



DECEMBER
2023

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers, advertisers and contributors



I was always a tea towel wearing shepherd. I never got a bigger part in the annual nativity play we had at our primary school. In my role, I didn't have much to do. My fellow shepherds and I were asked by our teacher to show only two emotions: one was looking a bit scared when the angel appeared to announce the birth of the baby Jesus and then adoration when we found him. I think we probably spent most of the time looking a bit confused.

Despite a few rehearsals, our play would always be a bit chaotic: one of the cattle would bump into the crib or Mary or Joseph or all three; the angel's wings, so elaborate, would rarely stay on and all the cast would be trying to spot their families in the audience and exchange with them furtive smiles and even waves.

In the midst of all this was a plastic doll with eyes wide open and wrapped, almost to the point of suffocation, in a bed sheet, lying on a basket of hay. My poor mum would have to sit through at least three of these productions every year as she watched each of her boys take up a different character in the story of the birth of Jesus.

But as I look back on those chaotic plays, there seems to me something that spoke of that first holy night. That everything in Bethlehem was not serene, there was chaos, there was fear, there was desperation but amid all of this a little baby was born. A baby whose life, death and resurrection would bring hope to those who live in darkness. It is that hope we shall be celebrating at Christmas in St James. We look forward to welcoming you as you join us at any of our services over Christmas.

So, from all of us at St James' Church we wish every one of you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year!

Revd Didier

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th January 2024.
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 rector@winslowbenefice.org.uk
 www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

Church Wardens:
 June Margerrison 714554
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

St James' Services for December

3rd	11.00am	Holy Communion
10th	11.00	Come and Praise
17th	18.00	Nine Lessons and Carols
24th	16.00	Christingle
24th	23.30	Midnight Mass
25th	10.30	Family Communion
31st	9.30	Benefice Service St Laurence Winslow

Sidesmen

R Margerrison
P Moyles
I Lamberton
R Margerrison
R Margerrison
R Margerrison

Readers

R Margerrison
S Bayliss
R Margerrison
R Margerrison
R Margerrison

Intercessions

J Margerrison
J Brigden
J Margerrison
J Margerrison

St James Services for January 2024

7th	11.00am	Holy Communion
14th	11.00am	Come and Praise
21st	11.00am	Creative Communion
28th	11.00am	Holy Communion

R Margerrison
P Moyles
I Lamberton
R Margerrison

R Margerrison
S Bayliss
I Lamberton
R Margerrison

J Margerrison
Clergy
J Brigden
J Margerrison

Church Key December: David Moore - 713281. January Ian Lamberton - 715968

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

As part of this year's Christingle Service, we will be enacting the Story of the Nativity. If any children have a relevant costume, it would be wonderful to see them all dressed up. A limited number of costumes will be available in the church. All are welcome for the ever-popular service in St James at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve.

GOOD NEWS FROM NOOK PARK

We have had some news recently about the Fit and Proper person test that Joe Burns has had to undertake before he can legally run Nook Park or any other park site for that matter. Unfortunately for Joe Burns Bucks Council have deemed Joe Burns not a fit and proper person to run a park home site. This does mean that he shouldn't be running the site and not have a site licence. Joe Burns is appealing the decision.

On a brighter note, we do now have some street lighting. All be it very low-level lighting. Also, some of the driveways to the new plots have some paving. We also now have a car park of sorts but still waiting for our footpaths to be put back.

There are still investigations going on by Bucks Council but more on them when we know more. There are 2 tribunals coming up in December, 1 of which is a second hearing. Both down to encroachment of homeowner's gardens etc.

May we wish everyone in Great Horwood and Singleborough a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Liz Phillips*

GREAT HORWOOD ART & CRAFT GROUP

We will be displaying our handicrafts at the Church's Christmas Bazaar on the morning of 9th December, so please come along to view the items we have been working on, individually and as a group.

We meet every Friday in the Old School (until the village hall reopens) from 10am to noon. You are very welcome to call in if you think you might like to join us.

Liz Nicholls

WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

WADAS members and visitors went to the Winslow Bowls Club on the evening of 28th October to listen to and watch Jane Rhodes, a local artist. We were all enthralled to watch Jane demonstrate her use of watercolour and pastels and to marvel at the beautiful picture which she completed in such a short time.

We always welcome visitors to our demonstration evenings; you don't have to be an artist to enjoy watching and listening to them as they explain their particular skills. So why not come along? The entrance fee is only £5, and the doors open at 7pm for a start at 7.30 pm. You will see more information below,

As usual we have been meeting at Padbury Village Hall each Tuesday morning and in the Winslow Bowls Club on a Thursday morning.

Our next demonstration will be: -

25th January.... Cathy Read on Architectural Scene in watercolour and inks.

Chair: Cheryl Willyman 01296 640755

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

Secretary: Monica Gilbey 01296 711915

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- IT Skills - Apple Mac Advantageous - Microsoft Office & advanced knowledge of Excel
- Confident telephone manner, dealing with staff, suppliers and clients
- Good organisational skills - preparing for events timeously, documenting of all event information
- Must be comfortable with friendly dogs and working in a home-based office, car essential.

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GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

The Great Horwood Silver Band took part in several Remembrance Day events this year, the main Band playing in Preston Bissett Church for their annual Remembrance Service and also our traditional annual role for the Winslow Remembrance Day. We also had several players involved in other services playing the Last Post, Vicki Cook in Great Horwood, Tony Hart for Springhill Prison and Alistair Haig for the Swinderby School Church service, in Lincolnshire. Well done to everyone and we are extremely proud to be involved in this special day every year.

We have started our list of engagements running up to Christmas, completing three events in November, two of which were light switch on events in Buckingham and Winslow and a third a Christmas Fayre.

Our Annual Christmas concert is taking place on the 3rd of December at 3 o'clock, in the Great Horwood CofE Combined School Hall, so please come along to get into the Christmas spirit. The concert is free, but there will be raffle tickets for sale and refreshments available. As a thank you to the school for accommodating us while the Village Hall is being refurbished, the proceeds from the concert will go to the Great Horwood School.

We are also asking for volunteers to help us on the 24th of December with door to door collecting as we do our traditional playing around the village. Any time you could give to us would be very much appreciated. Please contact me at ghsbsecretary@gmail.com

or message through Facebook for further details.

Finally, as always, we would like to ask if there is anybody of any age or ability who would like to come along and learn a new instrument or return to playing, please contact the Band, as we would love to hear from you.

Dates to remember:

Friday 1st Dec - 5.30pm

Melrose Light Switch On - Bletchley.

Saturday 2nd Dec - 4.30pm

Tingewick Christmas Lights - Tingewick.

Sunday 3rd Dec - 3pm

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT Gt Horwood School.

Saturday 9th Dec - 6pm

Carols at Watermead, Aylesbury.

Friday 15th Dec - time TBA

Little Horwood Carols - Little Horwood.

Thursday 21st Dec - 6.30pm

Carols Around the Christmas Tree - Adstock.

Friday 22nd Dec - time TBA

Carols at Slapton - Slapton.

Sunday 24th Dec start approximately 4.00pm

Carols around Great Horwood.

Contact details:

Website: www.greathorwoodband.com

Email: ghsbsecretary@gmail.com

Facebook: Great Horwood Silver Band

MEN IN SHEDS

Christmas started early this year when Santa came to visit us in late October. His mission was to collect a brand-new sleigh in good time for duties at the North Pole or (more accurately) with MK Rotary at various retail locations over the festive period. If you happen to come across him then do say hello and don't forget to mention our name - you'll be bound to get into his good books.

Shedders have had a busy November in the workshop too. We try always to have plenty of handmade Christmas goodies to sell at the Town Christmas Fair and this year seems to have been particularly productive - thanks if you stopped by and thanks too if you did a bit of your Christmas shopping with us! We're now looking forward to the Lions Carols and Lanterns event on December 19th when the lantern kits we helped produce will be proudly on parade after skilful assembly and decoration by our local children.

December at the Shed is usually a little quieter so do pop in if you're passing. Our last session for 2023 will be Thursday 28th when we will down-tools at about 11:00 for a mug of something warming and a mince pie or three - everyone is welcome!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Winslow Men's Shed. We'll be back in 2024 on Tuesday 2nd January.

**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**

Continued from Focus November 2023

THE INTELLIGENCE ZONE

The many sites of the Whaddon Web

8 of 8;

Czechs and Poles

After the fall of France, and until Hitler invaded Russia and declared war on America (both in 1941), Britain was Nazi Germany's one unconquered enemy. Most of Europe had been taken by Hitler, causing no less than eight European governments (and also de Gaulle's 'Free French') to flee to our islands. A veritable united nations. MI6's communications section at Whaddon set up communications to support resistance movements in all of their countries.

Two of these countries, however, (Poland and Czechoslovakia) were a bit different. Once Whaddon had installed aerials and communication hardware for them (at Hockcliffe and Stanmore), they staffed those facilities themselves.

Poland was perhaps the most tragic victim of World War Two. Not only did Nazi Germany set out to eradicate it completely as a nation; but Russia, too, fed off its carcass.

The Czechs delivered what was arguably the hardest single blow of all to the Nazi regime when they killed-off Hitler's foulest and most effective deputy (Reinhard Heydrich). The Czech story is very local to North Buckinghamshire. Their government was at Wingrave and Aston Abbots and their intelligence service, under General Frantisek Moravec, was in the tiny hamlet of Addington. Their tale is

cont. on page 7

Winslow Community Bus



December 2023 and January 2024

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. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return. Drop offs at Sainsburys and Broadfields on request..

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 Service

Tuesday 5th December and Tuesday 2nd January 2024

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 14th and 28th December and Thursday 11th and 25th January 2024

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

Asda

Monday 18th December and Monday Tuesday 30th January 2024

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip which 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. Drop off at Westcroft on request..

Lunch at The Greyhound Inn, Aldbury

Monday 11th December - £8 travel.

Enjoy a festive lunch at this charming traditional country pub in the village of Aldbury near Tring. Afterwards we will drop into the Tring Garden Centre for some last-minute Christmas shopping.

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details of any trips.

Timetables can be found online www.winslowbus.com
On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator.

www.winslowbus.com

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profoundly important if one wants to understand the depth of evil of the Nazi regime. I write about Moravec's master stroke and the consequences for the Czech people in ***A New World After Pearl***.

As I hope that I have shown in this series of articles, The Whaddon Web bursts with profound and instructive stories. This is not dry history; this is the tale of men and women who were prepared to give their very lives to destroy the evil that had engulfed their lands. Men and women fighting - and often dying - to preserve their countries, their families, their sanity. The pictures here are of the two Czech soldiers who were parachuted from Britain and who killed Heydrich in Prague. They died for their deed.



Jan Kubiš



Jozef Gabčík

I cannot do full justice to Whaddon's 'customers' in the small space that I have in this series of articles. Their story should be writ large and their memory honoured. Fiction pales besides their deeds. The communications network that MI6's head of communications, Richard Gambier-Parry, had set up had, in his own words, 'no rival in the world'. The web of aeriels stretched across many, many, hilltops. That the paperwork did not always keep up with this ferment of construction is not surprising; and the bean-counters at MI6's head office could have shown more forbearance than they did. Gambier-Parry certainly thought so, as his volcanic reply to the paymaster of MI6 (Commander Sykes) in July 1941 shows (he had been accused of poor record keeping):

'No consideration at all is given to the fact that during the period our annual estimates... tripled... and we were working at the highest pressure, forming a military unit, equipping some 60 technical vehicles, putting up two broadcasting stations and a recording centre, at a speed which many experts would believe impossible, carrying ever-increasing telegraphic traffic, developing the new science of agent communications, coping with SOE communications, carrying an expanding circulation of Polish signals at home and abroad, and endeavouring to contribute to the process of winning the war. But then the auditors wouldn't want to know what we do in any of these fields. It seems to be of greater importance to them that one order has become entangled with another.'

What was the importance of the Whaddon Web? Of course, in passing information from Bletchley Park to the generals - British, American and Russian - it was crucial to winning the war. But I think it has a greater, moral, claim. Along with the BBC, it

gave voice to the oppressed peoples of Europe. Nowadays we think nothing of sharing thoughts instantaneously around the world. Often we don't know, nor perhaps care, whether the person we are speaking to online is in Japan, America or South Africa. MI6 started that process. The Whaddon web was the first network through which instant two-way conversations took place across national boundaries. And what a distinguished birth that was! For these were voices that spoke to those of like-mind; to people of courage - those above the norm - those prepared to fight - to risk torture and death to themselves and their families - to topple the strongest, the most evil and most racist regime in the story of humanity. **What an honourable birth modern world communications had.**

And there was more. Apart from what Whaddon was up to, the world's first digital computer was being developed (by Tommy Flowers) at Bletchley. It is no coincidence that Tim Berners, the Londoner who invented the internet, had a father who worked in radar and a mother who worked in computing. But that's another story. If I stray beyond my subject here, I hope you will forgive me. For it should not be forgotten - indeed it should be shouted out loud - that what happened in the Intelligence Zone was fundamental to the intelligence age that we live in now.

And what became of the suave head of MI6's communications; Richard Gambier-Parry, the man who, above all, was behind the Whaddon Web? He would stay with MI6 (the forerunner of GCHQ) as their Director of Communications. He liked North Buckinghamshire so much that he moved here permanently, to a little village called Milton Keynes. There he lived until his death (in 1965).

'Pop' of Milton Keynes. Richard Gambier-Parry.



He was said, in that village, to be a man who could 'get things done'.

Gambier-Parry was a product of the upper classes; but no snob. He was an urbane man, respected, liked and sometimes loved by his staff (they called him 'Pop'). He was witty, tolerant and kind. He

was not perfect; he loved to hunt foxes and liked the ladies (they liked him too). He was, however, intensely alive; and had no time for class barriers. He had a thrusting eagerness to make the most of technology. It is a shame - but perhaps a nod to the effectiveness of his secrecy - that he lacks a biography.

It is perhaps fitting - if in some ways sad - that the tiny village he retired to has been subsumed into England's newest and most techno-savvy city. If it has his life-force and (most of) qualities, it is the better for it.

The people of Milton Keynes, that new and ancient place, should know of him and his incredible achievements; for they are very much in the weft and warp of the place. They are its - and part of

cont. on page 9

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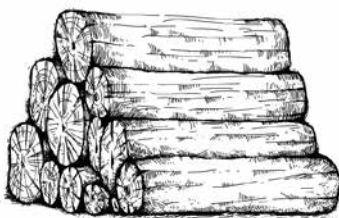
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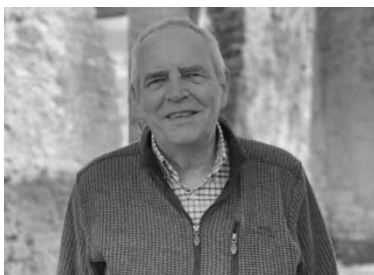
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Milton Keynes: the tiny village 'Pop' moved to is on the top right of this 1961 map.

our - roots. Just as we should not be ignorant of the evils in our past, we should not disregard the good. Only by learning from both can we build a sane and healthy future. Thank you, Pop.

My special thanks go to Andy and Russell, the printer and editor of **Focus** for printing these pieces. Thanks to you, too, fellow citizen of Great Horwood, for reading them. These extracts are now very widely circulated - but Great Horwood is always the first to see them. If you want to order copies of my books, for yourself - or for friends for Christmas (plug, plug), you can do so from Amazon; either directly or via my website www.theintelligencezone.co.uk. If you wish me to sign them; please contact me at intzoneuk@gmail.com and I will happily do so. I will make a donation to the Milton Keynes food bank for each one that I sign. Happy Christmas. *A/an*



**Copy and advertising deadline
for next issue of Focus
15 JANUARY.
editor@ghfocus.com**

VILLAGE HALL

We have started!

If you have walked past the Village Hall recently you will have noticed a lot of activity going on behind the doors! Our extensive renovation programme is in full swing with a new suspended ceiling being installed and the old floor removed and ready for a bright new look.

This is all in addition to the creation of new toilets, staging, lighting, window blinds and in addition a modern new kitchen which is being donated as part of a community initiative by a local home furnishing retailer and this will include appliances and accessories.

It is important that as many people as possible are able to use our new village facility and we want people to think about different ways it can benefit our community in Singleborough and Great Horwood. The Hall will be ideal for celebrations, meetings social events, film nights, talks, exercise classes etc.

The opening date is planned for the start of March, and we have a clear diary at the moment. The charges for hiring are based on a reasonable hourly rate with discounts for regular users. Please phone or email me for any further information about new bookings or ideas for different uses for the Hall.

The whole project is being carried out by a competent approved heritage contractor with support from a specialist architect and some photos of progress to date are featured.

Ian Lamberton
Chairman



PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

FOOTPATHS

A big thank you to the small group of volunteers including Farokh Khoroshi, Alan Biggins, Richard Heeley, Pierre Sacre and Graham Oxford Clay who carried out a great repair job on the footpath that runs behind Pilch Lane.



PARISH COUNCILLORS

We still have two vacancies on the council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community in this way please email me and we can arrange to have a chat about the role and see if it is suited to you.

VILLAGE PLANTERS

Since I wrote last month we have had 3 volunteers come forward and so we can look forward to the various planters around the parish being replanted and maintained for the coming year.



LIDEN PARK

I am sure that you are all pleased to see that two new litter bins have been installed at the eastern and western entrances to the new small park and that a dog bin has also been installed just outside the park on the corner of Liden Way.

FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

At the Parish Council meeting on 14th November it was agreed to award funding to the following applicants.

- The Football Cub for "Roll on Roll off" goal posts,
- Great Horwood School for an outdoor Pergola,
- Winslow Community Bus for monthly deep cleans and two new tyres,
- Great Horwood Girl Guides for an ice skating trip in December,
- Great Horwood Scouts towards a Bungalow mess tent.

The awards will be made at the Parish Council meeting on 12th December.

ALLOTMENTS

There is one plot available on the allotments off Willow Road. Please contact Sarah Biswell on: clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk if you are interested

SPEEDWATCH



I still have only had one volunteer come forward to join me in operating the Speedwatch camera. This is the only method that we have for officially recording the speed of vehicles at fixed points in the parish and from which action can be taken by Thames Valley Police with the information that we feedback to them over the internet.

So if you are really concerned about speeding in the village and worried about the dangers to your children and pets there is something you can do about it.

You will need to undertake an online training course and pass the online test at the end of the course. Once up and running the team will monitor speeds of vehicles at certain agreed spots in the parish and report the details direct to Thames Valley Police who will be able to take warning actions against speeding drivers. Cllr. John Gilbey johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

THE CROWN

The Parish Clerk has contacted Buckinghamshire Council Planning Enforcement and the Heritage function a number of times over the last month to try to ensure that the current owner is not allowed to let The Crown (a listed building) fall into a state of major disrepair.

WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome pack please email as shown below with your address and I will drop one off to you.

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/>

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut (this will be our normal venue whilst the Village Hall is being refurbished.)

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/
Cllr. John Gilbey, Chairman of the Council
johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

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Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council:

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John Gilbey	Chairman	01296 711915	johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com
Caroline Cousin	Vice Chairman	07903 549339	carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
Thomas Lee		07901 944996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. Sarah Biswell	01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
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Parish Council Website

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings	01296 715968	www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
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Winslow and District Community Bus	01296 715786	
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Community Police Officers

PCSO Andy Piotrowski	Tel: 101	Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
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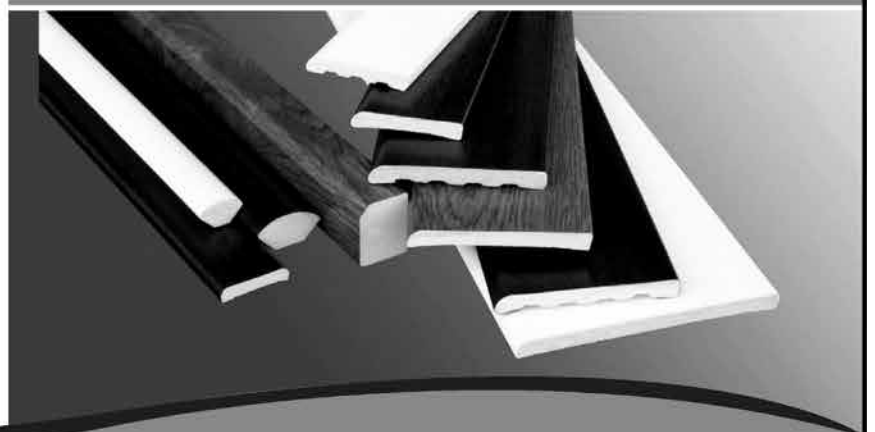
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