



THE JOURNEY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

We are excited to confirm that our big Centenary renovation of the Village Hall is about to start in the middle of September.

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council and external grants that have been secured we are able to embark on a much needed improvement programme for our Village Hall.

We hope that our regular and occasional hirers whose support we rely on will appreciate the changes and that more members of our growing community in the village will be attracted to the venue for a wider range of events.

Our programme will include new Male and Female toilets and a Disabled facility. The stage will be replaced with a modern modular system which will give us greater space and flexibility for a wider range of functions in the future.

A new floor and ceiling with an enhanced lighting system together with new window dressing will give a modern uplift to our much loved hall which we hope will be able to play a greater part in our expanding village Community.

We will be providing regular updates on progress together with reopening plans which will be in the New Year so watch this space!

Ian Lamberton

Chair Village Hall Committee



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Church Times

St James' Services for September		Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessions
3 rd	11.00am Holy Communion	R Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison
10 th	11.00am Come & Praise	P Moyles	S Bayliss	Clergy
17 th	11.00am Creative Communion	I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Brigden
24 th	11.00am Holy Communion	C Bayliss	S Baylis	I Lamberton
Church Key: Rita Essam - 714424				

GREAT HORWOOD SUMMER VILLAGE FETE 2023

We hope you have a distant memory of a dry five hours on Saturday afternoon on the 1st of July!

The Village Fete Dog Show completed its activities uninterrupted by rain.

The dog show was again generously sponsored by Greenway Dog walking and home boarding. Groomed, cute, scruffy and handsome dogs and their owners proudly paraded their rosettes all afternoon.

Kids games were good fun as always, ably looked after by Guides and Scouts and the School PTA painted faces and 'inked' arms. The Great Horwood Silver Band played throughout, and the ice cream van had a busy time- yes it was also warm!

It added up to a great afternoon and as always there are many to thank:

13 commercial stalls organised by Sara Walsh and Chloe Holland.

WI Cakes and refreshments in the church had a record year and made use of cakes frozen as a result of the aborted Coronation celebrations.

A bar provided by Little Horwood's Shoulder of Mutton - good beer and a generous donation.

The tombolas and raffle had many repeat visitors and the main raffle prize winner of a spa day for two at Horwood House was a new villager who had moved to Great Horwood towards the end of 2022.

A useful innovation was a car park used by over 50 cars, bravely manned by Ciaran, courtesy of a field donated by Nick Hanson.

Set up and tidy up was provided through the efforts of David Taylor and David Brazier.

In addition to it being an enjoyable afternoon, the fete raised over £3200 including £200 to Deanshanger Hedgehog Rescue from the Dog Show and a similar amount for the Great Horwood School PTA projects, with the bulk of the money going to the maintenance of the church.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped both during the planning and lead up to the event and on the day itself.

Most of all, we would like to thank villagers, neighbours and friends who attended the event. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you on 6th July 2024!

ST JAMES ANNUAL GIVING DAY

We are fund raising to repair and decorate the interior of the church damaged by water ingress after the roof was stolen in 2019 and are holding our annual giving day in the church on Saturday the 30th of September from 10.00 till 1.00. There is a giving envelope included in Focus, if you want the donation to go specifically to the restoration fund, please note that on the envelope. Just bring the envelope along on the day and call in for a chat, tea or coffee and cake or leave at 5 Wigwell Gardens.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan Coffee morning is early this year (due to the village hall being refurbished).

Hopefully the new people in the village will join us and enjoy the spirit of this event.

Come along to enjoy delicious cakes, biscuits raffle prizes and great company. Sharing laughter and joy. You are very welcome to make cakes, biscuits or donate raffle prizes (please bring them with you on the day). If you want to donate a raffle prize and cake and cannot make it on the day. Send me a message and I will arrange to collect. Raffle tickets on sale on the day.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 8 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Great Horwood Village Hall

Admission £4.00

Georgina and Colin Pacitti

NOOK PARK

Well, we may have not had such a good summer weather wise but Nook Park have had a few good things happen.

Firstly, and very importantly we have had the Article 4 confirmed, which means Joe Burns cannot do any work on the perimeter.

Secondly, we were in the Bucks Free Press at the beginning of August... we were grateful for the publicity.

In the meantime, work continues on the site. We

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have now a hammerhead for turning vehicles but it's not easy for large vehicles.

We had a delivery of gas to one of the homes and as you can imagine, this was a large lorry and the driver had difficulty taking the bend at the end of the road. This is mainly to do with the road has not yet had any tarmac. This makes the kerbstones very high especially if you have a disability. This has not been thought through and if wheelchair access is needed it is impossible. Especially as we still have no paths for some residents to get to their homes and, therefore they have to use the road to walk.

Liz Phillips

WALKING THE GREAT GLEN WAY 79 MILES FROM FORT WILLIAM TO INVERNESS

My daughter Elaine and I (*see picture page 11*) are taking on this Challenge to walk the Great Glen way in 6 days, on the 23rd of September 2023. This is to help raise vital funds for research and support for people affected by Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD).

Over 70,000 People in the UK live with PKD, one of the most common and life-threatening conditions that can cause kidney failure and affect other organs. Unfortunately, this disease runs in my family.

My family have had to live with this disease for over 50 years. We first knew about it when Elaine was a baby. At the time we didn't know it was hereditary. First Elaine's Grandmother had the disease and was on dialysis but did eventually have a transplant. We then found out my husband (Elaine's dad) had the disease who also ended up having dialysis, but died before a transplant could be given. Through some routine check-ups it was discovered that 2 of my girls have the disease also, Elaine being one of them. Within the next few months unfortunately Elaine will be going onto the transplant list and quite soon will be on dialysis.

1% of all health research funding goes to kidney research and a fraction of that amount goes towards PKD research specifically. There is no cure for PKD, so therefore research is the only way to stop the progression of PKD and transform the lives of those affected today and, in the future.

Through sheer determination, adrenaline and willingness, we are both determined to walk the 79 miles before Elaine is unable to do it with her condition deteriorating, which has come on sooner than we expected.

Through people, friends and family we are hoping to raise money no matter how big or small to help in the research for PKD. Elaine has a just giving page if anyone would like to donate to our cause, please go to www.justgiving.com/campaign.walk-for-pkd and look for ELAINE BEECHAM.

Alternatively, I have a sponsor form if people would prefer to do it that way.

Many of you know me in the village having lived here for 13 years and have been made to feel very welcome. I'm hoping that I can get as much support from you all for this walk that my daughter and I are going to achieve in September.

Thank you *Kathy Thompson (Willow Road GH)*

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

We are hosting an open meeting about the Great Train Robbery on September 12th (see advert on the back page) because we would like to encourage new members to join our friendly group," said Ann Biggins, President, Great Horwood & Singleborough WI.

"We organise a number of events throughout the year and put together a varied and interesting speaker programme at our monthly meetings. It's a great way to meet new people and the entertainment is on your doorstep. I do hope you will come along and get a taste of what we offer to the community."

Despite the weather the weekly walks have continued and for most of the time we have dodged the rain. Our annual picnic was not so fortunate because of heavy showers that evening but we are grateful to one of our members who hosted us in her fabulous and enormous kitchen. It was a very enjoyable evening and members had gone to town on making some delicious savoury dishes, salads and puddings.

If you'd like more information about the Great Train Robbery event or Great Horwood & Singleborough WI, please email Ann Biggins - annieqqmk@gmail.com.

HEDGEHOGS IN OUR VILLAGE 'THE GARDENER'S FRIEND' (*see picture page 11*)

Quite distinct from all the kind folk who care for Hedgehogs, there is one group of people for whom Hedgehogs provide direct benefit: gardeners.

By eating innumerable invertebrate 'pests' that might otherwise try a gardener's patience, the Hedgehog is unequivocally an ally for those who tend plants in their gardens and allotments.

For the gardener to profit, however, they need to do a few things to make life better for the spiny one. Leaving a part of the plot to go wild provides potential nesting habitat. Knocking a hog-sized hole in the fence enables unfettered entry and exit. Providing a plank of wood at the steep side of a pond serves as a ladder to help bedraggled Hedgehogs clamber out.

And not using pesticides ensures an ample supply of the invertebrate meals that attract Hedgehogs to the garden in the first place. However, during hot and dry periods these creepy-crawlies become much scarcer in gardens, so Hedgehogs will benefit hugely from a shallow dish of water and supplementary feeding at these times.

Does a Hedgehog need help? A Hedgehog may need help if it appears: Lethargic, Sunbathing (hedgehogs don't sunbathe), Allowing flies to settle on it, Screaming, Limping or circling, Abandoned.

If the sighting is during the day - it could be a warning sign that all is not well. However, there are some exceptions, nest disturbance, females nest building in preparation for young to be born or feeding while young are asleep being some. Those Hedgehogs will generally be moving quickly, appear well and will only be out for short periods of time.

If you spot a poorly or injured Hedgehog please contact: - Deanshanger Hedgehog Rescue, Tel:- 07943 174349. Thank you. *Caroline Wood*

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Winslow Community Bus

September 2023

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.

Drop off at the new Sainsbury's at Gateway and Broadfields on request.

Departing Aylesbury Bus station at 12.15pm. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £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 5th September and Tuesday 3rd October

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 14th and 28th September

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

Asda

Monday 25th September

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 Matalan and Tesco on request.

Weston Super Mare

Sunday 17th September

Day Trip to the seaside heart of North Somerset

The Barge at Woolston, Milton Keynes

Tuesday 26th September

Enjoy lunch at this Country pub serving classic pub food and real ales!

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

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.

www.winslowbus.com

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

wdcbenquiries@btinternet.com

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MEN IN SHEDS

August is usually a quieter month at the Shed as many of our regulars take time out for annual holidays or take advantage of the school's summer break to enjoy some family time. This year is no exception but, although 'quieter attendance has remained steady throughout the summer and our twice.

weekly sessions have continued to be busy, productive and sociable.

Shed work continues to be a mix of personal projects, items to support community initiatives and the many and various making and mending jobs people bring in for us to do.

Donations from these help us keep the lights on (and this is important) but we are definitely not The Repair Shop- what we can do depends on who is here, and we always remember our main purpose which is to be a social hub for men with time on their hands.

August has proved important in supporting these wider, community, aims too with a visit from our local Councillors, refresher training in using the defibrillator and (of course) our stand.

at the Winslow Show always a highlight for us and a chance to showcase what we do and how Shedding might be just the thing for you or someone you know. Hope to see you soon!

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 - 4:00. Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate. www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164

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

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



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
Andy Waller		07899 961315	andywallerpc@outlook.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. Sarah Biswell	01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
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Parish Council Website

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings	01296 715968	www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
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Winslow and District Community Bus	01296 715786
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Community Police Officers

PCSO Andy Piotrowski	Tel: 101	Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
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LIGHT UP THE TOWER OF ST JAMES

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Continued from Focus July 2023

THE INTELLIGENCE ZONE

The many sites of the Whaddon Web

4 of 8;

Black Propaganda & the British resistance movement (Gawcott, Potsgrove, Milton Bryan and Coleshill)

In the early part of the Second World War, the British The intention of 'Black' Propaganda is to push its audience in a certain direction without them realising it. To do this, it mixes facts with liberal dollops of half-truths and lies. Often it gives the impression that it was created by those it aims to discredit.

The man in charge of British Black Propaganda in World War Two was Sefton Delmer. Delmer was very well known during the 1930s. He worked in Germany for the *Daily Express*, the newspaper which had, at that time, the biggest circulation in the world. He had been born in Germany, of Australian parents, and German was his first language. He reported on Hitler's rise to power; meeting the Nazi leader on several occasions. Hitler, seeking to influence Britain, liked to deal with Delmer as he spoke native German, understanding every nuance. He used him to gauge popular feeling in Britain - asking him for example: "Does Britain want the German royal family (deposed after the First World War) restored?" Delmer even flew on Hitler's private plane. He filmed one of the trips, from Tempelhoff Airport, in 1932. It's on YouTube. Hitler is accompanied by his propaganda Minister, Joseph Goebbels.



*Sefton Delmer
(‘Tom’ to his many friends)*

Delmer was, however, on the side of the angels. During the war, he used his considerable talents to broadcast from England against the Nazis. Joseph Goebbels was the man Delmer was up against. It was he who had elevated Hitler to the status of a god dedicating 'Party Days' and shrines to him and much more. Goebbels, could fool most of the people some of the time; some of them all of the time. He reckoned that after an hour of speaking to an audience; "I can make them climb trees if I feel like it". Quite apart from which, Goebbels had direct control of every newspaper and radio station throughout occupied Europe. If anyone didn't toe the party line,

they went to a concentration camp for 're-education' via starvation, the whip and often the bullet.

It is a sign of the desperate military state that the British were in that we had to explore all avenues to fight Germany; whose land army the country had no hope of defeating. So when he came to England, Sefton Delmer, under MI6, set up 'black' broadcasting. The headquarters of the operation was at Wavendon Towers, now in Milton Keynes (and where I come in, for this was where the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, for which I was the IT manager, had its first head office); from there, and the later recording facility at Milton Bryan, recordings were sent (on vinyl) to be broadcast from Potsgrove (near Watling Street) or Gawcott (near Buckingham). These sites were serious affairs. Gawcott had around 20 aerials, though all are long gone.

The shows they transmitted, purporting to be broadcast from Europe, provided first class light entertainment; featuring, for instance, the music of Glenn Miller - they even had a forces' sweetheart. They had a huge following in the German armed forces; indeed they were the favourite radio stations of the German submarine (U-boat) crews. Many Germans recognised them for what they were - British propaganda - but listened to them anyway because they were so good. A spin-off was that they gave British intelligence an almost supernatural aura in the eyes of the German navy; for they would report, for example, the destinations of German naval patrols, the fact that so-and-so's wife had just had a baby back in Germany (odd that, as her husband had been at sea for a year), even the scores of the latest inter-ship football match. (The recording and broadcasting of black propaganda was only part of the story. A further large organisation, based at Woburn Abbey and surrounding villages, was dedicated to forgery.)

But Sefton Delmer didn't have an easy time in his fight against Joseph Goebbels. Goebbels even claimed that when the sun shone it was 'Fuhrer weather'. If you can persuade your listeners that the sun shines out of your leader's ...eyes, you're a good propagandist. And, of course, Goebbels was backed by naked force.

To try and make the followers of a deluded and brutal religion question their beliefs is not only virtually impossible but dangerous and mostly pointless: which is why most visitors to Germany raised their arm in the Hitler salute.

This part of the Whaddon Web was, perhaps, the least effective. Nor, I think, was that something for Delmer to be ashamed of. Racist evil was the very lifeblood of the Nazi regime. Forget reasoning, forget lying: only brute force could drive out these devils. Only then could

their slaves be freed. The trick was not to become a devil oneself in the process. In this – and it was no small victory – Delmer, and the western powers, succeeded. If they didn't achieve a great deal in winning the war (although they did help in the surrender of the Italian navy), these transmitters came into their own towards the end of the conflict. American broadcasting technology was the best in the world and Whaddon set up the most powerful site of them all using American aerials. It gave this site the codename 'Aspidistra' (after a popular song 'the biggest aspidistra in the world') in Crowborough, in Sussex. Originally Aspidistra was to have been built near Whaddon; but there wasn't any space to be found;

and anyway there was so many aerials locally that the authorities thought that adding new and even bigger ones were an open invitation to the German Air Force (the Luftwaffe) to take a (rather belated) interest. Erected at the second attempt (the original aerials went to the bottom to a German torpedo in their passage across the Atlantic), Aspidistra was used, among other things, to swamp the air waves over Germany with fake instructions. So powerful was this transmitter that German attempts to jam it didn't work; they merely blocked out their own radio stations. German night-fighter controllers could only listen helplessly as their pilots were routed away from the Allied bomber swarms.



The recording studio at Milton Bryan, on the Woburn estate. Currently looking rather sorry for itself. It is of major historic importance – and should (and probably will) be restored



Our answer to Goebbels ...Gawcott broadcasting studios (with thanks to Steve Morton) then...



...and now. Half-circle studios much modified but still there.

PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

NEW PARISH CLERK

I am delighted that we have been able to appoint a new parish clerk starting from 1st September.

Many of you will know Sarah Biswell as she has lived in the village for 27 years.

She has been a governor of the Great Horwood C of E School since 2017 and Chair of Governors for the last 5 years.

She has already been a very regular attendee at our monthly Parish Council meetings.

SPEEDWATCH

We are in the process of activating a Speedwatch team for Great Horwood so please contact me if you are interested in joining the team.

You will need to undertake an online training course and pass the online test at the end of the course. Once up and running the team will monitor speeds of vehicles at certain agreed spots in the parish and report the details direct to Thames Valley Police who will be able to take warning actions against speeding drivers. Cllr. John Gilbey johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com



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, clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk. 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 2023.

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 11th September 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/

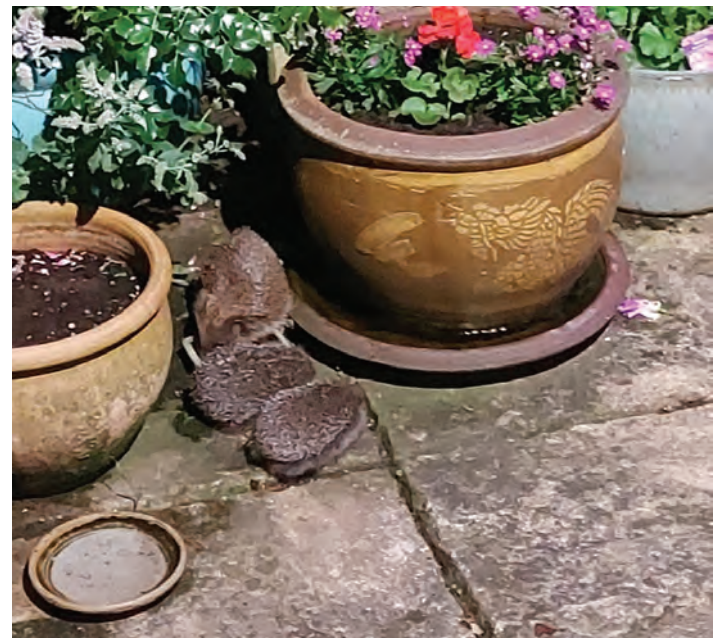
Cllr. John Gilbey, Chairman of the Council
johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

WALKING THE GREAT GLEN WAY 79 MILES FROM FORT WILLIAM TO INVERNESS

Elaine and Kathy Thompson



HEDGEHOGS IN OUR VILLAGE 'THE GARDENER'S FRIEND'



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Another part of the Whaddon Web dealt with clandestine home defence; guerrilla warfare. When it became apparent that Hitler meant to invade Britain after Dunkirk - that, as Churchill put it - 'the man was going to try' - every aspect of home defence was urgently upgraded. Anything which could help the army (who had left most of their weapons in France) was worthy of serious consideration. It was therefore decided to create a stay-behind resistance force, that would slow down advancing enemy troops and grant the regular army time to mount a counter-attack. In one of his most stirring speeches, Winston Churchill said: "We will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them in the fields. We will never surrender." These were the men (and it was an all-male force) who would 'fight them in the fields'. The force that was to do so was raised under Churchill's direct orders; their main base was at Coleshill, near Swindon. The person who was initially in charge of them was Peter Fleming, the traveller, author and brother of James Bond's creator, Ian Fleming. Unconventional warfare - or dirty tricks if you prefer - owed a lot to the Fleming brothers.



Peter Fleming

Personnel of the Home Guard and local volunteers were formed into top secret patrols throughout the entire country and trained to a high standard of efficiency in the use of explosives, booby traps, time-fuses, mines, and unarmed combat. These resistance fighters, who went by the name of Auxiliary Units, were trained at Coleshill. In all, some five thousand recruits studied there. They would operate from specially prepared underground bases set up country-wide. To this day the original model still exists at Coleshill. It has a vertical entrance shaft with an anti-blast wall at the bottom, a kitchen area, an 'Elsan' toilet cubicle, and space for six bunks (the remnants of which still survive). The idea was to pop up from shelters like this, kill and destroy and get away quickly. Not surprisingly, those who best knew their local landscape were highly suited for this work. Farmers and land-owners were often chosen as Patrol Leaders and asked to select recruits from their own workers to staff their patrols. They knew who were the most enterprising, industrious and brave; preferring, of course, single men and those without dependants.

Hides were built all over - and under - the country. One officer (Norman Field) who showed off his unit to Field-Marshal Montgomery tells how he took him to the brink of Charing Hill, where they sat on a fake sheep trough. The bottom of the trough slid sideways to give access to an underground Observation Post from which the outside world was viewed through rabbit holes in a steep bank. There was just sufficient space for two persons. Charing Hill is in a position to view the convergence of two very major routes to London. It is the hub of a wheel: an ideal place for enemy dumps and depots to be set up. Other members of Field's team had already raided Montgomery's Headquarters, removing secret papers from his safe and leaving explosives instead. Nobody was spotted getting in or out; but Peter Fleming got a dressing down from Monty for showing up deficiencies in his security set-up and blowing up his flower bed. If the Germans had over-run southern England, gone-to-ground units would have appeared at night from such lairs to sabotage their supply lines. They were armed with various types of fuses, igniters and detonators. The sabotage manual the trainees were issued with listed many of them; and how to use them. Plastic Explosive, invented at Woolwich, 'the finest general purpose explosive in the world' was in short supply but "as it was really Churchill's idea to set us up, we got plastic explosives before the regular army." Many of the weapons that the stay-behinds would use were made by 'Winston Churchill's toyshop' - at Whitchurch, north of Aylesbury (to which I devote a chapter in *The Intelligence Zone*). The Time Pencil which 'looks rather like a propelling pencil', was primed by inserting a fuse into the 'spring snout' of the pencil. 'Once it has been taken out the enemy has no way of telling the delay period.' A chapter which described how to calculate the precise amount of gelignite required to destroy a particular target ended, 'If in doubt, double the calculated charge!'

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Whaddon's part in all of this was to provide radios and radio operators to the groups. Their job would be to talk with their headquarters on the British held side of the frontline, who would order, agree and co-ordinate their actions. Possibly, if they lived that long and the RAF still had any planes, they might even be resupplied. Thus, the stay-at-homes in Folkestone would, perhaps, report the arrival of a new division of Panzer tanks and report it to their HQ. The anticipated marshalling yard for tanks between Folkestone and Ashford was in the area allocated to 21 year old Sergeant Peter Bouden, a farmer. He and some of his eight man patrol would rise from their hidden bunker to kill as many Germans and blow up as many vehicles as they could.



Luckily, in Britain, it never came to that. In Europe it did (millions of sticky bombs and other devices were shipped from Whitchurch to arm partisans in Russia and the Ukraine).

In the next extract I will talk about how resistance saboteurs in Europe were supported from a network of communication sites in the hills above Bicester.

As one recruit said: "Barbed wire, with training, was not difficult to crawl through. The barbed wire was simply propped up with foot-long forked sticks so that you could crawl underneath."

As in France, the Ukraine, Russia, Poland and all the other Nazi conquered lands, the civilians would bear the reprisals.

When fighting in the open - and it would inevitably come to that as the teams were flushed out - the Auxiliaries would use the Sticky Bomb - a device that when thrown would stick to armour and burn through it. This was another weapon from Churchill's Toyshop at Whitchurch. Initially it had been slowed down by red tape. When Churchill was made aware of this he got cross and wrote a note which read: 'Sticky Bomb. Make one million. WSC.'

As Churchill later wrote: 'We had the picture in mind that devoted soldiers or civilians would run up close to a tank and even thrust the bomb on it, even though the explosion cost them their lives ...many would have done it.'

This, it must be stressed, was not funny 'Dad's Army' stuff. It was to be the last ditch attempt by the last free country - Britain - to oppose the Nazis and their monstrous, murderous, racist, creed. The Auxiliaries would fight to keep freedom alive, with their lives if that was what it took.

This article also appears as a blog on my website at www.theintelligencezone.com

Alan Biggins

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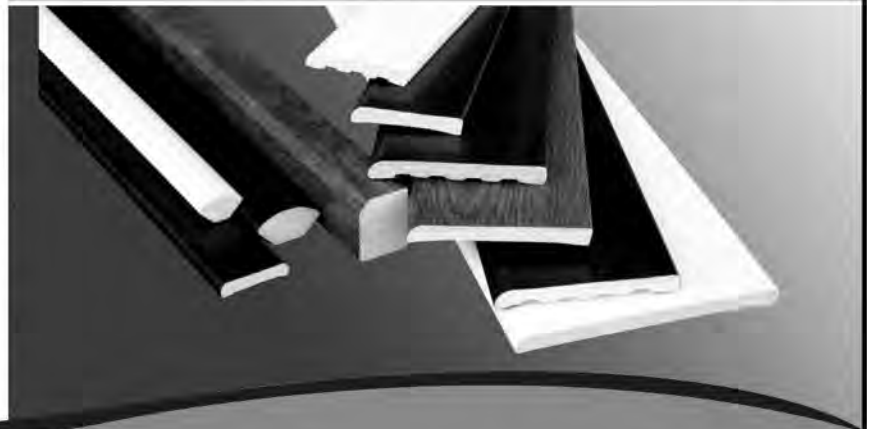
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The Great Train Robbery



The Great Train Robbery is probably Britain's most famous robbery. In 1963 the robbers stopped and disabled a Royal Mail train near Mentmore in Buckinghamshire in the middle of the night and escaped with around £2.61 million (about £61 million today).

To hear more about this fascinating story, Great Horwood WI has invited author Roger Mason to give a talk at the Village Hall in Great Horwood on Tuesday, 12th.

September at 7.30pm.

Doors open at 7.15pm. It will be an open meeting, meaning we are inviting all GH villagers. Entry is free but you may want to bring some money to buy a raffle ticket or one of Roger's signed books.