



I am writing this article in the week of mourning since the death of Queen Elizabeth and I have been thinking about what plant do we see as being “the most British”.

There will inevitably be a number of contenders but, no matter how I look at it, there is one plant that has been most influential on these islands and that has to be the Mighty Oak.

The qualities of this magnificent tree and the character of our nation have been intrinsically linked since at least the 1600’s. The Victorian writer John Loudon wrote that the oak was, “the emblem of grandeur, strength and duration; of force that resists, as the lion is of the force that acts.”

We can have a legitimate pride in our legacy of ancient oak trees, we have more of them in this country than the rest of Europe combined, but there is much more to them than just the past, and what they tell us about ourselves.

Here in the UK we have 2 species of oak that are native, the much more common English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and the rarer Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), one of the main differences between them is the English oaks acorns are carried on stalks whilst the Sessile oak’s acorns are on the outer twigs.

Many church parishes have a “Gospel Oak” where they would be a pause in the beating of the bounds (an annual procession around the edge of a parish beating the ground to signify the boundary), this would be done to proclaim the Gospel from under the shelter of the tree. It would be no accident that an oak was chosen.

Since the Reformation of the monarchy there have been 8 Royal Navy warships called Royal Oak and ‘Heart of Oak’ is the official march of the Royal Navy.

But it is in our towns and country where they have the most impact. Either standing alone in a field, giving shelter on a green, just quietly getting on with things.

They are home to a staggering array of life, they are host to the largest number of organisms of any plant in the UK, partly because of their longevity, (38 bird species, 1178 insect species, 716 lichens, 31 mammals and 108 species of fungi).

As they age and change the species of insects that are to be found on them will change also. We see them as being constant companions in our landscape, immovable and unchanging but the truth is that they are always growing, always adapting and always changing the world around them. A bit like Her Majesty the Queen.

So if you pass one today, give it a hug and whisper “Thanks”.

*Rev’d Mark*



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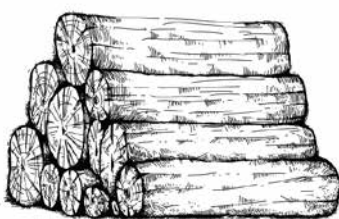
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# Church Times

Church Wardens:

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

## St James' Services for October

2nd	11.00am	Holy Communion
9th	11.00am	Come and Praise
16th	11.00am	Harvest Communion
23rd	11.00am	Holy Communion
30th	11.00am	Holy Communion

## November

6th	11.00am	Holy Communion
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## Church Key:

October - Ian Lamberton - 715968

November - Denise Davies - 712763

## Sidesmen Readers Intercessions

J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
D Brazier	S Bayliss	D Brazier
P Moyles	S Brazier	J Brigden
I Lamberton	I Lamberton	Clergy
J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
D Brazier	S Brazier	D Brazier

## Jobs to do in the garden in October

- If you have outside pots, now is the time to get them lifted out of any saucers and off the ground. You can buy some pot feet or just bricks, stones, bits of wood. It means that they won't be sat in water and away from the frost. Better for your plants and your pots,
- Take any hardwood cuttings now, currants, gooseberries and any number of trees and shrubs can be propagated this way. Go on, give it a go!
- Reduce the height of shrub roses now, it helps the savage winter winds from rocking the roots (it sounds like fun, rocking the roots, but it's not).

## COFFEE MORNING AND GIVING DAY

St James' will be holding the annual coffee morning and giving day on Saturday 15th October from 10am until 1pm. Please support the church in your village in order that we can raise much needed funds to continue to run and maintain the church building. Donations can be made using the envelope in Focus this month. This will enable us to reclaim tax if you are a UK tax payer.

Thank you

## HARVEST COMMUNION

Our Harvest Service this year will take place on Sunday 16th October at 11am. We are once again supporting the MK Food Bank Appeal and would ask for donations of tinned, dried and long-life food. Any donations can be left in St James' during the week leading up to the Harvest Service.

Thank you

## CRAFT CLUB DROP-IN COFFEE MORNINGS COFFEE MORNING

We are pleased to announce that the Art & Craft Group will be opening the Village Hall doors on Fridays, 10am -noon, for anyone who fancies a cuppa and a chat.

Thank you

## WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Meetings are now resuming after a summer break. They 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](http://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. In September we welcome back Peter Keegan who will be mentoring members' work. These are enjoyable and informative evenings and last about two hours with a break for coffee and biscuits. Non members are welcome to attend and entry will cost £5.00.

Details of recent and future demonstrations are as follows:

### 27 October

Charles Bezzina. Acrylics. Arctic landscapes

### 17 November

Jill Buckingham. Pastels. Portrait

### 26 January

Mark Warner. Acrylics. Seascape

### 23 February

Jean Turton. Chinese brush

### 30 March

Heather Miller. Acrylics and mixed media. Lake in a landscape

Chair: Maureen Barnes 01280 815691

Secretary: John Beckerleg 01280 816932

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

Copy and advertising deadline  
for next issue of Focus  
Saturday 15 October  
[editor@ghfocus.com](mailto:editor@ghfocus.com)

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## **GREAT HORWOOD SCOUT GROUP**

1st Great Horwood Scout Group sends their condolences to The Royal Family on the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September 2022.

Scouts have joined the nation in mourning the loss of our beloved monarch and Patron, HM The Queen.

Her outstanding example of service, encouragement and kindness was an inspiration to us all.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls OBE leads the mourning for our Patron; <https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2022/september/chief-scout-bear-grylls-remembers-hm-the-queen/>

Just before we broke up for the Summer Break the Group supported the Village Fete and Dog Show; running the games area and supported Nash Village Fete by running the Coconut Shy stall.

All sections have now returned after a summer break with a full balanced programme activities being included are Science, International, Traditions, First Aid and much more.

Beavers and Cubs are going to camp over the first weekend of October; while the Scouts have an overnight hike that weekend.

Scouts have a Bushcraft camp over the last weekend of September.

The Group will be taking an active part in the Remembrance Parade in November.

The Group Chairperson and the Group Scout Leader will be taking part In the County Conference in October; to find out more about the future of Scouting going forward.

## **GREAT HORWOOD GIRLGUIDING - ADULT HELPERS DESPERATELY NEEDED**

I'm still looking for adult volunteers to help with Rainbows and Brownies. Please think about whether you could spare just over an hour each week to help?

All of the village Girlguiding groups meet on Mondays during term time at the Scout & Guide HQ. Rainbows (4-7 year-old girls) meet 5.00-6.00pm and Brownies (age 7-10) meet 6.00-7.15pm. Guides (age 10-14) and Rangers (age 14-18) meet together 7.15-8.45pm.

We're very lucky to have the wonderful David as Treasurer of allop the groups and Unit Helper for the Guides but I don't have any adults at all to help with Rainbows or Brownies. I have to ask at least one parent to stay every week so that we have enough adults to be legally able to meet. It would make a huge difference to the girls, the parents and to me if we could have an adult volunteer to help every week with Rainbows and another to help every week with Brownies. I'm not asking you to help me with any

So watch this space!!

### **WELCOME**

We not only welcome new Young People but new Adults to help run the sections. Ben Lee and Yuliia Shevchenko are Sectional Assistants with Beavers.

Duncan Hogston is looking to become a Leader with Cubs.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Family Bingo evening at The Village Hall  
FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2022 at 7 pm

### **WE ARE HIRING!!**

As a Group we have the following vacancies:

- Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
- Assistant Cub Leader
- Parent Rep for Beavers
- Parent Rep for Cub
- Group Administrator
- Quartermaster

Full details can be obtained from Yvonne Taylor; Group Scout Leader [adcbandc@uwclub.net](mailto:adcbandc@uwclub.net) or 07931 585926

Not sure? why not take our 4-week challenge.

### **HELP PLEASE**

If you or you know of anyone who has been a part of Great Horwood Scouting and Guiding; be it as a Young person or Adult, then we are compyling a database of past people ready for a BIG celebration in 2 years' time

So please forward details to Yvonne Taylor; Group Scout Leader [adcbandc@uwclub.net](mailto:adcbandc@uwclub.net) or 07931 585926.

of the planning, preparation or paperwork or to train as a Leader. You'd just need to come along each week and help with whatever activities I've organised for the girls. You'd also need to complete a 20-minute online safety training and submit to criminal record checks. Volunteers need to be aged 18 or older but there's no upper age limit and Unit Helpers don't even need to be female. If you're interested in helping or would like to find out more, please contact me at [claremartin71@btinternet.com](mailto:claremartin71@btinternet.com) or on 07501 636037 or 01296 712034.

If you have a daughter who's interested in trying Rainbows (age 4-7), Brownies (7-10), Guides (10-14) or Rangers (14-18) please get in touch using the same contact details or register your daughter via the Girlguiding UK website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Clare Martin

## GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

theWI

Just a few days after the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, Great Horwood & Singleborough WI held their monthly meeting. The Queen herself joined Sandringham WI in 1943 and was their longest serving member at 79 years. She became President of the Sandringham branch in 2003, following in the footsteps of the Queen Mother.

Coincidentally, our guest speaker (who had been booked over a year ago) continued the royal theme of our meeting. We were privileged to have Ian Hunter-Scott who shared his memoirs of being a Royal Footman. Ian said that he began his job on a three month trial. He spoke about the duties he had in that role, the unpacking and laying out of clothes, serving meals and the etiquette that had to be followed, but most of all he spoke of the palace staff's devotion to the Queen. His royal duties took him all around the world and to all the fabulous residences and palaces of the Queen including Balmoral, Holyrood House, Windsor Castle as well as the Royal Britannia yacht and royal train. Ian said he has been touched by the outpouring grief of the public and the respects they have paid to her memory.

At the end of the meeting Ian judged the royal memorabilia brought by members. It was a most interesting collection of objects with a Royal connection.



Later this month the WI has organised a canal cruise with a cream tea and in October we have an outing to Hidcote Manor to see an exhibition featuring the colourful work of artist and textile guru Kaffe Fassett.

At our October meeting we look forward to hearing from Mrs Sherry Scott MBE who as Chairman of the Burma Forces Welfare Association will be talking about the Burmese soldiers who fought with the British in World War II.

Each month we have a produce stall where members can bring and buy surplus home grown fruit and vegetables. Our group also donate much needed provisions to the Milton Keynes food bank.

The walking group continues to enjoy its weekly rambles around the unspoilt countryside of Buckinghamshire, culminating with a coffee stop at the end. A different walk is organised each week, usually

around 4 miles, and this month we have been to Stowe, Thornborough, Mursley as well as a circular walk across the fields around Great Horwood.

In November we have planned a full day craft workshop in the village hall, which will include lunch. If you would like to attend any of our social meetings to see if the WI is for you, please contact Ann Biggins [annieqqmk@gmail.com](mailto:annieqqmk@gmail.com) / 07961 960802 for more details.

### MEN IN SHEDS

The Winslow Show is an annual highlight for us so, after two years of regrettable but necessary 'no-Show', it was great to be back for 2022 with bumper attendance, perfect weather and a return of the sights, sounds and excitement of this important Town tradition. Here is Tony early in the day. Getting close with a camera was impossible after about 10:00!

Winslow Shed has been established for 7 years now so it's fair to say that many, if not most, people have at least heard of the 'Men's Sheds' idea even if they weren't too aware that there was such a flourishing example right here in Winslow. Thanks to everyone who popped by to say hello, to have a go at 'Woodturning' or maybe even to buy or order some bespoke shed-crafts. It's good that we can contribute to the Show's fund-raising efforts and important for us to have some funds in reserve so we can keep the lights on in what looks like being a difficult winter ahead.



Although making and mending is an important feature of Shedding, we do have a large social area with comfy chairs, plenty of puzzles and games (even a snooker table) and, of course, the kettle is always on. Perhaps for obvious reasons, our social area has been underused in the last couple of years but it could easily become a comfortable, warm meeting place this winter for men with time on their hands and the need we all share to reduce our energy bills at home. We know that 'ammering and sawin' doesn't float every man's boat but getting our social area buzzing could well be something you could be a part of? It fits with the current talk about providing 'warm rooms' or 'warm spaces' this winter but it won't mean a lot of extra work or cost for us. As our guest, there will be no cost to you either - being there is the main thing! Hope you'll pop in for a chat soon.

**The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday  
10:00 - 4:00 at Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.  
[www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk](http://www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk)**

**Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164**

## PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood  
Parish Council

### NATIONAL MOMENT OF REFLECTION



On the eve of the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, over 100 residents gathered on The Greento observe the minute silence at 8pm. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on the Queen's life and service in this fitting way. With grateful thanks to all those who took part including the Great Horwood Silver Band, Cllr John Gilbey, Air Vice Marshall John Cliffe CB OBE, St James' Church Clergy and Yvonne Taylor, Group Scout Leader with the uniformed young people

### GREAT HORWOOD ROAD CLOSURE - NOW OPEN



As everyone will know, the Great Horwood Road closure was originally posted to be in place for a period of nine weeks to facilitate the refurbishment of Buckingham Road Bridge and associated utilities works. This was of

course completely unacceptable since the road was to be used as a temporary lay down area and avoid a three-way traffic control system at the junction of the B4033 with the A413. The Parish Council wrote letters of complaint to Buckinghamshire Council Transport for Bucks and Network Rail and were pleased when a decision was made to reduce the closure to just one week.

We have all received notification from Network Rail that they may need to close Great Horwood Road for a short period of time in the coming weeks, although there will be access to properties as well as public and school buses. The two-way traffic lights will be in place on the A413 Buckingham Road until 11th November, so make sure you leave extra time for your journeys.

### FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES



As in previous years, Great Horwood Parish Council will once again be donating up to £3000 to local causes.

If you would like your group to be considered, you need to start thinking about your bid. Forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, contact details below. Applicants must be from organisations associated with the village. Winning bids will be announced at the December Parish Council meeting. The closing date for applications is **31st October 2022**.

### NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET



This is the time of year that the Parish Council put together next year's budget. We would be pleased to hear of any

suggestions that you would like considered in the budget for 2023/24. Please come along to the next Parish Council meeting with your ideas. See below for the next meeting date and details of how you can have your say.

### WELCOME TO GREAT HORWOOD



We hope all new residents have enjoyed reading their Welcome Packs and found the information useful, and are settling into our lovely village community.

Would any new residents we are not yet aware of, like to receive a Welcome Pack? We wouldn't want to leave anyone out. It has recently been updated and includes information on village organisations, the School, Church and the local area

Please contact John Gilbey by email on [johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

### NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd October 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/](http://e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/)

*Sue Brazier,*

*Parish Clerk Great Horwood*

[clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk)

Are you in a club or society in Great Horwood and Singleborough? Let Focus know what your doing and share it with the whole village.

[editor@ghfocus.com](mailto:editor@ghfocus.com)

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# 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](mailto:greathorwoodpta@gmail.com) to arrange collection .



## 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.

<b>John Gilbey</b> Chairman	01296 711915
<a href="mailto:johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com">johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Caroline Cousin</b> Vice Chairman	01296 713548
<a href="mailto:carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com">carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Robert Davies</b>	01296 712763
<a href="mailto:robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com">robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com</a>	07967 868881
<b>Dave Taylor</b>	07980 546484
<a href="mailto:daveghpc@btinternet.com">daveghpc@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Jackie Goss</b>	01296 713135
<a href="mailto:jackiegossghpc@gmail.com">jackiegossghpc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Andy Waller</b>	01296 712798
<a href="mailto:andywallerpc@mail.com">andywallerpc@mail.com</a>	

**Clerk to the Council**

Mrs Sue Brazier  
01296 714712 [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk)

**Parish Council Website** [www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/)

**Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings** 01296 715968

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**Community Police Officers**

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[WinslowandDistrictNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WinslowandDistrictNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)






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