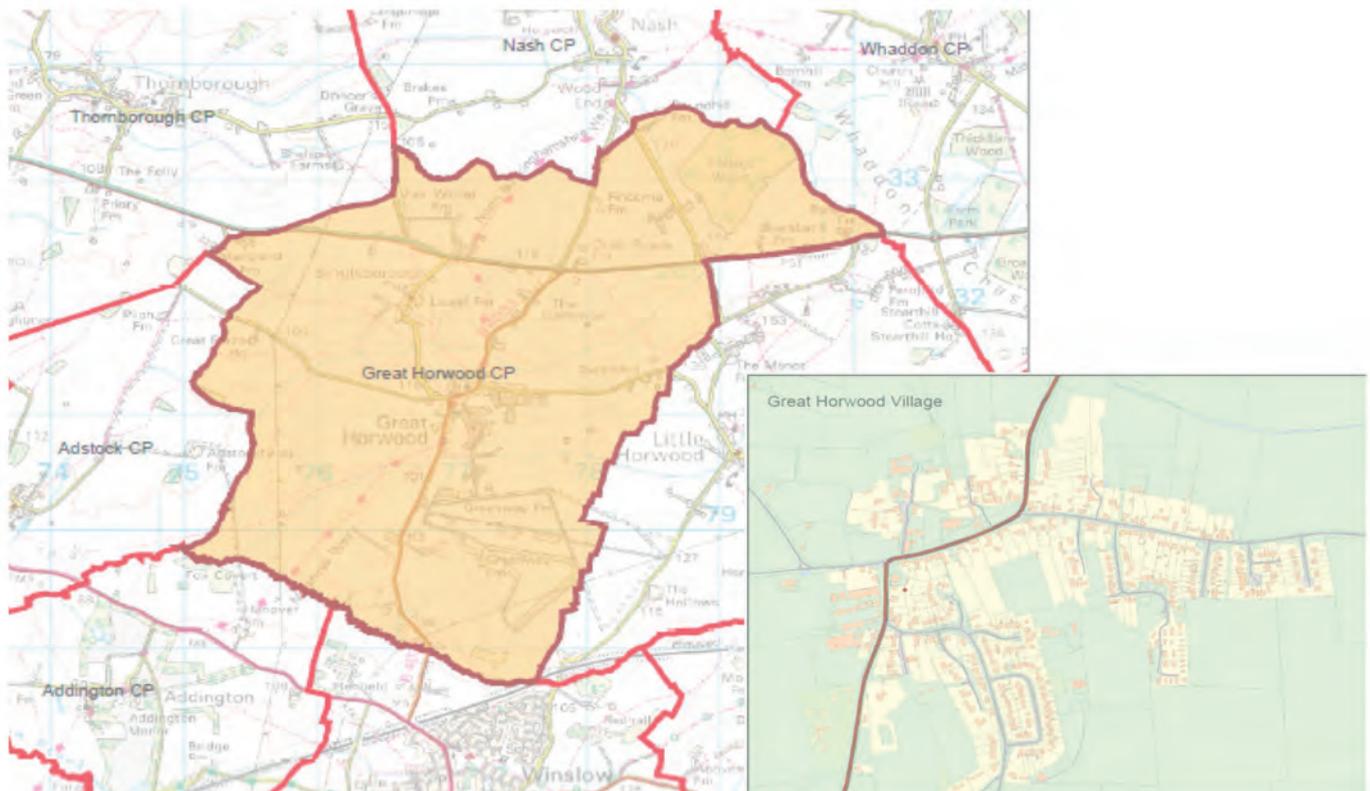


March
2026



Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan Review Public Exhibition of Proposed Housing sites



Village Hall
2pm to 5pm on Saturday 21 March
2pm to 4pm on Sunday 22 March
2026

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th March 2026.
To advertise or submit articles email: editor@ghfocus.com



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CHURCH TIMES

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

Church Wardens:
 Ian Lamberton 715968
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

Sunday 1st	11.15 Lent 2 - Parish Communion - a traditional service with hymns lasting 1 hour
Sunday 8th	11.15 Lent 3 - Come & Praise - more informal worship with instrumental music lasting 45 minutes
Wednesday 11th	12.00 Lent Lunch in the village hall
Sunday 15th	11.15 Lent 4 - All Age Communion - a more informal communion service lasting 1 hour
Sunday 22nd	11.15 Lent 5 - Parish Communion - as above
Wednesday 25th	12.00 Lent Lunch in the village hall
Sunday 29th	11.15 Palm Sunday - Parish Communion - as above

All are welcome to stay for refreshments after each service

Church Key: David Moore 713281

We are very grateful to all the people who provide this service, the church is accessed during daylight hours by many more than you might imagine. For private prayer or contemplation, to admire the history of our ancient 684 year old building, when visiting family graves or merely to use the facilities, everybody is welcome, just wrap up warm!

EASTER PRIMROSES

As you will have seen on the front page of last month's Focus we will be remembering our departed loved ones with naturalising Primrose plants this Easter.

There will be a list in Church from 1st March to add any names you would like honoured in this way.

The cost will be £2 per pot, and they will then be planted in the churchyard as an act of permanent remembrance.

'There WILL be Light'!

You may have noticed that the PCC placed 8 motion sensor spot lights in the ground around the front of the church over the Christmas period, unfortunately somebody obviously thought they had better use for them and they disappeared!

The PCC have agreed that for the safety off all who use the churchyard paths whether just getting those steps in, walking dogs or accessing the village school we will apply to the diocese for a faculty to install 4 permanent motion sensor lights around the church by late autumn.

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ART AND CRAFT GROUP

We meet on Friday mornings at 10-12.30 in the Village Hall. So if you are free, do come along and meet us over a coffee.

Maybe you need help with a piece of knitting which appeared to be fine for a couple of rows but now you can't remember if you are on a purl or plain row and you have mysteriously knitted a hole and ended up with less stitches than you started with and have absolutely no idea why....

The skill sets in the group vary, meaning that there is always someone to help you learn something new or unpick that bit of knitting and start you off again.

Some of us are working on a small geometric embroidery project.

This project didn't appeal to some of the group and they continue working patiently on their own projects.

One lady has been patiently stitching for months and a beautiful picture is slowly emerging. Another loves to crochet and at some point will help us learn.

Your first session is free, thereafter 2 subsequent visits cost £2.50 then it is £7 a month.

Katerina Owen

ANNOUNCEMENT

Liz Hobday and family are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mike Hobday on 31st January 2026.

Over the years, Mike has been involved in a number of projects in the village, with many years as a Scout leader and a volunteer on the Recreation Ground Committee.

He will be remembered by his family as a wonderful husband, Dad and Grandad who will be hugely missed.

A thanksgiving service for Mike will be held on 2nd March at 1pm at St James' Church, Great Horwood, for those who would like to come.

Great Horwood
FETE 2026
Saturday 4th July

We need you ... If you can help in any way ... big or small.

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THE MEANING OF LENT

Lent – the Church’s traditional time of quiet reflection and penitence before Easter can sometimes feel out of step with modern life. The lengthening days are no less full, the emails continue, and phone calls punctuate the day. Even in this special season, our pace of life barely slows down, and it would be very easy to miss it entirely unless, perhaps, you are one of those who make a conscious decision to ‘give something’ up for Lent. Against that background, forty days of quiet restraint, reflection, and self-sacrifice might seem unnecessary or even unrealistic, yet it is precisely because the world we live in is so busy that Lent still matters.

At its heart, Lent is not about deprivation for its own sake. It is about creating space to breathe and appreciate afresh all that we have – like the beauty of a ‘Lenten Rose’ pictured above. By stepping back from the constant distraction and consumption fast food-food, mediocre entertainment, depressing (or equally depressing – fake) news, social media scrolling, or frenzied online shopping activity, we intentionally make space to notice and appreciate the truly important things in life – those things which truly sustain and feed us at the very core of our being. Art perhaps or fine music, an edifying book, making friends of others we may never have met before in a Lent home group, or simply sitting alone for a moment each day in quiet contemplation of the beauty and goodness of God’s creation all around us and in all that we have.



By its very nature, Lent invites us to ask gentle but important questions such as ‘what distracts me from the really important things in life I would rather be doing or enjoying?’, ‘What gives me the greatest satisfaction or peace in my life?’ and ‘What part does God play in all of this?’. If the answer to the last of these is ‘I’m not sure’ or ‘never’, then perhaps Lent is the time to take that leap of faith and pick up a Bible or an inspiring Christian book and open yourself up to see what God might be saying to you in that process, or join one of the Lent homegroups in the benefice which will be following a course designed by the brothers and sisters of the Order of Saint Francis (Franciscans) looking at the subject of ecological and social justice through the lived experience of people living in different parts of our rapidly warming and changing world.

In the modern age, silence has become rare. Moments of waiting are quickly filled, and being alone in solitude can feel unbearably uncomfortable if we are used to the hustle and bustle of daily life. But whatever you do, try to make some time and space for peace, quietness and contemplation as the days lengthen and – hopefully – become warmer and less wet!

The Christian tradition has always understood and valued the importance of quietness, and those who embrace it invariably know that the quiet is never empty. In stillness we become more aware of ourselves and of others, and we can even become more aware of God’s presence, especially in a sacred place such as one of our beautiful churches, or in a green space away from the built environment where insects and birds are once more beginning their annual cycle of life and growth as spring opens up the hope of summer.

Lent offers us permission to slow down, to listen to the rhythm of life again, and perhaps start something new rather than giving something up. Dipping into the Bible for ten minutes each day, or praying for someone close to you, or looking at and responding to the needs of those around us with small acts of kindness can all make it a rich and enriching experience. Lent reminds us that growth often comes through quietness and patience, learning to switch off just enough to tune into God and the natural world in more meaningful ways as the two often go hand in hand!

In a culture which values speed, frenetic action, and so called ‘productivity’ over stillness, peace and contemplation, Lent offers us an opportunity to gently resist that incessant call, and take stock of our lives and ourselves. It tells us that we are more than what we produce, just as we are more than what we consume or convey of ourselves on social media.

By embracing periods of reflection and restraint, we rediscover balance, a sense of gratitude, and a deeper sense of purpose. It encourages us to look honestly at our weaknesses, feel compassion for ourselves and for others, and brings the promise that new life and new hope are possible. So give in to Lent, and let Lent give you the time and space you need to find yourself – your true and unhurried self – afresh!

Reverend Steve

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Aylesbury Market Bus - runs every Friday and Saturday morning
From Winslow, through Gt Horwood, Nash, Whaddon, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury Bus Station and parking in our reserved bay.

Winslow Market Service 54abc - runs every Wednesday morning
Picking up in the surrounding villages and then into Winslow, (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons).

Buckingham Bus Service - runs on the first Tuesday of the month
Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages. 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco.

Westcroft Shopping – runs on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages.

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

We offer certificated training to MiDAS standard

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.

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Sepsis awareness has been prominent in the national news recently - and rightly so. More people died from sepsis last year than from breast or bowel cancer, and it remains a condition where early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to saving lives.

At our February WI meeting, we were honoured to welcome Kim Smith, who shared her powerful personal story. Kim contracted sepsis in 2018 following a urinary tract infection while on holiday, and as a result had all four limbs amputated.

"Despite the hot weather in Spain, I was shivering," said Kim. "My hands and feet were cold, I had kidney pain, was breathless and my speech was slurred. I knew something was wrong and went to hospital."

Although Kim was displaying classic symptoms of sepsis, they were lost in translation and her condition rapidly deteriorated. Her arms and legs turned black, and when she was flown back to the UK by private air ambulance, she was placed in an induced coma.

Kim's recovery has been long and painful. Formerly a hairdresser and wedding business owner, she has had to rebuild her life from scratch. However, following a pioneering double hand transplant at Leeds Infirmary in 2025, she is now able to do things that were previously impossible, which we take for granted, such as making her husband a cup of tea and signing her name. She is currently waiting for a prosthetic hand for her right hand as transplant surgery for that limb was unsuccessful.

Kim, who lives in Milton Keynes, has become an ambassador for sepsis awareness, and has around 100,000 followers on social media. Her courage, determination and positivity left a lasting impression on everyone present, and she truly deserves recognition for the extraordinary way she has faced her journey.

Our speaker at our March meeting will be Brian Eldridge, who will be talking about the street artist Banksy.

As well as our monthly meetings - featuring a varied programme of interesting speakers - we also organise visits to places of interest and host practical craft days. As part of the Bucks Federation, members can also enjoy other events such as Mix and Mingle, where WI groups from across the county come together. We also enjoy weekly walks on Mondays and Wednesdays, exploring the beautiful North Buckinghamshire countryside.

Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. If you're new to the village, or feeling lonely and in need of companionship, please do come along - a warm welcome and friendly faces await you.

Heather Grant



Following sepsis where she had to have all four limbs amputated, Kim Smith underwent a hand transplant at Leeds Infirmary and is now an ambassador for sepsis awareness.

GREAT HORWOOD AND SINGLEBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Your Hall Needs You

A reminder to all past and present users of the Hall and all those residents and volunteers who have contributed so much to the present facility that we are having a Spring Clean on

Saturday 14th March in the daytime when everyone is invited to come along and give a hand!

10am to 4pm. Come for 30 minutes/1 hour or longer if you wish - every minute of help will help us to get the hall looking top class.

Thanks in advance of your help.

Ian Lamberton

07973 225428

ianlamberton@aol.com

MEMORIES, BUT SADNESS FOR THE REC.

We were so sorry to hear that Mike Hobday has passed away. Mike had been on the Horwode Pece Management Committee from the beginning, being an enthusiastic, reliable, conscientious member.

He was often seen working down the Rec. helping with its maintenance and had been a valued member of the weekly 'Rec. check' team up until his recent spate of illness. We will miss him greatly.

Our thoughts are with his family.

John Nicholls, Chairman

MEN IN SHEDS

For many, The Repair Shop is the epitome of ‘feel-good’ telly and testament to the joy a true ‘labour of love’ can bring to all concerned. At our February talk, I spoke about a retirement project that became my eight-year labour of love. In 2016, my derelict Austin A30 moved with us to Winslow and, after a chance meeting, Winslow Shed made me welcome and found me space to start restoration work. As a bonus, I had the chance to contribute to Shed life in general.

The car was, by any assessment, well beyond economic repair but documents emerged that recorded the original sale in 1956 to Mr Reginald Lang of Newcastle upon Tyne. After 22 years and 40,000 miles, the car was shipped to South Africa where his daughter clocks up a further 15,000 miles. She moves to Portugal in 1986 and the car soon follows. Finally, ownership passes to her daughter in Southampton and the car returns to the UK. In 1994 Mr Lang’s granddaughter moves to become a near neighbour to us and the car is put to bed beneath tarpaulins at the end of the garden - and there it stays for the next 22 years.

I unearthed it in 2016 and further coincidences emerge. The car and I are the same age almost to the day and was bought as a retirement present - 60 years on (almost to the day) and it becomes my retirement project. With such a rich history, restoration became an irresistible challenge. ‘Reggie’, as we now know him, emerged from the Shed in late 2024 and made his maiden voyage at our Rotary Club’s Winslow Classic Car Run in May ‘25. Future plans include plenty of local fair-weather jaunts and maybe a bit more international travel!



Our March talk is the last in the series – details are currently being finalised so please check our website. 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 Tim Elderton 07746 194163

Easter Services

St James’ Church, Great Horwood

Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March
11.15

Holy Week Compline

Monday 30th March
19.30



Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2nd April
19.00

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Friday 3rd April
11.30

Easter Day - Festival Communion

Sunday 5th April - 11.15

LIGHT UP THE TOWER OF ST JAMES

If you wish to sponsor the tower lights for that special occasion, please help us by using this form for your request.

I would like to sponsor the lights on the following date (s):

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GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council:

Please note that councillors now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. This is in order to comply with 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.

Caroline Cousin	Chairman	07903 549339	carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com
Thomas Lee	Vice Chairman	07901 994996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Mary Saunders		01296 713610	marysaundersghpc@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council 01296 715803 clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/

Great Horwood Village Hall Booking 01296 715968

Winslow and District Community Bus 01296 715786

3W Health (Winslow Health Centre) 01296 711150

Community Police Officers

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

PARISH PUMP

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There is to be a public consultation on options for land that have been offered for development following our recent call for sites. You will be able to see which sites are under consideration and the plans for developments on each site that the land owners have put forward.

The consultation will be in the Village Hall on the afternoons of Saturday 21 March, 14.00 – 17.00, and Sunday 22 March, 14.00 – 16.00.

We need to hear from you which are your preferred sites so that the draft Neighbourhood Plan will truly reflect the wishes of parishioners.

So please come along and let us know your views.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that we have a new Parish Councillor. Please extend a very warm welcome to Mahmood Malik who was co-opted to the Parish Council at the February 2026 meeting.

We still have a vacancy for one more Councillor on the Parish Council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community as a Parish Councillor, please email the Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk for more information.

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>

WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome pack, please email the Clerk and a pack will be sent to you – clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

FOCUS ON LINE

Did you know that there is an online edition of Focus. If you have mislaid your copy and can't find the information you need – just log onto the Parish Council website.

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

DOG WASTE

There are 8 dog waste bins within the village – please remember if you are taking your dog for a walk, please pick up after them and place the waste in the designated bin – thank you.

There have been numerous reports of owners not clearing up after their dog at Liden Park. As we are coming into Spring it is anticipated that the Park will be used by more residents, please be considerate when walking your dog in this area.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BUCKINGHAM HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE

A reminder that the above recycling centre is closed for essential drainage works to be carried out. The site is due to re-open again before the end of March 2026, subject to no weather-related delays.

REPORT FRAUD

The City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud, announced the full public launch of Report Fraud, which has now officially replaced Action Fraud.

A new media and advertising campaign is going live from Monday 19 January to help raise awareness of the brand-new service for reporting cyber crime and fraud.

The advertising campaign will run across radio and social channels, featuring the service's clear new visual identity and message, 'Every Report Counts'.

Their website is www.reportfraud.police.uk

PLANNING MATTERS

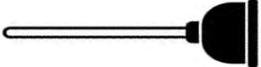
As you are aware, Buckinghamshire Council no longer display comments from members of the public to any applications. Please remember to provide a copy of any comments you make for any planning applications/appeals AFTER you have submitted your response to Buckinghamshire Council, to the Parish Council. Please email these to: clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th March 2026 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/

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 We will meet every Tuesday 10:30-12pm at
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Winslow Community Bus

March 2026

Winslow & District Community Bus

Tel: 07483 336440 admin@winslowbus.com



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 single journey.

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 3rd March 2026

Tuesday 7th April 2026

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Westcroft Shopping –

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

Thursday 12th & 26th March 2026

Thursday 9th & 23rd April 2026

Thursday 14th & 28th May 2026

Asda – travel £5

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 23rd March 2026

Monday 27th April 2026

Lunch at The Barge, Woolstone, Milton Keynes. Thursday 19th March. Travel £5

A country pub in Milton Keynes serving hearty favourites and country club classics.

Bluebell Run Lunch and Tring Garden Centre. Thursday April 30th. Travel £8

Our annual trip to visit Dockey Wood, Ashridge to view the bluebells followed by lunch at the Greyhound in Aldbury. Visiting Tring Garden centre on the return home.

Haddenham Garden Centre Thursday 28th May. Travel £8

local, family-run, independent garden centre, restaurant and shop.

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





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