

Weston Road (Taylor Wimpey) Planning Inquiry 15th - 18th March

The Weston Road Planning Inquiry is over, although not officially closed until the final paperwork is completed. It was always going to be a 'David and Goliath' confrontation: volunteers versus professional (i.e. salaried planners); council tax payers v. corporate finance; local views v big picture and our barrister v. two very experienced QCs. Even the official line up on the first day was just 2 for Great Horwood Parish Council (GHPC) v 5 plus a clerk for Taylor Wimpey/AVDC.

The proceedings were initially slow, in order to ensure that everyone had the relevant paperwork and that the timetable for the hearing was agreed. Members of the public were then asked if they would like to speak.

Of the 6 volunteer speakers, all were supporters of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan: John Gilbey, Jane Holland and John Scholtens from Great Horwood and District Councillor Llew Monger, Councillor Roy Van De Poll and Vic Otter from Winslow, (all of whom were closely involved in preparing the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan). On the first afternoon Jane Holland gave a personal view on what it was like, as a young woman, to find she could not afford to live in the village; a plea for more affordable homes.

To the considerable disappointment of GHPC, District Councillor Sir Beville Stanier felt unable to speak in support of the GH Neighbourhood Plan. However, he did write to the Inspector confirming his opposition to the proposal. Small groups of Great Horwood residents attended on each day.

Formal proceedings began with AVDC first to state its case, followed by Taylor Wimpey then Great Horwood. Witnesses were cross examined at considerable length by barristers and then, if clarification was necessary, by the Inspector, Mr Paul Clark. The amount of paperwork and the minefield of administrative processes, legislation and interpretation made the whole process very complex.

The last day took on a court atmosphere as closing arguments were read, peppered with references to legislation, policy and guidance. The Inspector was capable, incisive, and fair to all parties throughout. When he asked if any member of the audience had a question for the Taylor Wimpey witness, Roy Van de Poll was able to make some very valid points in GHPC's favour. No member of the public chose this opportunity to speak in favour of the development.

A final decision on this planning application will be made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Mr Greg Clark, probably in around 3 months or so time, though no guidance as to a decision date has yet been given.

If you would like to know more, supplementary information including each parties' closing statements are on the GH website: http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/

Mandy Cliffe (Parish Clerk)









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2

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Church Times

St James' Services for April			Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessor					
3rd April	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Margerrison					
10th April	11.00am	Come & Praise	R Hemphill	T Brazier	S Brazier					
17th April	11.00pm	Holy Communion	N Weir	N Weir	I Lamberton					
24th April	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)	-	-	-					
24th April	11.00am	Come and Share	S Barfoot	J Margerrison	Clergy					
Church Key March:		N Weir tel 713604								

New Look Service at St James'

The service on the 4th Sunday in the month will be our new look service called Come and Share. This all-age service will have a different theme each month. The service in April will be called 'come, look, taste that the Lord is good'. Coffee and cake will be served after the service. All welcome.

St James' Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting this year will take place on **Sunday 10th April at 12 noon,** after the 11am morning service. Please join us for refreshments and listen to what we have achieved this year in terms of fundraising, improvements to the Church building and fun social

events. All welcome.

Village Fete

It's that time of year again when we start to plan the Village Fete which will take place on Saturday 2nd July on The Green. There will be a meeting at The Crown to start preparations on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm. If you would like to help organize the afternoon or be involved in any way at all, please feel free to come along. If you cannot make the meeting but would still like to be involved please contact David Brazier on 714712.



Horwode Pece Recreation Ground

The village recreation ground is an outside space for everyone to use,

owned by a charitable trust called the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust. It's managed by a team of people who have been totally dedicated to its planting, marketing, and maintenance since the day it was donated to the village and for this we can't thank them enough.

The Trust is hoping to hold two new village events on what's known as Horwood Pece.

- A firework display for 2016.
- A Summer Solstice party for June 2017.

Work looking into the possibility of these two events has commenced and we're sure they will be popular. There will be a get together to plan them on **Monday May 16th at 8pm** at a venue yet to be decided.

Please look out for updates in the Focus.

Jane Holland



Wild Flower Walk at Pilch field on Sunday 24th April 2 - 4pm

Please come along to the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) nature reserve at the end of Pilch Lane (on the corner just before the chicken farm) for a guided walk.

The ground may be wet or uneven so please wear suitable footwear. Children welcome. No dogs please.

Please contact Ann Biggins for more information - 01296 714052.

annieqq@hotmail.co.uk



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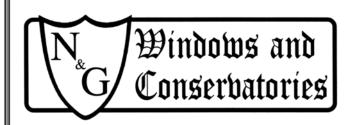
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Sat 12_{noon} -11pm Sat 12_{noon} -2pm & 6.30pm-9pm

Sun 12noon -10.30pm Sun 12noon -2.30pm

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AVDC Garden Waste Collections over Easter - TIMINGS CORRECTION

The latest issue of the magazine, Aylesbury Vale Times, gives wrong information about when the Easter collections of Garden Waste -the brown bin - will be made (page 12 of March issue).

The correct dates are: NORMAL COLLECTION DAY REVISED COLLECTION DAY

Monday 28th March Saturday 2nd April

Those whose normal collection day is Monday 4th April will still be collected that day (not on the 9th as stated in the magazine).

The revised dates for the two May Bank holidays are correctly printed: i.e.

NORMAL COLLECTION DAY REVISED COLLECTION DAY

Monday 2nd May

Saturday 7th May

Monday 30th May

Saturday 4th June

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Grass Cutting in Great Horwood

As Cllr. John Scholtens noted in his chairman's report in the March edition of Focus, as from April 1st the Parish Council will be taking over the responsibility for cutting the grass on the verges in the parish within the 30/40 mph limits (known as urban grass cutting). This includes the verges within the 30mph limits in Singleborough.

Why are we doing this?

As you all have read many times in recent months the Government Grant to local authorities such as Bucks County Council are being reduced year on year and so they are looking for ways the cut back on the services they provide in order to save money. Last year Bucks CC cut the grass on the verges within the 30/40mph limits 6 times but their plan for the coming season is to reduce this to 4 cuts. At the same time they offered all parish and town councils funding, guaranteed for 3 years, to take over the responsibility themselves and that is what we have done in Great Horwood.

Who will do the work?

We have appointed Ian Walker of Walker Grounds Care as our contractor. Ian took on the grass cutting on Horwode Pece last year and all users agreed that it had never looked better. Ian also contracted with Winslow Town Council last year to carry out the devolved services that they had taken over from Bucks CC and they have been totally satisfied with the outcome. For this coming year Ian will continue with his work in Winslow and as well as working for Great Horwood he has also got the contract for Little Horwood.

I will provide further details of the other minor works included in our contract with Bucks CC in coming editions.

Please note that the cutting of the grass on the verges outside the 30/40mph limits (known as rural grass cutting) remains the responsibility of Bucks CC and it seems that it is likely these will be cut once or twice during the coming season.

In the meantime if you have any questions please email me at john@gilbey98.freeserve.co.uk.

Cllr. John Gilbey Vice Chairman

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Race Night

Saturday 23rd April

Venue: Great Horwood School Hall

Doors Open - 8pm First Race - 8:30pm

Entrance - £1 per person

Bets £1 each - Tote by Claydon Racing

Licensed bar

Race Sponsorships available - £20 per race, includes race naming rights!



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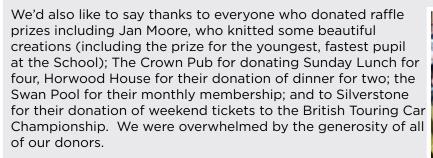
The PTA has been super busy again over the last couple of months. Our Big Movie Quiz Night was a great success; we made over £300 profit and had a great evening as well. Thanks

to quiz master John who managed a good blend of questions and some brilliant music rounds that even prompted a bit of impromptu karaoke. Congratulations to our winning team; we hope to see you next time to defend your title!

On Sunday 13th March at 12 noon the sun came out and just over 150 intrepid runners, walkers, pushchairs and a scooter or two started the annual 5k run out and back along Pilch Lane. There was a fantastic atmosphere and some amazing times

were accomplished. Back at school, the PTA provided a fantastic spread of bacon butties, hot sausage rolls, tea and homemade cake.

We would like to say a massive "thank you" to our sponsors, Marble Arts and PS Property Solutions for their generosity.



We'd like to say thank you to the cheery marshals, helpers and supporters who gave us a cheer when we needed it. Without your help we wouldn't be able to put on this event.

Thanks to Gary Lee who did a 'real time' update on race times.

The PTA would like to say a special thank you to Sheila and Paul Landymore, who keep making this event happen and this year even arranged for the sun to make an appearance for what felt like the first time since Christmas.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers we made a profit of more than £1,000!

Winners:

•	1st Male -	Matthew T	18.20	•	1st Lady -	Izabella H	23.06
•	U16 Male -				U16 Female -		23.25
•	U12 Male -	George L	21.22	•	U12 Female -	Rhianne R	21.41
•	U9 Male -	Thomas Y	24.53	•	U9 Female -	Annabelle G	24.53
•	Fastest Villager -	Paul I	21.03	•	Fastest & You	naest Punil -	Serge W

Coming up next is our Race Night on Saturday 23rd April in the School Hall. Doors open at 8pm, with first race at 8:30pm. Entry is £1 and bets are £1 each (with the Tote provided by Claydon Racing). We will have a licenced bar and have race sponsorship available at £20 per race. To book your place, or to sponsor a race, please email greathorwoodpta@gmail.com. Look forward to seeing you there.

Once the Race Night is over we will be turning our attention to our next village event on Saturday 14th May which is our Table Top Sale.

These events make a massive difference to our ability to help support the school and our children. The profit from the Movie Quiz and the Mad March Hare Fun Run has enabled us to fund an IPad for each of the classrooms at the school, so we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported these events through helping out, sponsorship and taking part.

We have set ourselves a challenging target of raising £8k for the school this year, as we want to continue to fund the school library subscription, pay for globes for each of the classrooms, and buy some raised veggie beds and other play equipment.

Debbie Huskinson

Great Horwood School PTA. Registered Charity No 1047149















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Want to have FUN & ADVENTURE but done safely

Great Horwood has a Group of very active Scouting for young people, which run a very active programme that is fun and challenging. They meet in their own headquarters in the village.

Then why not join 1st Great Horwood Scout Group

Beaver Scouts 5 - 7 years

Cub Scouts 7 - 11 years

Scouts 11 - 14 years

For more information please contact:

Paul Ketteridge Acting Group Scout Leader 01296 670663

or email district-scouts@paulketteridge.co.uk

COMMUNITY PRODUCE SHOW Saturday 3rd September 2016

Last year, a Community Produce Show took place in the village and it was well supported. Following that success, it will be held again this year, on 3rd September.

Anyone from the village or with children at the school can enter.

There will be categories of all sorts, from making cakes, baking rolls, crafting and flower displaying, to growing your own fruit and veg, photographing village life or producing your own jam, chutney and drinks!!

Plan for 3rd September:

08:00-11:00 You will be asked to set up your entry/ies - £1 per entry

11:00 -13:00 Judging will take place

14:00 -Show opens, visit and view yours and others entries, sample tea and cakes

Enter the raffle

Remove entries 16:00 - 17:00

- Start planning growing, making, bottling, photographing - now!!

There will be a full schedule along with an entry form in the next edition of FOCUS.

Contact Paul Robertson 07866748919, paul@robertson34.orangehome.co.uk for more information



<u>Message from</u> PCSO Wendy Taylor

Rural Crime

This month we have had a theft of heating oil taken from a tank placed

near to the road. The owners had done all the right things with planting prickly hedges and plenty of trees around it so it is out of sight. However, the offenders clearly looked hard to find it and drained it of about 1400 litres of fuel. Therefore other crime prevention methods need to be employed.

- 1. Put a cage around the tank to prevent access to the outlet.
- 2. There are plenty of locking devices so trawl the internet to see what is on offer.
- 3. CCTV facing the tank would help but ensure the camera will record good images at night.
- 4. Movement sensors can be attached to the tank by the inlets and outlets. Trawling the internet will give you an idea of what is available. Some raise an alarm, some will text you.

The Good Citizen Award Scam

Action Fraud has been receiving reports of an advanced fee fraud whereby suspects phone a member of the public and claim to be calling on behalf of the UK (or British) Government Grant Department.

They go on to state that the individual has won a Good Citizen Award - of typically £8,000 - and that the grant can be released for a fee (of around £210).

Fortunately, very few members of the public have lost any money as a result of this scam but have reported to Action Fraud in order to help build a picture of this fraud and protect others from falling victim to it.

Protect yourself:

- There is no genuine 'Good Citizen Award' scheme in the UK that operates by cold calling "winners" and asking for an upfront fee to release a grant.
- If you receive a call that claims to represent such a scheme, it is a scam. End the phone call - do not give out any personal or financial data.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Wendy Taylor

London Marathon.... Raising money for PROSTATE CANCER



Dean White - pictured right, ('FOCUS editor') is running in the **London Marathon** on April the 24th. This will be his second time, having first completed it in 2013.

Dean's brother is currently being treated for Prostate Cancer, so he's raising money for this worthy cause. Here are some facts about the disease:



- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men.
- In the UK...

9

- Over 44,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year – that's more than 120 every day.
- Every hour one man dies from prostate cancer that's more than 10,500 every year.
- 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime.

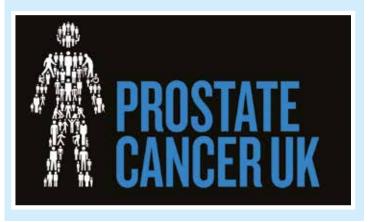
Dean is raising money for Prostate Cancer UK, a charity that funds research into the disease and gives great support to those affected by it.

If you'd like to sponsor him, you can do so at:

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DeanWhite

Or you can drop a cheque/money round to Ashwell House, Singleborough (the 6th house on the left as you come into Singleborough from Great Horwood. Has a gravel driveway and is next to the footpath).

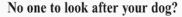
Dean said, 'I' d like to thank you in advance for any donations you are able to make. I really appreciate it and it will help spur me on to the finish line'.

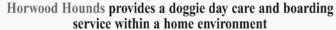


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Lisa Crook

(Befriending Support Officer, Alzheimer's Society)

WI

We had a very enjoyable evening at our March meeting Quiz night. It was very competitive but a lot of fun. We perhaps even learnt a few new facts.



10

We have a very busy schedule for April. Our April meeting is the annual fundraising dinner with a royal theme. We are visiting an Alpaca farm, attending a group meeting at Mursley WI and the annual Bucks Federation council meeting in Aylesbury. We also have a theatre trip to see The Rocky Horror Show.

On the evening of 21st April the WI is providing Bucks Fizz and cake on the green when the Beacon will be lit to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and the Silver Band will be playing.

Last but not least we are hosting a fundraising evening for Great Ormond Hospital in the Village Hall on April 28th starting at 7.30pm. EVERYONE is welcome and the entrance fee of £5 includes a glass of wine and refreshments. Please come and support this worthy cause. SEE AD OPPOSITE for details.

Angela Mayne

Great Horwood Silver Band

The Band's annual concert in Buckingham Community Centre was well attended. The Concert started with the Training band conducted by Emma Mainwaring followed by the main band



conducted mainly by Simon Martin. Bandmaster Tony Hart conducted two pieces. The Frank Wilkes trophy was presented to Poppy Mainwaring and the George Edmans Trophy was presented jointly to Mabel Mainwaring and Lois Daly. Len Goodwin presented senior band trophies to Andrew Cook, Paul Lack and Emma Mainwaring.

Saturday March 19th saw the band playing at the Great Horwood Youth Club party.

At 7pm on 21st of April, the band will play at Great Horwood's celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday on The Green. The beacon will be lit at 7.30.

On Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm in the Winslow Public Hall the band will play a concert in memory of Bob Hart who was a band member for over 60 years. Admission £7 and £5 concessions. All proceeds from this concert will go to the Downs Charity. Bob was Mayor of Winslow on two occasions.

Engagements are coming in well for the Summer season.

100 Club Winners for February were:

- •Beryl Lack £12
- Anne Merriman £8

Bervl Lack

Web page www.freewebs.com/greathorwood



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Chairman's Monthly Report: Last Meeting - Monday 14 March 2016

Introduction

As you will all understand from the article on the front page, the matter of Great Horwood overwhelming importance for the Parish Parish Council Council is the Weston Road Planning Inquiry and although we will probably

have to wait around 3 months for the decision, it will represent the litmus test for our neighbourhood plan. We fervently hope that all the hard work that has been invested in producing it is not wasted! If this large-scale planning application were to be approved it would allow development of an inappropriate scale outside the designated Great Horwood Settlement Boundary and in direct conflict with the wishes of the local community. Furthermore, it would set a clear precedent for other large or small-scale developers to get approval of their Applications not only in Great Horwood but also in the other towns and parishes with made neighbourhood plans.

Parish Updates

Planning

The Parish Council is somewhat frustrated with the apparent lack of decisions on several planning applications and appeals over the last 6 months. Of particular note, we still have no decision by AVDC concerning the Nash Park traveller site for which the temporary permission expired in November 2015, or on the Willow Road large-scale development.

Speedwatch

The Speed Watch Campaign planned for Great Horwood has made progress with initial training on the equipment but will require some more local volunteers. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk or telephone 715829.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm in the village hall. Village groups will be contacted but if you would like to speak about your local group, team or project, please contact the Parish Clerk as detailed above.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

Starting at 7pm on 21st April on the Village Green, Great Horwood will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. The WI will provide Buck's Fizz and cake, the Great Horwood Silver Band will play and The Crown and The Swan public houses will be open should you wish for other refreshments! The gas fired beacon on The Green will be lit at 7.30pm. Please come along and join in the festivities. In association with the celebrations we are also holding a Clean for the Queen event on Sunday 17th April as reported on the back page.

A421 Daytime Road Closure

Roadworks will take place on the A421 sometime between 1st April and October 2016. This will involve day time road closures of the A421 between 9.30am and 4pm and a diversion of traffic through Great Horwood on to the A413. However, Transport for Bucks have assured the Parish Council that any closures will be kept to a minimum.

Whilst the legal notice we received said the works would last 18 months, TfB say this is the time allowed for all the capital road works currently planned in the county not just the one we were notified about, so hopefully disruption to the village will be kept to a minimum. The PC will be notified when the roadworks are about to start and we will inform residents.

Pilch Lane Roadworks

The failed road surface on Pilch Lane was reported to Transport for Bucks (TfB) in February. TfB have surveyed it and advised the need for extensive works to take place before the end of April, over a period of 2 weeks, including a road closure. The work will involve full depth carriageway reconstruction, the installation of HGV kerbs on the inside of the failed bend and replacement of all drainage on the corner.

Whilst HGV movements are the main cause of the problem, flooding on the road, caused by poorly maintained ditches on the inside of the bend, has been a contributing factor. TfB will sink wider diameter piping and, on this occasion, clear the ditches to aid water flow. In future the landowner will be expected to fulfil their legal responsibility to keep the roadside ditches well maintained in order to solve/reduce the problem. Other temporary repairs will then be carried out between the bend and the A421.

At a later date, extensive patching will be undertaken. There is no funding available for complete road resurfacing. The Parish Council has expressed concerns about the bridge on Pilch Lane. The bridge is under observation by the TfB Structures Team and they have confirmed that the bridge is more than capable of withstanding the weight of 40 tonne HGV loads such as those travelling to and from the Adstock Bulk Grain facility.

Waste Bin Collection and Recycling

AVDC start new bin collection schedules from Tuesday 7 June. They will send out letters in May to tell us if Great Horwood and Singleborough will be affected by any bin day changes. AVDC ask residents NOT to place the following items in the blue lidded recycling bins: plastic carrier bags, cling film, crisp and biscuit wrappers, foam take away boxes and plastic plant pots. Consignments contaminated with these items have to be rejected and sent to land fill, thus reducing recycling rates in the area. Don't forget that your Easter egg boxes, foil wrap and plastic bubble containing the egg can all be recycled.

Parish Council Website, Meetings and Suggestions

For a more comprehensive report of the latest or indeed previous Parish Council meetings, please read the Minutes published on the website. (http://www. bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/). This website also has updates of items on its latest news page and lots of information about the parish.

If you have any items that you would like to bring to the Council's attention, please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors, or otherwise, we are always pleased to welcome residents to our monthly meeting where we include a public participation period where you can raise an item directly. The next meeting, in shortened form, of the Council will take place in the Village Hall at 6.30pm on Monday 11 April.

John Scholtens Chairman, Great Horwood Parish Council iohnscholtens@hotmail.com

11



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www.winslowbus.com

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Everyone is eligible to come on the bus, we pick up near to your house, please ring Sue for more information. *Denotes bus pass accepted.

Tuesday 5th April

- Buckingham Bus* Town, Aldi, Tesco

Thursday 7th April

- Visit Snowshill Manor, a Cotswold house packed with extraordinary treasures. £18.50 includes entrance or £8.50 for NT members.

Tuesday 12th April

- Local lunch at The Robin Hood Buffler's Holt. £4 travel

Thursday 14th April

- Westcroft Shopping* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots etc

Tuesday 19th April

- Woodland run with pub lunch £6

Monday 25th April

- Visit Hughenden Manor £17 includes entrance or £8 for NT members. Hopefully see some

bluebells!

Thursday 28th April

- Westcroft Shopping* Morrison's, Aldi, Boots etc

Tues 3rd May

- Buckingham Bus*

Tuesday 10th May Thursday 12th May - Woodland Run with pub lunch £6 travel - Westcroft Bus Aldi Morrison's Boots etc*

Tuesday 17th May

- Visit St Albans Verulamium Museum and park. £6 travel

Thursday 26th May

- Westcroft Bus*

Milton Keynes Theatre - please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or stalls) and travel. Performances start 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Door to door service!

Wed 11th May Friday 20th May

- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Sensational set, special effects & memorable score. £30.00
- 5pm show- Avenue Q. Winner of Tony Award's Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book, Stalls H.J.K. £24.00.

Wed 25th May

- Save the Last Dance. Re-live the music & magic of '63. £22.50
- Annie. Lesley Joseph returns as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan! £25.00

13

Wed 15th June Wed 22nd June

Wed 1 June

- Guys and Dolls. The greatest musical of them all! £30.00 - Rehearsal for Murder. A devious cat & mouse chase £25.50

Wed 29th June Wed 28th September

- Joseph & Amazing ... Coat. A sparkling family musical £22.50 - Sister Act. A 'divine' musical comedy. £23.00
- Wed 2nd November
- The Commitments. The musical we've all been waiting for, over 20 soul classics. £30.00

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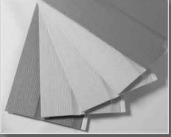
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Available online at: www.bucksinfo.net/greathorwoodpc/



Celebrate HM the Queen's 90th Birthday on the Green

The Queen will be 90 on Thursday 21st April 2016! Everyone is invited to come and join the Great Horwood Queen's Birthday celebrations beginning at 7pm in the heart of the village on The Green on Thursday 21st April. The programme has yet to be finalised but starts with Buck's Fizz and cake, very kindly provided by the WI.

The GH Silver Band has made a special exception to their weekend only concert rule to help us celebrate and the Jubilee gas beacon will be lit at the official countrywide lighting time of 7.30pm. The Crown and the Swan will be open for further refreshment. Bring your Union Jack flags if you have them. To add to the atmosphere, Great Horwood School will be asking the children to decorate a waxed bag containing a tea light. These will be placed around the beacon. Looking forward to a great turnout!

In preparation for the lighting of the beacon on

Her Majesty's 90th Birthday

Get out your gloves (a must) and pinny (and a high-vis jacket if you have one) to

Meet on The Green
Sunday 17th April at 11.30 to

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Let's get the community together for a litter pick and all-round spruce up and get
Great Horwood looking spick and span ready for the birthday celebrations that will be
held on The Green on Thursday 21st April. Let's be proud of our village and make it look
good enough for royalty

Enquiries: Jane Holland 01296 715704

Jane.holland.313@btinternet.com

April 2016 16

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