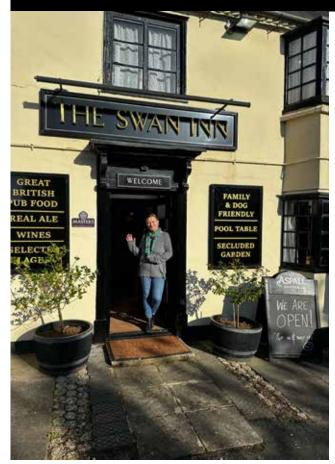
THE SWAN IS OPEN



I am sure that you have all noticed that the Swan has re-opened, and I went along to meet our new hosts and to have a quick pint. I started by asking them to introduce themselves:

'We are Jon & Georgina Ballard & family and are building a new home at the Swan which we really want to make a hub for the local community with a warm welcome and great food and drink.'

I then asked what experience they had running pubs which brought a smile.

'We have been in the hospitality industry for years running pubs, hotels and high-volume restaurants.'

So where were you before you came to Great Horwood? 'We have been running The Caldecotte in Milton Keynes for the last 2 years, before that we spent 5 years running a hotel just outside Brighton and before that the Cock in Stony Stratford, The George in Huntingdon and the Galleon at Old Wolverton.'

It was my turn to smile that's quite an impressive list I said so what made you want to take on the Swan and what are your plans for the pub?

'We have been looking for 'THE' right pub for a very

long time, we love pubs and the community feel and we really want to set down roots and have a home. The Swan ticked all the boxes. We are not planning on reinventing the wheel, just a traditional warm welcome with a smile, great drinks and home cooked food. We want a great environment for single people, couples, families and friends and are going to be running different events such as Pensioners lunches, Pool Nights, Live Music meat Raffles etc. Please check out our website www.innvigorate.uk and Facebook page.'

And finally, any words for the villagers who have been without a pub for a while?

'We want to thank everyone for the kindness and support they have shown us. The amount of people that have thanked us for opening the pub up have been overwhelming and as we say to everyone its such an amazing pub & deserves to be open so as long as there is demand and we are supported the doors will stay open for a very long time.'

I had a lovely pint, and the atmosphere is really welcoming so if you haven't already been in yet do pop in for a drink or a meal and join all of us at Focus in welcoming Jon and Georgina to the village and wishing them many years of happiness and success here.

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MICK WOOD

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

Church Wardens:
June Margerrison 714554
Carolyn Bayliss 715814

Church Times

St James' Services for May			Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions
5th	11.00am	Holy Communion	R Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
12th	11.00am	Come and Praise	P Moyles	Clergy	Clergy
19th	11.00am	Creative Communion	I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Brigden
26th	11.00am	Holy Communion	C Bayliss	S Bayliss	Clergy
Church Key May:		lan Lamberton 715968			

SUMMER DIARY DATES

It looks like being a busy summer in the village. The Swan has re-opened, and we can look forward to some lovely summer's evenings in the garden and the Village Hall will also re-open after its refurbishment at the end of April. On May the 27th we have the Annual Plant Sale opposite the church between 10.00 and 2.00 and the following Saturday June 1st it's the North Bucks Show at Pilch Farm (see back page for details of both). On the 6th of July it's the Annual Fete and Dog Show from 1.00 to 4.00 on the Village Green and we also have the Silver Band performing on the Green on Wednesdays the 16th of May, the 19th of June and the 10th of July. So put the a dates in your diaries and enjoy all the village has to offer.

MEN IN SHEDS

With the return of light evenings and some warm sunny days, this is the time of year when trying to predict what sort of a Summer lies ahead has become something of a tradition. Is it too soon to put away the winter woollies and will we need wellies or a parasol at the Winslow Show this year Judging by the number of locals planning on a summer of alfresco dining we think we may have stumbled upon the answer! No sooner had we finished building a mud kitchen for North Marston School when Tingewick School placed an order for one, then for two and then a call came from Winslow's Treehouse Pre-School could we make them one too?

We are, of course, delighted to help. A mud kitchen is great fun to make and a good way to make use of recycled pallet wood and an old sink unit - we're even able to divert our woodturning enthusiasts from fancy work in precious hardwoods to making control knobs and hob rings!

If you've ever thought about joining us but were unsure what you might get involved with then this might be just the thing for you- plenty of teamwork, nice simple woodwork and enthusiastic customers who make it all worthwhile.

(Best to avoid sampling the menu though.)

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

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

Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164

WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Our Art Society continues to meet each week in either Winslow or in Padbury. In fact by the time you read this we will have had our Spring Exhibition in the community hall, Winslow and we hope that everybody who came along enjoyed themselves.

We continue to hold our demonstration evenings each month and so we would like to invite you to join us. Our March demonstration by Graham Short was an interesting and amusing insight into the life of a world-renowned micro artist. His power point presentation allowed us to see the details of major speeches and sayings engraved on pinheads and other tiny objects. Its only £5 per non-member to come to our demo evenings and the doors of the Winslow bowls club open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. This cost includes refreshments and so just choose a date from the list below and come along.

Please contact us for further information:

Chair: Cheryl Wilyman 01296 640755 Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607 Secretary: Monica Gilbey 01296 711915

Our Demonstration evenings are:

25 April 24 David Wilcox, demonstration, medium to be confirmed.

30 May 24 Paul Berryman, demonstration, medium to be confirmed.

27 June 24 Karen Thomas, demonstration

on using graphite.

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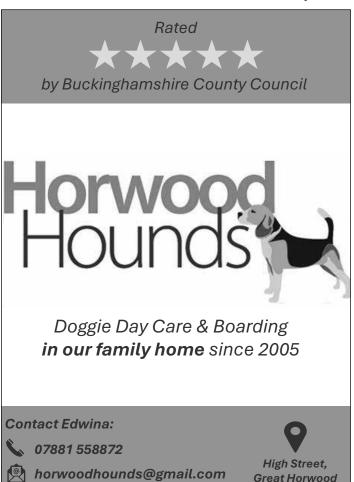
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GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

With Spring upon us and Summer fast approaching, the Great Horwood Silver Band are pleased to announce the return of our free Concerts on the Green. The first one of which is planned for Wednesday 15th May. Our training band will start the concert at 6.45pm with the main band playing immediately afterwards until 8.45pm. Please come along and listen to us, bring a picnic or a drink or two and spend the evening with us. If the weather is against us playing outside, we will move indoors to the Village Hall, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for any updates. We look forward to seeing you all. The other concerts will be on the 19th of June, 10th July and then the final one on the 11th September.

Thank you for everyone who came to our concert on the 16th of March at Furze Down school, we have had some lovely feedback and thoroughly enjoyed performing for those that attended. On behalf of the Band, I would like to pass our thanks on to the school for letting us use their school hall and we will be making a donation to the school from the proceeds of the concert. Also, our thanks go to those who volunteered to help with the refreshments and the raffle on the evening, it is very much appreciated.

Following the closure of the Village Hall for its refurbishment, we approached Great Horwood School for a place to rehearse on a Wednesday evening, which they fortunately agreed to and as we now have the date that we return to rehearsing in the Village Hall following its reopening, the Band would like to send a massive thank you to the school for continuing to help us with a rehearsal space when we have needed it. The school helped us to return to playing during the COVID restrictions, when we used

the playground for our rehearsals and to help us out again so we can continue a tradition that has been in the Village for over 150 years will always mean so much to us. Thank you.

The date for our return to the Village Hall is Wednesday the 1st May and as always, anyone is welcome to come along and meet us if you have an interest in joining us. We welcome players of all ages and abilities, offer free tuition and can provide an instrument if required. Please contact the Band by email, through the website or Facebook for more details. We have more engagements booked for the coming months, a list of which are below. Please note that due to my mistyping, there was an error in our dates in the March and April Focus and there is NOT a concert on the 16th May at Furze Down school.

Wednesday 15th May – Concert on the Green – Great Horwood Village Green

Saturday 1st June - North Bucks Country Show - Pilch Lane, Great Horwood

Thursday 6th June - 80th Anniversary of D-Day - Slapton

Saturday 8th June - Courteenhall Fete - Courteenhall Wednesday 19th June - Concert on the Green - Great Horwood Village Green

Saturday 22nd June - Tingewick Village Fete - Tingewick

Wednesday 10th July – Concert on the Green – Great Horwood Village Green

Contact details:Email:ghsbsecretary@gmail.com

Website: www.greathorwood.com
Or through our Facebook page

APPEAL FOR NEXT YEARS MAD MARCH (HARE) FUN RUN

First of all, the school PTFA and fun run organisers would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all those who took part and made this village event a great success again this year:

- to the 70 participants who were greeted by blue skies for the run/jog/walk up Pilch Lane and back
- to the volunteer marshals and first aiders at the finish line and out on the course looking after everyone
- to the many spectators that came out to support and create the fun atmosphere
- to the stallholders in the hall selling many things, including bunny ears!
- to the helpers getting things set up and providing refreshments
- to those that contributed to the raffle prizes
- to Howe & Co for continuing to sponsor the event and dishing out delicious fish and chips
- to the traffic management guys who kept everyone safe
- to all those who helped clear up afterwards Results are now posted on our Facebook page: "Great Horwood Mad March Hare Run". Many congratulations to the winners of all age categories, some of whom may be the Olympians of the future!

The Mad March Run is a major fundraiser for the PTFA, which allows many of their other activities through the year to go ahead. It is also a big community event for families and friends in the village. However, next year's run is in the balance as Bucks County Council has announced that they are no longer funding traffic management (TM) for charitable events. The committee has thought long and hard for alternative arrangements to avoid this cost, but the event has to centre around the school and the road is the only way out.

We therefore have to find several hundred pounds of extra sponsorship to cover the additional costs paying for TM privately. The organisers would therefore like to put out an appeal to local businesses who could provide anything from £50 upwards of sponsorship per year in return for some advertising on our Facebook page, entry forms and on our posters, which appear in the village in the weeks leading up

to the event. We would also appeal to everyone involved in the event to "follow" us on our Facebook page. This will hopefully increase the contribution from fun run entrants by helping spread the word when the time comes to announce the date of next year's event.

Fingers crossed that together we will "Save the Hare" for years to come!

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Winslow Community Bus

May-June 2024



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

Buckingham Bus Service Tuesday 7 May and Tuesday 4 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 9 and 28 May, Thursday 13 and 27 June

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

Asda Monday 28 May and Monday 24 June

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip which 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..

Bicester Avenue Shopping. Thursday 2nd May, Travel £8

Our annual Bluebell run and lunch at The Greyhound Inn in the picturesque village in Aldbury.

Afterwards a stop at Tring Garden Centre.

Weston Super Mare on Thursday 16th May, Travel £22

Weston-Super-Mare is a seaside town in North Somerset, England, where you can enjoy the charm of a traditional coastal resort with a modern twist. Whether you want to relax on the sandy beaches, explore the historic pier, or discover the local heritage at the museums..

Future Dates for your Diary

Eastbourne on Sunday 30th June

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details of any trips.

Timetables can be found online www.winslowbus.com On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator.

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

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

Our Scheduled routes are

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 monthPicking 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

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

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

www.winslowbus.com wdcbenquiries@btinternet.com Tel: 07483 336440



PARISH PUMP

PARISH COUNCILLORS

We have two vacancies on the Council. If you think you might be interested Great Horwood in volunteering to serve your local Parish Council community in this way, please email and we can arrange to have a chat about

the role and see if it is suited to you johnwgilbeypc@ gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE

The Parish Council have now decided to have their own page on the social media platform, Facebook. It is simply called Great Horwood Parish Council. If you are familiar with this platform, could you please like the page. Going forward we will be posting more information about various things that residents might be interested in or want to get involved in.

LITTER PICK

The annual Litter Pick took place on 17th March 2024, which although started off very damp, with an occasional short rain burst, we had a great turn out from the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Those helping included a few residents of the village and two Parish Councillors - a large amount of rubbish has been cleared from the streets and ditches of the Village.



FIX MY STREET



reminder evervone that "FixMyStreet"

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

Dog Waste

Another reminder that if you are taking your dog(s) for a walk in the village please remember to pick up after them. With the warmer weather on its way more people will be out and about in the various green spaces in the village - please remember to pick up as you go. Thank you.

THE CROWN

Ongoing discussions between the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council and further updates will be given when they become available. Don't forget to check the minutes of the Parish Council meetings to see the latest information.

WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome Pack please email as shown below with your address and I will drop one off to you.

Focus Online

Did you know that there is an online edition of Focus with every copy from February 2012?

So, if you have mislaid your copy and can't find the information you need, just log onto

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

Information Sharing Group

This is a good way of communicating useful information to villagers. If you would like to receive information first hand, such as Thames Valley Police info, roadworks updates and other ad hoc information, please contact Sarah Biswell on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk if you are interested and you can be added to the email group.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th Mayat 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.

Cllr. John Gilbey: Chairman of the Council

johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

ROYAL AIR FORCE TO SHOWCASE ICONIC AIRCRAFT IN SPECTACULAR FLYPAST AT North Bucks Country Show

The skies above the North Bucks Country Show are set to come alive with the historic roar of World War IIera aircraft on 1 June 2024. The Royal Air Force (RAF) will be conducting a breathtaking flypast at the event, featuring iconic Spitfire and Hurricane aeroplanes. The Royal Air Force (RAF) Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) has arranged for the inclusion of these legendary aircraft as part of the North Bucks Country Show's entertainment lineup, offering spectators a unique glimpse into aviation history. Both the Spitfire and Hurricane played pivotal roles during World War II, with their distinctive silhouettes and powerful engines reflecting the bravery and resilience of the RAF pilots who flew them.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Royal Air Force to bring such iconic aircraft to the North Bucks Country Show," said John Thrower, Chairman of the North Bucks Country Show. "This flypast promises to be a highlight of the event, offering attendees an unforgettable experience and paying tribute to the rich aviation heritage of our nation." The flypast will showcase the agility and grace of the Spitfire and Hurricane as they soar through the skies above



Singleborough, near Buckingham. Spectators will have the opportunity to witness history in motion, with expert pilots manoeuvring these legendary aircraft with precision and skill.

In addition to the flypast, attendees of the North Bucks Country Show can look forward to a diverse range of activities and attractions, including heavy horse display, vintage tractors, and retail areas such as a Farmers Market and Craft Stalls.

About North Bucks Country Show: The committee is formed of current and previous members of Edgcott and Winslow Young Farmers club. We are to raise money for the County Organisation, Buckinghamshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs this year. We are holding a one-day show consisting of rural attractions and demonstrations. There will be inter-club Young Farmers competitions happening on the day, as well as many trade stands, all for visitors' entertainment and interest.

The Show is being held 2 miles from the former Royal Air Force Little Horwood site or more simply RAF Little Horwood. This is a former Royal Air Force station was established as a base for Operational and Replacement Training Units, to train recruits for combat during the Second World War.

Our website:

https://northbuckscountryshow.org.

Tickets are available here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-bucks-country-show-tickets

Facebook page here: https://www.facebook.com/northbuckscountryshow2024/

Village Hall

Thanks to over 50 enthusiastic volunteers from our village and Singleborough who have given their time and support we have been able to complete the painting and decorating although there will be a need for some final finishing off after the new floor is laid.

The new blinds have been fitted and the kitchen is looking very smart!

Special thanks to Tony Pearson our treasurer who has masterminded the volunteer recruitment especially from Singleborough and become a very good project manager!

We are now hoping to recruit a part time caretaker to look after our smart new hall.



The hours would be variable and initially based on 10 hours per month. Please contact me to discuss details and answer any questions.

A reminder that the popular Post Office service will be returning on Wednesday May 1st from 9.30 to 11.00 and it is hoped that the refreshment service will commence again.

We look forward to celebrating the opening of the Hall with our volunteers and perhaps visiting the reopened Swan pub!

lan Lamberton. Chairman 07973 225428, ianlamberton@aol.com

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Great Horwood & Singleborough WI's annual dinner was held at the Cricket Club this year and a most enjoyable evening it was. The meal was cooked by one of our committee members, Jo, who put on a fabulous spread and choice of food. The puddings were made by some of our members. It was a very



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convivial evening and we happily chatted until closing time.

We are looking forward to our outing this week to Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. It's a magnificent 18th century mansion standing in 90 acres of glorious gardens. At the time of our visit there is also a private wallpaper exhibition which we are looking forward to seeing.

The GH&S WI often team up with other local WIs for events as well as the national

federation, so there are always plenty of things on offer. If you're new to the village the WI is a great way to meet people and enjoy a pleasant evening without having to drive anywhere. We have a varied programme throughout the year with excellent speakers. Our meeting in May will feature magic and mentalism which we are very much looking forward to. Hopefully, we will be back in the newly furbished Village Hall for our May meeting, but we are eternally grateful to Lynda and Darren for their generous hospitality at the Cricket Club so that we could continue our monthly meetings. Even on the coldest, wettest evening the Club was cosy and warm. Thank you so much.

The Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month. If you'd like to join our friendly group or would like more information, please contact:

Ann Biggins -07961 960802. annieggmk@gmail.com



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 johnwgilbeypc@g		01296 711915
Caroline Cousin		07903 549339
Jackie Goss jackiegossghpc@	gmail.com	01296 713135
Jonathan Evans jjevans.ghpc@gm	ail.com	07470 298324
Thomas Lee	com	074901 944996

Mrs. Sarah Biswell

01296 715803

clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/ **Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings** 01296 715968 07483 336440 Winslow and District Community Bus

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PCSO Andy Piotrowski Tel: 101

Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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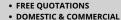
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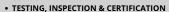
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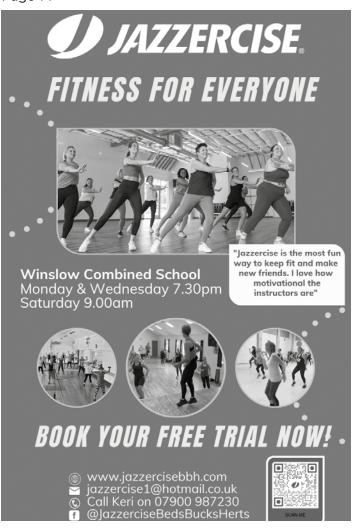
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LIGHT UP THE TOWER OF ST JAMES

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):

Date:
Commemorating
Date:
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The cost is just £5 per night. Cheques payable to: Great Horwood PCC.

Please send to Ian Lamberton 3 The Green, Great Horwood MK17 ORH.

Tel: 01296 715968



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PLANT SALE

When . 27th May. 10am to 2pm Where. 8, High Street, Great Horwood. (opposite Church Lych gate)

Come to enjoy raffle and refreshments. And to buy beautiful plants for your garden. All proceeds to go to St James Church.







NORTH BUCKS COUNTRY SHOW

Saturday 1st June 2024 10am - 5pm Pilch Farm, Singleborough, MK17 ONX











