



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year

CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED

Normally at this time of year I write a short note saying something positive about Christmas, saying how much the church is looking forward to welcoming you and providing details of the services.

This year, at the time of writing, I can't provide details of the services, but rest assured on the assumption that we are allowed back into church to worship we will.

Christmas this year is going to be very different, but it is not cancelled.



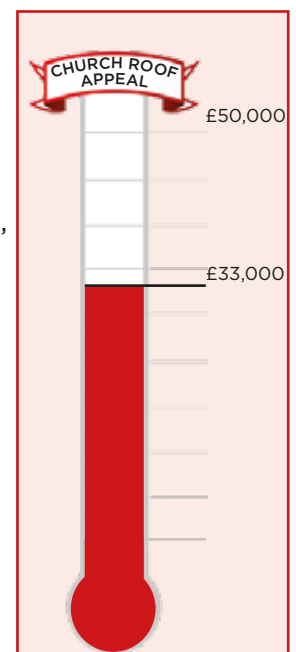
Over 2000 years ago Pontius Pilate tried to cancel Christmas. Pilate was a power hungry and fearful despot who sent the Wise Men to find Jesus and report back to him, for he wanted rid of 'The Prince of Peace.' The Wise Men, through a vision, became aware of Pilate's plan and went home by another route. They did so having paid homage to the Baby Jesus, the powerless infant, born in a stable. Pilate, with all his cunning, and despite his worst endeavours, couldn't cancel Christmas, because Christmas cannot be cancelled.

Christmas is God's story to tell.

This year let's reflect on what it means to be people of peace, followers of the Prince of Peace, and like the Wise Men let's be open to a new and better vision of what it means to believe in and act upon the Christmas story.

Whatever Christmas brings I wish you peace and happiness in these strange, COVID, and seemingly never-ending times.

Reve'd Andrew



Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th January 2021.

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



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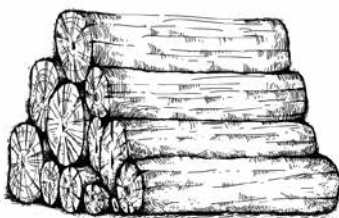
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Church Times

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www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

We have had to close the Church for Services during November and at the time of going to press we do not yet know when we can re-open. The Church is available for private prayer please call David on 714712 or June on 714554 to arrange for opening. Should we be able to open the Church for Services we will be complying with government guidelines on social distancing, hand sanitizing, maintaining records of attendance and wearing face masks during the service. Please contact David or June for details of Christmas Services if they are allowed again.

CHURCH LIGHTING

The Church was lit on the 7th November to celebrate Phil and Liz Whithalls 50th Wedding Anniversary.

It was also lit on the 14th November to remember Mary Mallett.

We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Bennett Cole's for their sponsorship of the Church lighting during December.

We also remember Lewis Blane on the 8th December and Mrs Jean Jones on December 9th.

TRANSPORT QUESTIONNAIRE

At the first meeting of the new Buckingham Council Winslow & Villages Community Board held this summer, a common priority was agreed that all villages wish to see improvement to bus routes into Aylesbury, Winslow, Milton Keynes, and Leighton Buzzard.

A sub group was set up to look further into this, and is now trying to identify the priority additional bus routes of the villages.

Great Horwood is a member of this subgroup and so I would be grateful if you would complete the questionnaire that has been included in this edition of Focus by 15th December and drop it through the letter box on the Village Hall.

Cllr John Gilbey

Chairman

Great Horwood Parish Council.

You can also complete this questionnaire on line by logging on to the Parish Council website at e-voice.org.uk/ghpc.

Then select the Transport Questionnaire page, click on the link to the questionnaire, fill in your answers and submit the questionnaire.

Thank you

MK FOOD BANK

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly donated very generously this year. You have all made many families very happy and appreciative. Many thanks Georgina Pacitti and Lisa Kelly.

MACMILLAN RAFFLE

Sadly we had to cancel the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning but not to be defeated we held the raffle and what a success it was. We 'all' raised £390.00. Biggest thank you to all the volunteers that support us year after year, to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and donated prizes. Although no coffee cake and laughter it still was a very successful morning. Many thanks Georgina and Colin Pacitti

GREAT HORWOOD VILLAGE HALL

The Committee would like to express their thanks to Kathy Thompson who recently retired from her job as cleaner for the Village Hall after many years and who also set new standards for the polish on our wooden sprung floor!. We hope she is enjoying more free time with her family.

Ian Lamberton 01296 715968

CAKE STALL

We would like to THANK everyone who has supported us with our plant and cake sales over the past year. The plant stall in May raised £1247.10 and the two cake stalls £289.90 Grand total so far £1,537.00.

We are sorry that we were unable to hold our cake sale in November due to the restrictions which were in force at the time. We intend to hold our last sale for the year on **Saturday 12th December** when we hope to have some Christmas goodies as well as our cakes and preserves. We hope to see you again then.

W.I.NEWS

Despite the muddy fields in October we have had lovely local autumn walks each Monday

Our AGM was very successful with 23 members joining in and we finished the evening with a hilarious bingo session with small prizes for the winners. It was nice to get together via Zoom with members again, some of which have not seen each other for a while.

We are going to make our December meeting as festive as possible so if you would like to join us or for any further information please contact Angela Mayne on 715400 or Angela.mayne@googlemail.com.

Sally Ahern

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GREAT HORWOOD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leaders Report 2020

As I write this report we are half way through lockdown 2.

The group had a good couple of terms with the Young People before we entered the period of lockdown in March which lasted till July.

During the terms of Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020; The Sections were all very proactive in badgework and balanced programmes that is all credit to the Young People and Leaders for putting these together.

During the lockdown the Leaders became resourceful and organised meetings via Zoom or emails and utilising Badges at Home.

Some Young People took part in the County digital camps that were held:

Beavers – Pirates

Cubs – Desert Island

It was encouraging to see Young People still doing badges at home.

As we returned to face to face meetings we said good-bye to some Leaders

Sarah Davies – Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

Steven Cordes – Assistant Scout Leader

Kat Field – Assistant Scout Leader

I say a big Thank you to them for all their support they gave to the Group.

Clare Lewis-Evans – Beaver Scout Leader

Simon Cull – Scout Leader

Are currently taking a sabbatical from Scouting and we hope to see them back with us in January 2021

Anna White – Assistant Cub Scout Leader:

Ann has moved up from Beavers to support the Cub Pack Leadership team.

Kieran Paterson – Assistant Beaver Scout Leader

He has now joined us; we welcome him to the Group.

The Cub Leaders

Emma Laird – Cub Scout Leader

Richard Walsh – Assistant Cub Scout Leader

and Sectional Assistants Lynn Essem, Joleen Russell and Nadine Clarke have pulled together to give the Cubs a chance to meet on Zoom and face to face.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to our Chairman Paul Ketteridge who has been my support and shoulder to lean on.

Thank you to Justin Daley our Treasurer for keeping us on track with our finances.

During this new phase of Scouting we will endeavour to keep you posted and make every effort to keep in contact with all our Young People; and hopeful we can move forward to getting back to face to face meetings.

Thank you for all your continued support during this difficult time in Scouting.

Yvonne Taylor MInstLM

Group Scout Leader

The Beaver Colony and Scout Troop are looking to recruit Leaders.

So if feel you would like to take up the challenge and be a Leader with your Local Scout Group then please contact me:

Yvonne Taylor MInstLM, Group Scout Leader, by email, adcbandc@uwclub.net, or mobile, 07931 585926

GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

Well, what a year 2020 is turning out to be! The Great Horwood Silver Band has not met in it's full capacity since March and all our planned engagements have been cancelled and we will not be able to perform for an audience for the foreseeable future.

With full lockdown restrictions in place, we were unable to play together at all, but have managed to keep in contact with each other through weekly Zoom meetings on Wednesday evenings, which would be our normal rehearsal evening and also a quiz for those of us who wanted to stretch our little grey cells.

I do know that a few of our members were playing on a Thursday night for the NHS clap when that was taking place and a group of our members who live together did play for the VE Day celebrations, following government guidelines.

As lockdown started to be lifted, we have managed to have a few rehearsals outdoors, following government guidelines, so these were restricted at the beginning to a maximum of six players. We met in a paddock which is owned by one of our players (thank you Kate!), socially distanced and it was great to get together for a blow, as many of us had lost the motivation for practising on our own over the weeks of lockdown.

We then got the fantastic news that music groups had been made exempt from the Government rule of six and that we were going to be able to meet up with no restrictions on numbers either inside or outside, but following strict policies to ensure that we were as COVID safe as we could possibly be.

We excitedly continued to hold our outdoor rehearsals as regularly as we could through from August and were on the brink of returning to indoor playing, so we could carry on as the winter drew in, but unfortunately had to pause all our plans following the announcement for the second Lockdown.

Luckily, all our members have kept themselves safe and as well as they can over the last 8 months and we hope they continue to do so.

If anyone has got any numbers in our 100 club, we haven't done a draw since March and are pausing all draws for the foreseeable future.

Keep safe everyone and hopefully we will be able to resume playing and entertaining you in the upcoming months.

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Scheduled Service Update

In the past few weeks, we had progressively resumed our scheduled routes to include Wednesday, Friday and Saturday services.

Unfortunately, with the announcement of Lockdown 2.0, we will have to suspend most services once more with immediate effect.

It is our intention to continue the Wednesday Winslow Market service for essential activities only in line with the new Government National Restrictions.

The Government website describes essential activities as:

“You can leave home to buy things at shops which are open, for instance for food and medicine, or to collect any items - including food or drink - ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, to obtain or deposit money, or to access critical public services”

If you wish to use the Wednesday service, in compliance with the restrictions above, please contact the Bus Co-ordinator, to reserve your place in the usual manner.

We hope to resume additional services once the latest restrictions are eased, currently this is projected as being after 2nd December.

Other News...

We have some good news! The Bus has recently been resprayed and is now very bright and shiny again. In the course of the next week, we will be adding new and improved signage to complete the upgraded look.

In order to reduce our operating costs, we will be ceasing usage of our landline telephone number. In future, all telephone contact should be via our mobile telephone number: 07483 336440.

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PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE STREET LAMPS IN GREAT HORWOOD WITH ENERGY SAVING LED LAMPS

Since February this year the Parish Council has been exploring the possibility of replacing the lamps on the 30 streetlights in Great Horwood with LED lamps. Progress (or lack of it!) has been reported in the minutes of each Parish Council meeting since then. In September a business case was presented to the Council and they agreed that the project should be taken forward.

This notice is to seek comments and support from Parishioners.

There are currently 30 streetlights in Great Horwood. The existing lamps in Great Horwood are old technology and consume 6,045 kWhrs per annum. If these were replaced with 18W LEDs they would consume 2,215 kWhrs per annum, a saving of 3,830kWhrs. The cost saving on electricity would be £841 a year. LEDs would also result in a reduction in maintenance costs of £339 per annum, a total saving of £1,180 per annum.

The capital outlay would be £7,800 ex VAT (the VAT is recoverable).

The Council has secured in principle an interest free loan of £4,057 from Salix Finance.

Salix provides interest-free Government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills. The loan is calculated at a level that allows it to be paid off from the energy savings within 5 years, so this loan would be cost neutral to the Parish.

The approval of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) needs to be obtained before this loan can be taken up, and this is ongoing.

In addition to the loan a further £3,743 would be needed. Provision of £5,000 was made in this year's budget for Parish and Community planning. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has not been possible to take these forward, so these funds are available for the balance of the expenditure.

There would thus be no increase to the Precept arising from the proposal.

In addition to the financial savings there will be environmental benefits from the proposal.

The anticipated energy saving of 3,825 kWh would give a tCO₂e saving of 191. This is the same as taking 40 cars off the road for a year or charging 24 million smartphones.

If you would like any further information, have any comments or would like to

voice your support, could you please email the Parish Clerk. Sue Brazier

Clerk to Great Horwood Parish Council
 clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

No FOCUS in JANUARY

Focus is delivered free of charge to every home in Great Horwood and Singleborough.
To send your news or advertise in Focus, please email editor@ghfocus.com.

GREAT HORWOOD C.O.E SCHOOL CARING AT CHRISTMAS

Home Instead Senior Care is an ambitious company whose intention is to care for the elderly in their own home. Every year they organise a Christmas card competition. Although they cover the majority of England, our cards from Hawthorn Class at Great Horwood School will be dispatched by the Buckingham and Milton Keynes branches.



There will be a winning Christmas card selected from schools in Buckinghamshire and this will be printed onto cards that will be sent to the people Home Instead care for. On the inside of our Christmas cards we had to write what we think it is like to be eighty years old.

Why did we enter? It was a fun and friendly competition against other schools and because we want to make the elderly feel appreciated after a challenging year.

We would like to enter the competition again next year as it has been very enjoyable and we do not want anyone to feel alone at Christmas. We hope our cards can put a smile on people's faces.

Written by Samuel Davis and Edward Lumsdaine – Year 6

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



In the last few weeks, Hawthorn Class have been busy planning, preparing and performing our

remembrance service. We have created our own pieces of writing to reflect what Remembrance Day means to us. We also decided to include a roll call of the names of local heroes who lost their lives during the Great

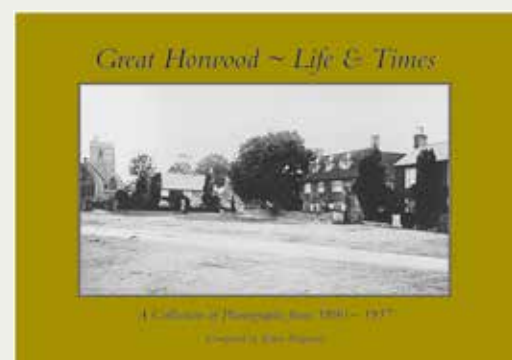
War, as we wanted to recognise and remember these individuals from our community. Our service was held outside in the playground, as this meant that the other bubbles in school could join us to remember those who fought so bravely for our country. In addition to our service, we have been creating a display of poppies and artwork to show our individual representations of Remembrance Day and what it means to us.

Ideal Christmas present

GREAT HORWOOD - LIFE & TIMES

This wonderful booklet by Ernie Ridgway has been reprinted with updates from Richard Edmans. Great Horwood - Life and Times is a history of our village life from 1890 to 1957 with a collection of photos showing what the village used to look like. Priced at just £7.50 this is a fascinating look back at life in Great Horwood for newcomers and residents who may have misplaced their copies.

The booklet is available from the Cake Stall on Saturday 12th December or from Russell Margerrison 01296-714554.



PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

LOCAL CAUSES BENEFIT FROM PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

In these uncertain times, Great Horwood Parish Council is pleased that it can make a difference to organisations in the village.



Income has been lost for many groups as subscriptions haven't been paid and it has not been possible to hold fund raising events in the usual way. We received 4 applications this year from local groups and the grants were allocated as follows:

The Football Club received £500 to buy additional kit, cleaning materials and signage.

The CofE Combined School received £1000 to enhance their outdoor learning environment

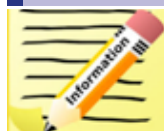
The Silver Band received £500 to buy additional equipment in order that they can hold rehearsals indoors again.

The Scouts received £1000 to pay for their insurance and fire extinguisher servicing.

Usually the recipients are invited to the December Parish Council meeting where presentation cheques are awarded. Sadly, this will not be possible as meetings are currently being held via Zoom due to Government guidance.

The organisations will still receive the funds after the December meeting has taken place. Congratulations to all!

INFORMATION SHARING GROUP



This is a good way of communicating useful information to villagers. If you would like to receive information first hand, such as PC Agendas, Minutes, Thames Valley Police info, roadworks updates and other ad hoc information, please contact me with your email address and I will add you to my list.

THANK YOU, TREVOR

A big thank you to Trevor Jones for repairing the bus shelter roof in Little Horwood Road near The Green. This was very much appreciated.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR LOCAL FOOTPATHS

In last month's Focus I reported that a new kissing gate had been installed on Footpath 5. I am pleased to provide two more photos which show another new gate recently installed close by. With grateful thanks to the two residents of Great Horwood who donated this gate and to North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing and Improving Public Paths for Leisure and Exercise) for replacing the old one.

There is an extensive network of footpaths around Great Horwood and out towards neighbouring villages. They are accessible and signposted well. Have a look on the GHPC website where there is a series of 6 Great Horwood Footpath Routes. Our thanks to David Saunders for producing these easy to follow guides that can be viewed on your phone as you walk.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 14th December at 7.30pm. Minutes of meetings can be found on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/

Meetings will continue to be held remotely via Zoom as Government guidelines encourage this at the present time.

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



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

Robert Davies 01296 712763
robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com 07967 868881

Dave Taylor 07980 546484
daveghpc@btinternet.com

Angela Mayne 01296 715400
angelamayneghpc@outlook.com

Jackie Goss 01296 713135
jackiegossghpc@gmail.com

Julia Day 01296 713752
julia.day49@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Sue Brazier 01296 714712
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings 01296 715968

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WINSLOW & DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

December 2020 Report

Winslow & District Art Society wishes all the readers of Great Horwood and Singleborough Focus a Very Good Christmas and hopefully a better 2021 than we have all seen for much of 2020.

We have been very pleased to be able to launch a fully internet based exhibition this November with over 80 pictures 'hung' by over 20 of our members in a wide range of different painting media – as well as a few pieces of sculpture. It has been good to be able to show the local (and worldwide) public what we get up to in our leisure time.

If you are reading this article before December 1st, there will still be time to catch the exhibition by logging into www.winslowart.org.uk and looking for the Exhibition section.

After

December 1st, some of those pictures will still be available to see on the gallery pages at the same site address.

Currently, of course, most of our activities are still limited by the National COVID-19 regulations and we are unable to meet socially for either our usual monthly demonstration meetings at the Winslow Bowls Club House, or for other Society engagements.

We have run some of our weekly painting group meetings which have been socially distanced, but even these have been affected as local rules have changed week by week.

This means that our committee have had a lot of extra work keeping on top of regulations and making rooms COVID-19 secure when small group meetings have been possible.

Our Annual Christmas Social is the Society's present to our members and usually held in mid December, but this year has been deferred until we can celebrate a happy release from restrictions – hopefully in early 2021.

Our Treasurer Jackie Chambers is still signing up new members even though we have little to offer at the moment other than promises, and all our members have benefitted from the reduction in subscription this year down to £10 a head, which runs through to September next year.

We are hopeful that when you come to read our January report it will be in a much more positive style, looking at the return of demonstrations in January, February and March – even if they prove to be on the Internet and provided exclusively for our members on a computer screen. A sign of the times!

I am sure I speak for all our members when I say that we look forward to being able to meet up with our painting friends again.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Society, The new website gives more information at:

www.winslowart.org.uk

and your usual local contacts are :

- Treasurer : Jackie Chambers 01296 713607
- Chair : Maureen Barnes 01280 815691
- Secretary : John Beckerleg 01280 816932

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