

FEBRUARY
2025



Welcome to 2025 Support your village organisations

FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

At the Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2024, the Worthy Causes Grant awards and certificates were made to the following organisations:



Top row (Left to right)
Great Horwood Football Club
Great Horwood Cricket Club
Great Horwood CofE School

Middle row

Winslow & District Community Bus
Great Horwood Silver Band
Art and Craft Club

Bottom

Great Horwood Scouts
Rainbows and Brownies



Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15 February 2025.
To advertise or submit articles email: editor@ghfocus.com

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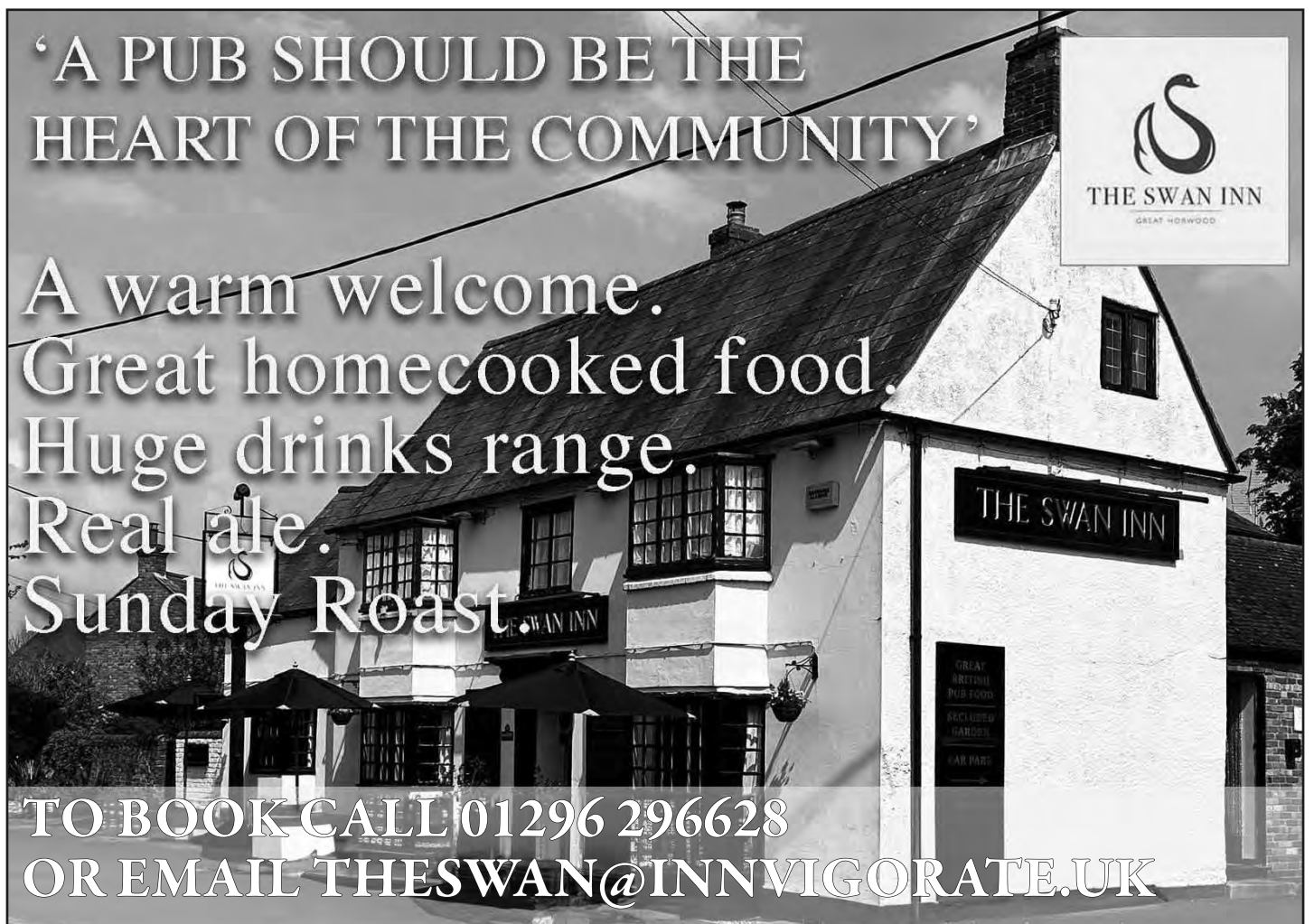
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Church Times

All services at 11.15 unless stated otherwise.

Dr Stephen O'Connor
 rector@winslowbenefice.org.uk
 www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

Church Wardens:
 Ian Lamberton 715968
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

ALL SERVICES WILL COMMENCE AT 11.15 until further notice

February

- 2nd **Holy Communion** - (Candlemass) - a traditional communion service with hymns (1 hour)
 9th **Come and Praise** - a more informal service with live instrumental music. (45mins)
 16th **Creative Communion** - an informal communion service (1 hour)
 23rd **Holy Communion** - as above

CHURCH KEY: Tracy & Neil Taylor. - 712231



Great Horwood
Parish Council

REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At the Parish Council Planning Committee meeting on 13 January 2025, it was resolved that a review of the Neighbourhood Plan should be undertaken with a view to updating its policies.

The Parish Council is the Qualifying Body that will be responsible for submitting the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will be an expression of the views of the whole community and to that end we need to set up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that will be responsible for leading the process and developing the plan.

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If there are more than a dozen people interested then we would need to select the Committee to ensure we achieve this.

The Steering Group will be run with regard to the Nolan Principles, so would not be able to include anybody who wished to put land forward for consideration as part of the process.

If you think you would be able to help, please contact the Clerk (clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk) giving your name and where you live and occupation.

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

New resolutions from the WI

At our January meeting, members of Great Horwood & Singleborough WI were invited to vote for one of four resolutions that have been short-listed to go forward for further discussion and voting by WI delegates at the national Annual Meeting in 2025. The resolutions ranged from a call to government to commit to provide incontinence services (it is estimated that 14 million people of all ages suffer with bladder problems and the subject is misunderstood and difficult to talk about), to how training bystanders in CPR and defibrillation can help save lives. According to the British Heart Foundation around 30,000 people each year in the UK have cardiac arrests outside of hospital. The other two Resolutions discussed were how to reduce the amount of medical packaging from going to landfill, through encouraging additional collection points for empty packaging and a call on manufacturers to design more environmentally-friendly packaging, to The Repair Revolution, encouraging a circular economy to promote the re-use of clothing.

Our next meeting on 11th February will be a demonstration of creative cake decoration with a seasonal theme. We meet every second Tuesday each month starting at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7.15pm. As well as our monthly meetings with a varied programme of interesting speakers, we organise visits to places of interest and practical craft days. We also enjoy weekly walks on a Monday and Wednesday exploring the beautiful north Buckinghamshire countryside.

If you'd like to join our friendly group or would like more information, please contact Ann Biggins - annieqqmk@gmail.com / 07961 960802

Focus is your voice to whole of Great Horwood and Singleborough.

Let everyone know what's happening at your about your club, society or event -

even people not on social media!

editor@ghfocus.com

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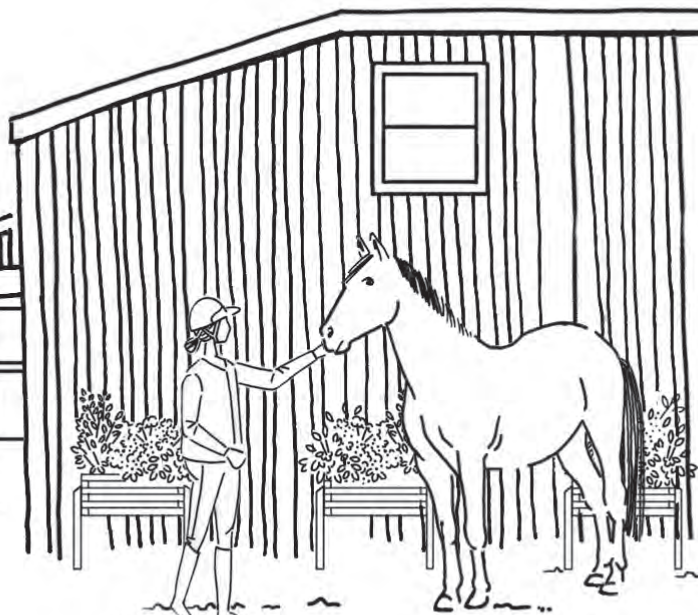
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SCOUTING - HELP REQUIRED

The Group is doing well and all 3 sections have very well-balanced programmes going forward

I could not be more proud of the Teams that organise and put the Young People's ideas into practice.

They range from Car Mechanics, climbing, camps, hikes, cooking, First Aid and so much more.

But, the Group are seeking the following to complete the Family at 1st Great Horwood Scout Group

- Group / HQ Treasurer
- Adults for the 8-11 & 11-14 year olds Teams
- Quartermaster to log and look after all the equipment
- HQ Handyman

We must get this help so we can function more smartly and efficiently

I won't lie all the above will need to have a DBS check and do some Online training

If you or you know someone who would be willing to take on one of the above roles then please contact

Yvonne Taylor MloL

Group Lead Volunteer

E: ddcibd@gmail.com M: 07931 585926

GREAT HORWOOD AND SINGLEBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

We are delighted that our refurbished Hall is continuing to attract a wide range of activities ranging from dance and drama coaching, concerts, activity workshops, children's parties, worship group and a very lively New Year's Eve party with many local residents attending!

The popular weekly Post Office will be returning on Wednesday February 12th from 9.30.to 11.00. In the meantime, the social coffee gathering is continuing to operate in the Hall.

Our rates remain very competitive particularly for village residents where there is a significant discount.

For initial enquiries please call or e mail me in the first instance.

Ian Lambertson

Chairman and Bookings co-ordinator

07973 225428, ianlamberton@aol.com

W.I. TROPHIES

Great Horwood & Singleborough W.I. have been keeping the trophies and shields from the Produce Show which, sadly, no longer exists. We are not able to store them in the Village Hall now and wondered if any village families or residents would like them.

Most are engraved with the category and names of the winners. If you are interested in having any and would like to see them, please call me.

Liz Nicholls on 01296 715331

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RECTORS VOICE

Sunday the 26 January was a bittersweet day for regular attenders of the services in St James' and our other churches as we said goodbye to our associate priest, the Reverend Didier Jaquet who, after a year-long process of discernment, starting with some designated time set aside for prayer in January 2024, has decided it is time to explore other avenues for ministry, having worked predominantly in rural parishes and small market towns since his ordination. We will miss Didier's warmth and humour, and his informal, relaxed style of worship, as well as the many pastoral relationships he has developed.

Since arriving in the benefice, Didier has had to cope with the Covid pandemic and the lockdowns which followed; and relished the opportunities this afforded by developing a variety of online worship and prayer services, some of which have continued, and will continue to run after his departure. Not long after this, Didier also had to contend with the vacancy caused by the promotion of our then Rector, Andrew Lightbown, to a senior post as a residentiary canon in Newport Cathedral, and together with our then curate, Mark Nelson, managed to keep everything running smoothly in all three parishes of the benefice until my arrival in February 2023.

I knew when I came here that Didier would stay on for another year to see me settled in, but he has actually remained steadfastly at my side for two, for which I am eternally grateful. I will miss him as a friend and a colleague, as will a great many others in the parishes I am sure, but I am excited to hear where God leads him next after another period of discernment.

Didier is one of an increasing number of 'self-supporting ministers' - priests who give their time to parishes voluntarily in the Church of England without financial compensation in order to keep our churches open; and ensure that ministry continues in these cost-constrained times. This is especially true in rural areas

where we can sometimes find it difficult to recruit stipendiary (paid) priests to lead our parishes, so it is with an even greater sense of gratitude that we bid Didier farewell and wish him God's richest blessing as he moves on to pastures new... which I very much hope he will write and tell us about in Focus in the not too distant future!

We owe a great debt to priests like Didier, as well as the many lay (non-ordained) people who continue to keep our parish churches alive in the countryside, not least our lay ministers, churchwardens, and the many people who do so much behind the scenes, including those who help to provide this magazine for the parish every month!

When we think of 'volunteers' we might often think about those working in our charity shops or local hospices, those leading children's and young peoples' activities after school, or perhaps volunteering to help students with their literacy and numeracy skills for a few hours each week or visiting the elderly in their homes. But one little known fact, is that churchwardens and our church school governors make up two of the largest groups of the (not so part-time!) volunteers in the country which, when added to those engaged in worship, ministry, administrative, and many other activities in our churches and church schools, reminds us just how much we owe to all those who give their valuable time, and often their own resources to serve the Church and their communities in myriad ways. So as we say farewell to Didier, let us raise a cheer for all those who serve our communities so selflessly, because without them, many of the things we enjoy and take for granted in village life simply would not happen at all!

Copy and advertising deadline
for next issue of Focus

15 FEBRUARY 2025 editor@ghfocus.com



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 UK Data Protection Regulations 2018. From 1 January 2021 this is now referred to as the UK GDPR. It is good policy to keep council emails separate from private emails.

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
Zain Daniels		07544 595906	zaindanielsghpc@gmail.com
Clerk to the Council			
Mrs. Sarah Biswell		01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
Parish Council Website			www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings		01296 715968	
Winslow and District Community Bus		01296 715786	
Community Police Officers			
PCSO Andy Piotrowski		Tel: 101	Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PARISH PUMP

PLANNING MATTERS

As you may all be aware, the Parish Council have received notice from Buckinghamshire Council of a Planning Application in the name of Grainge/Croudace for up to 70 dwellings on the land north of Little Horwood Road and Cherry Leas. The application number is 24/03817/AOP.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

There was a Public Meeting of the Planning Committee on the 13th January 2025 which had an attendance of 45 people - a show of hands to object to this application was requested, and all attendees objected.

Can we remind you that if you wish to make a comment on this application to Buckinghamshire Council you can comment online, using the following link

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

and putting **24/03817/AOP** in the keyword box.

Please note that Great Horwood Parish Council will be objecting to this application within the deadline given.

As well as the above application, the Parish Council have received the following applications from Buckinghamshire Council: -

1. Planning Application for the development of Home Farm for 15 homes - planning application number **21/00221/APP**.
2. Planning Application by Abbeymill for 2 homes off Winslow Road - planning application number **24/03754/APP**.
3. Planning Application for 3 houses on land to the rear of Vine Cottage, Little Horwood Road - planning application number **22/03217/APP**.

As well as the expected planning application from Abbeymill for 30 homes on land south of Weston Road, we are also aware that there may be further applications in the pipeline.

The Parish Council have started discussions and have attended meetings with Buckinghamshire Council on the future of the Neighbourhood Plan as it makes progress on the development of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan. This will replace all the District Local Plans including the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which is the relevant one for Great Horwood.

The Parish Council is the responsible body for the Neighbourhood Plan (which is based on the views of the whole community) - and are looking to set up a Steering Group made up of volunteers - please see the flyer elsewhere in this edition of Focus for more details of how you can help.

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/>

ALLOTMENTS

There is currently an allotment free at the Church Lane Allotments - if you would be interested in renting this allotment space, please email the clerk at clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk.

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FIX MY STREET

Just a reminder to everyone that "FixMyStreet" is an online facility where anyone can make a public report for things like graffiti, fly tipping, broken pavings slabs, and potholes that they see in the Village. This information gets passed to Buckinghamshire Council for them to action. The website address is: <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There is always a public participation period when members of the public can have their say - please feel free to attend. The Notice of the meeting is advertised on 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

ART & CRAFT GROUP

The Art & Craft Group would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous donation from the Worthy Causes Fund towards our glass decoration workshop. This took place on 6th December and our efforts are shown below.



We hope you enjoyed our idea of the reindeers joining the Santas on the Green at Christmas. One of the photos below shows our chairperson modelling a prototype. Our members are looking forward to a new year of different projects and invite you to join us. You don't have to be good at any art or craft, just come along and see what we do. If you fancy joining in, help is always available.



We meet every Friday morning, 10am to 12.30pm. in the Village Hall.



We're off to a busy start this New Year with healthy attendances in spite of (or maybe because of) the wintry weather. We're lucky to be reasonably watertight and the heating does work well in our social space and in our smaller workshop - but we do not take our good luck for granted. We have always known that use of the Station Road site is temporary and redevelopment for housing is inevitable - quite when, though, has always been the question. As we enter the New Year that is still the position but there are signs that the planning process is starting to flicker into life. We're a long way from needing to book removals (!) but it does look like 2025 could be the year we need to start formulating plans for our next phase of Shed Life.



On a personal note, the close of 2024 did mark a bit of a landmark in my Shed Life. In 2016 I embarked on my own long-term retirement project - an Austin A30 that had spent the last ten or more years buried in a Hampshire garden. The car was, in reality, beyond repair but when the old logbook showed that we

shared the same birthday then repair became the only option! Winslow Sheddars made me welcome and I trailed it here in January 2017.

Just in time for Christmas last year I was able to drive it home under its own steam (just like Chris Rea) and celebrate with a few joy rides for my long-suffering family. Having out-lived 5 British Prime Ministers, a Global pandemic, our longest reigning Monarch - and a lettuce, I think I can justify the 'long-term project' status!

I can't promise more joy rides but we hope to see you soon!

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday
from 10:00 - 4:00 at

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

Or for more info call Dave Saunders; **01296 714164**

Sending photos to Focus?

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Winslow Community Bus

February 2025



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 - 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.

Tuesday 4th February

Tuesday 4th March

Tuesday 1st April

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

Thursday 13th & 27th February

Thursday 13th & 27th March

Thursday 10th & 24th April

Asda - 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. Drop off at Westcroft on request.

Monday 24th February

Monday 24th March

Monday 28th April

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 Co-Ordinator 07483 336440



Winslow & District Community Bus Needs Volunteer Drivers

The Winslow & District Community Bus relies on volunteer drivers to run all our services, excursions and hires.

We are always in need of volunteer drivers, especially at the moment! So, if you have a D1 on your licence, and have some spare time, please consider becoming a driver for your local Community Bus.

All of our scheduled routes start at around 9.00am and finish around 1.30pm. We pay out-of-pocket expenses.

We also run our own outings visiting all kinds of places, including garden centres, stately homes, shopping centres and countryside drives. The use of the bus is also available to local non-profit groups

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MiDAS is the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme and is administered by the Community Transport Association. The scheme provides a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers and has been designed to enhance minibus driving standards and promote the safer operation of minibuses.

WDCB provide free training to "MiDAS" standards for all our drivers. A certificate is awarded after successful completion of the course, which is valid for four years and is recognised UK-wide. Candidates must be aged over 21 and have category 'D1' on their licence. The course is usually completed in a day, the time being divided between classroom and practical work. The latter comprises coaching and assessment of driving skills plus a briefing on the use of the minibus wheelchair lift.

For more information, or to find out other ways you can volunteer your help, please visit the Volunteering page on our website www.winslowbus.com or call 07483 336440.

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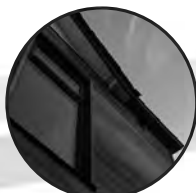
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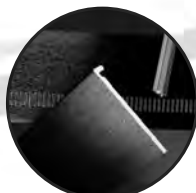
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THE REIMAGINED!

MAD MARCH RUN IS BACK

SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

After more than 25 years of family fun it was looking likely our traditional village run/jog/walk would not be financially viable for the PTFA to hold in 2025, but the doubters have been silenced and the Great Horwood PTFA Mad March Run is back for yet another year, with a new and exciting format!

- An additional 2km fun run for kids,
- An earlier start time, the new 2k starting at 10.30, with the 5k at 11am
- A new start/finish line at the beginning of Pilch Lane
- Up-to-date online advanced entry forms - no more paper entries
- A new activities venue and a new sponsor - the Swan!

It's one of the major fundraisers for our school so please come out and support in whatever way you can. As always, it's open to people of all ages and abilities, walking or running and there will be a medal for every finisher and prizes for winners of different age categories.

The course remains the same "out and back" as previous years, along Pilch Lane, but this year we have a new start/finish line on Pilch Lane itself. The route will be closed to all non-emergency traffic.

The Swan pub has kindly offered to act as a base for the run, with hot and cold refreshments available for participants and spectators alike.

Spaces are limited, but you can be sure of your day of family fun and save money by applying in advance at a discounted rate, rather than registering on the day. Advanced entries will be online only this year, up to 13 March 2025. If you have any issues using the online system, or for any other queries, please contact us at gh5kfunrun@outlook.com.

Check out our Facebook page for details and up-to-date news of the event at "Great Horwood Mad March Run".

We look forward to seeing you