

SEPTEMBER  
2024



# GREAT HORWOOD AND SINGLEBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY:  
Open Day - Saturday September 21st 11am to 6pm.**

The Village Hall refurbishment is now complete, and the Village Hall is fully operational. We are now in a position to showcase the interior for all to see.

Our Open Day will enable as many people as possible to drop in and say “hi” as well as the opportunity to view the completed hall.

We will have activities and certainly refreshments available, even some surprises!

We will display posters with more details about the day as well as have information posted on The Village Hall Facebook Site and The Great Horwood Facebook Site.

We encourage you and your families to drop by during the day. Come in for 10 minutes or even longer and see first-hand the hall as well as having the opportunity to interact with fellow residents and organisations who use the hall currently.

The Great Horwood & Singleborough Village Hall is a community meeting point and as well as organisations using the hall currently, we are also keen to hear what you would like to use the hall for going forward. There must be so many possibilities, even on those cold winter nights when you would like to still be able to get out and about in the village.

At 2pm there will be an official ribbon cutting, however just seeing you all at sometime during the day would be lovely.

PLEASE POP-IN TO YOUR VILLAGE HALL everybody is welcome.

I thank you and look forward to seeing you on Saturday September 21st

*Ian Lamberton*

*on behalf of everybody in the Community*



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# Church Times

## St James' Services for September

All services start at 11.00 Refreshments and the chance to chat follow every service

1st	<b>Holy Communion</b>	- a traditional communion service with hymns lasting an hour
8th	<b>Come and Praise</b>	- a more informal service of worship with music sometimes provided by a band lasting 45 mins
15th	<b>Creative Communion</b>	- a communion service with hymns
22nd	<b>Holy Communion</b>	- Harvest
29th	<b>Holy Communion</b>	at 11.00 and at 18.00 there will be a Celtic Communion Service at St Mary's Addington for the whole Benefice

## ST JAMES ANNUAL GIVING DAY SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

You will have received an envelope in this copy of Focus. Please help if you can.

We are currently needing funds for the work to restore our unusual and historically significant organ (£70K) as well redecoration of the Church following damage caused by the roof theft a few years ago (£30K+). Again due to the ancient history of the building this needs to be carried out by specialist craftspeople. The Lychgate is also in need of repair!

In combination with the official opening of the refurbished Village Hall we encourage you to come and visit St James between 10.00 and 13.00. There will information available about the long history of our church - especially for those new to the villages, a Children's Harvest Workshop plus tea coffee and cake with a warm welcome!

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 27th September

9.30 am to 12.30pm

Village Hall,

Great Horwood

Pop in to say hello and get a Coffee or Tea and a delicious cake. Buy a raffle ticket and enter our great raffle with lots of prizes. Entrance fee £3.00 (help with coffee tea milk charge)

Georgina and Colin Pacitti

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## SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER IS OUR HARVEST SERVICE

Donations of non-perishable goods e.g. tea, coffee, biscuits, cans of baked beans, meat and tuna, pasta, breakfast cereals, soap, shower gel, toothpaste and sanitary products are invited for the St Laurence Food Cupboard who support fellow villagers of Great Horwood as well as the people in need in Winslow. There



is now a permanent collection point in the Church which can receive donations at any time when the Church is open.

On Friday 20th September from 11.00 a small group will be cleaning and decorating the church for our Giving Day and Harvest service. If you are artistic or a keen hooverer or polisher you would be very welcome to join us. 'Cuppa breaks' obviously!

**Churchyard clearing** is being carried out as this goes to press. Stuart Birrell and his team of volunteers who very kindly gave their time to tidy up the ivy in particular, you may have noticed the large skip by the Churchyard gates. Our apologies for any inconvenience. A regular team of villagers and Church members spend many hours during the year keeping the grass mown and the paths tidy, we are extremely grateful to you all.

**Are you in a club or society in  
Great Horwood and Singleborough?  
Share your news with the whole village,  
it may even help attract new members!  
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## RECTORS VOICE

This summer has been a busy time for those of us in St James', starting with the Great Horwood Fête and Dog Show in July, which, despite a dubious start weatherwise, turned out to be a great success, following on from the earlier plant sale which raised much-needed funds for repairs to the north porch roof and further restoration to the church in coming months. We have been blessed by the return of many old friends to the church on Sunday mornings, and for overseas visitors too, including Spain this morning.

It never ceases to amaze me that many often assume that August is a quiet month in the Church, and go so far as to wish me a restful summer as the school year ends, not realising that across the benefice, we have celebrated 4 weddings and 5 baptisms in the month of August, and taken the funerals or burial of ashes for several others as in every other month of the year. It is a reminder perhaps, that the Church, like the ubiquitous Christmas puppy, is not just for Christmas, but is with us forever, serving and supporting the most vulnerable in our communities unseen, and often unrecognised by those whose lives continue undisturbed by the Church's rhythm of 'hatching, matching, and dispatching' those in need of its ministry throughout the whole of the year.

It has been a busy month too, for our team of churchwardens, PCC members, and their volunteers, who have given St James' a much needed spring clean in readiness for the arrival of new book shelves so that we can establish a permanent lending library for Great Horwood and Singleborough in the south aisle as you enter the church to your left, another reminder of the Church's mission to serve and support its communities in many and disparate ways, not just on Sundays, but on every day of the year. Once in place, the library will be open and available to everyone in the community while the church is open during the hours of daylight 365 days of the year. Please do come in and look round, and if you have

any recent books of broad interest to the general-public, such as histories, biographies, or novels you have enjoyed over the summer, please do consider donating them to the library after you have finished with them, so that we can offer this important and valuable resource to everyone in our community.

Planning is already underway for the busy harvest and remembrance seasons of September, October, and November, and for Christmas beyond; further details of which will be included in Focus during coming months. We will also be eliciting your views and experiences of using St James's in the past as we look to the future; and consider how we might better serve the needs of the community in coming years.

The forthcoming grand opening of the newly-renovated Great Horwood and Singleborough Village Hall, and the much-awaited re-opening of the Swan Inn will, I hope, revitalise village life in the heart of our community and encourage many more to visit or socialise in the centre of the village, and I would heartily recommend, and encourage you to use the services which each offer.

As I write this, I have half an eye on the closing ceremony of the Olympic games conscious that many of us will have been stirred by the achievement of our athletes, and the para-Olympics to come by the time you read this. In doing so, I am reminded of the singular dedication of all those who strive to excel on such occasions. They serve as a reminder that nothing is achieved in life without practice, effort, and the support and encouragement of others, about the value of working together, and exhorting one another as we face the challenges of the future. But as I look ahead, I do so with confidence in the community spirit of all those living in Great Horwood and Singleborough and know that the best is yet to come for each and every one of us!

*Revd Steve O'Connor*

## MEN IN SHEDS

Despite such a damp start, Summer 2024 eventually did deliver the warm and sunny days we look forward to - perfect for leisurely barbeque lunches! On one such day, and as a gesture of thanks for restoring two substantial garden benches, we were delighted to receive an invitation from the residents of Scott Evans Court to one of their summer lunchtime gatherings. The benches were delivered to us at the Shed by Paul French who had a hunch they might just be repairable when he saw them heading towards the proverbial skip.

In strict economic terms, they probably were beyond repair but Sheddars love a challenge so Pete and Ray set about the long list of work needed; replacing rotten sections, remaking joints and preparing the timber for a smart and protective fresh coat of preservative. It was a long job but the benches responded well to much-needed TLC and we hope they will serve a few more barbeque seasons yet.

With the new school year about to start, we are looking forward to hearing how children at Steeple Claydon School will greet the new term and all the new furniture we have been building for them over the summer. I don't think we have ever made quite so many substantial pieces for one single order and I'm quite sure no single order has ever roped in so many Sheddars to get it done. Proper teamwork! Pop in if you fancy being part of the team

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday  
from 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**



**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 07903 549339  
carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com

**Jackie Goss** 01296 713135  
jackiegossghpc@gmail.com

**Jonathan Evans** 07470 298324  
jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com

**Thomas Lee** 074901 944996  
tlee.ghpc@gmail.com

**Clerk to the Council**

Mrs. Sarah Biswell 01296 715803  
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

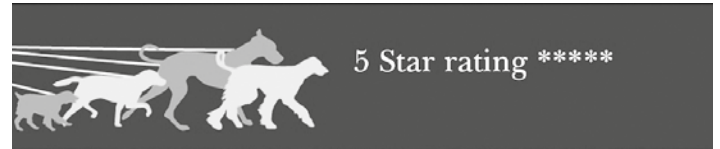
**Parish Council Website** [www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/)

**Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings** 01296 715968

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## FETE REPORT 2024

Great Horwood Fete and Dog Show seems quite a long time ago now, although I'm sure it will live on in the memories of those who were completely soaked through setting up the fete on the morning for a while yet! David Brazier and his team resolutely refused any thought of cancellation, despite their sodden appearance, and were rewarded as the weather cleared up 45 minutes before the start and held off to give everyone a very pleasant afternoon.

The folk of Great Horwood and Singleborough came out in force, many cancelling other plans, to make the fete a great success. As a result of the weather in the morning we did have fewer visitors from outside the village, underestimating our stoicism?

As well as being a great social event it was also a financial success. Huge thanks are owed to all those who helped on the day, manning stalls, setting up and importantly clearing up. We also had a lot of help from volunteers prior to the day, liaising with stallholders, securing advertising and a wide range of excellent prizes for the raffle.

The grand total raised was £3250.50, with £700 going to local organisations and charities. The raffle - where for the first time tickets were distributed with the Focus magazine as well as door to door - raised £1333, gross of ticket printing (less than £100). This was significantly up on previous years, and we had many positive comments about the quality and quantity of the prizes.

Our post-covid village fete has now re-established itself with great support from the villagers and we look forward to bigger and better on 5th July 2025!

Put that date in your diaries now, because rain or shine, the show will go on!

*Stuart Bayliss on behalf of the Great Horwood & Singleborough Fete Committee.*

P.S. St James PCC has agreed to use some of the money raised by the fete to purchase bookshelves for the village library and also towards new Church noticeboards.

## GREAT HORWOOD DOG SHOW

The morning of the dog show there was a torrent of rain and we were drenched to the bone whilst setting up as events all around us were being cancelled..

We were not going to be beaten... after 6 months of planning and the hard work preparing the fields, rosettes and prizes were at the ready and we were rewarded when the clouds lifted and the rain stopped.

CLASS 1 was The Cutest Puppy which was won by the stunning Belgian Shepherd, Layla. All the puppies were gorgeous.

CLASS 2 was The Prettiest Bitch. All the girls fluttered their eyes at the judge but it was Evie, the unusual Long Haired Weimaraner that caught the judges eye.

CLASS 3 was The Most Handsome Boy. WOW there were some very good looking boys. It was Reggie, the black lab that stood out to our judge. CLASS 4 was Best Rescue Story and it was Ted the Border Terrier looking so dapper in his bow tie that took the red rosette.

CLASS 5 was Time for the Oldies. This was won by Rosie the Labradoodle at the age of 13. Every dog looked amazing given their ages.

CLASS 6 The Waggiest Tail. There was a clear favourite in Turner the Cocker Spaniel. His tail was a blur it was so waggy. Apparently he's practicing all week!!!!

CLASS 7 was Most Appealing Eyes. After hypnotizing the judge, Dancer the Lurcher took top prize.

CLASS 8 was Best Condition. The very shiny chocolate Cocker, Ollie, who looked a picture of health, as did all the others, but he shone a little brighter in the sunshine.

Finally the last CLASS 9 was The Dog the Judge Wanted to Take Home. Welljess the Cocker Spaniel threw herself at the judge, declaring her love and desire to go live in Chichester with him I'm sure they'll be very happy.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU for supporting us. I think we all had a fab day, everyone had a rosette, prize as a memento of their day. We raised an amazing £337 which is split between the church and the charity 'Dogs for Good'

A special thanks to Amanda, Jackie. Lucy. Keith and Dan and our fab judge Keith... we couldn't have done it without you.

See you next year.

LOU & STEVE - GREENWAY DOG WALKING

## WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

As I have said many times before, WADAS members continue to very much enjoy meeting up on Tuesday morning in Padbury Village Hall and on Thursday morning at Winslow Bowls Club. So why not join us? You don't need to be a professional artist just somebody who will enjoy learning about different art techniques and having a

go. It's fun chatting with others and gaining their advice and suggestions, you can get more information from the names below.

In June our demonstrator was Karen Thomas, who used graphite powder to 'draw' a bird of prey. The powder is applied with a cloth (old T shirts are good) and details added with pencils or sponges. Highlights were taken out with a paintbrush or finely shaped erasers to give a lively portrait of a flying bird.

After our Summer break our next demonstration will be on **26th September** by Peter Keegan. Doors open at 7pm at the Winslow Bowls Club and admission for visitors is only £5 including refreshments

Chair : Cheryl Wilyman 01296 640755

Treasurer : Jackie Chambers 01296 713607

Secretary : Monica Gilbey 01296 711915



Great Horwood Parish Council

# PARISH PUMP

## NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th September at 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  
[johnwgilbey@gmail.com](mailto:johnwgilbey@gmail.com)

## COUNCILLORS

We have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community in this way, please get in touch and we can arrange to have a chat about the role and see if it is suited to you [johnwgilbey@gmail.com](mailto:johnwgilbey@gmail.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL "SURGERY"

As you know, the Parish Council have, for the past few months, set up a drop in point at the Village Hall every 2 weeks. This is held every other Wednesday at 10am when the Village Hall is open for the Post Office/coffee morning. If you are unable to get to the monthly meetings but wish to chat to the Parish Council, this is your opportunity.

The dates for September are 4th and 18th September 2024.

## FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

As in previous years, Great Horwood Parish Council will once again be donating up to £3,000 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](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk). Applicants must be from organisations associated with the village. Winning bids will be announced at the December 2024 Parish Council meeting. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2024.

## FIX MY STREET

Just a reminder to everyone that "FixMyStreet" is an 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>

## THE CROWN

Ongoing discussions between the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council and further updates will be given when they become available.

## 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/>

# CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



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## GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Was he pushed or did he jump?

On a sunny day in June, members of Great Horwood & Singleborough WI enjoyed a fabulous day out in Oxfordshire with a visit to Aston Pottery and Friars Court. The manor house and farm has been in the Willmer family for over 100 years, and we were given a private, guided tour of the exquisitely designed gardens (which are not open to the public) by the owner himself. Afterwards we were treated to a delicious, home-made cream tea in the orangery.

At our July meeting our guest speaker, author Roger Mason, gave an informative and intriguing presentation on the infamous publisher Robert Maxwell. Roger spoke about the background of Robert Maxwell, how he created his empire, became an MP for Buckingham, the pension scandal, his lust for power and the mystery surrounding whether he fell or was pushed off the boat when he died. It was a very interesting talk which provoked much discussion afterwards.

In July members also enjoyed a picnic at the cricket club in Great Horwood. It was a beautiful warm summer evening and we enjoyed eating outside. This month our speaker will be giving a talk on the wildlife of Transylvania.

If you're new to the village the WI is a great way to meet people. The Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month at 7.15pm. As well as our monthly meetings with a varied programme of interesting speakers, we organise visits to places of interest and theatre outings. We also enjoy weekly walks on a Monday and Wednesday exploring the beautiful north Buckinghamshire countryside.

If you'd like to join our friendly group or would like more information, please contact

*Ann Biggins - 07961 960802.*

*annieqqmk@gmail.com*



*Great Horwood WI members enjoy a cream tea at Friars Court.*

## EXCELLENT NEWS ONCE AGAIN FROM NOOK PARK

Hope everyone has had a good summer. Shame about the rain we've had but that's the UK.

Well at Nook Park we have had some brilliant news. The Tribunal has upheld Bucks Councils decision regarding the Fit and Proper Person status saying that Joe Burns is not a Fit and Proper Person to manage and run the site. The council had an excellent legal team who had been thorough. Another person now has to be sought and go through this thorough test. I have added the link below if you're interested in the decision. It's a very interesting read as the Judge and the lay person conducting the hearing also conducted the other two Tribunals which Joe Burns lost.

Also, the resident who was waiting for the compensation after losing a substantial amount of the garden has now received the money.

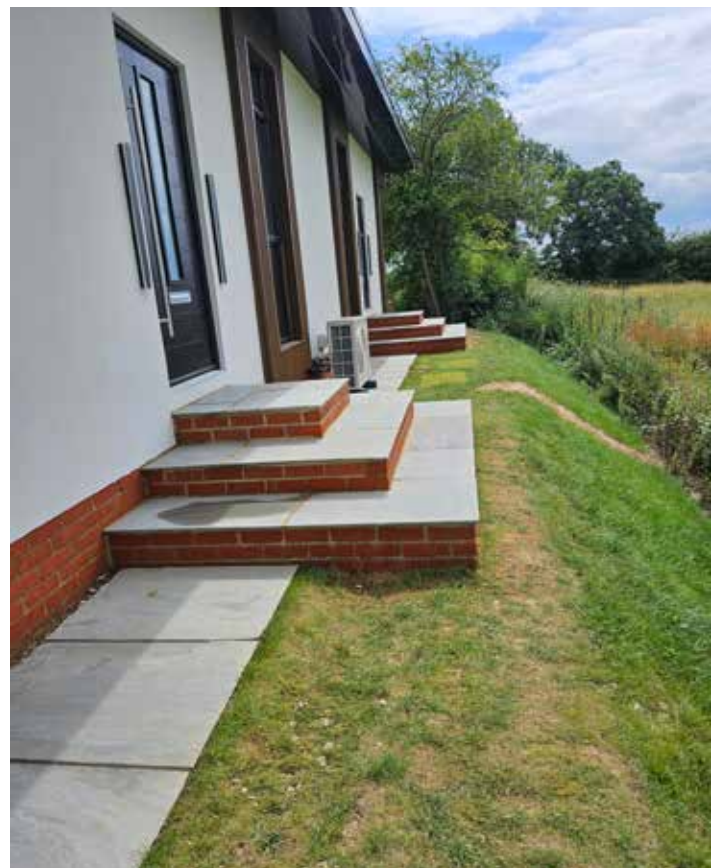
We've still only have the one new home albeit semi-detached. Many comments have been "oh is that the site office" or "is that a toilet block". Well, the steps to the front door are now in place, one false move after a night out and you'll end up at the bottom of the old ditch

a m o n g s t  
the nettles!  
See photo.  
What do you think?

*Liz Phillips*



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# Winslow Community Bus

September 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 return.

**Buckingham Bus Service** Tuesday 3rd September, Tuesday 1st 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 12th & 26th September, Thursday 10th & 24th October

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

**Asda** Monday 23rd September, Monday 28th October

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..

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

Timetables can be found online [www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com) On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator.

[www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com) [wdcbenquiries@btinternet.com](mailto:wdcbenquiries@btinternet.com)  
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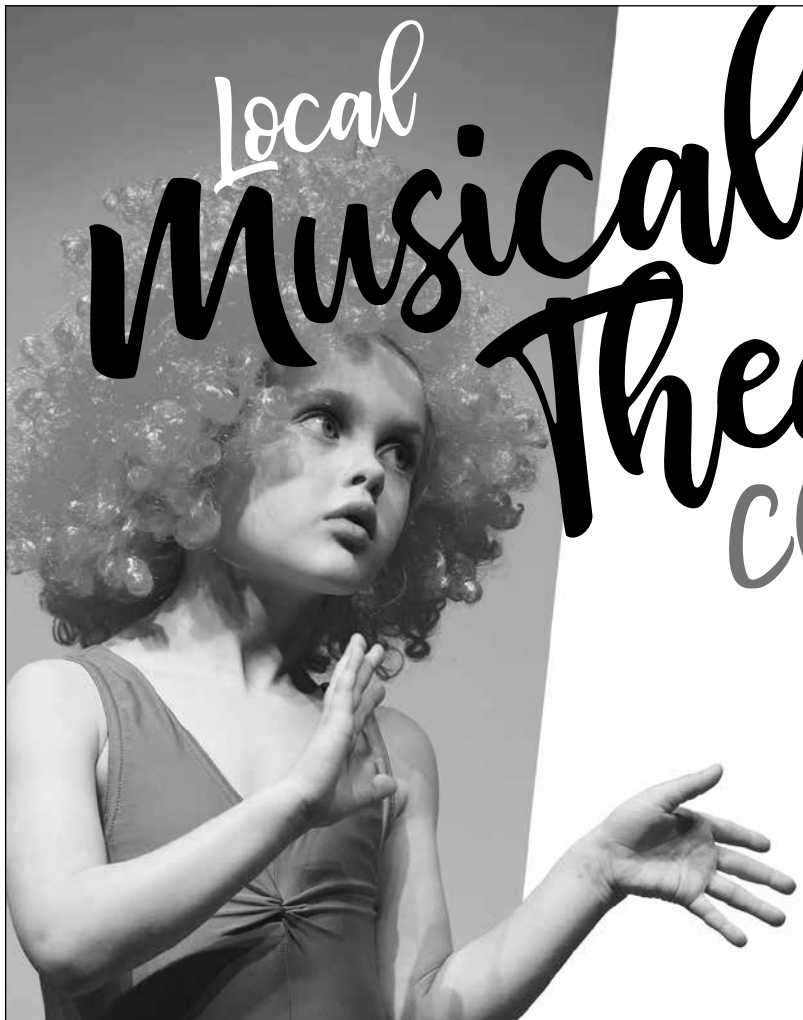


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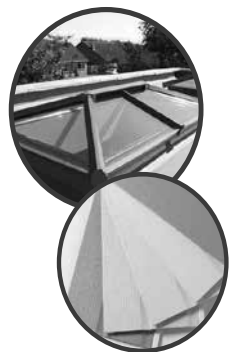
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# **Open Day**

**Saturday 21st September**

**11.00 - 18.00 Drop In**

( 14.00 Formal Opening)

Events throughout the day

All local residents are very welcome - Please pop-in anytime