

DECEMBER
2022



Christmas Message

Around this time of year, my family and I, when we are driving in the car like to shout “Lights” every time we see a house that has Christmas lights on show. The person who shouts it first the most times wins, (it keeps us entertained).

The joy of Christmas lights sets the framework for the arrival of Christmas, the celebration when we rejoice in the coming of the light that the darkness cannot overcome and this Christmas, there is a light on in St. James. We have been through some tough years, and it looks as though we aren't quite out of the woods yet, but the people in St. James are doing what our church has done for more than the last 700 years, sharing the light of Christ.

This is a light that guides you to a place of companionship.

Guides you to a place of warmth in the cold, to a place where hope triumphs over the fears around war, climate change, cost of living and any number of stresses and strains that come with life.

Just like the wise men (who come later), the light in our church guides you to meet the love of God. Where a poor family brought new life into the world from the shakiest of beginnings and change everything.....forever.

You don't have to bring anything with you, yourself is enough - so that, with others, we can be together this Christmas. Togetherness, being with others, is an incredible gift. It makes life sparkle, brighter than any inflatable Santa can.

So I invite you. Follow the star this Christmas - you are warmly invited (but wrap up, just in case).

Rev'd Mark



No Focus in January. Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th January 2023.
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Church Times

Church Wardens:

David Brazier 714712 and June Margerrison 714554
www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

St James' Services for December			Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions
4th Dec	11.00am	Holy Communion	D Brazier	S Brazier	D Brazier
11th Dec	11.00am	Come and Praise	I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Brigden
18th Dec	6.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	S Brazier	-	-
24th Dec	4.00pm	Christingle	D Brazier	-	-
24th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mas	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
25th Dec	10.30am	Family Communion	R Margerrison	J Margerrison	Clergy
January 2023					
1st Jan	9.30am	Benefice Service, St Laurence, Winslow			
8th Jan	11.00am	Come and Praise	P Moyles	S Bayliss	J Brigden
15th Jan	11.00am	Creative Communion	D Brazier	S Brazier	D Brazier
22nd Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
29th Jan	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Brigden

Church Key:

December - David Moore 713281 January - Ian Lamberton - 715968

Please note there will be a Benefice service on 1st January taking place at St Laurence Church, Winslow at 9.30am. All welcome. Our first service at St James' in January will take place on Sunday 8th January at the usual time of 11.00am.

PCC TREASURER

St James Church PCC are in need of a new Treasurer. If you think you might be able to help, please contact me to discuss further.

David Brazier - 07773 340916 or
davidbrazier14@tiscali.co.uk

CHURCH LIGHTING

Mr and Mrs Bennet Coles have kindly sponsored the lighting of the tower for the month of December.

ART & CRAFT - CHRISTMAS GOODIES

With three new members, the Great Horwood Art & Craft Group is thriving and looking to the future.

As well as working on our own items we are collectively making products to sell at the Coffee Morning in the Church on 10th December starting at 10am.

So come along and browse our handicrafts and maybe pick up some gifts for Christmas.

Don't forget, we are open as a 'warm place' for anyone who would like a cuppa and a chat on Friday mornings, 10am until noon.

Liz Nicholls (01296 715331)

VILLAGE HALL

We are now taking bookings for Children's parties which is encouraging to see along with our regular bookings.

We will be celebrating the centenary of the Village Hall next year and will be looking for any ideas villagers may have about how to mark the occasion and also discuss plans as to how we can improve the actual facility with some funds we may be receiving..

We are all aware of the rising energy costs and how difficult it may be to keep warm.

As a reminder The Hall is open every Wednesday morning for the Post Office from 9.30 to 11.00 when hot drinks are served in a warm atmosphere

In addition, the Arts and Craft group meet every Friday morning in the warm and they would be pleased to welcome visitors from 10 to 12.

If there is demand we can consider extending these hours in the future.

Ian Lamberton


01296 715968

ianlamberton@aol.com



Focus would like to say a big **THANK YOU** and Merry Christmas to the delivery team and all the advertisers for their continued support this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers.



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GARDENING TIMES

There are only 3 conifers that can truly be called native to these islands. The ones that we can call our own are the Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), the Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and finally there is the mighty Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*), all the others are interlopers. The Yew is possibly second only to the Oak in writing the history of this country and its people.

They are particularly associated with churchyards in our collective consciousness, (and the y feature HEAVILY in ours). One of the reasons for this are that they are poisonous to browsing livestock and churchyards are places where cattle were never encouraged to graze. However, there is always more to that story than just greedy cows. There are at least 500 cases in Britain where the Yew trees that surround our churches are older than the buildings themselves. This suggests a relationship that goes back much further than at first seems obvious. We know that our Pagan forebearers thought of them as being particularly sacred, as having power and status amongst trees. The early church builders would have recognised this and may have deliberately positioned their place of worship in a place that was already venerated.

In Ankerwycke, next to Runnymede in Berkshire there is a Yew tree that is 2,500 years old. It is a wonder to behold. The National Trust, who owns it, says that it is the oldest tree under their stewardship. Its great age and presence has led it to being a place of pilgrimage for centuries.

Their dark, mysterious character has inevitably led us to create all sorts of folklore and stories about them. They were planted on the graves of plague victims to purify them, they are seen as a symbol of immortality because of their longevity. The wood has a very distinctive colouring, it is reddish and white so it inevitably became associated with the body and the blood of Christ. In Fortingall, Perthshire close to where I grew up there is a Yew where the

local folklore states that "Pontius Pilate was suckled under when his father was a legionary during an early Roman expedition". I'm not entirely convinced that is true but boy, it is a great story.

And their greatness carries on, the autumn clippings of Yew trees make Taxol, an anti-cancer drug, this tree is not just a legacy of the past but continues to help us and the rest of God's creation. The "berries" are a rich source of winter food for our birds and small mammals.

This Christmas, when it seems that all of the trees are bare, everything is dead or hiding from the cold and the wet, spare a thought for the Yew tree, carrying on the work that it has done for millennia. Quietly, slowly but relentlessly doing its thing. There is a lesson in there somewhere.

Have a wonderful, blessed Christmas.

Mark

Jobs to do in the Garden in December

- Choose a Christmas tree, not one of those plastic ones, a REAL one, locally grown.
- Now is the perfect time to be planting trees and shrubs, before the ground gets frozen and giving them time to get established before the growth of spring comes (it will come sooner than you think, I promise).
- Prune apples and pears, get them into some sort of shape. Also prune maples and birches now, if you do it in December you will avoid bleeding and losing any sap.
- Reduce the watering of houseplants, they get less sun, so they don't lose as much water. Don't leave them to swim around in a sodden pot!
- Take hardwood cuttings, they are the easiest. A cutting should ideally be the length and thickness of a pencil, bundle them all together and stick them in a pot, or the ground. Make sure that the exposed ends are in good contact with the soil and hopefully you'll have lots of babies in the spring.

FUNDRAISING ITEMS FOR SALE

ideal for Christmas presents in aid of the Buigiri School for the Blind, Tanzania. Helen is happy to deliver to any local resident, cash on receipt. A4 Calendars £5 and 5 x notelets and envelopes for £6. All depict scenes from the Blind School taken only a month ago.

Contact Helen: helengrimditch@gmail.com

Remember there is no Focus in January.

February issue out around

1st February 2023.

Copy and advertising deadline for next issue of Focus - 15 January.

editor@ghfocus.com



Sending photos to Focus?

So that we can get the best quality reproduction, please send unaltered, original images.

Images sent in a word document will usually be lower quality than if original image is supplied.

When emailing please do not reduce the file size.

email: editor@ghfocus.com.



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CAN YOU HELP?

Great Horwood School PTFa are looking for historical and geographic resources and artefacts to help improve the learning experience for the children. For example, maps, coins, medals, fossils or other historical or geographical items.

Any donations would be gratefully received.

Please take donations to Great Horwood School or email greathorwoodpta@gmail.com to arrange collection .

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GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

Please come and join us in the Village Hall for our annual Christmas concert, where we will be raising money for Parkinsons UK, a charity that is very close to the Band's heart, as we have a member of the Band who works for this amazing charity, but we also have a member of our Band who has Parkinsons and has received support from the charity.

Saturday 26th November

Buckingham Light Switch On Buckingham

Saturday 3rd December

Tingewick Light Switch On Tingewick

Sunday 4th December

Annual Christmas Concert Great Horwood
Village Hall 3pm

Wednesday 7th December

Carols outside Tesco Buckingham Tesco

Thursday 8th December

Carols at Berryfields Berryfields, Aylesbury

Saturday 10th December

Watermead Carol Concert Watermead, Aylesbury

Friday 16th December

Carols on the Green Little Horwood

Tuesday 20th December

Carols around the tree Adstock

Thursday 22nd December

Slapton village carols Slapton

Saturday 24th December

Carols around the Village Great Horwood

WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Meetings are held in Winslow every Thursday morning and in Padbury every Tuesday morning. Anyone over the age of 16 with an interest in visual arts is eligible to become a member subject to a small subscription. We are a friendly, helpful group and anyone interested in becoming a member can find more details on our website www.winslowart.org.uk

Demonstrations in a range of media are normally held at the Winslow Bowls Club on the last Thursday of each month. Entry is from 7.00 for a 7.30 start. In September we welcomed back Peter Keegan who will be mentoring members' work. These are enjoyable and informative evenings and last about two hours with a break for coffee and biscuits. Non members are welcome to attend and entry will cost £5.00.

Details of future demonstrations are as follows:

26 January

Mark Warner. Acrylics. Seascape

23 February

Jean Turton. Chinese brush

30 March

Heather Miller. Acrylics and mixed media. Lake in a landscape

For more about us please look at our website or contact

Chair: Maureen Barnes 01280 815691

Secretary: John Beckerleg 01280 816932

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

GREAT HORWOOD GIRLGUIDING

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been busy doing all sorts of activities recently. We took part in the village Remembrance parade and will also be participating in the Winslow District Girlguiding Christingle service in Winslow. The Rainbows have completed their First Aid Stage 1 badge, the Brownies have finished Influence Stage 2 and new Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been among the first to make their Promise to serve the King. (The Rainbow Promise is simpler and doesn't mention the monarch.)

Among other things, the Guides and Rangers recently enjoyed a hilarious evening of 'Minute-to-Win-it' challenges, the Rainbows did a whistle-stop tour of all the planets in our solar system in one meeting, using science experiments to experience volcanoes on Venus and hurricanes on Jupiter and the Brownies developed their skills as astronauts, performing tricky tasks in 'space'. We all had an evening of fun in the dark with games and treasure hunts in the dark, UV reactive face painting and glow in the dark decorations. By the time Focus is published, we'll also have enjoyed an outing to Chiki Ceramiki in Milton Keynes to paint ceramic Christmas decorations.

Girlguiding has a lot to offer girls - fun and friendship, confidence-building, exciting and entertaining activities and opportunities to try new things, including camping for the older girls. It is also much more affordable than most other hobbies and can be free to those experiencing financial difficulty. We'd love to increase our numbers so, if you've got a daughter aged 4-18 who'd like to find out more and come for a free taster session, please contact me for more information (claremartin71@btinternet.com , 07501 636037 or 01296 712034) or register your daughter via the Girlguiding UK website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

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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
Robert Davies		01296 712763 07967 868881	robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com
Dave Taylor		07980 546484	daveghpc@btinternet.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Andy Waller		01296 712798	andywallerpc@mail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
<u>Clerk to the Council</u>			
Mrs Sue Brazier		01296 714712	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings

Doctors Car Service

Winslow and District Community Bus

Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride

Community Police Officers

PCSO Andy Piotrowski

01296 715968

07704 140110

01296 715786

01296 330088

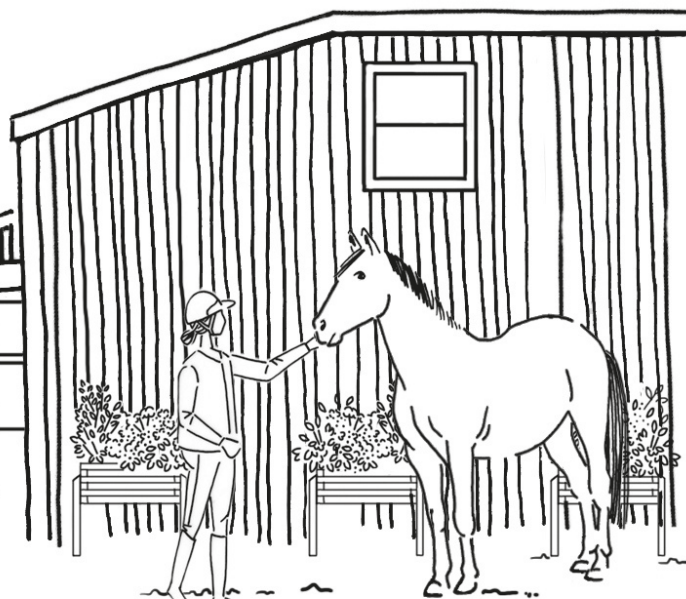
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GREAT HORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB - THANK YOU

The players, management team's and supporters of Great Horwood Football Club, would like to say a big thank you to all of our promotional banner sponsors.

The first team are seen below with last season's silverware and are having another strong season so far.



HORWODE PECE UPDATE

A working party was held on 12th November to replace the toddler play area ramp and repair some of the wood surround. Many thanks to the volunteers Mike Hobday, Syed Rooman Ali, Mark Owen and Steve Brigden for all the hours they put in.

We are planning to top up the rubber chippings soon and would be really grateful for help in spreading these little green shreadings over the play areas. We will put a note on the village Facebook page when we have a date.



John Nicholls Tel:715331

MEN IN SHEDS



Now the town Christmas Fair is behind us, Shedding becomes a bit more about finishing a few projects of our own and taking time to reflect on a busy year. We have earmarked Thursday 15th December from 12:00 to be our 'official' Christmas gathering.

No hot dogs this time - we've decided to keep it simple with just hot drinks, mince pies and good company as we down-tools for at least an hour or so. We hope that all our members and supporters will be able to find time to pop in. One thing that we definitely will be doing is raising a tea-cup in memory of our dear friend Ian Whitehall.

The news of Ian's death in early October was met with shock and incredulity - many of us were exchanging messages with him in what we now know were his last few days. With typical optimism he was looking forward to being discharged from hospital and getting back to Shedding - and we were looking forward to seeing him. Ian was part of Winslow Men's Shed right from the start in 2015 and, from then on, he scootered his way over from Great Horwood twice a week whatever the weather. Ian's unshakable desire to help anyone who needed it, his patience, his kindness and his encouragement to everyone is a rich legacy indeed to leave us with - we are all the richer



for having known him. We've now named the workshop where we all enjoyed Ian's company in his honour - a small

tribute to a great Shed Man.

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 - 4:00. Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate. www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164



Great Horwood St James 10th December 2 pm

We are holding a tower open afternoon hoping to introduce anyone interested to the bells and bell ringing.

With the coronation next year this is the perfect opportunity to learn the art and be able to 'Ring for the King' on and around 6th of May.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

PARISH PUMP

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 £500 to purchase a new football kit, footballs and training bibs.

Great Horwood School received £550 to treat the children to a Star Gazing workshop.

WI received £250 to book interesting speakers for the forthcoming year.

The Winslow and District Community Bus received £636 to pay for a monthly deep clean by an external cleaning company and three booster seats.

The Art & Craft Group received £500 towards the Village Hall hire for their Friday morning meetings.

The Scout Group received £500 to purchase children's and adult's hi viz jackets, a magnetic whiteboard and an outdoor solar light.

The Silver Band received £350 towards the purchase of a cabinet to store their music library.

The awards will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th December and we hope that representatives of all the award winners will attend. 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.

PARKING



It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that there are cars in the village that have been carelessly parked. We all realise that many of our roads have homes without driveways and it is therefore challenging to park, especially if homeowners have multiple cars. We would ask that you consider your surroundings first, taking note of cars already parked and entrances/exits of other roads, making sure there is visibility for everyone.

FOCUS ONLINE

Did you know that there is an online edition of Focus with every copy from February 2012?

So, if you have mislaid your copy and can't find the information you need, just log onto

<https://e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/focus-magazine/>

WELCOME TO GREAT HORWOOD



We hope all new residents have enjoyed reading their Welcome Packs and found the information useful, and are settling into our lovely village community.

Would any new residents we are not yet aware of, like to receive a Welcome Pack? We wouldn't want to leave anyone out. It has recently been updated and includes information on village organisations, the School, Church and the local area

Please contact John Gilbey by email on johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is always a public participation period when members of the public can have their say. The Notice of the meeting is advertised on the Great Horwood Facebook page, the Parish Council website and the noticeboard in the High Street. Minutes of meetings can be found on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/


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



*Great Horwood Parish Council
would like to wish everyone a very
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*

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December 2022 - January 2023

Aylesbury Market Bus

runs every Friday and Saturday morning -- from Winslow, through Gt Horwood, Little Horwood, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing 12.15pm. Drop off at Sainsburys & Broadfields on request. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return.

Winslow Market

Service 54abc - runs every Wednesday morning

This service picks up in the surrounding villages and then into Winslow, (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £3.00 return.

Buckingham Bus

Tuesday 6th December & Tuesday 3rd January

Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages. 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.

Westcroft Shopping

Thursday December 8th & 22nd, Thursday January 12th & 26th

Picking up in surrounding villages. Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Ring to book.

Asda

Monday 19th December & Monday 30th January

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip and will cost £5.00

Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages

Asda Shopping with the option to drop at Stadium MK1 for M&S, Primark, Next and more.

Lunch at the Navigation, Stoke Bruerne

Thursday December 15th.

The pub is located in the charming old village of Stoke Bruerne, which lies on the Grand Union Canal

Afterwards a stop in Stony Stratford

Travel £4 Call for more details

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details.

Timetables can be found online www.winslowbus.com

On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator

Passengers are not to travel on the bus if they or any member of their household are displaying any signs of the COVID-19 virus.

www.winslowbus.com

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BUCKINGHAM'S COMMUNITY CINEMA

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FOR ALL**

To coincide with the Film Place's move to the new luxurious theatre in the Vinson Centre at the University of Buckingham, the Winslow Community Bus is planning to start a new service.

During November and December, The Community Bus will run a service from Winslow to Buckingham on Fridays on a trial basis & if a success this will become a regular service. Cost £4.50 and must be pre-booked on 07483 336440 or email: wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com . You pay in cash on board.

Departures: 6.30pm outside the British Legion Hall (Elmfields Gate, Winslow)
with on request stops at Great Horwood & Padbury. It will return straight after the film.

Please note this service is independent of The Film Place.

To purchase film tickets and find out more about the planned films, check The Film Place website: <http://www.thefilmplace.org.uk/>

Don't forget to register so that you can receive their monthly newsletter



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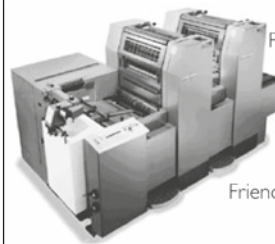
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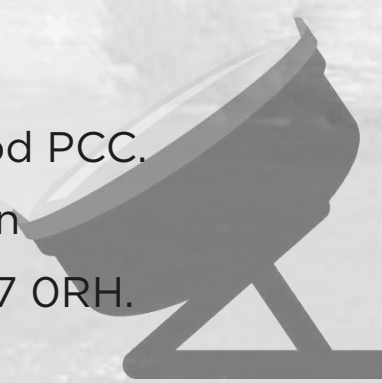
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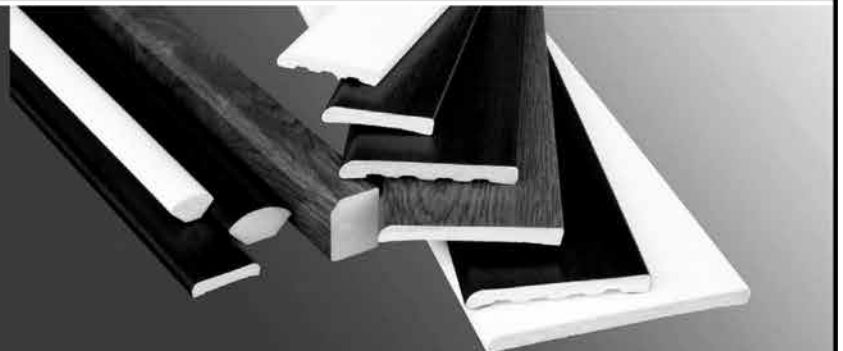
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