private prayer.

Please check the C. of E. website www.churchofengland.org or the Diocesan website www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream for other Services on line.

THANK YOU to those who helped with the Christmas tree in the Churchyard. We are sure everybody will have enjoyed this bit of Christmas cheer. Normally in December, we thank all those who have helped in any way at St. Laurence's during the year with arranging flowers, cleaning brasses, etc. Sadly, due to Covid, little happened during 2020, but we look forward to when we can all get involved once more.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS AND PRINTER CARTRIDGES but please keep them at home until it is possible to re-open the Church properly.

THANKS TO NIGEL DAVIS we are still collecting **USED CLEAN CANS.** Please place them in the bin at the side of the Church porch.

DOG BAGS are available in the Church porch.

TEA AND TOAST is being held via Zoom hosted by Jan Ogilvy on Friday mornings from 9.30am onwards. Contact Jan on 720054. Joining details are the same each week. Meeting ID: 710 054 0468
PASSWORD: bla8ta

BLOXHAM MOTHERS' UNION also meets via Zoom. Contact Pat Smith on 816866 or 07971808467.

A LENT COURSE will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm starting on February 23rd led by Anne Marie. Please contact the Benefice office if you require further details or see the Benefice Weekly Sheet. **ASH WEDNESDAY** is on February 17th. (Check the Weekly Sheet for details.)

Rev. Dale Gingrich can be contacted on 01295 720252 or email office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk

St. Laurence's Churchwardens are Susan Richardson 721667 sujerich@yahoo.co.uk and Marlene Cowell 720750 marlenecowell196@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP TO THE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES AND STAY SAFE

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF RALPH KERSHAW

who passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home on January 14th. Ralph had lived at 4 New Road since the houses were built apart from a short spell in one of the flats on the Bloxham Road shortly after marrying Jill. May he rest in peace.

FOND MEMORIES OF BERYL WHING

– Villagers will have been saddened to hear of the passing of Beryl Whing. Beryl was working as Housing officer at the Council offices at the time that the Council houses on Bloxham Road, New Road and Portland Road were built. She had been a stalwart of the village since moving into 16 Bloxham Road. She was one of the first Trustees of Milcombe Charities when the old school was turned into the Village Hall, she was a Parish Councillor and became Chairman, and she helped just about every organisation in the village including the Fete, the Seniors Club, the Church, particularly flower arranging and maintaining the front border. All who worked with her will acknowledge her friendly and helpful attitude. Milcombe has lost a great asset. Rest in peace Beryl.