

NEW PEDESTRIAN GATE ONTO PILCH LANE

Anyone who walks towards the top of Pilch Lane (beyond the chicken farm) will probably have noticed a new metal gate which has been installed recently there. It is to replace a stile demolished by the winds before Christmas. It is one of a number of similar gates for walkers which have been installed in the parish in recent years. Four of these have been put in with no fanfare by a remarkable group called North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise). The group comprises a bunch of retirees who replace dilapidated and often dangerous stiles with much more permanent and easier to negotiate gates. They do so on a voluntary basis, making no charge for their labours operating (mostly for insurance purposes) under the umbrella organisation The Ramblers.

They were founded in Haddenham back in 2015 by a chap called Bill Piers. Bill and his merry band of brothers (there are no sisters as yet - but they are open to anyone who wants to dig, place gates and drink beer) have put in close to three hundred gates in North Bucks. Bill williamjsbpiers@gmail.com can tell you more about this or simply check out some of their activity reports on www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate. Before and after photos of all work is an interesting feature.

So, well done Bill and your team. Where I come from, we say 'if you do owt for nowt, do it for thi sen'; but it seems I may have something to learn from South Country folk, after all.

This particular gate was paid for by the Great Horwood Parish Council - another fine group of volunteers that, again, rarely get the thanks they deserve. The GHPC also paid for a plaque on the gate dedicated to my predecessor as footpath monitor - Rob Deuchar. Rob was the man on our paths for years and his dry humour, wide local knowledge and selfless background work are widely missed both in this parish and among his walking friends.



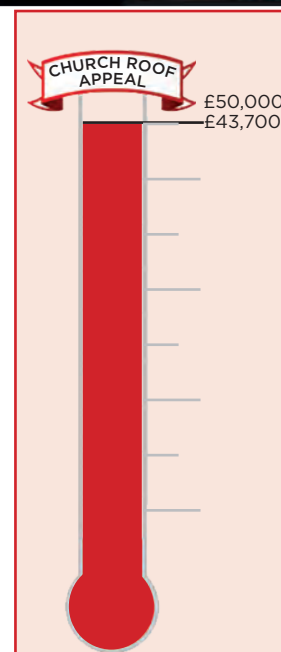
The idea for the plaque came from a Councillor on the PC, Angela Mayne. Angela and David Mayne will shortly be moving from the parish to be nearer their family; to Great Horwood's loss and Sussex's gain.

The gate is on the walk to Pilch Field which is described, with photos, on the Great Horwood Parish Council website (headed GH Footpaths Maps and Conservation Area.) The walk is about 3.5 miles and should take less than two hours.

The route I show here can be modified (if you prefer the field to the road) by using the footpath across the field just above the stream on Pilch Lane (the red dotted line under the '9' of '109' spot height).

Get thi boots on.

Alan Biggins



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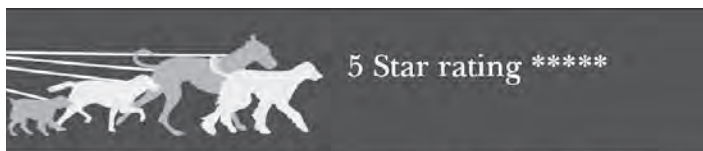
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Church Times

Church Wardens:

David Brazier 714712 and June Margerrison 714554
www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

St James' Services for May

1st May	11.00am	Holy Communion
8th May	11.00am	Come and Praise
15th May	11.00am	Holy Communion
22nd May	11.00am	Come and Share
29th May	11.00am	Holy Communion
5th June	11.00am	Holy Communion

Sidesmen

I Lamberton
D Brazier
J Margerrison
P Moyles
I Lamberton
D Brazier

Readers

I Lamberton
S Brazier
R Margerrison
S Bayliss
I Lamberton
S Brazier

Intercessions

J Brigden
D Brazier
J Margerrison
Clergy
J Brigden
D Brazier

Church Key: May - Ian Lamberton - 715968 June - Rita Essam - 714424

GREAT HORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB, END OF SEASON JUNIOR PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Following the best season for a number of years, the Junior section of the village football club will be holding their end of season award's ceremony on Saturday 4th June, to coincide with the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The event will take place on The Green, between 13:00-18:00hrs.

There will be a marquis, a small bar serving soft drinks and something a bit stronger for adults, the Howe mobile fish and chip van will be on site between 13:00-14:00hrs approx and we hope to see lot's of future, Football World Cup players, receiving their awards.

All are welcome.

Vyv, Chairman Great Horwood Football Club

HEDGEHOGS

We are lucky enough to have hedgehogs in the village of Great Horwood.

Each year we have them visit our garden and last year we were lucky enough to have two baby hoglets show up.

We leave out food and water for them starting from March onwards until hibernation time which is usually around November (depending on how cold it is).

Our hedgehogs roam between 1-2km each night during their active season. It's therefore critical that they can access a wide range of gardens.

13 x 13cm (5 x 5") holes in walls or fences will let hedgehogs through but be too small for most pets.

If you've made a hole in your garden wall or fence please visit www.hedgehogstreet.org to put it on the map.

Hedgehog Awareness Week runs from 1st - 7th May, it is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and takes place every year.

It aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how we can help them. We want to make sure the hedgehog, the UK's only spiny mammal, remains a common and familiar part of British Life.

Thank you. Mrs C Wood

WINSLOW AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS GROUP

New members welcome. To join go to our website www.evoice.org.uk/winslowdistrictramblersgroup

Facebook: Winslow District Ramblers Group

Our annual coach outing is on Saturday 21st May.

The outing is open to members and their guests
Members £20 Guests £25.

It includes a walk of 7 miles on the Ouse Valley Way from Huntingdon to St Ives. Anyone wishing to come but who cannot manage the walk would be welcome to come with us and explore Huntingdon and St Ives instead.

May Walks

Saturday 8th May, 2.30pm

BUCKINGHAM & Chackmore

Park in Cornwall's Meadow car park behind Waitrose GR708334

Meet next to paying machine attached to Waitrose. Walking through Bourton Park, continuing along footpath towards Maids Moreton. Going through arable fields with great views towards Chackmore. Returning via Stowe Avenue. No stiles, no cattle/sheep. Dogs on leads. 4 miles

Saturday 14th May, 10.30am


WHITCHURCH

Meet outside White Swan pub GR805204. HP22 4JT
Parking considerately around the village. Car share if possible. Walking around the village with many secrets and visiting castle mound with a short stroll to Creslow Manor. May be cattle in fields. 4 miles


Saturday 28th May, 10.30am

PITSTONE HILL CAR PARK

**Copy and Advertising
deadline for next issue of Focus
Sunday 15 May**



CAN YOU HELP?



Great Horwood School PTFA are looking for historical and geographic resources and artefacts to help improve the learning experience for the children. For example, maps, coins, medals, fossils or other historical or geographical items.

Any donations would be gratefully received.

Please take donations to Great Horwood School or email greathorwoodpta@gmail.com to arrange collection .



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We are now running the following services:

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 at 12.15pm. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

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 3rd May 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 12th and 26th May Picking up in surrounding villages. Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc., bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Ring to book.

Bicester Avenue/ Blue Diamond Garden Centre - Tuesday 17th May

Blue Diamond Garden Centre- departments include Garden, Home, Fashion and Café
Other shops include, Lakeland, Cotton Traders, Pets Corner and more. Cost £10

Asda - Monday 30th May

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.

Lunch at The Woburn in Woburn Village - Tuesday 31st May

Enjoy a lunch and afterwards explore the lovely picturesque village of Woburn. Cost £8 travel.
Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details.

Timetables can be found online wdcbenquiries@btconnect.com

Outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator

We ask that all passengers wear a face covering while travelling on the bus.

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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GARDENING TIMES

Nasturtiums in May

I sometimes wonder where I got the gardening bug from, neither of my parents were really that interested in horticulture. My Dad would reluctantly drag out the mower from the shed every fortnight or so, scalp the lawn to within an inch of its life (the shorter he got the grass, the more time he could have between this boring chore) and that was pretty much it. It wasn't very inspiring to an impressionable youngster.

But then there was my Gran, the wonderfully named Mary Donaldson Paterson Kinloch Ross Nelson, although she only had a council house, it was a council house that was on a corner and her garden was massive. During the summer it was awash with colour, Rose beds, bedding that was so bright I am sure that it could have been seen from space and nasturtiums, nasturtiums to die for. My first memories of the garden were picking the seeds that my gran would pickle and then use them for goodness only knows what.

These plants are a marvel of nature, they have an easy-going nature that disguises their determination to flower their socks off and all for the price of a packet of seeds.

They are seen so commonly in British gardens that you could be forgiven for taking them for granted, but just like that other stalwart of the British psyche, Paddington Bear, they come from deepest, darkest Peru.

They are one of the plants that do best in poor soils, if your soil is too full of goodness, they tend to produce lots of leaf and not much in the way of flowers. An old way of countering this problem was to dump your old floor sweepings onto them to try and reduce soil fertility.

They are a great attractant to pollinators, if you plant them and then your whole garden will thrum with the sound of bees (trust me, this is a good thing). They have a pepperness about them and the flowers will lift even the most humdrum of salads, giving a water-cress flavour and the most vibrant colours.

Some things go in and out of fashion, but Nasturtiums deserve to be up there with the best of them.

And of course, they are a great way to get children started in the wonders of horticulture, The seeds are big so that even the most fumbly of fingers can sow them. It certainly worked for me back in the 1970'sdespite my dad's best efforts!

Jobs to do in the garden in May

- If you have spring flowering shrubs such as Forsythia, Japanese quince and flowering currants, now is the time to prune them, this gives them a chance to re-grow some stems with which they can flower on next year. It also means that the flowers will remain at eye-level and not waving around your rooftops.
- If you have climbers such as Clematis, Honeysuckle or Wisteria, tie the new shoots in, giving them a framework and not wildly waving about on the breeze, it looks tidier and helps prevent wind damage throughout the year.
- Take out your spring bedding such as wallflowers and forget-me-nots, you can then add them to the compost bin to feed the garden next year, death and resurrection right there!
- Earth up your tatties, there are enough green things in your garden without adding potatoes to the list.
- If you need to water your garden (and that is almost an iron clad guarantee that it will chuck it down with rain) do it in the evening or early morning, before the sun beats down. This will maximise the effect that your watering will have.

MEN IN SHEDS

April turned out to be even busier than anticipated with several quite large construction projects being ordered - they will be quite prominent in the town so more news next month. Projects for Winslow School are nearing completion and, all being well, these will be in place ready for the new Summer term. Also completed is this fine Prosecco Bar for the Nash Jubilee Event. Emerging from the back of an envelope to a finished piece in less than a day; Keith has set a new record for productivity with this one.



Thanks to everyone who came along to our standing-room-only AGM on the 5th. Formalities were quite brief but the headlines are that Winslow Shed has managed to find ways to keep going - even flourish - over the last couple of difficult years. It

is easy to focus on tangible project outcomes so, in his Chairman's report, Dave was careful to emphasise The Shed's main purpose which is to provide a social hub in a supportive setting for men with time on their hands. Although our training sessions are clearly job-focussed that's not the entire point of them. When we were able to resume these on the 7th, it was pleasing to see a number of Sheddies (and visitors) coming along purely out of interest. We're not done yet so here are a few more opportunities for May;

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 5th May | Router and Router table |
| 12th May | Introduction to metalwork lathe |
| 19th May | Tool sharpening, setting and using grinders. |
| 26th May | Introduction to welding. (Gas, MMA and MIG). |

**The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday
10:00 - 4:00 at Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.**

www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk

Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164



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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 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

Robert Davies 01296 712763
robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com 07967 868881

Dave Taylor 07980 546484
daveghpc@btinternet.com

Jackie Goss 01296 713135
jackiegossghpc@gmail.com

Gavin Laird 01296 712798
Gavinlaird78ghpc@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Sue Brazier
01296 714712 clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

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

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings 01296 715968

Doctors Car Service 07704 140110

Winslow and District Community Bus 01296 715786

Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride 01296 330088

Community Police Officers

PCSO Andy Piotrowski Tel: 101

WinslowandDistrictNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Our weekly meetings are in Winslow every Thursday morning and Padbury every Tuesday morning. Anyone over age 16 with an interest in visual arts is eligible to become a member subject to a small subscription. We are a friendly and helpful group and anyone who is interested in becoming a member can find more details on our website www.winslowart.org.uk

Demonstrations in a range of media are normally held at Winslow Bowls Club on the last Thursday of each month. Entry is from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start. Details are:

26 May - Melissa Wishart - Oil, seascapes

30 June - Stanley Hurr - Watercolour, flowers

These are enjoyable and informative evenings and last about two hours with a break for tea and biscuits. Non-members are welcome to attend, and entry will cost £5.00

Arrangements are now being made for our next exhibition which will be held over the weekend of 21 and 22 May. This is held in the local public hall and will feature work done by our members. Admission is free.

Our new Facebook facility is now available so please visit us to see what is going on.

For more information about us please contact our website www.winslowart.org.uk or contact:

Chair: Maureen Barnes 01280 815691

Secretary: John Beckerleg 01280 816932

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

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GREAT HORWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL



Just before the end of term all the children of the school went on a journey, a pilgrimage with a difference. We took 2 days to go through Holy Week and Easter. Beginning on Wednesday the Acorns and early years class, led by the most fabulous looking donkey, processed around the school, shouting 'Hosanna!' and waving palm branches in the air. All of the other children were amazed to see this spectacle and felt the need to find out more. Grippled by the Holy Spirit they followed the procession into the hall, joining in the cries of jubilation.

Arriving at our "Jerusalem" (the school hall), we witnessed some of the wonders of Holy Week. From the drama of Jesus overturning the tables and challenging the money changers in the temple, we went to the Mount of Olives, hiding from the authorities.



We had foot washing, where Jesus showed real leadership, showing care, service and humility (something that we could all be reminded of from time to time), to the Last Supper, something that we remember every Sunday in church. Lastly, we came to Jesus's crucifixion and then we had to leave him his tomb. Silently walking out back to our classes in a state of sadness and despair.

But of course, that is not the end of the story, if it was it wouldn't be as special as it is. We had the joy of coming back the next day and witnessing the empty tomb. That the women who had come to mourn were given the greatest reason to cheer. They celebrated and they gave us a reason to celebrate. Going off on our Easter Holidays knowing that Christ has risen, he has risen indeed.

ALLELUIA!





April has been a busy month for Great Horwood & Singleborough WI's committee and members. It began with the Spring Fayre to celebrate Winslow WI's Centenary. Held at Winslow Public Hall, the event was a great success

with an interesting variety of stalls including home-made preserves, glassware, beauty products and crafts. Our stall featured a much admired display of mugs filled with either chocolate treats or miniature plants. Sales were brisk throughout the morning as attendees snapped them up to give as reasonably-priced gifts to friends and family at Easter.

Our April meeting was our annual dinner. Around 20 members enjoyed a convivial evening at the Winslow Bistro in Horn Street. Thank you to all staff at the Bistro for the delicious two course dinner and hospitality. Some of our members hadn't been to the restaurant before but vowed to go back.

Every year, several WI groups (known as the Chase group) get together taking it in turn to host. This year it is the turn of Great Horwood & Singleborough WI who will be welcoming Winslow, Mursley and Stewkley WI groups as well as, of course, our members. The event takes place on 28th April and as well as providing snacks, cakes and drinks we will be entertained by a local folk group and also the Milton Keynes Poet Laureate, Mark Niel. There will also be a collection in aid of Ukraine.

Our May meeting takes place in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 10th May and we are delighted to have Alison Finnemore talk about how to establish a village shop. Many people in the village have often mentioned how beneficial it would be to the village if we had a shop in Great Horwood. Alison will be sharing her knowledge (she set up the successful shop in North Marston) with the benefit of hindsight about what needs to be considered, pitfalls to avoid and the grants that are available. We are very much looking forward to hearing what she has to say.

If you would like to attend our May meeting to hear our guest speaker and enjoy a fun evening, please contact Ann Biggins annieqqmk@gmail.com / 07961 960802. We would be very happy to see you.

Around 20 members of Great Horwood & Singleborough WI recently enjoyed an evening meal together at Winslow Bistro.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

PARISH PUMP

UPDATE ON PLANS TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Thursday 2nd June - The Green, evening

The Great Horwood Silver Band will be playing on The Green in the evening. This will lead up to a bugler playing a specially written piece, the unique Bugle Call 'Majesty' at 9.40pm followed by the beacon lighting at 9.45pm.

Sunday 5th June - Horwode Pece, lunchtime and afternoon

The Great Horwood Silver Band and the Giocosio Band will be sharing the entertainment during lunchtime and the afternoon. Many of you will remember the Picnic on the Pece that has been held during past summers. This year, The Big Jubilee Lunch has been launched for Jubilee Sunday and it is hoped that many of you will bring your picnic lunches down to the Rec and enjoy the music and hopefully the weather!

More specific details of when the music for both these events will start will be published next month.

LITTER PICK - a date for your diary SUNDAY 8th MAY, STARTING AT 10am ON THE GREEN



Please come along to help tidy the village. Litter pickers and rubbish sacks will be provided. We will also be providing hi viz jackets but if you have your own, that would be even better. Please could you bring your own gloves; gardening gloves would be good as thorns and sharp objects tend to tear plastic gloves.

WELCOME TO GREAT HORWOOD



A big welcome to our new residents! There have been many people moving in and out recently. We hope you are settling in and enjoying our lovely village community. Would you like to receive a Welcome Pack? This has recently been updated and includes information on village organisations, the School, Pub, Church and the local area. Please contact

John Gilbey by email on johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

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/>

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting on **Thursday 5th May at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. Minutes of meetings can be found on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/ Sue Brazier, Parish Clerk Great Horwood clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

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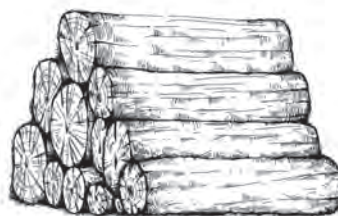
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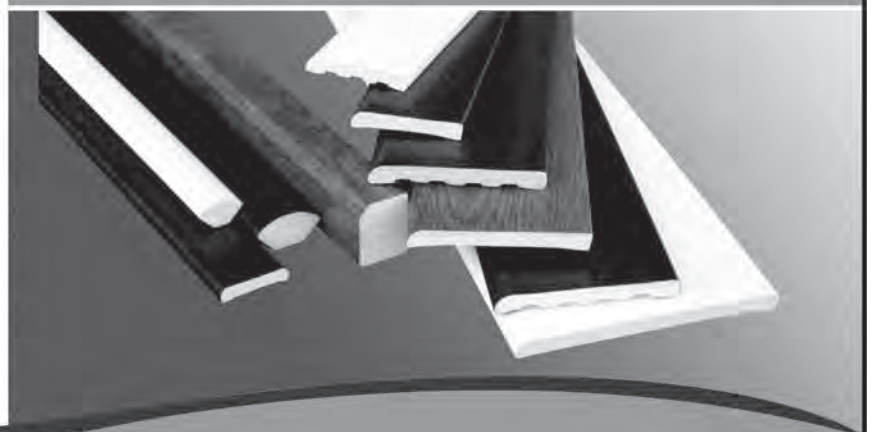
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