

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



March 2021
Issue 69



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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February 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

Elections – The next local elections are being held on 6 May 2021, however the next Parish Council elections will be held in May 2022.

Footpath Repairs - Oxfordshire County Council have carried out repairs to the blue brick footpath along Main Road, lifting and relaying sunken pavements where necessary.

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.

Road Closure - Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Temporary Road Closure at 6 Church Lane, Milcombe - A request has been received by the County Council from KCD/Thames Water for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of Church Lane whilst Thames Water service pipe relay works are carried out. The temporary closures will operate from the 29/03/2021 to and including the 31/03/2021 (full closure 24hrs each day). For more details, please visit the PC web site. <https://www.milcombepc.co.uk/news-story.php?newsid=28>

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. Cherwell DC do not currently have supplies of dog poo bags which are generally kept in the church porch. Will all Milcombe dog owners please ensure that the clean up after their dogs and dispose of in the bins provided. As soon as supplies of bags are available they will be placed in the church porch.

Snow Warden/Grit Bins – If anyone in the village would like to volunteer to be a Snow Warden to help clear the footpaths in adverse weather conditions, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Grit bins are all full and grit may be used on slippery public footpaths and roads only. It should not be used for private property use.

Planning – The Parish Council objected to applications 20/03609/F and 20/03610/REM at Oak Farm and the comments are available to view on Cherwell District Council's web site. <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/9/planning-and-building>

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.

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/>

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:



THE HORSE & GROOM PUB AND KITCHEN IS STILL CLOSED

THEY DO NOT YET HAVE A DATE FOR RE-OPENING. Please support them when they are allowed to re-open.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION:
horseandgroominn.co.uk

Email: horseandgroominn@gmail.com

Tel: 01295 722142

FREE Adverts for local business

WBS Property Services offer a building and renovation service in Banbury and the surrounding towns and villages. Being a company with many years of qualified experience we can provide services ranging from: building spacious extensions from initial planning, to construction and final decoration; creating beautiful loft conversions; renovating properties including full revamps.

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www.wbspropertyservices.co.uk

- Building work
- Renovations
- Property improvements
- Wood burning stoves

Continued over ►

- 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 4 May 2021
- Tuesday 11 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 milcombecp@gmail.com or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours.

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

WINTER SUPPORT GRANTS AVAILABLE TO
HELP PEOPLE FINANCIALLY HIT BY THE
PANDEMIC

Financial help is available for people struggling to feed their families or heat their homes this winter as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Please see the OCC website <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/winter-grants>
 Oxfordshire was awarded £400,000 by the Government and claims must be made by 31 March 31 2021.

Households with children can claim up to £350 and those without children can receive up to £175.

Support teams provide funding through supermarket vouchers, costs for pre-payment meters or make sure that a heating or water bill is paid.

Those living in the Cherwell District should visit www.cherwell.gov.uk/wintergrant or you can phone 01865 323870.

Although many people do not like asking for help, if you are struggling to pay for essentials, then do get in touch to find out if you are eligible.

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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MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com

THE VILLAGE HALL REMAINS CLOSED.

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-metre social distancing must be strictly adhered to and consideration given to pinch points, such as entrances and exits. In Milcombe Village Hall consideration has to be given to 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. The Trustees will continue to monitor the situation.

THE VILLAGE HALL STILL DESPERATELY NEEDS A TREASURER. So far there has been no offers of help, and so once more we are appealing to residents.

A NEW COVERED AND LOCKABLE NOTICEBOARD is still sitting in the foyer awaiting a kind volunteer to remove the old one and install the new one. We thank Raychel Pomroy for carrying out regular checks, flushing toilets, running taps, etc. This is very much appreciated.

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

CENSUS 2021

The Census is coming on MARCH 21st. Information from the digital first Census will help decide how services are planned and funded in our local area. Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health, and on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries. Everyone will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post allowing them to complete their questionnaire on line. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information visit census.gov.uk

census
2021

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Milcombe, 8 Church Lane, OX15 4SA

REASON: Large service pipe relay inc filling & pipe works

DURATION: Starting on 29 March 2021
The anticipated completion date is 31 March 2021
(Full closure 24hrs each day)
(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 8 consecutive days)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative routes for traffic are via a combination of Main Road - Horton Lane - Church Lane and vice-versa.

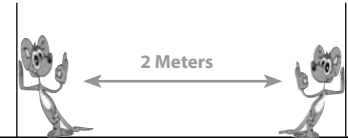
MILCOMBE PLAY AREA

THE PLAY AREA IS OPEN and the same rules apply as in previous months.

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.)



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

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Regrowth £25
Full head tint £35
Half head highlights one colour £35
Full head highlights one colour £45
£8 extra for each additional colour
Ombre £50
Babylage £50

FREE Adverts for local business

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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Barking Mad
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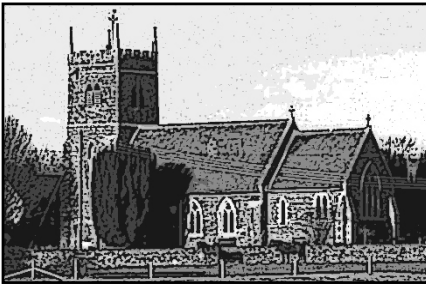
office@wyattsgardencentre.com

TELEPHONE: 01295 720778

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NOW AVAILABLE





CHURCH NOTES

SERVICES IN ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH

It is hoped to commence Services in St. Laurence's Church during March. The proposed Services are:
SUNDAY, MARCH 7th (Lent 3) – 8.00am SN, 11.15am Milcombe

SUNDAY, MARCH 14th (Mothering Sunday) – 8.00am Milcombe, 11.15am SN

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st (Passion Sunday) – 8.00am Milcombe, 11.15am SN

SUNDAY, MARCH 28th (Palm Sunday) – 8.00am SN, 11.15am Milcombe

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th (EASTER DAY) – 8.00am SN, 11.15am Milcombe

There will be a Service in St. Mary's every Sunday at 9.30am and a 6.00pm Service via Zoom. Please see the Weekly Sheet for details. Copies are in all 3 Churches, so please pick one up for the latest details.

HOLY WEEK MONDAY, MARCH 29th to GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week will be a Service in each of the Churches and may be candlelit evenings. If we follow the usual pattern, Milcombe would be on the Monday evening.

GOOD FRIDAY WILL BE IN THE AFTERNOON IN ST. MARY'S. (No Service in St. Laurence's)

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOTHING IS FINALISED AS THESE NOTES GO TO PRINT AND WE AWAIT FURTHER GOVERNMENT ADVICE.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE 2 METRE DISTANCING AND WEARING OF FACE MASKS WILL STILL BE COMPULSORY.

The Church will still be open for private prayer on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons from 2.00-5.00pm.

EASTER LILIES – The flower arrangers will be contacted if we are able to decorate the Church for Easter. However, even if this is not possible, we still hope to have a pedestal of EASTER LILIES at the Altar in remembrance of loved ones. Please contact Marlene if you would like to donate towards a lily in remembrance of a loved one. (720750 marlenecowell196@gmail.com) Regrettably, we shall

be unable to hold our annual Coffee Morning on Easter Monday in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

SUSPENSION OF CAN COLLECTIONS – Please note that Nigel is no longer able to continue organising the can collection and so we regret to say that we shall no longer be collecting the cans unless there is another person willing to take on this task. Pete Booth originally instigated this project with Nigel's help and, over the years, it has certainly helped with Church finances. It will be a great pity if we are unable to find somebody willing to take over this project.

DOG BAGS – Cherwell District Council is no longer able to supply dog bags – at least at the present time – as they are unable to secure their supply of bags which come from abroad. It is hoped that this will be resolved and that they may be able to supply them in the future.

USED STAMPS AND PRINTER CARTRIDGES – Tony and Joan Stickings have been collecting these for the Redwing Horse Sanctuary. If you wish to continue saving them, please keep them at home until we are able to fully open the Church.

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.

THE LENT COURSE continues on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm throughout Lent via Zoom. Please contact Anne Marie via the Benefice office – office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk

The Vicar and Churchwardens are doing their best during these unprecedented times. We must abide by the Government guidelines which change quite frequently. If you have a problem or need a query answered, please contact the Vicar or the Churchwardens direct as follows: Rev. Dale Gingrich 01295 720252 or email office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk.

The 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.

ADRIAN MILLS

We received the sad news that Adrian had passed away in the Churchill hospital on February 16th. Adrian and Lindsay had supported St. Laurence's over many years and Adrian was Churchwarden during the re-roofing of the Church. He had also been Treasurer in the past. He had not been in the best of health for quite a few years due to an accident and this had forced him to stand down as Churchwarden with Lindsay taking his place in this capacity. St. Laurence's was served well by both Adrian and Lindsay and we send our condolences to Lindsay and their family. Rest in peace Adrian.

Bee-Friendly Garden Plants

Wild Oxfordshire

Buying pollinator-friendly flowers and bulbs for your garden

There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife. Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips here.

Winter Wildlife Tips

Winter flowering shrubs such as viburnums, lonicera and mahonia provide vital nourishment for bumble bees and other pollinators. Hollow stalks like sage, dead nettle, allium, fennel (above), golden rod will be home to insect eggs and larvae during the winter so don't tidy them out of your garden. Wood piles are important habitats for beetles and other insects that are the bottom of the food chain and scrubby areas of the garden provide refuge for small mammals and amphibians who need shelter from predators (especially cats). When buying bulbs for the spring see below for the importance of using suppliers who don't treat their bulbs with pesticides which will harm pollinators along with the other insects they are designed to kill. In general, if you maximise the biodiversity of your garden, you will have a healthy predator/prey web which means that the critters you don't want around (eg aphids) will be taken care of by their natural predators (eg parasitic wasps). If you use chemicals to kill aphids, the wasps will be killed too.



Looking ahead to the spring, your lawn doesn't need to be carpet-perfect

(unless you are a bowling or golf club!). If you leave the moss it will keep the moisture in your lawn so you don't have to water it so often and if you don't cut it so short and allow clover, daisies and dandelions to flourish you will be providing welcome food for pollinators. This is a tricky topic as everyone who buys flowers to feed bees and other pollinators that visit their garden will be gutted to realise that those flowers (often marketed as 'bee-friendly') will be a poisoned chalice if they contain pesticides. Designed to kill aphids and sap-sucking insects, pesticides are also very harmful to our precious pollinators. Recent research suggests that the distribution of bee and hoverfly species has declined by an average of 25% across Britain since 1980, particularly among specialist species (Powney et al., 2019).

Farmers do need to protect their crops from insects

But researchers like Professor David Goulson from the University of Sussex believe that less harmful chemicals will not be developed as long as growers are allowed to use pesti-

cides like neonicotinoids in an emergency and the big pharma companies that make them, like Bayer and Syngenta, continue to take powerful legal action against the bans on neonicotinoids. In 2018 Goulson and Friends of the Earth launched the Great British Bee Count and there was much media coverage of the issue of neonicotinoids. David also analysed the pesticide levels in plants on sale in garden centres and shops that revealed many plants being marketed as 'bee-friendly' were infact laced with pesticides harmful to bees.

In response to media coverage, B&Q and other retailers announced that they were prohibiting their suppliers from using neonicotinoids. But other pesticides that are very harmful to pollinators are still legal. So the problem still exists.

How to avoid bringing pesticides into your garden

Be careful who you buy from. There are plenty of organic bulb and plant suppliers to choose from. The initial investment might be a little bit more expensive, but you could save money by swapping plants with friends, propagating cuttings from plants like cranes-bill geraniums and lungwort, lavender and rosemary or growing from seed. In 2018, UK bulb retailer Peter Nyssen decided to source all their spring-flowering bulbs from growers who don't use from neonics so that their customer's spring flowers will be genuinely bee friendly. Also make sure that everything has been grown in peat-free compost because peat acts as a carbon store, it's a great habitat for wildlife, it has a role in water management, and preserves things well for archaeology.

Pet flea treatment endangers water insects

It is also now being recognised that the nerve agent in pet flea treatment called fipronil exists at very harmful levels in our rivers, threatening water insects and the birds and fish higher up the food chain that depend on them. The washing of pets was already known to flush fipronil into sewers and then rivers, while dogs swimming in rivers causes direct contamination. "It has to be the flea treatments causing the pollution," Goulson said. "Really, there's no other conceivable source." There are many veterinary products containing fipronil and imidacloprid in the UK, many of which are sold without prescriptions. Many pets are treated monthly, whether they have fleas or not. One of the worst cases is from Dec 2018 – Jan 2019 when half a million bees in Brazil were killed by fipronil that was used to control ants and termites on soy crops. So please talk to your vet about limiting flea treatment of your pets.

