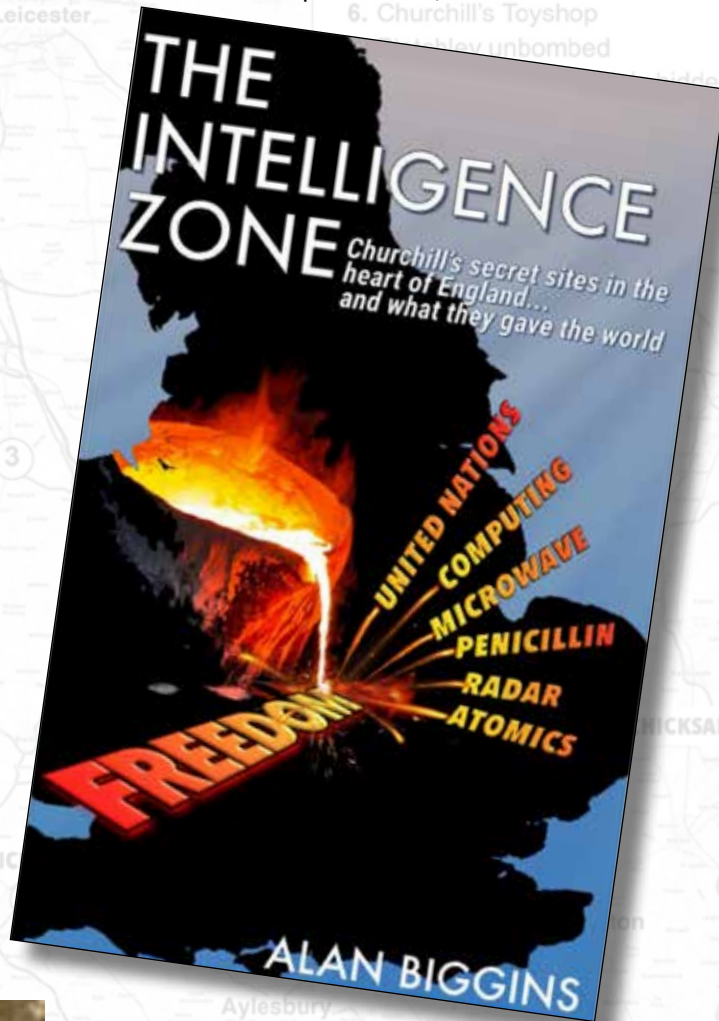


GREAT HORWOOD AND THE INTELLIGENCE ZONE

Alan Biggins, who looks after our parish's footpaths, has just published a book like no other about this area. His series of articles about one aspect of it, the Whaddon Web, starts inside. Keep this copy of Focus!



Alan told Focus, 'We live in one of the most astonishing places on earth 'For fifty years I have been living in the Home Counties, 35 of them in Great Horwood ...and in that time. I've done a lot of walking. Over the years I have come across many, many, sites related to the Second World War war; and especially to communications, computing, spies and the special forces. Discovering how this treasure-trove of sites were linked together; and how they related to Europe and America, has resulted in my book The Intelligence Zone which was published on Amazon two weeks ago.'

Continued on page 5.

MICK WOOD

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Church Times

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

Church Wardens:
 June Margerrison 714554

St James' Services for May

7th	11.00am	Holy Communion
14th	11.00am	Come & Praise
21st	11.00am	Creative Communion
28th	11.00am	Holy Communion

Church Key: May: Ian Lamberton

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

CORONATION CHURCH SERVICE AND ACM

We will be holding a special Holy Communion Service for the Coronation on Sunday the 7th of May with prosecco and cake afterwards. All are welcome.

The Annual Church meeting will take place after the Service on the 21st of May.

VILLAGE HALL

We are in the midst of submitting plans 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.

We are pleased to announce that Tony Pearson from Singleborough will be joining the committee as Treasurer and Russell Margerrison is in the process of handing over the accounts but understand he will still be around for help!

Ian Lamberton, Chairman

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

The April Great Horwood & Singleborough WI dinner was a pleasant relaxing evening. We enjoyed a glass of Prosecco on arrival followed by a delicious meal cooked by one of our members. This was followed by a range of sumptuous puddings – provided by members.

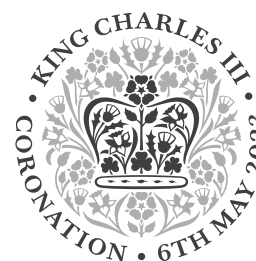
Next month our guest speaker will be giving a presentation on *How to Add Style to your Country Garden*. If you'd like to join our friendly group, please contact Ann Biggins annieqqmk@gmail.com / 07961 960802.

As well as monthly meetings, we organise a number of day trips and events throughout the year and in June have arranged a boat trip on the River Thames near Windsor with a cream tea.

Come and see us at the Coronation event at the Cricket Club on Monday 8th May where we will be giving out free cake!

FOCUS BANK ACCOUNT

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 continue to make payments to Focus please contact Russell Margerrison for the new Bank Account Details on 714554



AN AFTERNOON TO CELEBRATE

The Coronation and the volunteers in our parish.

Monday 8th May, 2pm at the Cricket Ground

Great Horwood Belles will entertain us playing hand-bells during the event.

This adds to our contributors, who are –

Cricket Club – bat and bowling game

Scouts – rope bridge making, Cubs cooking camp donuts and a beaver activity

Guides – parachute game, bubbles and making an arch in the Great Horwood tradition

Football Club – scoring goals

Art & Craft – hand & foot painting, guess the name of the Guardsman

HPMC (the Rec) – Giant Jenga, Connect 4 and other games

W.I. – providing homemade cakes

Cricket club ladies – making tea, coffee and juice

All these are free so come along, take part in the activities or just sit and listen to the music. Giocoso, our Silver Band and the Horwood Belles will be playing a varied programme throughout the afternoon.

The Cricket Club bar will be open and we have an ice cream van on site.

Dogs are welcome but on leads please.

Let's hope the weather is kind to us so that people can walk up to the cricket ground

Liz Nicholls

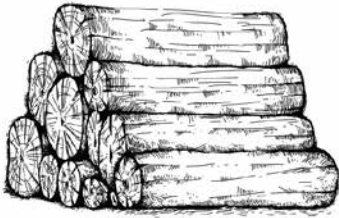
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April was certainly busy at the Shed. No sooner had we delivered 30 nest boxes for Sir Thomas Freemantle School then the Greener Padbury group asked if we could make them another 40 (yes 40). With bird-nesting season well under way, we needed quite a production line to get the job done in time. All good fun though and refreshing to enjoy some cheerful teamwork when a lot of Shed projects tend to be more individual.

A couple of benches and some signage for the new Community Allotment project meant more simple carpentry and the chance to find good homes for some of the garden tools we seem to accumulate.

A good spade, rake or fork can always be repaired, cleaned and passed on for another lifetime of service and we were delighted to be able to supply the new Community allotmenters accordingly.

There are now nearly 600 Men's Sheds in the UK and, like all of them, Winslow Sheddens have backgrounds from just about every trade and profession imaginable. Making bird boxes might be a little tame for someone who cut their teeth with Aston Martin but helping to design, engineer and fit adaptations to assist a local lady with her new wheelchair made for some rewarding teamwork and a shared sense of helping to make a real difference.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our AGM on the 18th - hope to see you again soon.

**The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday
from 10:00 - 4:00. Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.
www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk**

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**Are you in a club or society in
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and share it with the whole village.**

editor@ghfocus.com

Continued from page 1.

THE INTELLIGENCE ZONE

Focus have been kind enough to ask me to write a series of articles about our amazing heritage of world-changing sites. That's a tall-order; so I will limit myself to part of chapter 9 - The Whaddon Web. Chapter 9? I love maps, and the map I have commissioned (reproduced over leaf) of The Intelligence Zone will explain better, for each subject relates to a local place, or places, and each has its chapter in the book. So what do I mean by The Whaddon Web? That's my name for the series of transmitting and receiving sites which the British secret services, MI6, put up to run their communications; and which were managed from Whaddon Hall. Before that MI6's communications had been at Bletchley Park, a couple of miles down the road. However, in September 1939, a few days after Britain declared war on Germany, it was thought that the aerial wires strung across the trees there were too obvious a target for the German Air Force (as well as being a bit amateurish) - so they moved them out to Whaddon. Whaddon was under the management of MI6's director of Communications, a highly amiable old-Etonian from the top drawer by the name of Richard Gambier-Parry - 'Pop', as he was affectionately known by his staff.



'Pop' Richard Gambier Parry

Pop's teams put up communications for all sorts of people - spies, saboteurs and governments in exile to name just some. And they put them up right here; almost in a circle spreading over the hills and centred more or less on Winslow. They were hardly 'secret' in the sense of not being noticeable. Aerial masts can't be that. But they were secure; as you might expect from MI6. Patrolled by armed guards - surrounded by barbed wire and with strictly policed entry; they were part of the extraordinary story of how the secret services communicated with occupied Europe.

This is very, very, local. The magazine you are reading now was produced in one of the huts at Little Horwood used in this radio war. One of the most important of the secret sites - the other end of those exchanges between resistance agents in France and their MI6 controllers - was in this very parish.

The Whaddon Web is but a part of a gripping, exciting, moving, terrifying and often humorous epic. I have spent the last five years researching it, writing it and generally doing my best to do it justice. It is a saga of world-shaking proportions; for it tells of the fall of empires and the crashing of titans; as well as spies, saboteurs and heroes and heroines. And it is all true; all our history - and explains why the Intelligence Zone is one of the most astonishing places on earth; and why we should be proud of the place we live.

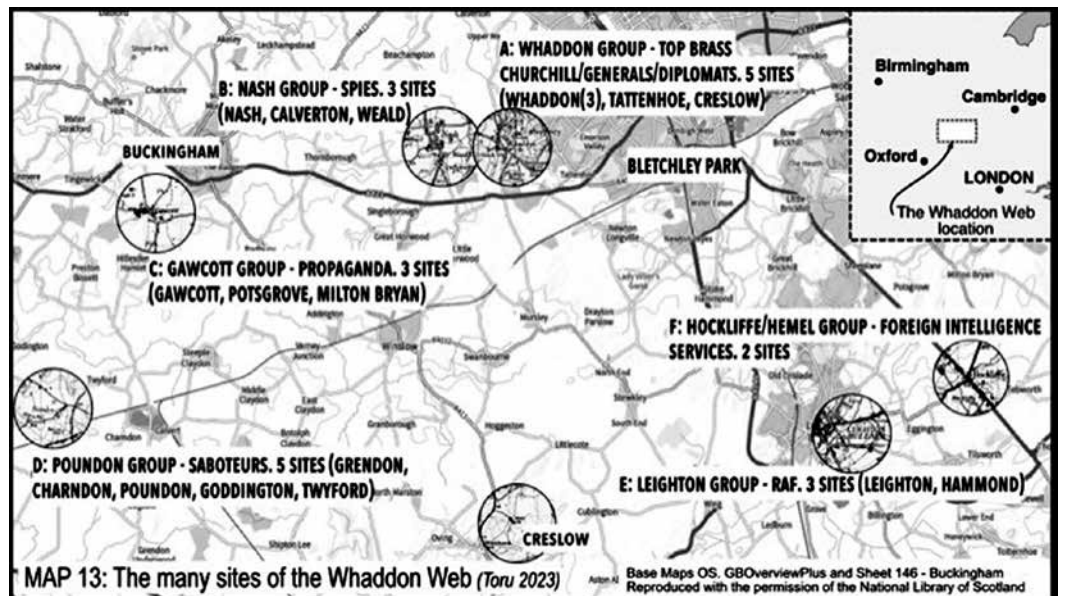
In my next article, I will explain how and why this astonishing web was built; and what it achieved; starting with Whaddon itself. Keep this article! Space is limited in Focus and I do not want Andy Gibbs, in his printing workshop in the secret hut at Little Horwood to have to repeat this map...

Or am I getting too security conscious?

The full story is the book. **The Intelligence Zone** and its sequel, *A New World after Pearl* is on Amazon for £9.99. For fellow resident of the village, I will be happy to sign it, my contact details are in the book.

"This is an extraordinary book. Readers who perhaps know a bit about Bletchley Park will be astonished at the range and variety of activities that surrounded it at varying distances. And just as Bletchley Park has its tales of amazing technical advances made by a collection of sometimes eccentric individuals, so too have several of these less celebrated establishments." - *John Whitehead 5 star Amazon review*

Editor: we look forward to further extracts from Alan's book in future editions.

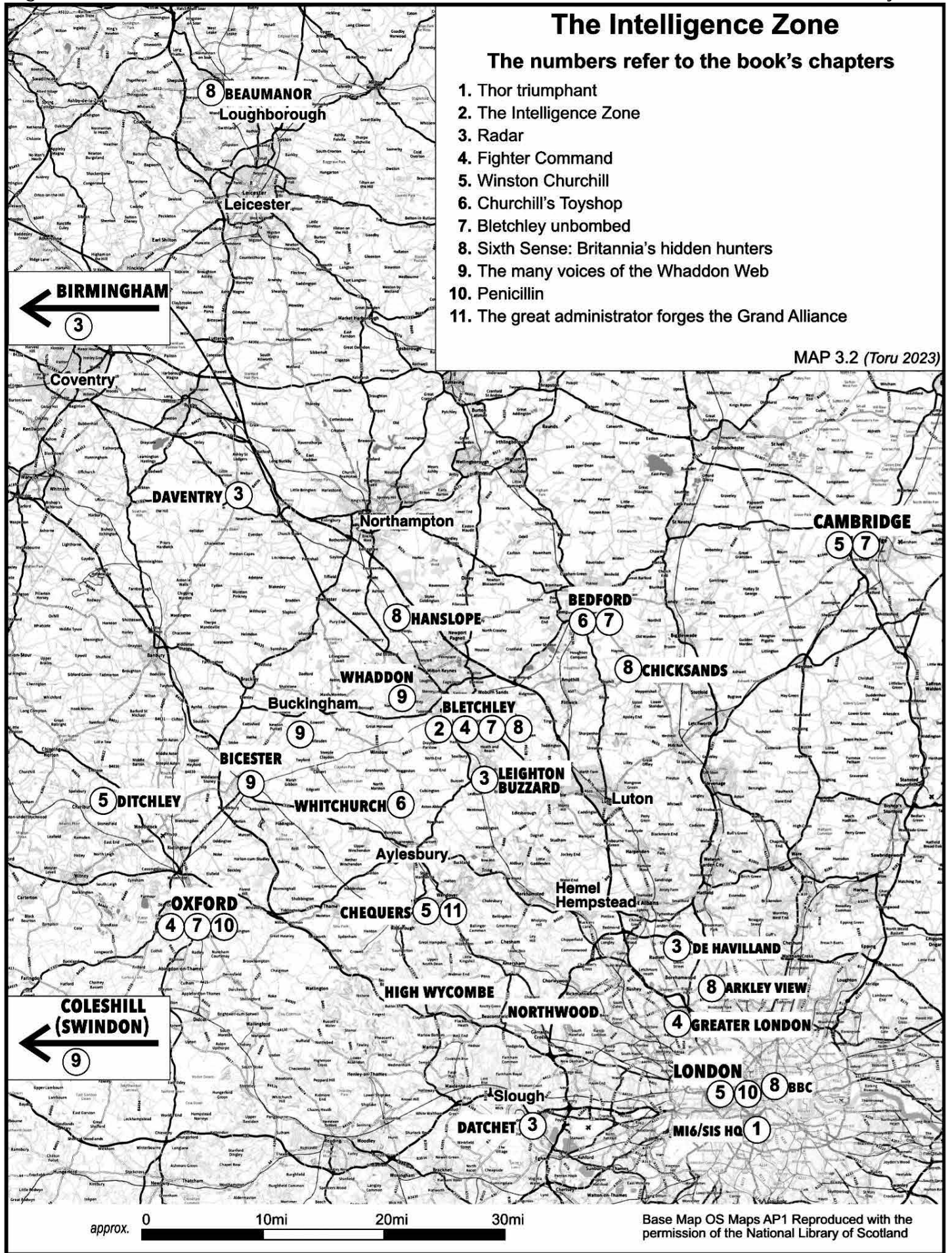


The Intelligence Zone

The numbers refer to the book's chapters

- 1. Thor triumphant
- 2. The Intelligence Zone
- 3. Radar
- 4. Fighter Command
- 5. Winston Churchill
- 6. Churchill's Toyshop
- 7. Bletchley unbombed
- 8. Sixth Sense: Britannia's hidden hunters
- 9. The many voices of the Whaddon Web
- 10. Penicillin
- 11. The great administrator forges the Grand Alliance

MAP 3.2 (Toru 2023)



GREAT HORWOOD GIRLGUIDING

We've got a fun-packed term of activities planned for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and we've still got plenty of spaces if more girls would like to join us.

Come and see us at the village Coronation celebrations on Monday 8th May. We'll be blowing giant bubbles, playing parachute games and decorating the traditional celebratory arch. Everyone is very welcome to join in with these free activities and with those organised by other groups, including the Scouts.

Further highlights of the term for all of the girls will include a visit to College Wood, outdoor cooking, an outing to Curly Tails pig sanctuary, tidying the churchyard as well as plenty of other fun activities and games tailored to the different age groups.

Congratulations to Amelia C. for completing her Brownie Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and to Joanna M. for achieving her Guide Bronze and Silver awards. These are prestigious awards that the girls can earn only if they put in the effort to do extra

activities outside of our meetings as well as all the things we do together in meetings. Well done!

I still need an adult to help at Brownies 6.00-7.15pm on Mondays please? There's no need to do any planning or training unless you'd like to. We just need someone aged 18-118 who's willing to submit to criminal records checks and turn up every Monday during school termtime please.

If your daughter might be interested in joining us, please contact me on 07501636037 or claremartin71@btinternet.com to arrange a free taster session. Alternatively, please register your daughter with Girlguiding UK at

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/> and I'll then contact you.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering, please contact me as above or register yourself with Girlguiding at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/>

Clare Martin

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WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Meetings are held in Winslow every Thursday morning and in Padbury every Tuesday morning. Anyone over the age of 16 with an interest in visual arts is eligible to become a member subject to a small subscription. We are a friendly, helpful group and anyone 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 the Winslow Bowls Club on the last Thursday of each month. Entry is from 7.00 for a 7.30 start. These are enjoyable and informative evenings and last about two hours with a break for coffee and biscuits. Non members are welcome to attend at a cost of £5.00

Details of recent and future demonstrations are as follows:

30 March *Heather Miller. Acrylics and mixed media. Lake in a landscape*

27 April *Pauline Hazelwood. Line and wash with pencil sketching. Cartooning*

25 May *Aurora Spain. Brusho. Natural world*

29 June. *Karen Thomas. Graphite. Animals and birds*

28 September. *Peter Keegan. Oil*

Our next exhibition will be held at Winslow Bowls Club over 13/14 May.

For more about us please look at our website or contact

Chair: Maureen Barnes 01280 815691

Secretary: John Beckerleg 01280 816932

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

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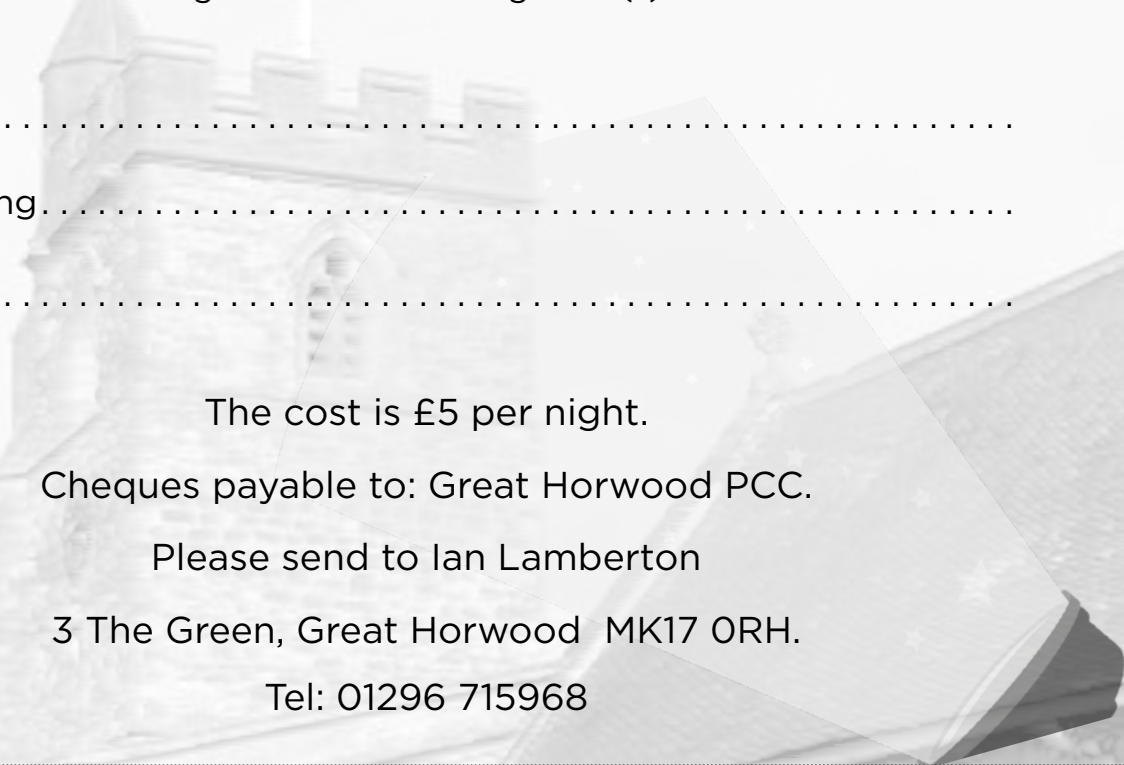
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Great Horwood
Parish Council

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
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Andy Waller		01296 712798	andywallerpc@mail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

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

GREAT HORWOOD HISTORY WEBSITE

People who've moved to the village in recent years might not know that, 10 years ago, a group of villagers published a book entitled, 'Great Horwood Past and Present'. It included chapters about most aspects of our village history as well as information on what was then present-day Great Horwood. We sold all the copies of the book and set up a website so people could view the chapters and additional material online. Unfortunately, sole responsibility for that task fell to me and, after the effort of getting all the material onto the website and adding more, I got out of the habit of checking on it regularly. At some point last year, the domain name didn't get renewed, I didn't notice and the whole website vanished. I apologise to all the other book contributors and to anyone who has recently tried to search for information about the history of Great Horwood and Singleborough. Please rest assured

that no one's work has been lost apart from some of mine.

I've bought a new domain name:

www.greathorwoodhistory.co.uk which is the same as the old name apart from the suffix. It's going to take me a while to rebuild the website from scratch and get all the material back online so I've started with information about past coronation celebrations as that might be of most interest to people at the moment.

Past Coronations and Traditional Celebration Arches

As we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III this month, we'll be following in the footsteps of many generations of Great Horwood and Singleborough residents who gathered together to celebrate the coronations of his predecessors.

The first such event we know anything about was Great Horwood's celebration of King George IV's coronation on 19th July 1821. As part of the festivities, five Great Horwood labourers asserted an ancient right on Coronation Day to cut down a tree from manorial land and erect it in the village as a 'Coronation Pole'. The people of Great Horwood undoubtedly gathered at the pole and their celebrations will have included dancing around it. After the festivities, the five men failed to return the oak pole to landowner, New College Oxford. They sold the timber and kept the profits for themselves, for which they were convicted of theft and fined.

King Charles III would be glad to know that we're not asserting our right to chop down a tree to celebrate his coronation. However, on a small scale, we will be continuing another tradition by constructing a celebratory arch. In the past, before busy roads and health and

safety rules, towns and villages often constructed large, temporary arches to celebrate coronations and jubilees. Thanks largely to the artistic talents of Alfred Rich, the schoolmaster here from 1892 to 1928, Great Horwood became renowned for the quality and artistry of its arches. The arch pictured below, to celebrate George V's coronation on 22nd June 1911, for example, was 'pronounced by all to be the best in the district'. It spanned the road by The Swan and included around 200 hand-made paper poppies.

In most places, the practice of constructing such arches died out long ago but, in Great Horwood, the tradition became an important part of our heritage and still continues. The last really big one was the huge construction of scaffolding poles and greenery built for Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee in 1977. One of the smallest was the beautiful, floral one built for the opening of the village recreation ground, Horwood Pece, in 2009. The most recent was built at the entrance of The Green for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Sadly, Her Majesty died before our rescheduled Platinum Jubilee celebrations could take place so we didn't make the arch we'd planned to. On Monday 8th May, we'll be gathering at Great Horwood Cricket Club for an afternoon of mostly free activities and entertainment in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. One of the activities Great Horwood Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows have organised is decorating the celebratory arch. We'll bring a garden arch and supplies of red, white and blue tissue paper and paper chains. We hope that everyone (adult

or child) will join us to make paper chains and flowers and decorate the arch during the afternoon. For safety reasons, the arch will be smaller than its predecessors but it will be special because everyone will have helped to make it. (Any contributions of red, white or blue tissue paper will be gratefully received.) There will also be a display of photos of earlier celebratory arches and coronation celebrations.

For more information about earlier coronations and other festivities, please visit

www.greathorwoodhistory.co.uk

Clare Martin



6 - Gt Horwood, June 22, 1911.

Readers Write



NOOK PARK

We recently had a conversation with Patrick O'Brien who as you know owns the farm at the bottom of Spring Lane. His family has owned the farm for 70 years and the field to the west of Nook Park belongs to the farm. As Mr O'Brien described prior to purchasing the farm "My father was involved in drainage work in the locality."

Between the field and the park there has been a drainage ditch which dates back 150 years and is a watercourse for the village. This takes the excess rainwater from Willow Road and above through the ditch down to the brook in Spring Lane.

Meaning this is important as without the ditch the field, the houses on sections of Nook Park, Greenways and Spring Lane could be affected by potential flooding.

As Mr O'Brien pointed out "residents of Great Horwood will remember previous development plans (for the fields adjacent to Nook Park) in which extensive drainage works had to be planned for and permission granted."

We had a visit from the flood management department of the council at the beginning of March and they were unhappy with the fact that Joe Burns has now filled in the ditch (*below*) and made a culvert the full length of the park. He has put a pipe no more than 2 feet in diameter (*pictured right*) and covered it over with earth right on the border where the hedgerow must be replanted. The flood management officer also said that there has to be a 10-meter gap between a ditch and any new homes. They said the ditch was a watercourse. The council take this seriously as permission has to be sourced from the council to do this and usually they refuse permission to do so.



This ditch is all part of a watercourse system which keeps the village free of flooding. The ditches are maintained and kept debris free as they are easily accessible whereas a culvert is not. Certainly not the full length of the park as this would not be possible to rod to clear any blockage. Mr O'Brien explained "I've been in conversation with the drainage enforcement officer and Mr Burns, apparently without permission has filled in the existing ditch and created a culvert which is against the rules. There is a possibility the ditch as a designated watercourse will have to be reinstated" We eagerly await an order!

We have a Facebook page, Nook Park Residential Park Home Site if anyone hasn't seen any of our films etc yet.

Liz Phillips

PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

CASUAL VACANCIES



The Parish Council has 2 casual vacancies and now has permission to co-opt 2 new members.

If you would like to find out more about what being a Parish Councillor involves in serving your local community then please in the first instance contact Cllr. John Gilbey by email at johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com and we can arrange to get together for a chat.

POT HOLES AND THE HIGH STREET



We asked Buckinghamshire Council when the High Street in the village is going to be resurfaced and this is the answer we got – so don't hold your breath.

"The Local Area Technician (LAT) are inspecting the road network constantly and also in response to reports received via Fix-my-Street. We monitor areas through our regular monthly, quarterly and annual inspections for further deterioration; any works required will be carried out to keep the condition of the carriageway safe, in line with our Highways Safety Inspection Policy.

Roads or footways for resurfacing are prioritised in conjunction with local Members to ensure that our available annual funding is spread fairly across the entire county. Many of our Members have had difficult choices to make, with numerous roads and footways needing to be prioritised. We take a balanced strategy to determine our future programme, aiming to produce a mix of treatments targeted at both preventative repairs, which offer the best value for money in the longer term, as well as resurfacing work to repair those areas which are not in an acceptable condition."

LITTER PICK

It was a very damp morning on Sunday 26th March, but the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers still turned out in great numbers and together with help from a group from Nook Park and a couple from the Cricket Club together with Jane Holland a considerable amount of rubbish was cleared from the streets of the village. Pictures below.

CORONATION WEEKEND



All welcome at the Cricket Club on Monday 9th May .

NOOK PARK

We are waiting to find out how Buckinghamshire Council will enforce the replacement of the hedges back into their original position.

FOX COVERT SOLAR FARM



Work has started on the installation of the solar farm and so there will be movements of large items of equipment through the village in the coming weeks and months

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/>

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th May 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



Winslow Community Bus

www.winslowbus.com



PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL: wdcbenquiries@btinternet.com Tel: 07483 336440

May 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 2nd May and 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 11th and 25th May

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

Asda - Tuesday 30th May and 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.

Gloucester Day Trip - Tuesday 23rd May

cost £20 Gloucester's historic streets are filled with fantastic shops, from high street chains to quirky independents. If shopping is not your thing, then visit the Cathedral and museums.

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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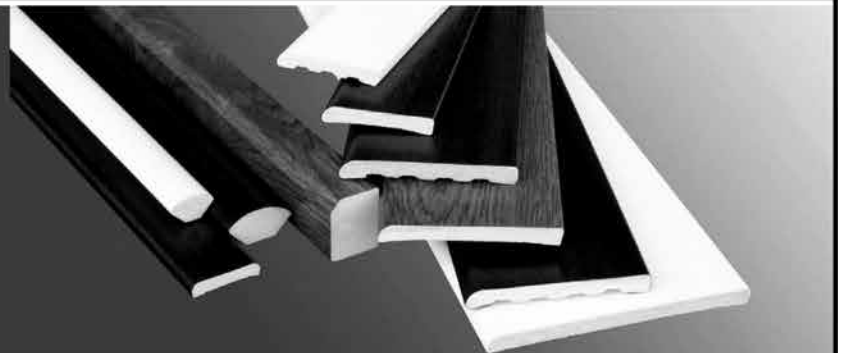
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