

May
2025



Long March 80th Anniversary Cycle Ride 4th - 8th May 2025

Objective

1. To recreate the "Long March" route followed by POWs from Stalag Luft 3 in Poland to Stalag Luft 3A in Luckenwalde in Germany, finishing at the Neue Wache Memorial in Berlin on 8th May 2025, the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.
2. To raise money for various relevant charities, including the RBL, RAFA and RAF BF, Zagan Museum of StalagLuft III.
3. To raise awareness of The Long March and The Great Escape.

Participants

Relatives and friends of former POWs and their families.

Background

The "Long March" refers to a series of forced marches during the final stages of the Second World War in Europe. From a total of 257,000 western Allied prisoners of war held in German military prison camps, over 80,000 POWs were forced to march westward across Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Germany in extreme winter conditions, over about four months between January and April 1945. January and February 1945 were among the coldest winter months of the 20th century in Europe, with blizzards and temperatures as low as -25°C (-13°F), and even until the middle of March, temperatures were well below 0°C (32°F). Most of the POWs were ill-prepared for the evacuation, having suffered years of poor rations and wearing clothing ill-suited to the appalling winter conditions. As the Soviet Army was advancing on the Eastern Front, German authorities decided to evacuate POW camps, to delay liberation of the prisoners. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of German civilian refugees, most of them women and children, as well as civilians of other nationalities, were also making their way westward on foot.

On 19 July 1944, Adolf Hitler issued an order from his headquarters, Wolfsschanze, 150 km (93 mi) west of Stalag Luft VI, "concerning preparations for the defence of the Reich". It put the German civilian population on total war footing and issued instructions for preparations or evacuations of "foreign labour" (slave labour) and civilians away from the advancing

Soviet Army in the east. Item 6(a) called for "preparations for moving prisoners of war to the rear". This prolonged the war for hundreds of thousands of Allied personnel, as well as causing them severe hardship, starvation, injuries and/or death.

continued on page 5



Relatives and friends of former POWs



Stalag Luft 3, about 1942/43

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15 May 2025.
To advertise or submit articles email: editor@ghfocus.com

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Church Times

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

Church Wardens:
 Ian Lamberton 715968
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

PLEASE NOTE ALL SERVICES WILL COMMENCE AT 11.15 unless otherwise stated

MAY

- 4th Holy Communion - traditional communion service with hymns - 1 hour
 11th Come & Praise - an informal worship with live instrumental music - 45 mins
 18th All Age Communion - a more informal communion service - 1 hour
 25th Holly Communion - As Above

CHURCH KEY: Ian Lamberton ... 715968

REMEMBERING AND HONOURING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A BETTER FUTURE.

May will see many people commemorating VE Day on May the 8th with tea parties, barbeques, and many other celebrations even if the government did not agree to grant a bank holiday for the occasion. I always think that Britain shows itself at its best at such times, for it is important to learn from the past so that we do not make the same mistakes in future.

VE Day marks the end of the war in Europe on May the 8th May 1945, but let us not forget that World War II did not end in its entirety until August 15th 1945, when Emperor Hirohito finally ordered Japanese troops to lay down their arms following the detonation of atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 6th and 9th of August 1945. It was a great many more months before all of those imprisoned in the Far East were able to come home after the 'forgotten war', and I still have vivid memories of the nights when my father would be summoned in the middle of the night by the noise of a neighbour's screaming, and a fervent knocking on the wall between our two houses to help our neighbour's wife assuage the night terrors he suffered intermittently as a result of the terrible things he had seen and experienced as a Japanese prisoner of war for the rest of his life.

We do well amidst the celebrations to remember the price paid by so many at that time, some of whom, including two of my late grandmother's brothers, still lay where they fell in countless Foreign and Commonwealth war cemeteries around the world, and the many war graves situated at the bottom of the Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific oceans, the Mediterranean, Baltic, and North seas; and the many waters which surround these islands. We should remember too, all of those who, like my old neighbour, came home - and continue to come home from conflicts today - carrying the scars of war in their bodies, minds and spirits; and if we are able, contribute something to charities such as the Royal British Legion, SSAFA (the armed forces charity), and the many others which do so much to assist them with their recovery, and for those helping the victims of war around the world today.

We shall be paying special tribute to those lying in the war graves situated in our benefice on VE Day, and for

the many whose fates and final resting places remain unknown to anyone except God, who was with them when they fell, holds them in his ever-loving care, and watches over them still. It seems to me that we do well to remember the lessons of the past in these troubling times when the post-war consensus which has maintained peace and guaranteed prosperity for so much of the world is being threatened by so many over-privileged, boastful, and regressive leaders in the world today who have forgotten them, and seem doomed to repeat those same failures because of their ignorance, arrogance, pride, and greed. Psalm 34:14 says, 'depart from evil and do good; seek peace, and pursue it', for it is God who will judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for the peoples of the earth'. Until the day when, 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore' (Isaiah 2:4b), let us pray sincerely that that day will come sooner rather than later, and that we will have no need to relearn the lessons of the past when so much in today's world seems awry.

Reverend Steve

CHURCH NEWS

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

On Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm St James' annual meeting is to be held in the Village Hall.

This is a public meeting and everyone is welcome to come along, ask questions and find out more about your parish church.

Focus is your voice to whole of Great Horwood and Singleborough.

Let everyone know what's happening at your club, society or event - **even people not on social media!**
 editor@ghfocus.com

Deadline for articles and adverts for next issue is

Thursday 15th May

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continued from front cover

In the later stages of the war there were great concerns among POWs over the motives for moving them westward. Many different and conflicting rumours abounded, including suggestions that:

- They were being moved towards concentration camps to be killed, in revenge for Allied commanders' deliberate targeting of civilians in cities such as Dresden.
- POWs would be force-marched until their deaths from exhaustion, a practice that had already been made notorious by the Japanese military (see, for instance: Bataan Death March).
- They would be held hostage to leverage peace deals, including claims that they would be held at a national redoubt in the Alps. This claim was backed up by SS General Gottlob Berger, who was appointed general commander of POW camps during 1944. Berger stated during his trial for war crimes (1948), that Hitler had considered a threat to execute 35,000 POWs, unless the Allies agreed to a peace deal. Similarly, SS chief Heinrich Himmler had made similar plans, centred on the Baltic coastal region and set up a new headquarters in a castle on the Bay of Lübeck.

In terms of casualties, there are varying estimates on the total number with one source suggesting between 2,500 and 3,500 American, British and Commonwealth POWs perished on the marches, whereas a senior YMCA official closely involved with the POW camps put the number of Commonwealth and American POW deaths at 8,348 between September 1944 and May 1945.

<https://fb.watch/wRhB-AlcxP>

Proposed Route

4th May - Arrive in Zagan

5th May - Stalag Luft 3 to Bad Muskau - 63km (will pass the barns at Halbau Ilowa and Lipna enroute where the POWs rested. They also stayed in BM)

6th May - Bad Muskau to Lubbenau 93km (Route takes us past Spemburg where the POWs were loaded onto cattle trucks. Lubbenau looks a nice stop near lakes)

7th May- Lubbenau to Luckenwalde 73km - (Location of SL3A where lots of POWs from SL3 were housed prior to liberation)

8th May - Luckenwalde to Berlin (The Neue Wache Memorial) 60km

Total Distance: 289Km

Detailed Route - <https://www.strava.com/routes/3305314599630767456>

Contact Details - Stuart Green – 07803 759612 Roger Churchill – 07768 062785

Link to the sponsorship page:

<https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/6390/long-march-80th-anniversary-charity-cycle-ride/>



The prisoner of war camp at Zagan was constructed in 1941, and over the course of the war it expanded to accommodate 10,000 allied POWs from the RAF, the USAAF and the French army



Barns in the village of Lipna where thousands of POWs sheltered overnight on their way to Spremberg



On 2 Feb 44, after seven days marching, the prisoners from Stalag Luft III arrived at Spremberg station, where they were loaded on to cattle trucks and taken to a new camp.



More than 200,000 prisoners passed through the Stalag III-A, and at its height in May 1944 there were a total of 48,600 POW registered there



Bad Muskau is a spa town in northeastern Saxony, Germany, on the border with Poland. It is known for its palace and extensive landscape gardens that are a UNESCO World Heritage site



During the Second World War, the castle served as a meeting place for resistance groups and as a field hospital. After German reunification, it was restored by the Lynar family and converted into a four-star hotel.



A place of meditation and remembrance right in the middle of the busy city – the Neue Wache is the memorial for the victims of war and dictatorship.



Fighter pilots from No10 F.T.S Ternhill. May 1939



Standing Left - R S Churchill.
Standing Second from Right James Long



POW soldiers in WW2



"The sketch of Dad was done by Henri Picard when they were both in Stalag Luft I before they were transferred to Stalag Luft III and Henri's murder by the Gestapo after his recapture following the Great Escape."



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Vacancy for a Call Handler – Work from Home

The National Careline is a small, not-for-profit business that runs a freephone helpline and a website. It provides an information hub of charities, products and services that support older people or those caring for an older person.

We are looking to recruit a local person who can work from home, to answer calls to the helpline between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. We will consider a job share arrangement if applicants are interested in working fewer than five days a week.

Experience within the care sector/NHS/Local Authority would be useful but not essential. Our callers are often unsure about sourcing information via the internet and prefer the reassurance of speaking with a person; therefore empathy and patience are needed. Full training will be given on the type of calls we receive and information that we regularly provide.

Most of the information and support we provide can be found on our website – www.thenationalcareline.org

We offer a competitive local salary and a mobile phone will be provided. You will need to provide your own device for access to the internet.

Please send your application to
office@thenationalcareline.org.

We very much look forward to hearing from you!

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):

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Commemorating

Date:

Commemorating

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

Please send to Ian Lamberton 3 The Green, Great Horwood MK17 0RH.

Tel: 01296 715968

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Parish Council is always notified by Buckinghamshire Planning Department of any planning application for which it is a Statutory Consultee. When preparing our response to the application we have always considered any comments made by you, the parishioners, when putting our response together.

However, at its Cabinet meeting on 11 March Buckinghamshire Council agreed that in future only comments made by Statutory Consultees will be posted on the Website. This has been implemented with immediate effect and all comments made by any of you on, for example, the Croudace application, have now been removed from their website.

We have written to complain, as has the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium, but they will not change their stance.

So please, for any future applications you may comment on, could you copy your comments to the Parish Clerk clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk That way we can continue to take your views into account when commenting on planning applications.

Thank you

Caroline Cousin

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Great Horwood & Singleborough WI invite you to a fashion show on Tuesday 24th June at the Village Hall. Tickets cost £7 which includes a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink. All profits will be split between the Medical Detection Dogs and Great Horwood Primary School. Doors open at 7pm and the fashion show starts at 7.30pm.

The fabulous clothes and accessories in the catwalk, supplied by Jackie's Mobile Boutique, will be available to buy on the night. There are also some super raffle prizes to win including a mid-week Spa Day for two at Horwood House Hotel and a half-day jewellery making workshop at Corzo and Wood.

To book your ticket(s) email ghorwoodandswi@gmail.com.

Recently, we had a lace-making workshop learning the skills. Suzanne Thompson of Hooks, Needles and Threads showed us how to make Bobbin Lace. We used bobbins to create the basic cross and twist stitches on a pillow, with threads wound on the bobbins being twisted and pulled to form the lace. We ended up with a lace bookmark

We've a great line-up of events planned for the Summer. Our May meeting, as part of the "Magistrates in the Community" programme, will be an interactive "Mock Trial" whereby WI members will be deciding whether the defendant is guilty or not-guilty of the alleged crime. It promises to be not only fun but also an insight into how the judicial system operates. We've also some day trips to historic houses and glorious gardens. Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month in the Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm. start.

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

please contact Ann Biggins at ghorwoodandswi@gmail.com

MEN IN SHEDS

Our 2025 AGM marked 10 years since the idea of a Men's Shed turned into a reality for Winslow and we remain indebted to our founding Shedders for finding premises, getting the necessary support and for setting the ball rolling. A key member of the team was Dave Saunders who has decided that now is the right time to step down as our Chairman. Although Dave was unable to attend the AGM it did provide a suitable occasion to officially record our gratitude for all that he has done to establish MISW as a valued part of the Winslow community. Tim Elderton steps into Dave's shoes and our Shed Committee is bolstered with the addition of volunteers Neil Udall and Tony Stopp. The next few years will involve us moving, setting up in new premises and, no doubt, getting back up to speed so new energy and fresh ideas will be essential - welcome aboard chaps!

Our Treasurer was able to report healthy balances for the year and some carefully managed reserves to provide confidence as we face an uncertain future but we are not a 'fund-raising' operation - as such. A donation is invited for the jobs that we do and, for community projects, we always try to find the necessary funding ourselves. In a nutshell, we keep busy, people are generous and our overheads are low. I think we surprised ourselves with a simple calculation. We open for 100 sessions per year, average attendance these days is about 15 per session and an average stay is about 3 hours. That adds up to 4,500 hours or, to put it another way, MISW is entirely self-sufficient and provides 4,500 hours of social inclusion opportunity, per year, to men in our community. We are working towards being self-sufficient in our move too.

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 or message
Tim Elderton 07746 194163

PARISH PUMP

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Applications to stand as a Parish Councillor for Great Horwood have now closed, the deadline being 2nd April. There were five candidates and this was therefore an uncontested election.

Your new elected Parish Councillors from 6th May 2025 will be Caroline Cousin, Jackie Goss, Jonathan Evans, Thomas Lee and Mary Saunders.

We still have vacancies on the Council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community in this way, please email the Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk for more information.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome pack, please email Cllr Gilbey with your address and one will be delivered to you 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/>

LITTER PICK

The next annual Litter Pick is due to take place Saturday 10th May 2025 at 11am.

Last year's Litter pick collected several large sacks of rubbish from around the roads in the village, but we could still do more...

If you could spare an hour to come and help keep your community tidy that would be really appreciated. We do not have anyone that regularly clears up the rubbish that is left during

the year, so your contribution to keeping this village tidy is crucial.



NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th May 2025 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.

e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/

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>

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.

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 the Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk if you are interested and you can be added to the email group.

LENT LUNCHES



Many thanks to those who supported the two Lent Lunches this year, and to the soup and cake makers - delicious!

A convivial time was had by all.

Apologies that the photo taken early on didn't include those who came a bit later!



As Stephen (the rector said in the April Focus), 'If you don't use it, you are likely to lose it!

The cricket season is imminent and after our recent AGM, the club have decided to put a team out again this season. We have a lovely ground, good clubhouse, a few keen individuals who keep it ticking over.....but lack players.

For those not aware, a cricket team needs at least 11 players per game, so a squad of over 20. We have 7 players keen to play but need many more. Could you be one? If you could play just 6/7 games per season, that would be a great help.

If we don't get more players and have to forfeit matches, we will be dropped from the league and that will be the end of cricket in Great Horwood.

The football season is drawing to a close and the club have again performed strongly.

We are looking to develop our junior section further and will be looking for new players to join our U9's and U10's next season, year 4 and 5 at school.

We will also be starting a new U8's team in August/September, so if any parents would like their child to partake in a very friendly game of football on a Saturday morning...where they will be coached by qualified coaches, do get in touch.

If you are interested in playing either cricket or football (at any age, junior or senior level), just drop me a message and I will put you in touch with the appropriate club contact.

Vyv 07970 089809 On behalf of Great Horwood Cricket and Football Clubs.

NEW HOME AT NOOK PARK

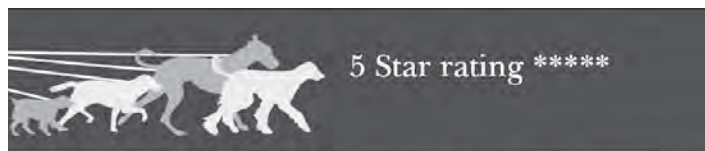
In early April Silk Mill Leisure Ltd had the second home sited on Nook Park. We are very pleased with this home as its very much in keeping with the homes already in existence. It was expertly brought down onto the site by JMB Roberts Transport Ltd (who are experts in their field) with what seems minimal amount of fuss and ease. Once the two halves were on the park, they then joined them together to make the one home.

The home is made by a firm called Omar and they are one of the main manufacturers of Park Homes. It is a two-bedroom home with two bathrooms, living area, dining area and kitchen. This has come partly furnished although they can come fully furnished if that is what you desire. You can also decide on décor and style of the Kitchen and bathroom. Some homes also have a study.

As you can see it is off the ground and held up by Jacks and usually have other support also. As you can see from the photo the plumbing is in the process of being installed underneath. It will have the other utilities attached in due course. You can see the chassis underneath with the wheels and both

sides of the home has a tow hook. Both sides were carefully towed inch by inch down Willow Road from Little Horwood Road. Our thanks go to all the residents on these two roads for their patience and understanding. To finish off the house steps needed to get in and out and finally the skirting around the bottom with hatches so that access to the underneath for repairs and maintenance etc. Did you know that a park home is classified as a Chattel and not an asset the reason being a park home is a movable property.





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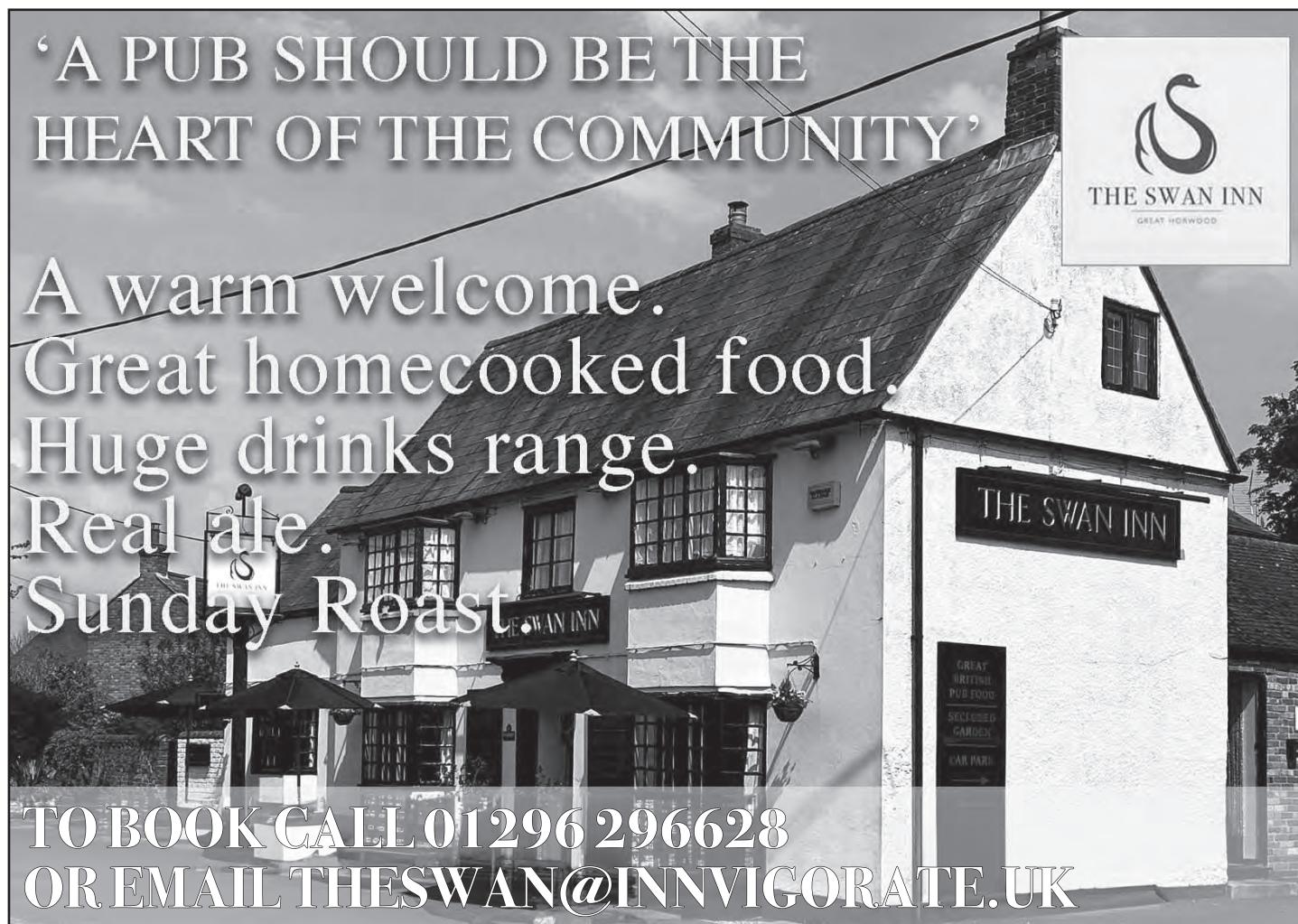
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Winslow Community Bus

May 2025



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 – 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.

Tuesday 6th May

Tuesday 3rd June

Tuesday 1st July

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

Thursday 8th & 27th May

Thursday 12th & 26th June

Thursday 10th & 24th July

Asda — travel £5

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip and will cost £5.00. Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages

Asda Shopping with the option to drop at Stadium MK1 for M&S, Primark, Next and more.

Drop off at Westcroft on request.

Monday 23rd June

Monday 28th July

Haddenham Garden Centre - Tuesday 27th May – Travel £8 local, family-run, independent garden centre, restaurant and shop.

Eastbourne, Sunday 13th July – Travel £23 Day out to the seaside.

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details.

Timetables can be found online www.winslowbus.com

On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the
WDCB Co-Ordinator 07483 336440



Winslow & District Community Bus Needs Volunteer Drivers

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.

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

We offer certificated training to MiDAS standard

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.

For more information, or to find out other ways you can volunteer your help, please visit the
Volunteering page on our website www.winslowbus.com or call 07483 336440.

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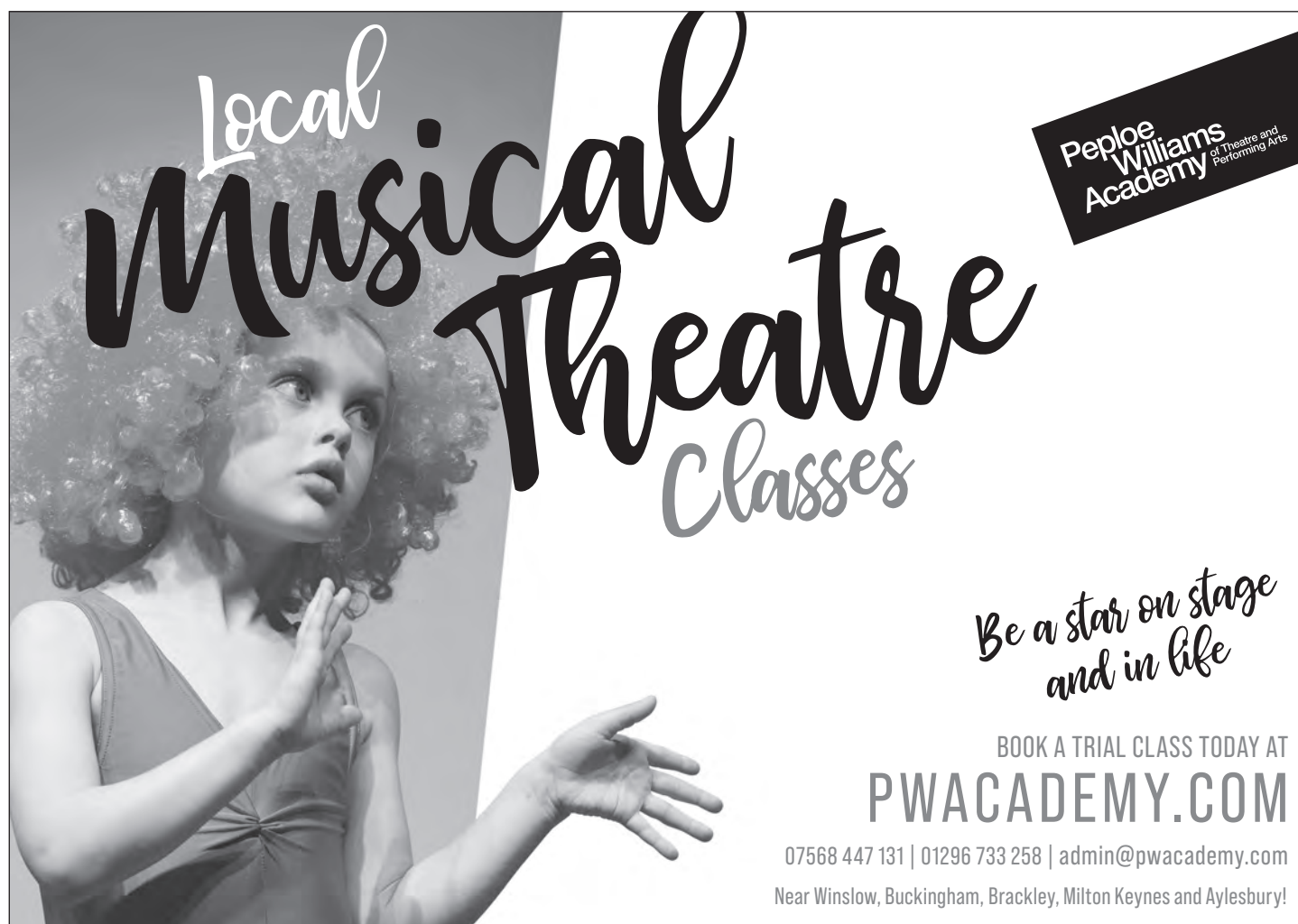
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**Great Horwood
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Useful contact details

Members of the Parish Council:

Please note that councillors now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. This is in order to comply with UK Data Protection Regulations 2018. From 1 January 2021 this is now referred to as the UK GDPR. 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	
07901 944996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com
Zain Daniels	
07544 595906	zaindanielsghpc@gmail.com
Clerk to the Council	
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	
Winslow and District Community Bus	
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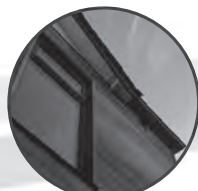
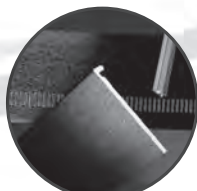
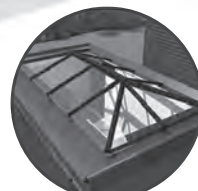
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