



FOCUS

This year has in many ways been a difficult and challenging year. The political landscape has been characterised by acrimony and discord. Notions of the common good seem to have been buried under increasing levels of hostility and anger. Never has Christmas felt more necessary.

At Christmas Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Peace in this context means right, or righteous, relationships, a commitment to the flourishing of all. It means the spreading of goodwill. My hope is that the world will this year take on board the true meaning of Christmas.

I would like to invite you to our Christmas services. This year the Christmas services start not in the church but in the school. Please do feel free to join the school for a very special communion service at 2:30pm on the 13th December. All are welcome. The school choir will also be at the carol service on the 17th December at 6:30pm. On Christmas Eve we have a Christingle Service at 4.00pm and Midnight Mass at 11:30pm and the Christmas Morning Eucharist is at 10:30am. Please do come and help celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

I hope that you enjoy a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year,

*Rev'd Andrew Lightbown,
Rector, Winslow Benefice*

Rev Andrew Lightbown e-mail alightbown@hotmail.co.uk phone 01296 712564
www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

Church Times

St James' Services for December

			Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessor
3rd Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
10th Dec	11.00am	Come and Praise	P Moyles	L Brazier	S Brazier
17th Dec	6.00pm	Nine lessons and Carols	D Brazier	-	-
24th Dec	4.00pm	Christingle Service	D Brazier	-	-
24th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	I Lamberton	R Margerrison	Clergy
25th Dec	10.30am	Family Communion	D Brazier	D Brazier	J Margerrison
31st Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion	N Weir	C Finnemore	Clergy

Services for January 2018

7th Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
14th Jan	11.00am	Come and Praise	J Brigden	-	S Brazier
21st Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	C Finnemore	I Lamberton
28th Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)	-	-	-
28th Jan	11.00am	Come and Share	N Weir	D Brazier	Clergy
4th Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	C Finnemore	I Lamberton

Please note that the Christmas Day Family Communion Service and the Holy Communion service on 31st December will both start at the earlier time of 10.30am.

Church Key Rota: December - Lynne and Graham Mayger

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Sunday

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Monday closed

we now serve a traditional pub menu

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Lighting of the tower at St James'

The Church was lit on the 16th November to remember Len Goodwin's Birthday.

On the 22nd October the Church was lit to remember Mrs Blane.

The Church was also lit from the 26th October to the 31st to commemorate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Ted and Eileen Hadlow.

We also remembered Henry Burke on the 26th November.

Jo and Marc Bennett-Coles have kindly sponsored the lighting of the Church Tower in December to remember Ann and Derek Whiting and Kathleen Dungworth

Ian Lamberton



Great Horwood Village Hall

Thank you to every club, organisation and all party goers for using the hall, without you there wouldn't be a village hall. Sadly we have lost our youth club and toddlers group this year but we hope that at some point in the future someone might like to start the clubs again. The Wednesday Post Office and coffee morning is still very popular, its a great time to catch up on village news over a cup of coffee and a biscuit and soon it will be mince pie time.



Don't forget the village hall rents out their tables and chairs so if you could do with some extra for Christmas you could always rent ours.

And finally the village hall management committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Gill Wood

Carols for a Winter's Afternoon

Sunday 10 December 2.30 pm Great Horwood Village Hall

Great Horwood Village Hall will be the venue for an afternoon of traditional carols and festive music from **2.30 pm on Sunday 10th December**, presented by **The Chantry Consort: James McCafferty** from traditional music duo Cantlos and **Ruth Holiday**, formerly musical director of Milady Clare's Musicke. Their informal Christmas programme Carols for a Winter's Afternoon includes carols from the time of Henry VIII to the present day, and James and Ruth, together with friends, invite everyone to come along and sing many of the most well-loved Christmas carols with them, accompanying the carols on cittern, guitar, clarinet, melodeon and recorders. Great Horwood WI will be providing a range of delicious refreshments together with teas, coffees and drinks for younger members of the audience. Doors open at 2.00 pm, with refreshments available from then until the start of the concert, and also during the interval. Tickets are **£5** and can be purchased on the door or bought in advance by emailing tickets@cantlos.com. Enquiries to James on 07974 949996 or james@cantlos.com.

Donation to FOCUS

Thank you to the parish council for their generous donation of £500 to Focus which will help us to cover the annual running costs once again!

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome John and Fiona Scott to the village and wish them every success in their new venture, running the Swan Pub. See advert for opening times!

Golden Wedding Thanks.

Thank you to all the people who came to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary in October the donations to cancer research instead of gifts was over £200. Thank you all

Lynda and Alan Sirett

"Date for the Diary - Sunday 25th March 2018"

Next year's fun run is on Sunday 25th March. Something to look forward to for all those keen runners out there, and maybe a New Year's resolution for those wanting to start some exercise - it is always easier to stay motivated with a goal to aim for! We are hoping to have an even bigger and better turnout this year so if you want to be involved with this fun event, or have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Sheila Landymore 711627.



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Carols for a Winter's Afternoon

Carols and festive music from the time of Henry VIII to the present day

Great Horwood Village Hall

High Street, Great Horwood MK17 0QL

Sunday 10 December 2.30 pm

The Chantry Consort

James McCafferty, Ruth Holiday and friends

James McCafferty cittern, guitar, melodeon, vocals

Ruth Holiday clarinet, recorders, vocals



Tickets £5 on the door

Doors open 2.00 pm. Tea/coffee and cakes
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| 31 st | - Dinner by reservation only.
- Bar open until late. |
| 1 st Jan | - Drinks only 12-3pm. |

We wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year. We thank you for your custom and
look forward to seeing you all in 2018

**To reserve a table, call us on
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1 The Green, Great Horwood, Milton Keynes MK17 0RH

From the children at Great Horwood School



This month, Year 6 at GHS are reporting on what we have all been learning and getting up to at school.

Last week, Year 2 went to a Science Fair and they made: bouncy balls with glue inside; balloon rockets; lava lamps; bubbles; and bathbombs that fizzed in the water and had the scent of peppermint or chocolate. They also had a magic show. When they came back they said they loved it! (*Kirsty and Thomas Y*)

Acorns and Conkers went on a school trip to Shortenills. They saw the Gruffalo and really enjoyed it. One of their favourite activities was holding the snake and the fox. They also made a birthday party for the Gruffalo with mud pie and crisps made out of leaves. (*Nigel*)

On Tuesday 7th November, a cartoonist came into our school. Before he came into our classroom, we looked at pieces of his artwork. When he came in, we drew Wallace and he showed us really useful methods such as: dot-to-dot; taking our time; how to draw the perfect circle and many more. We used dots to help us draw the outline, then we gradually joined them to make the face shape. The eyes were quite tricky because we had to make them equal distance apart. We also had to draw a circle for his nose; it was almost impossible. In the end the drawings looked amazing. We all successfully drew Wallace and it was really fun. (*Dillon and Amelia*)

Some Year 3's and 4's are being taught a dance by us (*Hollie and Jasmine*). They have demonstrated two of our school values: perseverance and respect. Throughout the last weeks, they have been practising at break times with us, working to perfections. We are hoping to perform the dance in the upcoming weeks.

The chickens of Great Horwood School have recently had their wings clipped and are getting bigger each day. Everyday, the chickens have been put outside to get used to the cold. In a couple of weeks, we are hoping to let them out permanently. (*Hollie and Jasmine*)

On Friday 10th November, Year 6 led the Remembrance service. It was a solemn atmosphere and there were a few people with tears in their eyes. We read traditional poems and sang songs including: Peace, Perfect Peace; In Flanders Field; and No Wars Will Stop Us Singing. It was amazing how many people came to join us and pay their respects to the gallant soldiers that fought and gave their lives for us. (*Benjamin*)

Great Horwood Silver band



On September 17th at, the invitation of Leighton Buzzard Council, the band conducted by Musical Director Clive Keech, played a well balanced concert on the bandstand in Parsons Close Park Leighton Buzzard. The band was well received by a well attended and very appreciative audience. We received a letter from the Council representative saying they hoped to welcome us back there again in the future.

The band played for the Remembrance Service in Preston Bissett Church on Saturday 11th November. Sunday 12th November saw them lead the parade and play for the Royal British Legion Remembrance service in Winslow. Following the service they led the parade back to the Royal British Legion Club.

By the time this edition goes to press we will have played the memorial Concert for our late President Len Goodwin in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th November. At the request of Len's family, all proceeds from the concert will be for Medical Detection Dogs, one of his favourite charities. The full report will follow in the next edition.

You can hear the band during December at the following venues. Saturday 2nd Carol Concert in Potterspurty United Reformed Church 7pm. Sunday 3rd Great Horwood Village Hall Carol Concert 3pm all proceeds to Great Horwood Scout group. Thursday 7th Cub Scouts Carol Concert in the Radcliffe Centre Buckingham 7.30pm.

Wednesday 13th from 6.30 to 8pm, Saturday 16th from 10am to 4pm Sunday 17th from 10.30am to 4pm we will be at Tesco in Buckingham.

Thursday evening 21st the band will play Carols around the Christmas tree in Adstock, where they are always accompanied by a large number of Villagers singing with the band. Sunday 24th Carols around Great Horwood from 4.30pm.

If anyone would be available to help with collections on any of the carol dates and around Great Horwood on Christmas eve I would be very pleased to hear from them.

We are recruiting new members for the band and our training band. We would be pleased to hear from anyone of any age, who would like to learn to play a brass instrument. Instruments and tuition can be provided free of charge. There is a small deposit of £20 which is returnable if the player leaves the band and returns the equipment issued in good order. If you are interested in learning to play please ring Beryl on 01908 510809. email beryl.lack@btinternet.com

If you would like to visit the band website to see the latest news please visit the band website on www.greathorwoodband.com

Beryl Lack

beryl.lack@btinternet.com



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Great Horwood
Parish Council

Chairman's Monthly Report : Last Meeting – Monday 13 November 2017

The emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is now at the final consultation stage before it is sent to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The consultation closes on 14 December and links to all the documents and details of how to respond

can be found on the AVDC website at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/valp-proposed-submission>. It is open to any resident to comment on the Submission Plan.

The Plan provides for 27,000 houses to be built in the Vale area by 2033, although around half of these are already built or have planning permission. Building will be concentrated around Aylesbury as part of the Garden Town vision, but there will be significant development at Buckingham, Haddenham and Winslow. The possibility of the redevelopment of RAF Halton for housing is being proposed. A large development has been agreed at Salden Chase.

Smaller developments are proposed for villages. However, where a village has a Neighbourhood Plan in place, as at Great Horwood, no further expansion is proposed beyond that agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan. At present there is no intention to build a new settlement, but this may change in any review of the Local Plan, once there is a clearer picture with regard to the government proposals for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.

The Parish Council is preparing a response and is looking in particular at issues related to affordable housing, management of increased traffic and proposed development at Winslow.

The Parish Council at its recent meeting also gave further consideration towards its Budget for the year 2018/19 with a view to finalising the Budget at the December meeting. Applications from village organisations for grants from the Parish Council were also considered.

Finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please note that there is no meeting of the Parish Council in January, unless it is necessary to call a special meeting. The first meeting in 2018 will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 12 February.

For a more comprehensive report of the recent Parish Council meeting 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.

If you have any items that you would like to bring to the Council's attention at any time please contact the Clerk or any Councillor. We are always pleased to welcome residents to our monthly meeting during which there is always a public participation period. The next meeting is to be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 11 December 2017 in the Village Hall.

Mary Saunders
Chairman, Great Horwood Parish Council
marysaundersghpc@outlook.com

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL Useful Contact Details



Great Horwood
Parish Council

Members of the Parish Council

Mary Saunders <i>Chairman</i>	01296 713610
marysaundersghpc@outlook.com	
John Gilbey <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	01296 711915
johnwgilbey@gmail.com	
Nigel Heywood	01296 711558
nheywood2@gmail.com	07847 627044
Jane Holland	01296 715704
jane.holland.313@btinternet.com	
John Huskinson	01296 292411
jhuskinson@buckscc.gov.uk	
Gavin Laird	01296 712798
gavinlaird29@hotmail.com	
Angela Mayne	01296 715400
angela.mayne@googlemail.com	

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Amanda Cliffe 01296 715829
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website

www.bucksinfo.net/greathorwoodpc

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings	01296 712165
Doctors Car Service	07704 140110
Winslow and District Community Bus	01296 715786
Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride	01296 330088

Community Police Officer

Tel: 101
Winslowanddistrictnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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The drivers are all volunteers who will not be claiming any expenses and so you are only asked to make a voluntary contribution to our running costs. The funds received will be used to cover the cost of the mobile phone and any surplus will be donated to a deserving village cause of our choosing.

If you have any questions or would like to be a volunteer driver please let me know:

John Gilbey 01296 711915
or email to john@gilbey98.freeserve.co.uk

SINGLEBOROUGH PLANTER



A BIG THANK you to Lara at TWIGS NURSERIES, Bletchley Rd (the A421) for donating plants for the Singleborough trough after their mystery disappearance. It was lovely to have some colour back in the hamlet. The

troughs have done really well this year. Now that the frost has done its worst, they are ready for their winter replacements. These have been requested.

LOCAL CAUSES BENEFIT FROM PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS



Great Horwood Parish Council has received 8 applications from local groups for grants this year. The good news is that the Parish Council voted to donate even more money to these worthy causes and cheques will be presented at the next PC meeting on 11th December. Full details of successful applicants will appear in the February Focus. Additionally, Focus will receive £500 towards its production costs and St James Church will receive £250 towards the cost of mowing the churchyard,

PARKING

The broken record is back! However, I would still like to re-re-mention that white lines on village roads are there for a reason and parking on them is inconsiderate to other road users. The white lines are there to keep everyone safe. Thank you.



Please remember to park thoughtfully in the village and leave plenty of space for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs. Their safety is paramount.

Thank you.

SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE



Speeding through the village is a perennial worry, especially for those who live on Winslow Road (where most offenders have been registered on the MVAS). Please help by volunteering for the Speed Watch team. We **STILL need lots of volunteers**, especially if you are available during the morning and evening rush hour or at weekends. If you can help, please call Jane Holland on 01296 715704 or email jane.holland.313@btinternet.com.

The team is using Sentinel speed Watch equipment. This has a video camera allowing the operator to provide evidence of speeding infringements by capturing a still picture. These are passed to the local police and letters sent to drivers. We recently had an "I wasn't there gov" plea but strangely a vehicle with the same number plate was in our gallery! A second set of equipment is being bought by the Winslow and District Local Area Forum meaning monitoring can be done more frequently - when we have the volunteers.

VILLAGE SIGN

You may remember that the village sign suffered damage in storm Doris. It has now been repaired and the base December 2017

provided with a metal casing to inhibit rotting. The sign has been sanded to lighten the colour, "Great Horwood" highlighted in black and the whole stained in light oak. Weather permitting it should be re-sited on the Green very soon.



ALLOTMENTS

I recently heard a rumour that one or two tenants were considering giving up their allotments in Church Lane. In the event that this rumour proves to be true, you might like to consider contacting me to add your name to the (currently empty) waiting list.



ROAD CLOSURE

As there is no Focus in January, you might like to know that Church Lane in Little Horwood (by the Shoulder of Mutton) will be closed for drainage work between 15th and 23 January (0930 and 1530). The only traffic allowed through during these times will be buses.



Buckingham Road, Winslow will also be closed by the Thomas Freemantle School for a day or two sometime during the period 1st Jan and 9th March (0930 and 1530) for drainage, surface dressing and road marking works. If entrance and exit to the school is affected, we have requested a cease work of 15.00 in order to avoid problems.

THE BATTLES OVER

The Battles Over is the name given to the National Act of Remembrance that will take place on Sunday November 11th 2018, marking 100 years since the end of World War 1. (see website www.brunopeek.co.uk/Battles-Over-Guide.pdf)



The PC is considering how to mark this event with exciting ideas coming from the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust. The beacon will be lit and the Silver Band are booked; bell ringers have been asked to mark the event nationally and the village hall has been provisionally booked for the 10th & 11th November.

- If you have any ideas on how the event could be marked and/or would like to help
- If you would like to commemorate someone killed in the War with a cross (see above) in a collective display
- If you would be willing to knit or crochet poppies for this event, or have a source of red, green or black wool.

Please contact a member of the Parish Council or the Parish Clerk.

Mandy Cliffe
Parish Clerk
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org
01296 715829



Appreciation and thanks !



Apple Day on the Green was a great success and enjoyed by all!
Thank you to Paul Robertson for organising this!

Bonfire Night



The Great Horwood and Singleborough recreation Trust wish to thank the attendees and supporters of the Great Horwood Firework Display 2017. There were over two hundred people in attendance and we raised over £400.00 for Horwode Pece. Ralph Holland and James Samways set off the fireworks and the weather obliged by staying dry.

W.I. News

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Last month we had a very interesting tour around Aylesbury Crown Court which is closing in the Spring. One of our members was handcuffed in the cells but luckily released in time for us to sit in on a court case!

November was our annual meeting and over a glass of wine we heard about the activities of the last year, which has been a very busy one. We also voted in the new committee. We had an interesting short talk by Keith Hofgartner on Alleviating Loneliness which has been a WI resolution in the past.

Future activities this month are our Cruising into Christmas trip to London and a craft workshop making baubles, wreaths and table centres.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 12th December is our Christmas party.

If you are interested in coming along to a meeting please contact Angela Mayne: 715400 or our new secretary Monica Gilbey: 711915. You would be very welcome.

Angela Mayne



The Witch of Great Horwood was creeping about on All Hallows' Eve, checking for pumpkins, decorated houses and altogether being wowed with the great costumes that the village Trick or Treaters were wearing. Here are the winners

The Favourite Pumpkin went to the Gunn Family who were very busy treating not tricking.

Best Traditional went to the Hogston Family

The residents of 57 Spring Lane took the Best Decorated House title with this ghoulishly brilliant dog walking structure.

Maybe next year you'd like to recycle your pumpkins and use them to light up the path to Horwode Pece for firework night.

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EVERY Wednesday morning - Winslow Market Day bus* - Pickups Claydons, Horwoods, Swanbourne, Mursley, Nash, Whaddon £3.00 return, free with bus pass. Ring for details.

EVERY Friday & Saturday morning - Aylesbury Market Bus* - Pickups Winslow, Horwoods, Mursley Swanbourne Weedon (Sat only) £4.50 return, free with bus pass.

Sunday 3rd December - Olney Dickens of a Christmas!- Stalls with all manner of merchandise fill the Market Place, the High Street and the Farmers Market is held on the same day offering many opportunities to purchase Christmas presents as well as supporting local charities. Stallholders dress in outfits from the period and there is also the chance to visit one of three craft fairs. £5.00

Tuesday 5th December - Buckingham Bus* - 1 hour in town 1 hour in Tesco

Thursday 7th December -Afternoon shopping in Stony Stratford - hopefully see the lights later! £4.00

Tuesday 12th December - Thame Market Shopping £5.00

Thursday 14th December - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Thursday 21st December - Winslow Bus Annual Christmas Lunch at The Old Thatched Inn Adstock. Come and join us! £21.95 for 3 courses £16.95 for 2 and free transport available.

Thursday 28th December Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 - Buckingham Bus* - 1 hour in town 1 hour in Tesco

Thursday 11th January - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

Thursday January 18th - Local Lunch at The Crown Cuddington £4.50 travel

Monday 22nd January - Asda in Bletchley Shopping £4.00

Thursday 25th January - - Westcroft Shopping* Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc

NEW Milton Keynes THEATRE PROGRAMME OUT - Book now!

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!

Shows in 2018 (nothing like planning ahead!!)

Wed 18th July '18 - Flashdance based on the film --Circle D £29.50

Thurs 20th Sept '18 - Warhorse - the unforgettable theatre event -Circle C £50.00

Wed 26th Sept '18 - Warhorse - Circle D £50.00

LIVE STREAMING FROM COVENT GARDEN

We are trialling running the bus to some live streaming performances at Aylesbury or MK Odeon. **These MUST be booked well in advance.** They average about 3hrs running time with intervals. Start time: 7.15pm.

Per show: Adults: £28.00 Seniors: £26.00 door to door service.

Programme

- Tues 16th January 2018 ROH **Rigoletto** David McVicar's acclaimed production of Verdi's potent and tragic opera is conducted by Alexander Joel, with an excellent cast led by Dimitri Platanius, Lucy Crowe and Michael Fabiano.
- Wed 7th February - ROH -**Tosca** Drama, passion and fabulous music - Puccini's operatic thriller is one of the great opera experiences. Dan Ettinger conducts a star cast led by Adrienne Pieczonka, Joseph Calleja and Gerald Finley.
- Wed 28th February - Royal Ballet -**The Winter's Tale** Shakespeare's tale of love and loss becomes compelling dance drama in Christopher Wheeldon's ballet adaptation, with music by Joby Talbot.
- Tues 6th March - ROH **Carmen** (6.45pm) Bizet's classic French opera stars Anna Goryachova in Barrie Kosky's intense production.
- Wed 4th April - ROH **Macbeth** Verdi's opera inspired by Shakespeare's tragedy is conducted by Antonio Pappano, with a magnificent cast including Anna Netrebko, Željko Lučić and Ildebrando D'Arcangelo.
- Thursday 3rd May -Royal Ballet - **Manon** Kenneth MacMillan's powerful telling of Manon and Des Grieux's tragic love is a masterpiece of modern ballet, set to music by Massenet.
- Tuesday 12th June - **Swan Lake** The Royal Ballet presents a new production of Tchaikovsky's magnificent classical ballet, with additional choreography by Liam Scarlett and designs by John Macfarlane.

Book now as shows sell out quickly. Trips may be cancelled if not enough interest. Book one, some or all!

Ring Sue for information leaflet about the shows.

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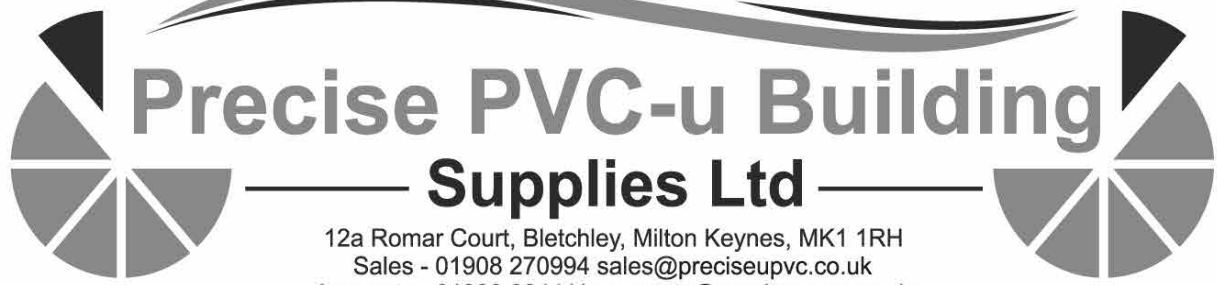
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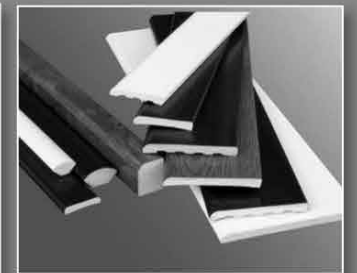
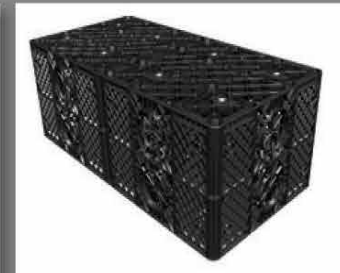
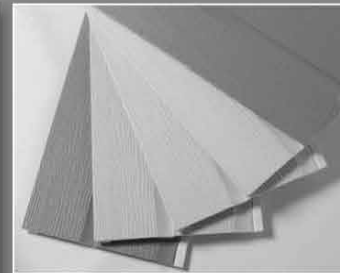
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Editor: Helen Grimditch, David Brazier editor@ghfocus.com
Typing & Layout: David Brazier, Andy Gibbs.
Printing: Harlequin Press Ltd.
Copy deadline: 15th of month before publication.

Distribution: June Margerrison, Debbie Armitage, Ann Biggins, Judy Blundell, Edwina Daymond, Christine Glendenning, Valerie Hancock, Duncan Hogston, Cathy Holland, Ian Lamberton, Gary Lee, Lyn Mayger, Gill Wood, Sandra Sanderson.

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