

SUE BRAZIER

It was with great sadness that the congregation of St James heard about the sad passing of our dear friend and congregation member Sue after a short illness. We were blessed to have Bishop Alan giving a sermon the day after and he included a moving tribute to Sue and her role in the church and wider community. In addition to her being an active member of the PCC Sue historically also ran the Sunday School, annual Christingle service and administered the chalice in communion services. Our church has a huge hole to fill as Sue's presence was felt by everyone. Her funeral took place on the first sunny day in May in a packed church and it felt that Sue was looking down on us. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with David, Tom, Luke and family.

St James P.C.C.



At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th May we held a minute's silence for our Parish Clerk Sue Brazier who had sadly passed away at a very young age after a short but deeply distressing illness.

Sue had been our Clerk since July 2019 and had previously also been the Clerk to the Council back in 2006/7.

Apart from her role as Clerk she had served the parish in so many ways over so many years and was truly an example of the most giving and generous person possible.

So many of you will have personal memories of Sue. She had a sparkling smile and was quick to laugh and see the funny side. She poured so much into her days, always walking quickly and ready to support others.

She was involved in so many aspects of our community's life including being a pillar of the St James church community.

She will be sorely missed.

Cllr. John Gilbey

Chairman of the Council

Nook Park would like to send our deepest sympathy to David, Tom and Luke after the sad passing of Sue who was well known in the village. We as a village are going to miss her and all that she did.

Liz Phillips

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VILLAGE HALL

We have submitted our planning application for the refurbishment of the Hall which will include the provision of new and disabled toilets, improved lighting and heating and a fresh new look for the hall to include development of the stage area. This is a good way to celebrate the centenary of the hall. In the meantime we are still available for bookings and will be advising everyone about the planned building works once confirmed.

Ian Lamberton, Chairman

NOOK PARK

Why has this development been allowed to proceed? From what we gather, although Bucks Council have told us nothing, Joe Burns was initially given the go ahead under a General Permitted Development Order. We now question whether or not this was the appropriate planning permission for a protected residential park home site which comes under Park Home Law 2013, and is this why Joe Burns is still culverting, concreting and laying electrical services where the hedge has to be reinstated. So at the end of the day are enforcement orders issued by Bucks Council seen to be worth the paper they are written on. While all this is ongoing Nook Park residents pitches are still being encroached upon and gardens destroyed.

Liz Phillips



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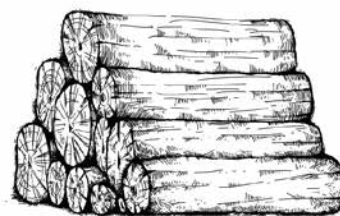
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Church Wardens:
 June Margerrison 714554
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

St James' Services for June

| | | |
|------|---------|--------------------|
| 4th | 11.00am | Holy Communion |
| 11th | 11.00am | Come & Praise |
| 18th | 11.00am | Creative Communion |
| 25th | 11.00am | Holy Communion |

Church Key: June - Tracy Taylor 712231

| Sidesmen | Readers | Intercessions |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| R Margerrison | R Margerrison | J Margerrison |
| P Moyles | S Bayliss | Clergy |
| I Lamberton | I Lamberton | J Brigden |
| R Margerrison | R Margerrison | J Margerrison |

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Who knew that pearls could be so interesting? The Pearl Lady, aka Frances Carlaw, gave a knowledgeable talk about the origin of pearls, the different types and shared some fascinating stories about their history. She also brought along some of the statement jewellery she crafts mixing recycled pearls with other beads and even buckles. "Pearls are timeless and treasures of the past sit perfectly alongside them," she says. It was a very entertaining and informative talk and her passion for pearls was infectious. In the afternoon was a pearl knotting workshop where members could make a necklace or bracelet or learn the technique of knotting. All profits from the workshop and sale of jewellery were donated to charity.

At our May meeting Maria Greenhill gave an interesting talk on how to add style to a country garden. Maria showed pictures of various sized country gardens and highlighted how to make more of a view by framing it, disguise problem areas, blurring lines for borrowed landscapes and talked about planting and maintenance. Maria's knowledge about garden design shone through and I am sure she will be back to talk again about another element of great garden design and planting. Maria runs an 8-week Design Your Own Garden course, for details email maria@greenhillsgardendesign.co.uk.

Next month our guest speaker will be giving a presentation on bee-keeping and the environmental benefits. As well as monthly meetings, we organise a number of day trips, theatre visits and events throughout the year. We also have two walking groups on a Monday and Wednesday and in July we have arranged a boat trip along the River Thames with a cream tea in Windsor.

If you'd like to join our friendly group, please contact Ann Biggins annieqgm@gmail.com / 07961 960802.

FOCUS BANK ACCOUNT & DONATIONS

The Focus Bank account uses an old C&G passbook and is not online banking friendly. We have therefore been transitioning to use the PCCs Bank Account and will close the old Focus one this summer. If you wish to make a donation to Focus please contact Russell Margerrison for the new Bank Account Details on 714554

ELEVEN GUARDSMEN

It was the Art and Craft Group that 'yarn bombed' the Green for the Coronation. All our members helped to produce the guardsmen and we thoroughly enjoyed the project.

We meet on Friday mornings in the Village Hall at 10am.

Please come along, join us for a cuppa and see what we do.

Liz Nicholls 715331

Winslow Community Bus

June 2023

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 6th June

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 8th and 22nd June

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

Asda - Monday 26th June

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.

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.

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WHEN KING CHARLES INTERVENED IN GREAT HORWOOD...

No, not King Charles III but King Charles II. It's a complicated story about New College, Oxford in the years following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and the aftermath of the upheavals of the Commonwealth and Civil War. As well as the King, it involves three bishops, and two clergymen brothers who wished to swap their benefices. Documents and letters relating to this are among the papers held in the New College archives.

The list of Rectors of Great Horwood on the north wall of the church shows that in 1665 Dr Robert Sharrock was instituted to the benefice of Great Horwood and that in 1668 Edmund Sharrock MA was instituted. How did this come about?

Robert Sharrock was born in 1630, son of the Reverend Robert Sharrock, incumbent of Drayton Parslow and later also of Adstock. When the younger Robert was 13 he went to Winchester College and from there to New College, Oxford. Both these institutions were founded by William of Wykeham in the late 14th century to convert 'poor and indigent scholars' into 'men of great learning, fruitful to the Church, ... the King, and the Realm'. In 1649 Robert was elected a Fellow of New College by the Parliamentary Visitors. These had been appointed to carry out a religious and political purge of the University, which had supported the Royalists, following the ending of the siege of Oxford in 1646. Almost all Heads of Houses were ejected. At New College, the Warden and forty of the seventy fellows were removed.

Replacements who were more sympathetic to the Puritan cause were 'intruded'.

In 1660, after the Restoration, the surviving intruded fellows and five others were expelled, and eighteen of the old fellows came back. Warden Woodward, elected during the Commonwealth in 1658, unsurprisingly met with great resentment from the restored fellows. There were also disputes with the more junior fellows, amongst whom was Edmund Sharrock, the younger brother of Robert Sharrock.

Robert had been pursuing his academic studies during this turbulent time. He was a botanist, involved in early work at the Botanic Garden in Oxford. He published a treatise 'The History of the Propagation and Improvement of Vegetables by the Concurrence of Art and Nature' (1660). He also participated in the philosophical and scientific life of the times. In April 1665 the incumbent of Great Horwood died and after a few weeks Robert Sharrock was instituted to the benefice of Great Horwood, described by Warden Woodward as one of the College's best livings. Shortly afterwards Robert was also appointed a Prebend of Winchester Cathedral. Holding several appointments was allowed at that time.

In 1667, Robert's brother Edmund had been instituted as incumbent of East Woodhay in the Diocese of Winchester. The brothers then asked the Warden to agree to an exchange of benefices. The Warden refused, indicating that this was only for their convenience, not of benefit to the College, and was favouring a junior fellow over his seniors. The brothers persisted, continuing to demand that the College

agree to the exchange. Robert wrote to the Warden apologising on his brother's behalf if his brother had caused offence to the Warden - it was just that his brother was keen to proceed with the exchange.

Eventually Edmund Sharrock petitioned the King to overrule the Warden. He argued that it would be to the advantage of his brother's ministry if he were nearer his Prebend, and that he himself would reside at Great Horwood. He also claimed that the Bishops of Winchester and Lincoln had both agreed to the proposed exchange. (Great Horwood was in the Diocese of Lincoln until the mid 19th century.)

In response to the petition the Warden reported that Edmund Sharrock had called an irregular meeting of junior fellows asking them to agree the exchange. The Warden also argued that the two brothers were making an 'uncollegiate' attempt to wrest his authority from him and that Edmund was not fit for such an important living as Great Horwood. In May 1668 the King appointed the Bishop of Hereford to investigate the matter. The Bishop consulted the Bishops of Winchester and Lincoln. The Warden kept a diary of his visit to London to argue his case. The Bishop of Hereford recommended to the King that the exchange should take place. And in a document 'Given at Our Court at Whitehall June 5th 1668' the King asked the warden to summon a meeting of Fellows to agree to the exchange of the two benefices. This is the document signed 'Charles R'.

Thereafter things moved quickly: Robert Sharrock resigned Great Horwood and was instituted to the benefice of East Woodham in September 1668. Edmund Sharrock was instituted to the benefice of Great Horwood on 3 August 1668 where he remained until his death in 1689. Robert subsequently moved to Bishop's Waltham between Winchester and Portsmouth before becoming Archdeacon of Winchester in 1694 a few months before his death.

Mary Saunders

May 2023

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MEN IN SHEDS

It was very gratifying to see so many supportive guests at our AGM back in April. As always, formalities were kept fairly brief which left plenty of time for chat and refreshments but one question from the floor did ring bells with me – “did Winslow Men’s Shed have plans to allow women membership?”

The short answer was ‘No’ but I hope I may offer a slightly more personal perspective. My involvement with MISW started in early 2017 when we were new to the town and I needed some space to work on my retirement project - a completely dilapidated Austin A30. Buried in a Hampshire garden for many years and now named Bruce (on account of the bush growing out of the bonnet), Winslow Shed offered good company and all the space I could want but the idea of joining a male-exclusive group was quite a challenge, particularly after a long career in education where gender equality and challenging stereotypes had been so fundamental. Despite misgivings then, I got cracking with my project and slowly it dawned on me that, maybe, things had worked out for the best. It’s well documented that blokes (in particular) are pretty useless when it comes to talking about anxieties and things that matter but in the camaraderie of working together on a project it is remarkable what can get discussed in the gaps between bashing your thumb or chopping off the wrong thing with the grinder. It seems there are times when sharing worries and experiences with other men does have a unique benefit. Working in the Shed does have its diversions and distractions which can make for slow progress so I should report the latest real headline which is (at last) Bruce is finally getting his shiny new paint this month. Fingers crossed for more warm, dry weather!

**The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 4:00. Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.
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Continued from Focus May 2023

THE INTELLIGENCE ZONE

The many voices of the Whaddon Web

2 of 7; the generals

(Whaddon, Tattenhoe and Creslow)

As I explained in my first article, the Whaddon Web was the tapestry of the many Second World War radio transmitting and receiving sites which were put up and controlled by MI6 from Whaddon Hall. It was the voice and ears of the secret service’s wartime work. That story is but part of a greater tale – a tale of skulduggery and spies, high drama and world-changing science; all happening in a titanic struggle between good and evil when old powers fell and new ones arose. But this was not spy-fiction; all of it was true, verifiable; though much of it is now forgotten. It happened right here – all around where we live.

Building the backbone

The boss at Whaddon Hall, Richard Gambier Parry, had been poached by MI6 from his job as the British Sales Manager for an American radio company, Philco. After he left, he went back and poached most of the other staff (Philco were very nice about it). They worked from Whaddon with feverish speed to put up masts at numerous sites to serve MI6’s seven main customers.

The world of North Bucks at the outbreak of the Second World War was vastly different than it is today. It was then a deeply rural area; where electricity had only recently been introduced; indeed many of the farms and hamlets had no electricity, mains drainage or mains water.

Erection crews travelled from Whaddon, surveying, requisitioning and putting up sites on hills for many miles around. As I showed in my map of the sites in the previous issue, there were over 20 sites in all. (This article, with the map, is in the blog on my website at www.theintelligencezone.com).

To put up the masts, Whaddon had a ‘small but merry’ group of aerial riggers run by an Australian Army soldier, Sergeant Ernie ‘Digger’ Buick. He was described (by an engineer, Major Robin Adie) as: ‘A remarkable man although his language, parliamentary and otherwise was fairly extensive ...they would set off in the morning, winter or summer, rain or shine... how they put up with his language I don’t know.’

The masts were put on top of just about all of the surrounding hills. The flat lands of East Anglia start not far from Whaddon; so reception was generally good. There were many Royal Corps of Signals troops. The early masts were wood: two pine trees lashed together to make 140 foot masts with climbing ‘steps’ nailed in and lashed to wires in foundation concrete blocks. If that sounds dangerous, it was. There are military graves of signallers in both Nash and Great Horwood graveyards.

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*Royal Corps of Signals
grave
(Great Horwood
graveyard)*

Although just about in living memory, this was a time when the modern world was

only beginning;. The transmitting stations were run from chargeable batteries and lit by hurricane lamps. One wonders what the old gaffers in the smoke-filled bars of the Shoulder of Mutton or the Lowndes Arms muttered to each other about the mass of incoming soldiery as they supped their war time weak beer; what they thought of the great transporters brushing the elms on muddy country roads which were more used to horses and cows. But then, most of them would have fought in a World War themselves; many of them still carried wounds; all of them mourned brothers, sons or friends lost in that conflict. The past is indeed another country.

Whaddon and the radio war

The transmitters at Whaddon itself were used to communicate with Allied commanders in the field. Their customers were the top brass, such as Generals Montgomery and Patton; and their messages affected the war – such as when they told Montgomery at El Alamein (in Africa) that his German opponents were down to a few tanks; and Patton in Normandy that his enemy were immobile as they had no fuel. Whaddon housed more than one aerial site; one of them on the ridge above the church where the unfortunate signalman lies buried. This exposed site – which is appropriately called Windy Ridge – has been used for centuries; it still has the base-mound of a windmill on it. Here was the largest of all the

stations – with four shifts, each of around twenty extremely good operators. A Signals ‘Jimmy’ cap badge has been found by a metal detectorist there.



‘Jimmy’ -the rather racy badge of the R.C.Signals

But sending information to generals was only part of Whaddon’s work. Keeping it

secret was at least as important; for the information they were passing on was courtesy of Bletchley Park; and had their enemies known their codes were being broken, they would have changed them. To cope with the none-broadcasting part of his radio duties, Gambier Parry had two satellite camps built in Little Horwood. Each had a guardroom, fencing, armed guards, work space and accommodation. For this was high security. Here radios were manufactured for spies and saboteurs, and communication vehicles for the generals were fitted with radios. It is in one of the huts used for this purpose that Great Horwood’s parish magazine, Focus, is printed.

Radios for the generals

The cars that MI6 used as radio command posts were, to begin with, a fleet of camouflaged Packards.



A 1941 Packard

For Whaddon’s radio work, Gambier Parry recruited the very best signallers and Morse code operators; both civilian and military. The cream of the crop. I want to talk especially about one of them, Edgar Harrison. Edgar was a signaller whose life was spun in a new direction by Whaddon and the war. His experiences were so extraordinary that a book has been written about him. Of all the people of Whaddon, Pop Gambier-Parry included, I think he is the only one who has been the subject of a personal biography.

People for the generals – Moscow 1940.

Edgar Harrison

Harrison was a Caerphilly lad, the eighth of ten children. He joined the army at the age of 14. He was a corporal in The Royal Corps of Signals when he was poached by Gambier-Parry’s for Whaddon Hall. Edgar began his time at Whaddon at Little Horwood, fitting radios into the Packards which were to have been used as command posts behind the lines in the then-likely event of German invasion (a subject I will explore in more detail in a future article). The Packard was roomy. The rear was stripped out and turned into a three man radio room – with a transmitter and a receiver. After Whaddon/Little

Horwood, Edgar Harrison was sent abroad, to pass Ultra (the name used for MI6's secret traffic) to generals in the field. He was to take part in six retreats and become Winston Churchill's Ultra wireless



Edgar Harrison

operator. Had he been American, Edgar's life would probably have provided material for many a Hollywood epic. His first posting - and retreat - was from Norway. Then he was sent to Brussels - and retreated via Dunkirk.

Then he retreated from Greece. Then he retreated from Crete. In 1941, he was directly involved in combating the German invasion of Russia. When Hitler unleashed his troops on Russia, in June 1941, Britain very quickly began shipping tanks there; and Edgar went with them. British tanks were a factor in Hitler's first land defeat - the battle for the defence of Moscow in the winter of 1941. Hitler got close to taking the Russian capital; his troops actually penetrated the greater Moscow area - and could see the spires of the Kremlin through field glasses. It has been said that up to a quarter of the tanks that broke that attack were British (with Russian crews) - and I explain in *The Intelligence Zone* - why I find that figure credible. The British tanks were particularly

valuable as, unlike the Russian tanks, they had radios - and could therefore fight in a co-ordinated manner and not be picked off piece-meal by the German attackers. Edgar Harrison was the man who was in charge of fitting those radios. While he was at it, he also fitted radios from Whaddon into Russian tanks; and trained their fitters and crews; making a co-ordinated defence possible.

The Nazis had already suffered one defeat in the air (the battle of Britain) and one at sea (the sinking of the Bismarck). These were both strongly linked to activities in the

Intelligence Zone. Now, at Moscow, British technology also contributed to the first defeat of the German armies. Thus was democracy preserved from Nazism; the most vicious and racist creed ever devised by man. Instead of blue plaques being scattered like confetti across our area, there are huts used by small companies and unremarked grave stones in country churches.

I wonder if, as he fitted the radios in the Russian winter, Edgar Harrison thought with

nostalgia about his home in Caerphilly - or indeed dreamed about nipping down to the Shoulder of Mutton at Little Horwood for a pint and a game of darts. If so, he would have been one of many uprooted people scattered to the Intelligence Zone by the war; who did their mite to shape the history of the world.

In my next article, I will move on to Whaddon's spy

sites; and talk about the greatest of the French resistance heroines; and her visit to our very own parish.

These articles are all on www.theintelligencezone.com - where the books are also available. Father's Day approaches!

PARISH PUMP

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/>



Great Horwood Parish Council

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 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/

Parish Clerk Great Horwood
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk



Great Horwood Parish Council

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council:

Please note that councillors now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. This is in order to comply with new Data Protection Regulations that came into force in 2018. It is good policy to keep council emails separate from private emails.

John Gilbey Chairman 01296 711915
johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

Caroline Cousin Vice Chairman 01296 713548
carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com

Andy Waller 01296 712798
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Jackie Goss 01296 713135
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Jonathan Evans 07470 298324
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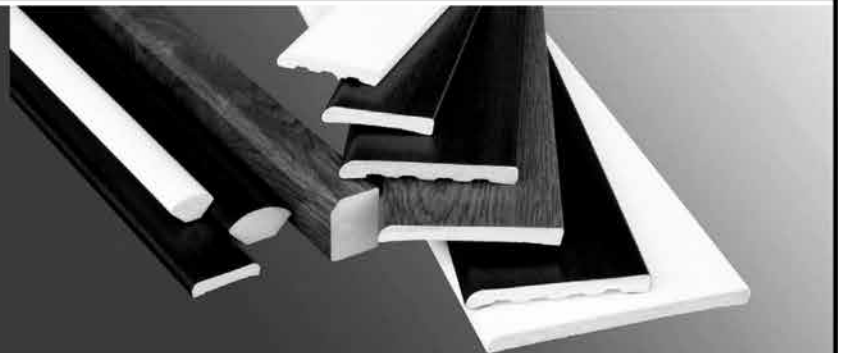
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