



Editors Comment: "The editorial team are extremely sorry to see the Crown shut its doors. Sara, Sean and family 'thank you' on behalf of the village for all the fun times over the years, we will miss you."



A letter from Sara and Sean

Last orders at the bar- As The Crown closes its doors.

As many of you will already know, The Crown has been listed for sale by the private owner.

Where to begin - March 2007 we opened the doors to begin our life as tenants and newbie publicans. All we can say is, the last 11 YEARS have been an amazing experience! To our team of staff 'THANK YOU' (!!!!) you having been beyond brilliant.

The customers that have been with us for the whole ride, we thank you so much for sharing our experience. You have been an absolute pleasure, as we ventured together through many years of village life at the Crown.

For customers new to us, we are proud to have been an amazing community hub that has whole heartedly supported - The school, the after- school club, the football club, the cricket club. The monthly lunch club, the fun run committee, the church grass cutting team, raffle ticket sellers. Our first gin festival, paella nights, charity fundraisers, jubilee street party, village fete and much more that has now escaped our memory.

We have in our time, seen both young and old take their sometimes untimely place in the church yard. Always in our thoughts and hearts, as we have been proud to provide you with a send off to remember you by.

In past years, we have encouraged many of the younger community to take their first steps in a working environment with us. They gained essential social skills for the future (if you can deal with the public, you can deal with anything, ha ha !!) and it's wonderful to hear, so many have now achieved great careers.

We would not change a single thing in the 11 years. Now it's time for the Crown to have a new lease of life and a fresh chapter for future stories. Hopefully, it will reopen under someone with a village and community spirited heart.


We hope we have ticked all the boxes, for absolutely everyone along the way and we can leave with many friends, very fond memories and "a job well done.

Finally


The Walsh family and all the team from across the years, we say a HUGE thank you to everyone, for your support.

Cheers xx

Next issue of Focus is delivered around 1st March
Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th February
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St James' Services for February			Sidesmen	Reader	Intercessor
3rd Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
10th Feb	11.00am	Come and Praise *	P Moyles	D Brazier	Clergy
17th Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion	I Lamberton	C Finnemore	I Lamberton
24th Feb	11.00am	Come and Share	N Weir	J Brigden	Clergy
3rd Mar	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison

*Bacon and / or sausage will be served at 10.30 am with tea/ coffee/ juice prior to the Come and Praise Service – all are welcome.

Church Key – David Moore – 713281

The Lighting of the Church Tower

The Church Tower was lit on the 5th January to commemorate Toby Terkelson's Birthday.

It was also lit on the 11th January to remember Mrs Blane.

Letters from Villagers

A new section for Focus for the New Year; we would like to hear from you, all letters are subject to editorial approval.

With the closure of the Crown this month we would especially like to hear your memories of times spent there.

Please get in touch through: editor@ghfocus.com

The Cutting Corner, Winslow is expanding

After 15 years and popular demand Steve and the crew and The Cutting Corner have run out of room at 74 High Street and have decided to open another bigger shop at 2a High Street. It's at the other end of the town opposite the market square.

Steve said; *'the shop is a lot bigger which will enable me to take on more staff to deal with the busy periods and reduce customer waiting time. It will also enable us to expand on our services offering gents grooming as well, which will include: hot towel shaves, nase and eyebrow waxing and much more.'*

We are aiming to open the new shop on Tuesday 29th January offering the usual walk in service with no appointments needed.

As an opening offer and to celebrate 15 years of the Cutting Corner in Winslow the first 100 lucky customers to have their haircut in the new shop will receive a voucher for a free pint or drink at The Bell Hotel!!

Once the new shop is up and running our aim is to introduce an appointment only system at the old shop which will be able to be booked online, please ask me or your barber for More details on this when you pop in.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the new shop soon.

Steve Perry.

New Pilates/Yoga

To be held in the Village Hall, a Pilates/ Yoga class called The Lavender Workout. I am running trial classes for 4 weeks (24/1 - 14/2) to see if there is enough interest to sustain a regular class in the village. For more information contact:

Sandra Pratt. Tel. 07775 428594

Date for your Diary

Saturday 30th March, Village Quiz, at Great Horwood Village Hall with a hot supper.

Teams of 4-6. More details in next month's Focus. Quiz Master David Brazier.

The Great Horwood Silver Band

The Band had a very busy Christmas as usual, starting with the Christmas Concert in Potterspurty United Reformed Church on Saturday 1st December and the annual Christmas Concert in Great Horwood Village Hall on the 2nd December. All proceeds from this Concert were for the Village Hall funds and we were able to donate £300 to them.

The concerts were followed by two full days and an evening at Tesco in Buckingham. They played for Carols around the tree in Adstock on 20th December where the band received their usual welcome from the Adstock Villagers who sang carols with the band. On Christmas eve and Christmas morning they played carols in Great Horwood. We thank Stuart Birrell and his nephew for volunteering to collect for us in Great Horwood. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to our collections.

We are now busy rehearsing for the annual Concert in the Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday March 2nd.

The band were pleased to announce that in 2018 we raised £920 for local and National Charities these included Cancer Research UK, the British Kidney Foundation, British Heart Foundation, Florence Nightingale Care Home. Potterspurty United Reformed Church and Great Horwood Village Hall.

You can read our news on the band website on www.greathorwoodband.com

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Thank You from the Focus editorial team

Our thanks again to Mr Nick Biswell for kindly enabling Focus to use his photos of 'the 100 year centenary' in December's issue. Apologies that we did not print your name as the photographer.

From the children at Great Horwood School

The following poem was written about the school by our Hazels class (year 2 and 3 children.)

Great Horwood School is very special to us,

Rabbit holes on the field,
Everyone has a great time,
A lot of amazing lesson are always taught,
Trees are in the conservation area,

Houses compete against each other in tournaments,
Our school is the best because we have chickens and fish,
Respect is one of our school values,
We have a great trim trail,
Our school is fun and friendly,
Our first topic we learnt about was the first airplane flight,
Division, multiplication, addition and subtraction,
are what we learn in Maths

School is a place to learn and have fun
Clouds come up above the school
Hazel class are writing this poem
Our teachers are very kind and helpful
Our other school value is perseverance
Love is our final school value

By Hazel Class

Village Hall News

At the time of writing this, our new roof is being put on.

This is phase one of our renovation which has been paid for by a grant.

We are still taking bookings for the hall.

I would like to thank the Great Horwood Silver Band for their very generous donations to the hall and also to the other people who wish to remain anonymous. Thank you all.

To book the hall phone Gill on 01296712165.

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Volunteering opportunities

Would you like to work with children, gain voluntary experience, develop new skills, enhance your CV and experience the warm, fuzzy feeling you get inside from doing something worthwhile for other people? Would you like to make sure that girls in the village and surrounding area can continue to enjoy the wide variety of fun and exciting activities that they currently get from being Rainbows, Brownies and Guides?

Would you like to inspire them, challenge them, take them on adventures and help them to develop important skills,

make friends, grow in confidence and try new things? If you answered, "Yes!" or "Maybe - once I've found out a bit more about it," you might be one of the people we're looking for.

Rainbows (aged 5-7) meet on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6.30pm, Brownies (aged 7-10) meet on Mondays from 5.45-7.15pm and Guides meet also on Mondays from 7.30-9.00pm.

Rainbows need at least one lady who would like to train to be a Rainbow Leader and take on the main running of the unit. Current Leader, Becky Porter, isn't leaving Rainbows but she needs to take a bit of a backseat now her work takes her to New Zealand for 2 or 3 months each year.

The Brownie and Guide units each need an adult to help me run things on Monday evenings – or one adult who is happy to help me with both units.

Sarah Hemphill has been one of our Brownie Leaders for 8 years and also a Guide Leader since she and I reopened the Guide Unit in 2016. Sadly for us, the whole Hemphill family is moving away.

On behalf of all the Brownies and Guides, I'd like to say, "thank you very much" to Sarah for all her help with running Brownies and Guides and also to Jess Hemphill for all her help with Brownies.

We'll miss them very much but we hope the whole family will be very happy in Northern Ireland.

Girlguiding volunteers don't need any qualifications or previous experience but patience, enthusiasm and common sense would be very helpful.

Full training will be provided for those who'd like to become Leaders.

Guiding Leaders must be women aged 18 or above. Unit Helpers don't need training and can be men or women over 18. All adult volunteers need to be willing to submit to DBS checks.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, I'd be delighted to hear from you on 01296 712034, 07501636037 or claremartin71@btinternet.com

If you have a daughter who'd like to join any of our units please register her on:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

or contact me. Thank you.

Clare Martin

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W.I News

We enjoyed a lively quiz with a glass of bubbly at our January meeting.

Several outings are planned for the coming year including a theatre trip. Our next meeting is on the 12th February when the speaker is Catherine Jones, A.K.A Katie Lace, who writes romantic novels.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month so if you would like to join us please ring Angela Mayne on: 01296 715400 or Monica Gilbey: 01296 711915 you would be very welcome.

Sally Ahern

ROSE PRUNING

Are your roses a thorny, tangled mess?

Are they producing very few flowers?

If so, they need a professional prune.

February is a good time for rose pruning so give me a call to discuss your needs.

Additionally, if you would like to learn how to prune roses, I offer tuition on how to prune your own roses.

Ann Birch

Professional Gardener, RHS Qualified

Tel: 07906 177520

annbirchgardener@gmail.com

A ramblers group with a difference

Winslow and District Ramblers Group (WDRG) is a friendly group of walkers who often stride out in the Great Horwood and Thornborough area.

For various reasons there are spaces for some new members. If you are interested please contact the Membership Secretary, Sue Cobbold, on 01296 670045 or go to our website www.bucksvoice.net/winslow

We provide walks every weekend throughout the year and also on Wednesdays when leaders are available.

Our walks are between 3 and 6 miles long and not too strenuous for most people. They cover a 20-mile radius of Winslow and anyone without transport can always get a lift with another member.

Why not give us a try? you are welcome to join two walks without paying and I am certain you will see the benefits in both health and sociability.

Here is part of a poem written by our chairman which I thought you would enjoy.

Mud and Stiles

The Winslow Ramblers are an active bunch

They enjoy brisk walks before their lunch

But programme notes that stop their smiles

Are "may be muddy and several stiles."

Valerie Newby, Publicity Secretary

Men in Sheds Winslow

'A friendly workshop where men can gather, work together, share skills and knowledge or just have a chat over coffee'

Winslow Men in Sheds is part of an international movement and liaison between Sheds is a valuable way to share ideas, expertise and resources – and to see what others get up to. While some Sheds concentrate on small, well-crafted 'sales table' items, we have the space to be a little more flexible. On a typical shed day members will most likely be found working on their own projects, mending pieces that have been brought in or building pieces requested by local groups or individuals. Recent jobs include a couple of bespoke garden tables, log stores, garden tool stores, some of the most sumptuous bird tables you will ever see and even antique furniture repairs. A couple of members are restoring cars; Tim's is an Austin A30 while Ray has gone continental with a Citroen 2CV. 'Vive la difference!' (and boy - are they different!)

If 'shabby-chic' is your thing then we probably won't know what you're talking about but maybe have a word with Tony – he's a dab hand at giving old furniture a new lease of life. Of course, the one thing you'll definitely find on a typical shed day is a steaming kettle and a bunch of friendly, helpful chaps who enjoy a yarn or two!

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

Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.

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Great Horwood
Parish Council

PARISH PUMP

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

I mentioned in December that the Parish Council elections were postponed until 2020/21 due to the handover from AVDC to a unitary authority. It has now been confirmed that the next District, Town and Parish Council elections will take place in 2020.

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

The Parish Council has attended its first meeting on the new expressway. As expected this meeting yielded little information as planning is in its very early stages and decisions still have to be taken, amongst other things, on the exact route. We received our second "newsletter" which can do little more than touch base at the present time but it does give the PC the opportunity to raise questions. There will be a public consultation phase in the future but if any resident would like us to ask a question before then, please contact the Clerk.

ICE CARDS

At the time of writing, we have begun delivery of ICE cards (in case of emergency) to all households in Great Horwood, one for each registered voter. Extra cards can be obtained from the Clerk. Things always happen when we least expect them. Please consider using the tear off cards to record your emergency contact details and emergency medical information. It could help in an emergency and enable your next of kin to be contacted quickly.

Since thanks to those who helped to deliver the cards.



ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION

Western Power Distribution have advised us that they will be building an electricity substation on the verge between The Close and Western Road. Affected residents living close to the site have been informed. This is an unwelcome development but we have been informed that WPD have "permitted rights to site equipment on Highway land (i.e. land owned by Bucks County Council). We have asked them to consider siting it on the new development but they have refused to do this as they say that the substation is also required to provide extra demand from existing properties. We are grateful for the advice given by Mr David Saunders on this matter. The maximum permitted size is 29 cubic metres which is difficult to visualise but I have pinned them down to agreeing that it will be the same size as the existing box on Winslow Road. Sadly, it will not be so easy to camouflage.

BUDGET 2019/2020

Residents might like to know that a Parish Council budget has been passed for 2019/2020. The amount of money available to the Council is slightly higher than last year due to additional housing, however, Great Horwood council tax payers may be pleased to know that once again there will be no rise in the Parish Council element of your council tax bill. We cannot promise that this will be true in 2020/21 as there are projects that might need to be considered. Obviously I cannot tie the Parish Council to any commitments but the sort of things that might arise are extra funding for Horwode Pece as regulations require higher and higher standards, traffic calming surveys/ measures, street light upgrading to LED (the street lighting loan will finally be paid for in 2022) and extra funding for the Neighbourhood Plan revision.

SPEEDING

Mick Wood is our much valued MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated (speed) System) caretaker. Thankfully, his wife Gill has also been seen acting as safety officer when moving the box from the less than safe Winslow Rd. He recharges the box every couple of weeks and downloads the data. Whilst monitoring the speed of drivers on Winslow Rd he has noted a reduction in average speed from almost 42 mph to about 39 mph (12/11/2018). It is still too high but is good news. The factors that could be affecting this are the MVAS, Speed Watch and the newly painted 30 mph roundel and yellow rumble (ish) strips on the approach to the village. To keep up the momentum we still require more Speed Watch volunteers. Please volunteer and speak to Jane Holland.



SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

A great deal of effort was put in by Bucks County Council in previous years to recruit a village school crossing patrol officer, including extensive publicity, visits to events, cut out cardboard officers and adverts on beer mats. However, there is a county wide shortage of people willing to undertake this task. Great Horwood did set the money aside to pay an officer but as it wasn't being used, reallocated it for contingency. If anyone were to offer to fill the post, the plan could easily be resurrected. All you have to do is contact the Parish Clerk.

Mandy Cliffe



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Clerk to Great Horwood Parish Council

Mandy our splendid Parish Clerk for the last 3 ½ years has decided that she wishes to take a more relaxed view on life. I am sure that everybody in the village knows Mandy Cliffe and will wish her well for her future.

So although this decision by Mandy is sad for us it does open up a golden opportunity for somebody else in the village to take on a varied, worthwhile and interesting role in the life of the community.

You will need to have good Interpersonal and Communication Skills with the ability to use computer systems for email, word processing, Excel etc. and to take care of the Parish finances on a day to day basis.

The part time hours are currently 8 per week and the pay is in accordance with National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Full training will be made available and I can assure the person who takes on the role the full support of the Council and the opportunity to contribute to the life of our village community.

So if you are tempted by this exciting opportunity and can offer a positive can-do attitude please call or email me and I can provide further details.

Mandy has also agreed to talk to anybody who wants to know more about what the work involves

John Gilbey – Acting Chairman Great Horwood Parish Council
01296 711915 johnwgilbey@gmail.com

clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk 01296 715829



GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council :

John Gilbey	Acting Chairman
01296 711915	johnwgilbey@gmail.com
Nigel Heywood	07847 627044
01296 711558	nheywood2@gmail.com
Jane Holland	
01296 715704	jane.holland.313@btinternet.com
John Huskinson	
01296 292411	jhuskinson@buckscc.gov.uk
Gavin Laird	
01296 712798	gavinlaird29@hotmail.com
Angela Mayne	
01296 715400	angela.mayne@googlemail.com
Clerk to the Council	
Mrs Amanda Cliffe	
01296 715829	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Useful Numbers:

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



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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



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ALL are welcome to come on the Community Bus –we pick up near to your home and carry your shopping for you if you're good!

- Tuesday 5th February - **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco or 2 hours Tesco! Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.
- Thursday 14th February - **Westcroft Shopping*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.
- Monday 18th February - **Buckingham Garden Centre** – Free tea or coffee on arrival plus 10% off lunch. £4.00 travel.
- Thursday 21st February - **Welford Park** – (where The Great British Bake Off is filmed)! See the carpets of Snowdrops, visit the Old Laundry Tearooms and Gift Shop. Quick pub stop on the way for a light lunch to arrive 1.30pm. Well worth the visit, fabulous displays as well as a selection of hellebores and herbaceous plants on sale. Be warned, there is some walking involved! The full snowdrop walk around the Beech Woods can take a fast walker 30 minutes but at a more sedate pace, enjoying the amazing spread and scent of the flowers and the formal garden, can take up to an hour or so. There are also paths along the River Lambourn for you to enjoy. Travel and entrance Adults £16.00, Seniors £14.00
- Monday 25th February - **Asda in Bletchley Shopping**, M&S, Primark, etc £4.00
- Tuesday 26th February - Local lunch at The Crown, Granborough, delicious food in a lovely pub! Always popular. £3.50 travel.
- Thursday 28th February - **Westcroft Shopping*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.
- Tuesday 5th March - **Buckingham Bus** – 1 hour town, 1 hour Tesco or 2 hours Tesco! Door to door, bus pass accepted, otherwise only £4.50 return.
- Thursday 14th March - **Westcroft Shopping*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.
- Thurs 21st March - **Banbury Shopping**. Large modern shopping centre right in the town by the canal, plus town centre market and smaller shops to explore £5.00
- Thursday 28th March - **Westcroft Shopping*** Morrisons, Boots, Aldi etc free with bus pass. Departs Winslow 9.30am, village pick ups. Ring to book.

Milton Keynes Theatre - please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or stalls) and travel. Performances start 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Door to door service!

- Thursday 16th May - Les Miserables £62.00
- Thursday 30th May - Les Miserables £69.00
- Wednesday 3rd July - Annie - £29.00
- Wednesday 9th October - Dr Dolittle - £34.50

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Ring Sue for more details 01296 715786



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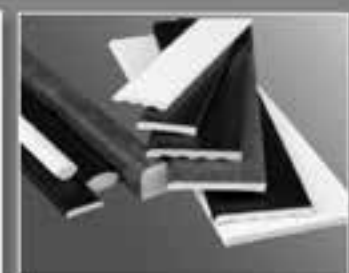
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MAD MARCH HARE RUN

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2019 AT 12.00 noon

5K ROAD RUN

An undulating road course closed for the duration of the event

MEDAL TO ALL FINISHERS

Prizes

- 1st Male & Female
- 1st age 16 and under M&F
- 1st age 12 and under M&F
- 1st age 9 and under M&F
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Venue

Registration at Great Horwood School from 10.45am

Numbers

Issued on the day



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£6.00 Adults
£3.00 Age 16 and under
Closing date: 19st March 2019

Entry on the day

£7.50 Adults
£3.50 Age 16 and under
Under 4's free

Surname

Forename

M F age on the day

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Address

Postcode

Telephone

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I declare that I enter this event entirely at my own risk. The organisers shall not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage as a consequence of my participation. I understand that my entry is subject to the organisers discretion and that after acceptance and in the event of cancellation, the entry fee is not refundable

Entrants Signature :

Return with fee to : Fun Run, 5 Great Horwood Church of England Combined School, School End, Great Horwood, Bucks, MK17 0RG

Cheques payable to: Great Horwood School PTA **Closing Date :** 19.3.2019