



Happy Christmas from all at St. James Church.

We do hope that you will be able to join us, in church, over the festive season.

A few short months ago we were a little nervous about Christmas, as there was the very real possibility, given the theft of the lead from the roof, that we would not be able to keep the church warm, dry and secure. The short-term temporary solution of a felt roof has meant however that hope has triumphed over adversity.

Hope triumphing over adversity is, in some ways, central to understanding the Christmas Story, Mary and Joseph were, after all, on their way to Bethlehem from Nazareth (about 70 miles in distance), when Mary went into labour. As the story goes there was 'no room in the inn,' and the baby Jesus was born in a manger, in a stable.

The fact that over 2,000 years later we are still celebrating the birth of a baby born in a stable, in a manger, should give us all hope. It should also put things in perspective, for sometimes it is the small, seemingly incidental, stories that make the real and enduring difference.

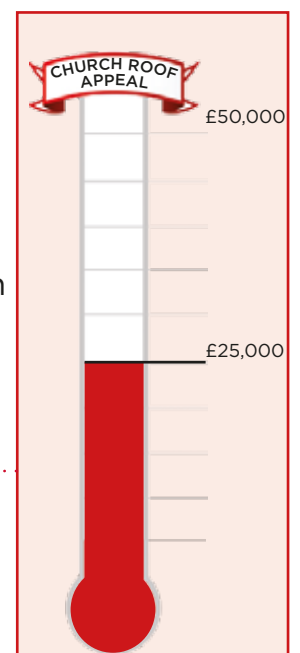
Sometimes the small stories turn out to be the biggest stories.

So please do come and join us at St. James this Christmas, under the temporary roof, to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child and the triumph of hope over adversity.

Merry Christmas, Andrew

Our Roof Fund totaliser is now.....

£25,000. We're now half way to reaching our total of £50,000 which will enable us to start applying for grants in 2020.



No Focus in January. Next issue is February.

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th January 2020.

To advertise or submit articles email: editor@ghfocus.com

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GREAT HORWOOD CE COMBINED SCHOOL PTA

Christmas Bazaar

Friday 6th December 2:30 pm to 4:30pm

School Choir
Cake sale - Jarbola - Raffle
Festive Shopping & Stalls
Refreshments

If you would like to run a stall at the popular event please email greathorwoodpta@gmail.com

Church Times

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

St James' Services for December			Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessor
1st Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	J Brigden	I Lamberton
8th Dec	11.00am	Come and Praise P Moyles	Clergy	Clergy	
15th Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
22nd Dec	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	D Brazier	-	-
24th Dec	4.00pm	Christingle S Brazier	-	-	
24th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	Clergy
25th Dec	10.30am	Family Communion	D Brazier	S Brazier	Clergy
29th Dec	9.30am	Benefice Service, St Laurence Church, Winslow			

St James' Services for January			Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessor
5th Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
12th Jan	11.00am	Come and Praise P Moyles	D Brazier	Clergy	
19th Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	C Finmore	I Lamberton
26th Jan	11.00am	Come and Share N Weir	J Brigden	Clergy	
2nd Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison

Benefice Services in December

Please note that the Church service on 29th December will be a Benefice service which will take place at St Laurence Church, Winslow at their usual time, 9.30am. All welcome.

Please note that our Christmas Day Family Communion service will start at the earlier time of 10.30am

Church Key December - Denise Davies – 712763

FROM THE FOCUS TEAM

Here's wishing all you lovely villagers a very Merry Christmas from us and blessings for a healthy and happy 2020; we'll be back in the New Year. Our special thanks must go to Andy at Harlequin Press for his artistic talent, computer knowledge and patience in putting together the finished document, also to all the kind people who deliver it to every person in the village. Thank you.

GREAT HORWOOD VILLAGE HALL

The Management Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new year. Thank you for supporting the hall. Hopefully we will be able to carry on with our improvements in 2020.

To book the hall phone Gill on 01296712165.

GREAT HORWOOD SCHOOL PTA

The next Bags2school event being held for Great Horwood School is on the 15th January 2020. Please look out for bags coming through your door.

However in the meantime or throughout the year if you're having a clear out the school now have the facility to store all your bags of unwanted clothes. Rather than travelling out of the village to drop your bags off just pop them up to the school where you will find a warm welcome.

Many thanks for your support.

PTA

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GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

Firstly, on behalf of Great Horwood Silver Band I would like to thank everyone who came along and supported our concert on the 26th October in memory of George Shaw, a long-standing member of the band who we sadly lost almost 2 years ago. We raised an amazing £250 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, which was the charity chosen by George's family and this will be presented to them at a future date when we have liaised with the local branch.

The band have some very exciting news. We are very happy to be able to announce that we have appointed a new Musical Director, Mr Nigel Hall. Nigel has a long history within the Brass Band world, as a player, a successful music arranger, conductor, contest adjudicator and now as the Musical Director of Great Horwood Band. We are extremely pleased that Nigel wants to become a member of our banding family and lead us through what we hope will be a new and exciting future. Nigel made his first appearance with us on Sunday 10th November at the Winslow service of remembrance, so why not come along to our annual Christmas concert on Sunday 1st December at 3 p.m. and see Nigel in action along with listening to us play.

Our annual engagement for the Royal British Legion in Winslow for Remembrance Sunday took place on Sunday 10th November in bright and sunny conditions. This is the bands way to remember and show respect for those that gave their lives for us in past conflicts and we feel very privileged to be able to do this in such a well-attended way.

One of our members, Vicki Cook, wasn't with us due to her annual appearance at the Great Horwood Remembrance service, where she once again performed the Last Post for the members of the village service.

We are still looking to welcome new members to the band of any age and ability, so if you are at all interested please contact the band through the contact details given below.

100 club winners for October:

Pat Mould and Amanda Edmans

As Christmas draws closer below is a list of dates and places that we will be playing and we hope you can come along and support us. Please note the first date for 2020 has been added and that is our annual concert in Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday 14th March.

Future dates:

Sunday 1st December at 3p.m. in The Village Hall we will be holding our annual Christmas Carol concert. Please come and enjoy listening to and joining in with our Christmas music and selection of carols. Again, there will be a raffle, refreshments and a collection for a chosen charity.

Saturday 7th December, Carol concert in Milton Keynes Village Hall.

Tuesday 10th December, Berryfields, Carols for the arrival of Father Christmas. 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 14th December we are playing during the Buckingham Carnival parade from 10.30 a.m. *

Sunday 15th December, Christmas Craft Fayre, The Mitre, Buckingham, 2.30pm to 5pm

Wednesday 18th December, Carols at Tesco Buckingham 6.30 p.m. *

Thursday 19th December, Carols around the Christmas tree Adstock.

Saturday 21st December / Sunday 22nd December,

Carols at Tesco Buckingham, both from 10.00 am. *

Tuesday 24th December, our traditional carols around Great Horwood. We start at Townsend at 4.00 pm and walk around the village playing Christmas carols.*

Saturday 14th March 2020, Great Horwood Silver Band's annual concert in Buckingham Community Centre.

We will be using collection buckets for engagements marked with an *, so if you are able to spare any time at all during these engagements, please contact myself or pop along on a Wednesday evening to tell us when you would be able to help out.

Future dates:

Our Wednesday Concerts on the Green will be returning in 2020!! Look out for the dates but there will be one in May, June, July and August.

Contact myself Sharon Taylor if you have any questions or queries through the following:

Email: ghsbsecretary@gmail.com

Website: www.greathorwoodband.com Or Facebook.

WINSLOW & DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

December Notes

Members enjoyed a superb evening at the end of October with the talk and recital by Zachary Taylor who has been building and playing stringed instruments for many years. His talk covered the history of stringed instruments from Lyres through to the modern guitar and the ways that makers embellished their work. This was a wonderful evening and much enjoyed by those who attended.

The Autumn Exhibition at the start of November was very successful.

120 pictures were hung and enjoyed by a record attendance of visitors.

Picture sales were good and the supporting craft stalls provided by some of our members also did well. The Society moves forward in a very positive way into 2020. By the time you read this we will have had our November speaker, Sonia Bacchus, who is giving a demonstration of portraits in mixed media. Our final event of the year is in Mid December when we provide a social evening with buffet and entertainment for our members.

Our two, weekly, painting groups continue (Padbury on a Tuesday morning and Winslow on a Thursday morning) giving members an opportunity to paint in company with others in a relaxed atmosphere.

These are not tutored groups but support is available to new artists.

New members of the Society are always welcome, whether you are an active artist, a total beginner, or simply just interested in how pictures are made.

For more information, the people to contact are :

Treasurer Jackie Chambers (01296) 713607

Secretary Maureen Barnes (01280) 815691

Chairman Peter Weatherill (01908) 675146

Deadline for next issue

15 January.




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GREAT HORWOOD DOCTORS CAR SERVICE



The service is available to be used by anybody living in the village that needs transport to get to the Doctors Surgery in Winslow.

Simply call the following mobile phone number and speak to a member of the volunteer team about your requirement.

If you get the answer phone just leave your name, address, phone number and the date and time of your appointment and somebody will ring you back.

Doctors Car Service

07704 140110

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 johnwgilbey@gmail.com

W.I NEWS

Last month several of us enjoyed a really interesting trip to the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter Museum and Coffin Works museum. It was a step back in time!

November was our Annual meeting, we got through a lot of business, helped along by cheese, wine and cake! We also had a visit from Pamela Hayton from Natwest who spoke to us about common scams and what to be on the lookout for. Next month will be our Christmas meeting where we will be trying out Tai Chi.

Please see the poster for our Bake off fundraising and charity event on March 17th 2020.

If you would like to come along to a meeting please contact Angela Mayne on 715400 or angela.mayne@googlemail.com



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has announced details of their 2019 Tree of Light events.

The Charity recognises Christmas can be a very emotional occasion and hosts two Tree of Light events which are open to all, regardless of religion or spirituality, and whether or not your loved one was cared for at the Hospice or elsewhere.

"The Tree of Light events are designed to give people a space where a part of the season is set aside to remember and reflect on loved ones," says Ann Kenny, the Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. "Christmas can often be a time of conflicting emotions, or it can be so busy that those who are grieving can't find a time to process feelings of sadness which may come to the fore at this time of year."

This year's Buckingham Tree of Light event will take place on Saturday 14th December from 4pm at St Peter and St Paul's Church and will retain a traditional feel, with prayers, readings and carols.

The Aylesbury Tree of Light event will have a change of format, with more secular readings and music, rather than carols and prayers, so the Charity hopes that there is something for everyone in the two events.

"We are aware that many of our families are not Christians and may prefer something less religious but still thoughtful and meditative," says Vicky James, Events and Community Manager. "There are lots of other poems and readings which bring comfort, and beautiful music apart from carols, so we are trying something new to see what people think."

The Aylesbury Tree of Light event has also moved indoors for 2019 and will take place at Aylesbury High School on Walton Road on Sunday 1st December at 5pm.

As well as attending the Tree of Light events, you can also sponsor a light in memory of loved ones and write a dedication which will appear in the Books of Honour which can be viewed at the Hospice in December and early January, and at the two Tree of Light events.

To sponsor a light in memory of someone go to fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light or call the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Fundraising Team on 01296 429 975.

Sending photos to Focus?

So that we can get the best quality reproduction, please send unaltered, original images. When emailing please do not reduce the file size. email: editor@ghfocus.com.

MEN IN SHEDS

The prospect of having a cosy shed to hide in can be quite tempting as Christmas approaches. Not all the time (of course) but we will all have our moments. So despite rumours to the contrary, Winslow Shed will be taking a break over Christmas and our last session for 2019 will be on Thursday 19th December. We can't promise a party but good company is assured and there may well be a mince pie to go with your cuppa.



In the meantime, our workshop continues to resemble Santa's Grotto as Christmas and other goodies are being made ready for the Town Christmas Fair on Thursday evening 28th November. Our 'elves' will be manning our stand so do wrap-up warm and we hope to see you there.

Furniture restorations requested at our Open Day in October look likely to keep us busy well

into the New Year and we still have plenty to find homes for – don't be shy to get in touch or pop in if you fancy browsing for bargains (or future heirlooms!).

We were delighted to round-off a busy year with generous donations from both AVDC and The Winslow Show Committee. These funds will allow us to purchase our own mitre-saw and return the much-used machine we have had on-loan for some months. Many thanks to all concerned for the support.

2020 at The Shed starts on Tuesday 2nd January.



Men in Sheds Winslow wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year

The Shed is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 4:00.

Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate. www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk

Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164

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Great Horwood
Parish Council

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council :

Please note that councillors now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. This is in order to comply with new Data Protection Regulations that came into force in 2018. It is good policy to keep council emails separate from private emails.

John Gilbey Chairman
01296 711915 johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

Caroline Cousin Vice Chairman
01296 713548 carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com

Julia Day julia.day49@gmail.com

Jackie Goss jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
01296 713135

Nigel Heywood 01296 711558
nheywood11@gmail.com 07847 627044

Angela Mayne 01296 715400
angelamayneghpc@outlook.com

Dave Taylor 07980 546484
daveghpc@btinternet.com

Clerk to the Council 01296 714712
Sue Brazier

clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website www.bucksvoice.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 Officers

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WinslowandDistrictNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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ALL are welcome to come on the Community Bus!

- Tuesday 3rd December** **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.
- Tuesday 10th December** **Asda Shopping MK1** - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc. £4.00.
- Thursday 12th December** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book.
- Saturday 14th December** **'Meet Me in St Louis' starring Judy Garland. 7.30pm start.** Join us on our first visit to The Film Palace, at Buckingham University to see a showing of the original film. Refreshments available. Pick-ups in Winslow only, £10.00 ticket & travel. All welcome! If successful we will make this a regular trip.
- Thursday 19th December** **Christmas Lunch at The Old Thatched Inn, Adstock . Book now!**
** Please note** **No Westcroft Bus on 26th December.**
- Tuesday 7th January** **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service, bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.
- Thursday 9h January** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book
- Tuesday 14th January** **Lunch at Nut & Squirrel, Westcroft** – travel £4.50 return.
- Monday 27th January** **Asda Shopping MK1** - option to go to M&S, Primark, etc. £4.00.
- Thursday 23rd January** **Westcroft Shopping** - Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick-ups. Ring to book
- Coming up! Tuesday 18th February –BBC Birmingham Studio Tour – behind the scenes tour of the TV and radio studios. Tour begins at 1pm, duration of 1 hour 30 minutes. Entry and travel £22.50 concs, £25.00 adult. Book now- not to be missed!**

SCHEDULED WEEKLY SHOPPING ROUTES:

Every Friday and Saturday morning –Aylesbury Market Bus - from Winslow, through the Horwoods, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing 12.15pm.
FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Every Wednesday morning – Winslow Market Service – bringing surrounding villages into Winslow (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £3.00 return.

Call for more information on times, or visit our website!



WDCB would love to have more Volunteer Drivers!

If you are aged between 30 and 70 years of age, have a D1 on your licence, and have some spare time, please consider becoming a driver for your local Community Bus!

You can do as much or as little as you like, from shorter local runs to some of our longer day trips. We visit all kinds of places, garden centres, stately homes, shopping centres, countryside drives as well as our regular bus services, and the people who use the bus are a very friendly crowd!

We offer certificated training to MIDAS standard, and pay out-of-pocket expenses.

Please call or email for more info!

01296 715786

PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

LOCAL CAUSES BENEFIT FROM PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

Great Horwood Parish Council received 7 applications from local groups for grants this year.

The following organisations were successful:

- Football Club received £460 to buy a new kit for the Vet's team
- Cricket Club received £478.60 to build a patio at the Cricket Ground
- The CE Combined School received £500 to purchase three water resistant gazebos
- The WI received £495 to book a coach in order to celebrate their 70th Anniversary
- The Scouts received £500 to purchase a bell tent, hammocks and large garden games
- The Winslow Community Bus received £566.40 to replace the bus seat belts and four new tyres.

The awards will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting on 9th December and we hope that representatives of all the award winners will attend. Congratulations to all!

THANK YOU, JANE

I'm sure you are all aware of the colourful planters that greet us as we drive into the village. Jane Holland has been busy again planting spring colour in the troughs. Thank you, Jane, for brightening up our village.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN HOMES IN NASH ROAD

The third Neighbourhood plan site, which will be built in Nash Road, has been approved, but the Parish Council are still corresponding with Bucks Highways about the route of the new footway and where it crosses the Nash Road. Our County Councillor, John Chilver is supporting us in this action.

VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

Modifications to VALP are out for consultation. The period of consultation will run for six weeks from Tuesday 5th November to Tuesday 17th December. Documents can be viewed electronically and downloaded from AVDC's website:

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp-2013-2033>

They can also be viewed at 11 venues across the district including two in Milton Keynes. Comments can be made online, by email or in writing.

WORKS TO SLEEPER BRIDGE

For those of you who walk the parish footpaths, you may have noticed that the Sleeper Bridge at Footpath

8 at Singleborough at the back of Laurel Farm has been replaced. Thanks must go to Bucks CC for their prompt works.

The Minutes from the previous Parish Council meeting on 11th November can be found on the noticeboard in the High Street and also on the Parish Council website. The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th December at 7.30pm.

Sue Brazier, Parish Clerk Great Horwood
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

LETTER FROM A VILLAGER

We live in a largely safe and peaceful village and having the windows open in the summer is a great pleasure. We often hear the gentle sounds of summer – people cutting the grass, having BBQs and the hustle and bustle of nature all around us. But there are two harsher sounds that in recent years seem to have been disturbing us more and more: barking dogs and helicopters.

I like to think I'm a reasonably tolerant person – "live and let live" - and I understand the positive things that both dogs and helicopters provide – Dogs bring unconditional love and companionship for the lonely, and helicopters often provide a vital service in emergencies and police operations, but this summer I couldn't help notice the increasingly frequent interruption of these sounds to my daily life, just within my own four walls.

I know owners often get bad press in this publication for dog fouling, but I have another small plea with you all to respect your neighbours by please acting promptly on hearing your dog barking. There has been one near us that has barked for half an hour at a time, setting off other dogs several times a day, throughout the summer - particularly noticeable with windows open obviously.

As for the helicopters, I'm sure there's a flight path across the village, especially to/from Silverstone. I used to live under one of Heathrow's, and it therefore might sound strange me complaining, but I find helicopters have a more penetrating sound somehow. It used to be just one day a year it affected us – the British Grand Prix – when we accepted these sounds as part of living here. But now I suspect it's an aerial commuter route. There's probably nothing that can be done, but I'm sure other villagers will have noticed this. Are pilots supposed to avoid flying directly over villages, I wonder?

I'd like to invite comments/answers from other villagers on these subjects. We've been in Great Horwood over 25 years and are still very happy living here. I look forward to a more peaceful time over autumn and winter, windows firmly closed against the elements!... and hope against hope that when we open them again in 2020, all we hear will be the happy sounds of village life!!

(Name held - editor)

If you wish to repond to this letter or contact us about any aspect of life in Great Horwood, please email:
editor@ghfocus.com

HORWOOD PECE

The major activity in October was the Autumn Working Party and in early November 'Fireworks on the Pece'.

The Working party was held over a long weekend 18th-21st October, first the three new oak benches were treated with a weather proof resin (on the 18th), then on the 19th these were installed down the Rec. cemented into the ground with metallic anchor fixings attached to each leg. The other benches were wire-wooled and treated. This addition of benches now provides seating at intervals around the entire Rec. On the 20th the woodwork of the shelter was 'surformed' and sanded to remove any sharp splinters, the hedges were cut back and the Zip-wire adjusted to the correct seat height, removing slack from stretch of the Zip-wire. On the 21st additional pruning, bulb planting and groundwork completed a successful weekend maintaining our Rec. Thanks to all who helped.

The remaining work to complete this Autumn was a second

resin coat on the oak benches and replacing the wood fascia on either side of the tunnel. It is pleasing to see that the grass has taken and is growing well. The landscaping work has significantly improved the condition of the play areas.

The annual Firework Display proved challenging! With such atrocious weather on the Saturday that it was due to be held, the decision was made to postpone for 24 hours and hold it on the Sunday. This had an adverse effect on the attendance level and food consumed – though the mulled wine went down a treat! Overall the display was a financial loss but our thanks go to all who attended and supported us, and a huge thanks to everyone involved in putting on what was still a great display. Here's hoping the weather is kind to us next year.

Looking forward to Spring, we are in the process of getting final quotes for the woodchip to rubber chippings replacement for the surfacing of the play areas.

Cathy Holland, Horwode Pece Management Committee



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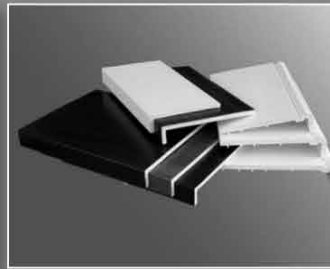
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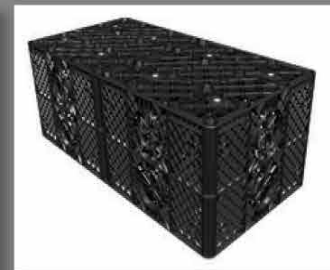
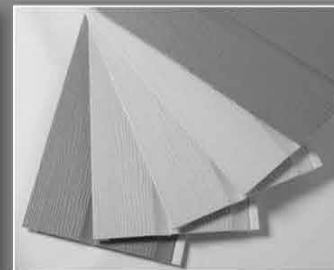
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