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Milton Village View

Issue No. 124 – September 2016

8-page
Clubs &
Societies
pull-out

In This Issue...

- Autumn Festival
- SpeedWatch
- Community Centre AGM
- 30 Years of Karate

And much more!



Photo: Susan Bolt

Contact Us

Send us your news and photos:

vv@miltonvillage.org.uk

1 Knights Way, Milton, CB24 6DE

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12th January

12th March

12th May

1st September

1st November

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www.mvv.org.uk

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Publisher's Notice

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Music and Comedy Evening

Milton Outdoor Bowls Club presents an evening of music and comedy on Saturday November 26th at Milton Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Following Nigel 'Boy' Syer's successful performance in 2015 the club agreed to invite him back again. This time Leon James, an exciting young singer, will also be on stage.

Tickets for the concert are £10. Included in this price will be mulled wine, mince pies and a raffle. You can buy your ticket from Andy Gray, Manager Milton Community Centre, tel 862763, Jim Daniels, tel 502194, or any member of the bowls club.

The bowls club is very grateful to Richard Pepper, funeral director of Cottenham, for supporting this evening's entertainment.

Leon James

Nigel 'Boy' Syer

An evening of
Music & Comedy



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September

- Sat 24th** Charity **Quiz Night** for Ekisa, All Saints' Church, 7pm
Sun 25th **Autumn Festival & Produce Show**, Country Park, 10am-5pm (p.6)
Fri 30th **Macmillan Coffee Morning** with craft & gift stalls, Lion & Lamb (p.19)

October

- Sun 2nd** **Harvest Service**, All Saints' Church, 10.30am
Weds 12th **Milton Community Centre AGM**, Community Centre Annexe, 7pm (*below*)
Sun 30th **Service of Remembering**, All Saints' Church, 4pm
Sun 30th **Apples, Pumpkins & Spooks**, Denny Abbey, 10.30am-4pm
Mon 31st **Light Party** in partnership with New Life Church, All Saints' Church, 5.30pm

November

- Sun 13th** **Remembrance Sunday**, All Saints' Church, 10.30am
Sat 26th **MOBC Music & Comedy Evening**, Community Centre, 7.30pm (p.2)

See pp.18-19 for more events at the pubs.

See www.milton.org.uk/diary.html for more event details.

See www.miltoncountrypark.org for more park event details.

Community Centre AGM



All villagers are invited to drinks and refreshments at

THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
OF
MILTON COMMUNITY
CENTRE

to see how this charity is managed and how it plays a large part in the village of Milton

TO BE HELD IN THE ANNEXE,
7PM ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER

The AGM will start at 7.30pm

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Masses descend on Milton for Open Farm Sunday

Around 2000 people enjoyed a free day out at the College of West Anglia's Open Farm Sunday event on 5th June.

Staff and students showcased a wide array of activities and displays, including tractor and trailer rides, equine vaulting displays, sheep shearing demonstrations and petting corners for small furry animals and reptiles, too.

Alongside the activities, external food stalls and bake sales from both CWA staff and the WI made sure no one left hungry – and as the sunshine decided to make an appearance for the majority of the day, so did the ice cream van!



Visitors came from far and wide, and some just popped down the road for a visit. Avril Tyrrell lives in Milton and said: "I have never really explored what

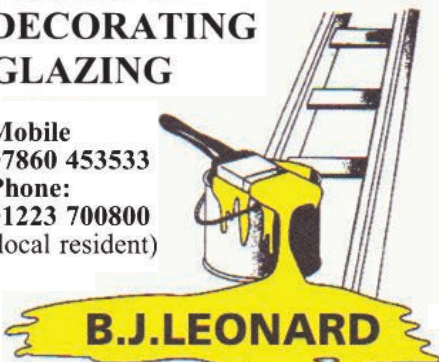
is behind the gates at the college despite it being just down the road and I was surprised at how much goes on here. It's a lovely place for young people to study and it's been a really great day out."

To find out more about open days and events at the College of West Anglia Cambridge Campus, visit cwa.ac.uk and follow the college on Twitter at [@CWA_College](https://twitter.com/CWA_College)



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Never Too ... Snowy

For a week in August All Saints Church turned into the South Pole. Sixty plus primary school children and numerous teenage and adult helpers spent the mornings pretending to be polar explorers. We built an igloo out of milk bottles and created penguins and snowmen in between playing games, getting ski-fit, singing, and sharing some terrible jokes. As always, the daily drama involved a lucky participant getting a cake in the face.

In our more serious moments we looked at some bible stories and learnt that we are never too young,



never too ordinary, never too bad, had never made too many mistakes and were never too unlikely to follow Jesus.

To round it all off we turned the snow machine on the rector on Sunday morning!

Kathy English



M.J Potts

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Country Park Car Park

As many of you know, Milton Country Park is managed by Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust, a registered charity which receives no regular external funding. The park costs in excess of £500 per day to remain open and maintained for everyone to enjoy. The car park fee is



The Autumn Festival

The popular Autumn Festival is Milton Country Park's biggest fundraiser and a popular event which has become a highlight of the year.

With wild outdoor play, magical workshops and traditional craft, this is a fashionably-old-fashioned event. Adults can enjoy finest local street food, real ales and cider and live music!

All proceeds go towards Milton Country Park. Advance tickets £5 per adult (£7 on the gate), children under 16 free.

www.miltoncountrypark.org

an essential source of income, and by purchasing a ticket you are directly contributing to the park's future, to the quality of its facilities, and to the many opportunities we can provide our visitors.

The car park fee has remained at £2 per day for the past six years, despite an increase in VAT. After careful consideration we will now be making the following amendments:

Up to 30 mins: £1
30 mins - 2 hours: £2.50
2 hours - all day: £3.50

Our parking permit charges remain unchanged and cost:

3 months: £30
6 months: £50
12 months: £95

Parking permits are available from the park office and can now also be purchased on our website at www.miltoncountrypark.org. If you are a regular visitor, they are excellent value, saving you time and money, and are a great way to help support the park!

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of Milton Country Park – thank you for your support.



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Tues 6.20pm - Intermediate Mat Class (Sch)

Tues 8.15pm - Mixed Ability Mat Class (Sch)

Fri 9.15am - Mixed Ability Mat Class (CBC)

Fri 10.30am - Mixed Ability Mat Class (LVH)

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on classes and class venues

Making Milton Better

Are you interested in making Milton a better place to live? The Parish Council is your route to making a difference. There are up to 15 parish councillors, who meet monthly to set & review policies, reports & presentations on a wide range of topics:

Play areas, allotments, youth club & facilities, bus shelters, street cleaning, green spaces, planting daffodils, Christmas lights, tree warden, cemetery, the war memorial, Remembrance Day, planning applications, Highway Authority recommendations, mobile warden, and generally getting things done in the village!

As one of the parent members of Milton's Playground Working Party, I personally find it rewarding to work on a long term project which will benefit not only my own children but other children within and outside our community as well. It has been an enjoyable and sociable way to give something back, so I would definitely encourage others to get involved with projects like this! — Alison McKeegan

Other volunteers are also involved in parish council working parties, for projects such as upgrading the playgrounds, or monitoring the smell from the landfill site. You don't have to be on the parish council to join a working party.

Mary-Ann Johnson

Being a member of the parish council has allowed me to keep up to date with what's happening in the village and what the village's future will hold. Being a parish councillor has also opened a range of extra opportunities for me, whether it's training in planning, more involvement in local groups or growing my knowledge of how local authorities work. — Tom Leavens

The parish council also employs a parish clerk and assistant parish clerk, who carry out the day-to-day work of the council, as guided by the policies.

Sniff out the proof - working with the PC is rewarding. As one of the pong-affected residents logging a spike in odours in 2014, we requested PC support to investigate. We were heard; a working party was created. Council-backed support afforded leverage, spurring corrective actions and resources from the Environment Agency and the multinational company responsible for the cause of odour complaints during 2013-15. — Kay White

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Country Park: Refurbishments & Survey

This summer has seen plenty of changes at Milton Country Park!

We were awarded £34,669 by Amey, allowing us to refurbish the viewing balcony at the back of the visitor centre, the Hall's Pool bridge, the two bridges at Deep Pool and the viewing platform bridge, as well as resurfacing the disabled car park. With £40,258.26 awarded by WREN, we



New Parkrun Path

resurfaced 500m of pathways. We hope you agree that they have made a fantastic difference to the appearance of the park, and the non-slip surfaces and better drainage should prove particularly beneficial during winter.

As always we have a programme of improvements we are working towards. Last year, we conducted a survey to understand how the park was being used. One of the outcomes of this survey was a request for more activities and improved play equipment at the park. We now have a new survey online to gather more information about this.

www.miltoncountrypark.org/blog/survey2016

Please support the park by spending a few minutes completing this survey. Your feedback is important to us, thank you!

Sarah Harris



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Fundraising with Tesco

Did you know... Tesco Milton is currently in the process of raising £3000 for the Milton Community? So far we have raised an enormous £1500 towards our donation!

We want to be part of the local community, get involved in events and support local groups, organisations and charities. Our mission, with our £3000, is to donate it to the Milton Parish Council for distribution to different projects across the village. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events to continue our fundraising!

However, there are so many other ways in which we would like to get involved with what is going on in the community...

What sort of thing can we do? We can:

- provide prizes for raffles or competitions
- offer goods to support events, for example, bread rolls for a BBQ
- offer opportunities for bucket collections or awareness campaigns at the front of our store
- offer bag packing days for groups to raise money
- offer space to advertise your event in this Community Board
- run an educational Farm to Fork Trail for groups to learn about where their food comes from
- offer volunteer manpower

If this is something that interests you or your organisation please contact Laura Rooke (Community Champion) or Tara Barratt (Service Manager) via email: 2889@uk.tesco.com or tel: 07834 991484.

For Farm to Fork Trails, email Sandra Devenish: milton@eathappyproject.com



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Parish Chair's Report

At our meeting in September the parish council stood in silence to remember our Vice Chairman, **David Stirrups** who sadly died in August following a short illness.

David was a very active member of the council. He involved himself in many areas. In particular he helped this village stay tidier by taking part in litter picks around the village, helped deliver hundreds of leaflets to make people aware of the street lighting cuts and planted several sacks of bulbs with his wife Anne on the mounded area at the entrance to the village in Humphries Way. David was also Chairman of our Community Care Committee and he actively supported the work of our Community Care Warden Tracey. David will be sadly missed by us all, as he was an active, supportive and helpful member of our council, and our thoughts are with his wife Anne and his family at this sad time.

Our Playground Working Group has now consulted widely on three designs for a **new play area** on Coles Road recreation ground, as drawn up by different suppliers. They have had a huge response, receiving 188 responses from paper and online questionnaires.



At our September meeting, the Parish Council supported their recommendation for the Eibe design and work is now going on to get grants in to cover the cost of the scheme. The parish council was unanimous in their thanks to this group for the enormous amount of work they had done so far and their professionalism.

The **new pavilion** at North Lodge Park has now been handed over to the Parish Council and work is now being carried out to get it ready to open. Please contact me through the clerk's office if you would like to **make a booking** to use the lounge & kitchen area of this lovely building, which is in a wonderful setting.

Jane Coston, Chairman of Milton Parish Council

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From the Archives

10 Years Ago: Oct 2006

Summer Fayre

Well done and thank you to all of the working party who worked hard to make this year's summer fayre a success once again, also to the charities, entertainers and sponsors who supported us at this event. Although the weather proved windy at times it didn't stop people enjoying themselves.

Lynda Molloy

Fayre Committee

Sadly, there was no Summer Fayre in 2016, for the first year in a long time.

If you're interested in helping run the Summer Fayre next year, get in contact with Andy Gray at the Community Centre, tel 862763 or email:

mcc@miltonvillage.org.uk —Ed.

Street Pastors

Our new Police and Crime Commissioner paid tribute to the work done by the Cambridge Street Pastors, helping those who need assistance in town on Friday and Saturday nights. The volunteers come from churches all over the city, and two of those featured below come from Milton—keep up the great work!



Fen Road Closure

Between 23:50 on the 10th November and 06:00 on the 11th November, Fen Road will be closed at Milton Fen level crossing for Network Rail maintenance work.



Parish Councillors

Below is an updated list of your councillor contact details (for email addresses, please visit the website at miltonvillage.org.uk and click on 'Meet Your Parish Councillors'):

Parish Councillors

Jane Coston (Chair)	861447*
David Burch	862485
Rob Farrington	860160
Gary Heaney	690317

Tom Leavens	441129
David Owen	861447*
Richard Summerfield	860715
* - c/o Parish Office	

Parish & District Councillors

Anna Bradnam	862364
Hazel Smith	860752

County Councillor

Maurice Leeke	441562
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Parish Clerk: clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Photo: Rebecca Ostler

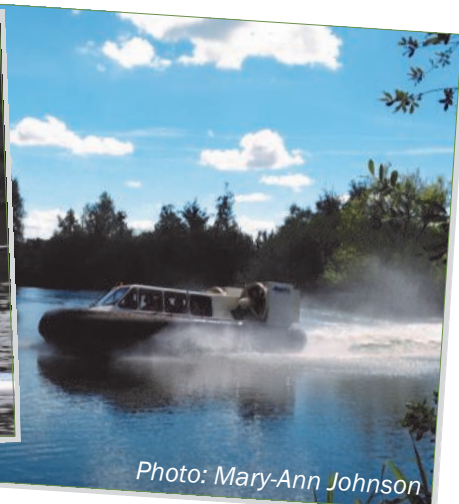


Photo: Mary-Ann Johnson



Photo: Mary-Ann Johnson



Photo: Susan Bolt



Photo: Rebecca Ostler

Your Photos Could Be Here!

Photos taken in and around Milton always welcome — of places, people, events or just something that strikes you as beautiful. No lower or upper age limit!

Send them to vv@miltonvillage.org.uk, and we'll include as many as we can.

East Anglia's Children's Hospices: Update

Colour explosion in Ely

The first EACH Cambridgeshire Colour Dash was a huge success with 500 excited runners taking part in the colour fiesta! The event raised an amazing £15,000. Big thank you to King's Ely the use of their school grounds as a venue and for all their support throughout the planning and on the day. Special thanks also to all volunteers and attendees who helped make the event such a big success!



2017 Normandy Cycling challenge

Fancy a challenge? EACH has spaces for a cycle ride through the Normandy countryside. Cyclists will take on the ride which covers 200 miles over four days (20th-24th September 2017), taking in Utah and Omaha beaches from the D-Day landings. The route will cover some of the roads that featured in this year's Tour De France which had its Grand Depart in Normandy. EACH has plenty of challenge available both at home and further afield – there really is something for everyone! Visit www.each.org.uk/challenges to find out more.

Upcoming EACH Events

Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair – 18th and 19th November, at Ely Cathedral. We are delighted to be a part of the annual Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair again this year! Pop along for some great gifts and make sure you visit the EACH stall.

Interested in volunteering for a local cause?

EACH Fundraising team are on the look out for volunteers to help out with a range of tasks including helping at events, bucket collections and in the fundraising office. Opportunities are available which would be suitable for those with a variety of time commitments. There are many benefits to volunteering with EACH - you'll be taking on a new challenge, meeting new and like-minded people and contributing to your local community. Interested? Contact the Cambridgeshire Fundraising Team on 01223 205180 or email cams@each.org.uk.

Milton WI

This year, our annual summer outing was to Eltham Palace in Greenwich, the boyhood home of Henry VIII, now an extraordinary Art Deco house. This was followed by a river trip on the Thames passing by some of London most historic landmarks. A very interesting day, coupled with good weather, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Following the August break, upcoming speakers will include Jenny Gibbs – “My Life in Rural Turkey” and Nicola Sly – “All about Alpacas”. Our Christmas celebration will be with Sean Moyses who will be entertaining us by singing and playing his banjo.

In addition to our monthly meetings, lunches, walks and games afternoons are all being organised. We also have two darts teams who compete with other WI's. New members are welcome. Contact our President Gill Offley (01223 293231) or Secretary Bridget Crow (01223 441755) for further details, or just come along. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except our December meeting which is on the second Tuesday) at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.

Anne Newman

Cygnets Milton Pre-school

Welcome back to all children & families, staff & committee members.

Welcome back to Kerry O'Dell. After maternity leave, Kerry is coming back as Deputy Manager in the Ladybird Room. Deborah Reeve will continue as Deputy Manager in charge of the Bumblebees and Kirsty Freestone stays on as Manager.

Spaces available in both rooms. There is space in September for 2-4 year olds, so please get in touch with Ali or Kirsty in the office or email miltoncygnets@gmail.com

Tapestry. We are introducing Tapestry: an online journal recording the children's early years education. Milton Primary School uses it in Reception classes and it is a fantastic way to follow your child's journey.

Committee Chair update. After 3 years, the current Committee Chair will step down at the October AGM. We are pleased to announce that Alex King will take over. He has already been co-opted onto the committee and we are grateful that he has shown an interest and commitment to taking on this role.

Date for your diaries. The Cygnets AGM will take place on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 7:30pm. Further information will follow, but please do put this date in your diaries, as we require a quorum of members and will be nominating new committee members.

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Milton MU

140 years is certainly worth celebrating and All Saints Milton MU group celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the Mothers' Union in style. During the week of 19th June a variety of activities were organised which enabled members and non-members to come together and commemorate the achievements of our founder Mary Sumner and the present day mission of our phenomenal organisation.



Prayer stations with cards, artefacts and requests for prayer were set up in the church (*left photo*). People were able to come in and reflect upon the history of the Mothers' Union and the aims and objectives which underpin our vision of a world that is transformed through loving and flourishing relationships.

We sold MU cards and held a celebratory lunch (*right photo*) and strawberry tea. Revd Paul Butler, vicar of Waterbeach, was guest speaker at our lunch. Over 50 people attended. Some young families joined us for the tea alongside regular older attendees from the weekly lunch club. It was very good to see a cross section of people. Both events enabled people to visit the prayer stations and to receive information about MU programmes.

The culmination of this week of celebration was the Sunday service. Special prayers were offered for the work of the Mothers' Union and a presentation was shown that illustrated some Church and Community Mobilisation projects. Future events in Milton this year are:

- + 4th October: Sausage Sizzle with MU friends from Stapleford and Waterbeach.
- + 1st November: Our Worldwide links – Mrs. Gill Uttin
- + 6th December: Advent Meditation and seasonal refreshments.

Meetings start at 7:30pm and are held in the church hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

Jackie Metcalfe



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Donations of Pampering Items

As many people know our brave and beautiful daughter Sarah Jane sadly passed away three years ago. She spent three years in Addenbrooke's and a majority of that time was spent on the John Farman ITU Unit. One thing Sarah liked was myself, Katie and nursing staff giving her pampering sessions: it made her feel relaxed and she loved the different smells. We have now started a Beauty Box/Cupboard on the unit in Sarah's memory for the staff to be able to use on their patients. So if anyone has any items please feel free to either drop them off at our house (22 Butt Lane) or email me at scarysyv@hotmail.co.uk and I can collect them. The items we are looking for are:

★Body Sprays★ ★Deodorants★ ★Face/Hand/Nail Creams★
★Body Butters★ ★Massage Oils★ ★Nail Varnishes★ ★Nail Files★

And anything for the men we are very short of items for them: they like pampering too 😊
I would like to thank all of those people who have donated already. We have had such a marvellous response: thank you. I am trying to keep this as an ongoing project so therefore will be collecting all year round.

Sylvia Wright (Sarah Jane's Mum 😊)

Hedges and Highways

With autumn nights approaching and the last days of Summer soon to pass, now is the perfect time to get out to your garden and prune that hedge! Over the past few months there have been a number of complaints by residents that some garden hedges are growing out over the public highway and causing obstruction. The Parish Council would like to remind residents that it is their responsibility (Highways Act 1980) to ensure that any hedge or trees on their property do not obstruct free movement for others, including wheel chairs and other disability vehicles, along footpaths and roads.

*Chair of Maintenance Committee,
Milton Parish Council*

SpeedWatch

If you are concerned about drivers speeding in the village, why not join the SpeedWatch Team? We need more volunteers. If you'd like to find out more, contact Anna Bradnam on 01223 862364 or anna.bradnam@btinternet.com.

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Irene Tyrrell

In Memory of the Late Irene (Renee) Tyrrell: she had a long, eventful and mainly happy life in Milton.

I would like to say thanks to all that attended and helped at Mum's funeral, for the food and refreshments that were laid on and all the kind comments that helped the day go well.

I would like to let everyone know that £113.13 was raised and passed on to the Guide Dogs for The Blind as requested rather than flowers. As some of you may know my Mum loved dogs and used to give treats to those that passed by her front gate, apologies for any that got fat.

I moved from Milton several years ago and was amazed at how many remembered me. It is nice to know that Milton has a good community spirit, even though the Village has grown so far more than it was: no more cattle walking the high street.

I must thank Rev David Chamberlin for his help in getting us through the loss of Mum and the way he conducted the funeral, light hearted celebrating her life, Mum (Renee) would not have wanted tears and a solemn occasion as she enjoyed fun and a laugh.

Mike Tyrrell

Behind the Scenes

A noticeable feature in our village landscape is the extensive occurrence in recent years of yellow and blue-grey lichens on our trees, shrubs, masonry and pavements. The presence of these lichens (a combination of algae and fungi), is likely to be due to the reduction in air pollution resulting from a decrease in sulphur dioxide in the air which in the past arose primarily from coal fires in homes and brickworks downwind from near Bedford. Now coal fires are fewer and the brickworks have closed. Lichens are a good indicator of 'clean air', at least with reference to sulphurous sources and for this we should be thankful.

Derek Booth



(Left) yellow lichen on a twig
(Right) blue-grey lichen on a pavement



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Tel: 01223 863895

Come and visit the Jolly Brewers **Beer & Cider Tent** at the Country Park's Autumn Festival: this year's event is held on Sunday 25th September, 10:30am-5pm. The event includes crafts, street food, children's activities and live music. Many thanks to Milton Brewery for the loan of their tent.

Restaurant Service Times: Mon to Fri: noon-2pm & 6-9pm; Saturday: noon-3pm & 6-9pm.

Sunday Roasts are available from noon-3pm with the usual evening menu from 6-9pm

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www.jollybrewersmilton.co.uk

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Lion and Lamb

Tel: 01223 860202

It's been great to have seen so many enjoying the sunshine in our fabulous garden throughout the summer! Our new menu is out now and we hope you are enjoying the new dishes on it – we also now serve meals until 9:30pm both Friday and Saturday nights. Full details of all opening and food service times can be found on our website, along with Christmas & New Years Eve menus and more details about our events.

We continue to strive to support our local community and are delighted to be a new **sponsor for Milton Ladies Football Team** as well as playing host to Milton Tennis Club after their matches too – this is alongside our ongoing support for Milton Colts, Football, Cricket and Netball teams. We are also the new home for the Cambridge branch of the MX-5 owners club on the second Tuesday of each month.

You will find us at this year's Milton Country Park Autumn Festival on Sunday 25th September where you will be able to sample a delicious **Hog Roast**. Or come along to our annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on Friday 30th September from 9am-noon. Tea, coffee and delicious treats along with stalls, tombola and raffle will be here (donations on the day very welcome). Do come and help us raise money for this very worthy cause.

We would also like to invite you all to our annual **Hallowe'en Party** taking place on Friday 28th October with a Hog Roast & BBQ from 6pm. FREE children's party from 6.30-8pm in the Ghostly Pirates Lagoon with apple bobbing, piñata, cake decorating, sweet hunt and prizes for the best Hallowe'en Costumes, with the adults taking over from 9pm for the Fancy Dress Disco till the wee hours!

Ladies Dinner Club: Tuesday 18th October – Sausages & Cider tasting! With a talk and demonstration from our local award winning sausage maker - John Welton, Cambridge Quality Meats. Tuesday 29th November – Christmas Dinner & Wine Tasting: always a sell-out - book your tickets in advance!

Psychic Suppers: October 12th and November 16th.

Soul Night: September 23rd and November 18th.

Lawrence & Sally www.lion-lamb.co.uk

White Horse

Tel: 01223 860327

Awarded Community (rural) CAMRA pub of the year for 2016

Thank you for coming along to the garden party and beer festival in July. It was a great success, with all the stalls making money for their local charities and clubs. It was wonderful to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary here. With so many people wanting to do this again, please look out for the date for next year or call us.

Events

- * Look out for the date for our **Winter Mini Beer Festival**.
- * **Christmas bookings** are now being taken.
- * **New Years Eve :- Karaoke Party**. Entrance before 10:30pm please.

Hope to see you all soon.

Ava, Alan, Adam, Shaun, Gemma, Nikki, Jono, Tegan, Tom and Jamie.



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Sunday services

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6.30pm Evening Prayer

Said service with short reflection

Midweek groups & events

Little Rainbows Toddler Group, Parents & Under 1s, Lunch Club, Mothers' Union, Stitchers' Club, Reading Group ...

For full details of all these and more please visit:

allsaintsmilton.org.uk

Wildlife Notes

What a very odd summer! There was a day in June when I needed the central heating on. The grass in the garden has barely any brown patches, and the water butts have only run dry once, and quickly replenished after that. As I write, in the first weekend of September, looking at the heavy rain outside and needing the lights on at tea time, it feels like Autumn, although I note from the weather forecast, we are allegedly due a spurt of summer later in the week. That is probably rather too late and fleeting for most wildlife.

I've not seen a swift since the 20th July, bar one solitary one over the north of the Country Park in mid-August. My guess is that this one was migrating from much further north and stopped off from the southward journey to circle around for the buffet of insects that will be over the lakes. The terns on the river seem to have disappeared very early too, although there were still plenty at Fen Drayton Lakes RSPB on August Bank Holiday.

I think there are already fewer swallows over the river than in late July. Have some of them given up on Milton as a bad job already and gone south? I've also seen early flocking of housemartins; my notes from last year say this happened mid-late September, so it's worrying to see it in mid-late August. When I visited the Humphries Way end of the village earlier in the summer, I was glad to see large numbers of housemartins present. I hope the householders there appreciate their summer visitors who have travelled so far and are probably coming back to the same neighbourhood, possibly the same house, for as long as they live. Surely a moment of celebration next spring when you see them come back?

There are still nightly visits by hedgehogs to our feeding station. This is the time of year when they really need to be fattening up ahead of hibernating, especially this year's young. My personal view is that the safe weight they need to be, 600g, is most useful when they come out of hibernation and can't easily find food, not for fat supplies when they are in their state of torpor. This is particularly important if there's a mild spell in early winter when there is no food around. We have plenty of places they can hibernate in the garden if they choose to. An overgrown corner will suffice but beware bonfires and sticking a fork into your compost heap, as they are popular spots for a hibernating hedgehog.

Heather Coleman



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30th Anniversary of Tang Soo Do Karate Club



Club Members at a recent seminar

I taught the first class at this venue on 1st October 1986 and we have trained there fifty weeks a year ever since (only closing at Christmas). On 1st of October this year it will be our 30th anniversary. Do you know if we are the oldest club in Milton?

Geoff Keerie, 6th Dan Black Belt Master of Martial Arts

Geoff at a charity event: the person on the table has been sponsored to lie under the sword!



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Milton Tennis Club Open Day

Milton Tennis Club held its "Try Tennis For Free" day on 3rd July as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend. The turnout was very encouraging with over 80 people dropping in throughout the 3 hour event and many signing up for membership.

There was mini tennis for the little ones together with a ball machine and speed gun to record the speed of your service for the more advanced. The club's tennis coach Greg Ryder was on hand to pass on coaching tips together with Samy Fennich who runs the junior coaching throughout the year. For those who preferred to sit and watch, strawberries and cream were also available.

The Club is a member of the LTA and at present has doubles teams in the men's, ladies' and mixed leagues together with a men's team in the Business House League. For further information regarding the club and membership please see the website at:

www.milfontennisclub.co.uk

Sue Griffin, MTC Secretary

Comberton Ramblers Club

The Comberton Ramblers Club walk on alternative Sundays, starting at 10:15am. Walks are 4-7 miles, usually ending near a public house. We are a friendly/informative group and enjoy exploring the varied countryside in this area. New walkers are welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member. From 1st September 2016 our annual membership fee is £8.50 / free if under 18 years old. For further details on how to join our sociable rambling group please contact Stella (The Secretary) at stella.ramblers@hotmail.com or call 01954 210049 or visit www.combertonramblers.org.uk

Milton Carpet Bowls Club

Carpet Bowls sessions are held in the Community Centre every Monday throughout the winter months till April 30th from 2pm to 4pm.

If you would like to give the game a try, please come along any Monday.

Jim Daniels

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