GREAT HORWOOD AND SINGLEBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Official Opening 21st September 2024

A day to remember with a truly wonderful celebration of the refurbishment of our Village Hall which is now 101 years old.

Local Groups were supportive and set-up their stands early ready for the showcasing of The Hall between 11am and 6pm.

The Arts & Crafts Group, The Silver Band, Great Horwood Football and Cricket Clubs, The Women's Institute, The Scouts & Brownies, The Parish Council, and the Village Hall History (Trustees) all had stands.

In addition The Peploe-Williams Academy who are regular users of The Hall for their Academy of Theatre & Performing Arts had over 40 of their students perform songs from their past productions.

IKEA deserve a mention for ensuring there was a constant flow of Meatballs, Plant Balls, Swedish Cakes and Gingerbread biscuits as well as tea, coffee and cold drinks. IKEA also had a "catch the duck" fun challenge which saw prizes for both children and adults. IKEA were able to make full use of the kitchen which had been supplied by them as a community initiative,

The Grand opening took place at 12 noon and saw the cutting of the ribbon by Mimi Harker OBE who is Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council. Mimi was joined on stage by Ian Lamberton, Chairman of The Village Hall and between them they gave a warm and humorous slant to the opening ceremony.

Mimi then spent sometime at The Hall meeting local residents of Great Horwood and Singleborough, sampling the meatballs and winning a prize by hooking one of those yellow ducks. It was an honour having her attend our important day.

A huge huge thank you must be sent to everybody who has helped during the past 12 months in transforming The Hall. Without the support given from both Great Horwood & Singleborough communities we wouldn't have succeeded delivering within budget and transforming all areas of the building.

It is now over to YOU in Great Horwood & Singleborough to generate ideas and MAKE USE of The Hall. The rates are very reasonable, the space is perfect for almost any activity you might have in mind and it creates togetherness, especially as we now enter winter and the days are shorter. Evenings that could be filled with interesting events and activities so please put your thinking caps on and step forward in bringing life to this wonderful space.

What better than something happening in The Hall followed by a nice tipple or meal at The Swan.

On behalf of The Great Horwood & Singleborough Trustees I take a second chance to declare The Village Hall Open for business.

Tony Pearson - Treasurer







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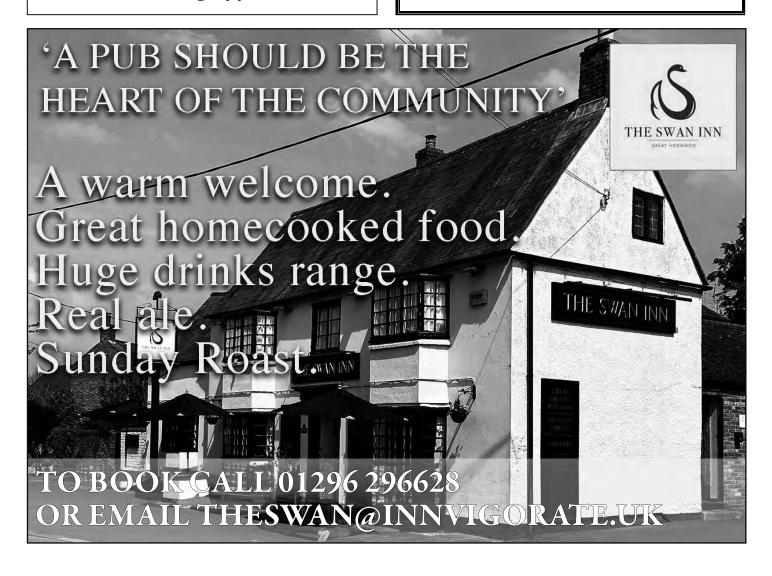
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Church Times

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

Church Wardens:

lan Lamberton 715968 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

St James' Services for October

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

6th Holy Communion - a traditional communion service with hymns lasting an hour

13th Come and Praise - a more informal service with live instrumental music to

enhance our worship (approx 45 mins)

20th **Creative Communion** - a communion service with hymns

27th Parish Holy Communion

Also on the 27th at 18.00 a Baby Loss service will be held at St Laurence Church.

RECTORS VOICE

A Big THANK YOU!

Anyone coming into St James' on our parish giving day on Saturday 21st will have seen how wonderfully tidy the churchyard is looking, with the grass mown, brambles removed, and all the invasive ivy stripped from the trees by a wonderful group of volunteers led by Stuart Birrell and Mike Hotard. We are so grateful to all who volunteered their time helping with the clear up. It has made such a difference to the look of the churchyard and will help maintain the health of the trees in the cold winter months and beyond.

Thank you as well, to everyone who donated to the life and work of the church on a busy day. A wonderful time not only for St James', but also as we formally opened the newly renovated village hall, and finished off the new school woodland area.

I am looking forward to using this lovely space for some outdoor worship with the children to give thanks to God for all that he has created and given to us, as we did at our Harvest Festival celebration.

Harvest is the time when we traditionally think of all those in need and try to give back a little of all that we have received from God to those less fortunate than ourselves. It is always heart-warming to see the extent of people's generosity towards others, and our collection that day was for the St Laurence Food Cupboard which distributes food parcels of fresh, dry, and canned goods to families in need across the entire district from Calvert Green to Great Horwood and beyond. We are so fortunate to have this service provided once again by the goodwill of many.

I find myself increasingly giving thanks to God at Harvest time not only for all that he provides, but also for the dozens and dozens of people in our communities who give so unceasingly of their time and energy to help others.

Research has shown, perhaps unsurprisingly, that doing good, acts of kindness, generosity, and philanthropy in general have a lasting and positive impact on those who engage in those acts as well as those who benefit from them. It reduces stress, increases happiness and wellbeing, improves both physical and psychological health, and heightens a sense of commitment to others in the community and our sense of social integration and cohesion. It is always good to give to others, but it is also, quite literally, good for us as well.

Surely this is why, St Paul told the Corinthian church

that 'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians:9-7), he knew that something positive happens when we give to others, whether it is our time, our money, or our skills, talents and other attributes.

Nothing builds community better than a community building itself, and it was heartwarming to see how many of you came out to participate and share in all of the events taking place on that one day in the church, in the village hall, and in the school; not to forget all of the other clubs, groups, and societies which meet and serve others in Great Horwood and Singleborough throughout the year.

Please do not forget that your church is open every day, so drop in and look around, play in the children's corner and use the library facilities which we are being put in place as I write.

God bless you and have a very happy 'Harvest-tide'! *Revd Steve O'Connor*

ST JAMES CHURCH

Over the next couple of months we are hoping that you will let us know how the church can be used by and provide support for our growing community.

We already know that this will need funds for which grants or charitable loans are available. For the greatest chance of success we are looking for help from anyone in the village(s) with experience of completing grant and funding applications.

Please contact me or one of the churchwardens if you could possibly help or advise.

Revd Steve O'Connor

CHRISTMAS FAYRE SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER.

Ahead of Advent but hoping to beat the rush!

Seasonal refreshments and activities, Tombola, Festive Raffle, organised by Monica Gilbey, who would be grateful for contributions for the hampers and other prizes, there will also be a small number of local stallholders, space allowing.

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!
editor@ahfocus.com





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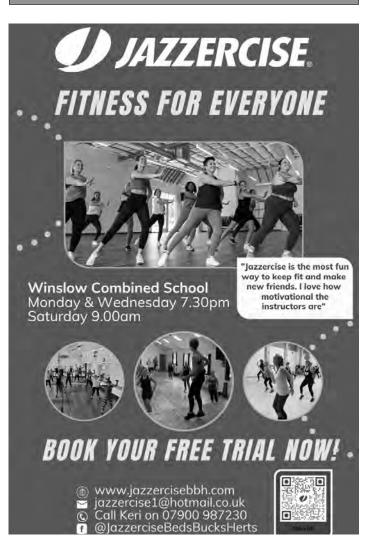
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GREAT HORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB 2023/24 AGM

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, madam President and welcome to this years AGM.

Thank you Darren (Sid) for arranging tonight and our thanks to the Cricket Club for the use of their Clubhouse.

I'm delighted to report that overall the Club had another solid year.

We started with our very own Darren receiving the Award from Berks & Bucks Football Association, for Volunteer of the year and finished with one of our former girls (Simone Sherwood from a few years ago) representing England at U17 level. Not all clubs can make that claim!

Focussing on last season's team performance's, the Junior teams had a traditional Great Horwood experience with all teams winning/losing and drawing their matches.

It's good to see that the forthcoming season is upon us and I'm delighted to confirm that we have the following age groups partaking.

U8's managed by Sid, U9's managed by Ben, U11's managed by Fran, U12's managed by Nick and U18's managed by Waggy.

This is great news as we continue to rebuild the junior section.

Within the senior section of the Club, it's fair to say that both Saturday teams had a mixed year. There were some strong and not so strong performances. Player availability was a challenge on some weekends.

No silverware was secured this season. But by the end, both teams finished mid table, enjoyed playing and look to move further up their respective divisions this season.

Both squads would benefit from some new blood, so put your feelers out and see if we can recruit a few more players.

The Vets also had an enjoyable season and will be back again this year.

Now onto matters off the pitch.

Another enjoyable Race Night fundraising evening in conjunction with the Cricket Club was had and funds generated. We continue to work closely with the Cricket Club, be that using this facility or sharing ground maintenance equipment.

We received a Worthy Cause grant from the Parish Council and this, together with another grant from the Together for Football foundation meant we were able to order some new roll on roll off goal posts for the junior section.

As always, we are very grateful to our Kit sponsors who generously cover the cost of new strips. This goes a long way to ensuring our balance sheet remains healthy.

Moving onto behind the scenes matters.

We continue to benefit from a small but dedicated team of volunteers, who carry out the vital behind the scenes work of attending committee meetings, cleaning the clubhouse, general maintenance and grass cutting...without whom, the Club would not be able to operate.

My sincere thanks to all those individuals. but a special mention this year for Jack 'Pige' Trundell, who although living in Aylesbury, still carries out a lot of behind the scenes maintenance, grass cutting, coaching and playing. With this in mind, I was very pleased to announce that Jack had won this years Clubman of the Year award at the recent end of season awards presentation.

In conclusion, as a Club, we continue to punch above our weight on the pitch and have a loyal bunch of behind the scenes workers. However, none of us are getting any younger and we are looking for and would welcome anyone from the growing local community, who would like to support the club, in whatever capacity, to step forward and be welcomed with open arms. Without these behind the scenes workers, this Club would not exist.

But we do and we will continue to deliver great results, based upon tight financial control's and a culture of respect and enjoyment for all. As your Chairman, I and the Executive Committee, will strive to ensure this Football Club continues to operate on a sound financial basis, is all encompassing, successful and that we continue to deliver, a great Club experience.

Thank you.

Vyv Rudd

Chairman Gt Horwood FC

YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY

By the time you read this the resurrected Great Horwood and Singleborough Village Library should be up and running in the south west corner of the church. Please do come and borrow from the wide range of books, for adults and children, but please limit yourself to two books at a time.

Perhaps you might be able to donate recently read books that you have enjoyed reading.

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Great Herwood

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/

Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings 01296 715968 **Winslow and District Community Bus** 07483 336440

Community Police Officers

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Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



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GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Our September meeting included a talk Andy Harding on the wildlife of Transylvania. Andy used to be a professional guide to the area in Romania as well as other countries Eastern Europe, Madagascar and Florida. Transylvania is one of the bigger areas in Romania and Andy's presentation included fascinating details about the landscape, flora, birds, insects and animals found here. There are more European Brown



Bears found in Romania than any other country, and Andy had had some close encounters while treking. It was a fascinating insight into a relatively unexplored territory by most westerners. After the talk members took part in a fun animal quiz.

In October we have a Harvest sheath dough making workshop in the Village Hall and in November we have a trip to see the Christmas lights at Ashridge House. Hard to believe we are drawing close to the end of the year. However, we have plans underway for an exciting programme in 2025.

We have a varied programme of speakers at our meetings but we also have other activities such as trips to the theatre and outings to stately homes and gardens, as well as craft activities. We also have a weekly walking group on a Monday and a slower paced one on a Wednesday.

Our WI is part of the local Chase group where we get together with local WIs and we are also affiliated to the Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes which offer a wide range of activities.

The Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7.15am

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

Ann Biggins - 07961 960802. annieggmk@gmail.com

HORWOOD PECE - SAFETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every week the rec gets safety checked by volunteers. Sadly, two of our checkers, Mike Hobday and Keith Mould, are unable to continue for now. We are very grateful to Keith and Mike and all the other people on our rota.

Could you help fill their places?

It only works out at once every 8 weeks and takes less than an hour. Hardly enough time for your children to play whilst you carry out a check.

Training on how to inspect the equipment and field will be given.

Please contact John Nicholls 07448 947979 or e_nicholls@outlook.com.

HORWODE PECE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We have finished the new 'Toddler Surround' after 9 weeks work, (middle picture on page 8). Thank you to everyone involved, it was a fantastic effort. The new surround is made from recycled plastic and has a 25 year guarantee.

We started the work on 29th June and finished (apart from some fine tuning to the wooden ramp), on the 28th August, two months later!

On the first weekend, we started to remove all the old, rotting timbers from the Toddler surround. First, we had to dig back the rubber chippings to leave a clear surround, then, pull back the underlay and barrier layers, before digging out the footings. Six people helped over this weekend, accruing 21 hours of volunteer work. The digging out was hard work and thanks must go to team involved this first

weekend (John Nicholls, Mark Owen, Steve Brigden, Jonathan Evans, Toby Slade and Liz Nicholls). At the end of this weekend, we had dug out the first of many concrete blocks and had managed to lay the first of 20 recycled plastic beams.

Top picture on page 8 is the one that beat us and now temporarily resides as a seat!

At this point, we started to realise the size of the project we had taken on. Cathy Holland then setup a WhatsApp group to encourage volunteers and to keep all informed of the on-going work and when the working parties would run.

Rain stopped play on the 6th July - also, it was the village fete - but continued on Sunday 7th. This weekend, with 4 volunteers (John Nicholls, Steve Brigden, Mark Owen and Cathy Holland). A further

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23 hours of work, two more concrete blocks, and a further set of plastic beams laid, now 5 in total. We were also able to install the first two wall sections and pillars, so now we could begin to see what the final surround would look like. We also realised that we would need more earth to fill in any gaps to the Rec grassed areas – thank you Kai and Abbie for the donation of their groundwork spoils!

Work continued on 13th July, 6 volunteers (John Nicholls, Steve Brigden, Jonathan Evans, Toby, Tom and his wife), a further 24 hours community work. And again on the 21st July, 5 volunteers (John Nicholls, Liz Nicholls, Cathy Holland, Jonathan Evans and Steve Brigden), 25 hours more volunteer work. Similarly, on the 27th July, 28th July and 4th August, a further 48 hours of volunteer's work. Progressively, the Toddler surround was growing; we were able to rake rubber chippings back into place. We dug out the biggest concrete block yet, plus two smaller ones, and each person involved had a better idea of the work to do and how they could help.

In August, many were on holiday, and helper numbers dropped; no one was available on the 11th, 3 volunteers helped on the 18th and 2 on the 24th; with a final push on the 25th, 5 helpers, the Toddler surround was completed (picture left middle).

Well done everyone, it was well worth the effort. Thanks to the stalwarts (John Nicholls, Cathy Holland, Steve Brigden, and Mark Owen) and all the helpers. We even had family help, Tom, his wife and children helped on the 13th and 27th July, with the children also doing 2 hours work levelling the rubber chippings.

A total of 164 volunteer hours were given up, it would have been fantastic to have seen more volunteers.

We will now take a break, before starting the Teenage surround (picture left bottom). This will be twice as much work and due to the enormity of the task and the limited volunteers, some professional help would be greatly appreciated should the Councils budget run to this.

PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood

Councillors

Parish Council As has previously been advised, we currently 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 johnwgilbeypc@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.

Dates for the rest of 2024 are as follows: -

9th and 23rd October

6th and 20th November

4th and 18th December

PARISH PUMP

Funds For Local Causes

As in previous years, Great Horwood Parish Council will once again be donating up to £3,000 to local causes. 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 2024 Parish Council meeting.

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2024.

GARDEN TREE GIVEAWAY 2024

A Garden Tree Giveaway is being run in association with the International Tree Council (ITC). Great Horwood have been invited to join to offer residents to claim 2 free trees. There is a good range of small, medium and large of trees available.

You can view a tree guide so you'll know which are the most suitable trees/shrubs for your garden. Get more information at https://tinyurl.com/itfcagfreegardentree or use this QR code

You can request your trees online in early October. The



trees will be available for planting in late November/early December.

This giveaway is organised by the International Tree Foundation with financial help from local charities.

If you are interested in this project, please register your interest on the

website listed above. Once this initiative is closed (19th October), the Parish Council will receive a list of who has been registered to receive the trees and an email from the ITC to arrange collection will follow.

Details of this are on the GHPC Facebook page and a poster is in the Noticeboard.

Dog Waste

I am sure that you will have seen the various posts on the Great Horwood Facebook page concerning the amount of dog litter around in the village that is being left and not picked up.

As I am sure we are all aware, not only is this unsightly but it presents a health hazard to everyone.

There are 8 dog waste bins within the village - please remember if you are taking your dog for a walk, please pick up after them and place the waste in the designated bin - thank you.

LIDEN PARK (CHERRY LEYS)

It is hoped that over the next few weeks that the Parish Council will take on the responsibility of the Open Space for the above development. It was originally hoped that this would be a play park for the children at this end of the Village, however, the funding for this has changed since the original plan was set up. It would be of great help to the Parish Council if they could receive your views on what you would like this Open Space to look like/what would be of most benefit to the whole village. Please do comment on what you would wish to see in this area. An email to the Clerk with your views on the usual email address would be appreciated – thank you.



Great Horwood Parish Council

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP)

Buckinghamshire Council (Transport Strategy) are having a consultation on the draft Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The draft Buckinghamshire LCWIP suggests a future network of new and improved connections for walking, cycling and wheeling between towns and villages across Buckinghamshire. Feedback is now being invited on the draft LCWIP.

The consultation is running until 13th October 2024 and can be accessed at www.buckinghamshire.gov. uk/LCWIP. The online survey is available at this link, alongside a printable version of the survey, contact email address and information about events taking place.

Details of this are on the GHPC Facebook page and a poster is in the Noticeboard.



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

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/

Next Meeting of The Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th October 2024 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

johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com

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WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

It was great to meet up again on Tuesday at the Padbury Village Hall on Tuesday morning at 10 am and on Thursday at 10 am at the Winslow Bowls Club. It's always good to share our artistic attempts and learn from the support, tips and advice from others. So although many of us enjoyed the summer break we were very pleased to chat with friends and share our good and not so good paintings! Why not come and join us, for more information just contact one of us as listed below.

Also you might like to come along to our excellent monthly demonstrations which take place in the Winslow Bowls club when doors open at 7 pm. There is a small cost of £5 which includes refreshments. Just chose an evening and put it in your diary and come along; you will be sincerely welcomed.

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

Evening Demonstrations.

26 September Chris Church...Animal Drawing.
 31 October Anne Blankson-Hemans...TBC.
 21 November Mat Waruszynski.... Portrait in Oils.



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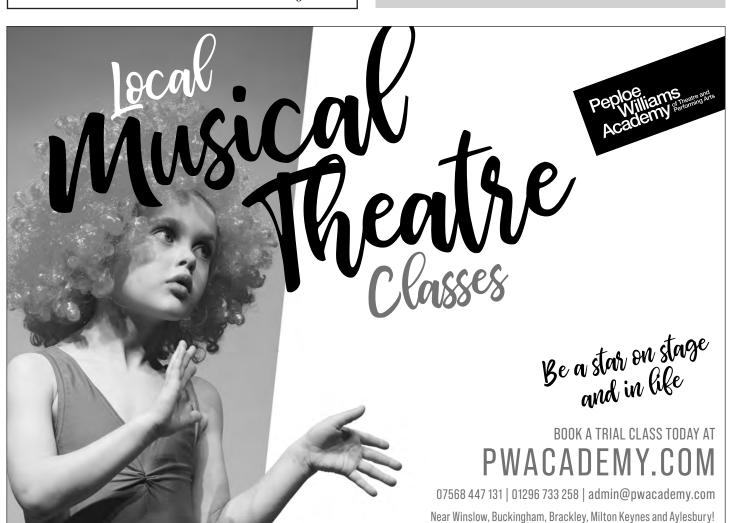
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Editor: editor@ghfocus.com Russell Margerrison

Typing & Layout: Russell Margerrison, David Brazier, Andy Gibbs.

Printing: Harlequin Press Ltd.

Copy deadline: 15th of month before publication. Distribution: June Margerrison, Ann Biggins, Caroline Cousin, Edwina Daymond, Louise Edwards, John Gilbey, Valerie Hancock, Duncan Hogston, Cathy Holland,

Helen Jackman, Ian Lamberton, Gary Lee,

Available online at: www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc

Kathy Thompson, Sylvia Whitehall, Gill Wood.

Celebrating the amazing place where we live.

On foot In the Intelligence Zone A talk by me, Alan Biggins

Thursday 24th October - 7.30pm - In The Village Hall Settle down to be entertained, moved and amazed

Dear fellow villagers,

Last year I wrote several articles for Focus about MI6's many hilltop communications sites in our surrounding hills; and their importance in local, national and indeed world history.

Since then many local magazines and websites have serialised my stories (you can catch up with them on my website www.theintelligencezone.com)

As a result of my articles, I have been asked by quite a few places to stand up and talk on the subject; and tell, too, how I stumbled - sometimes literally - across these lonely places while walking in our local hills.

My proudest moment, perhaps, was standing in the new auditorium at Bletchley Park to talk to around 150 international cyber experts. Elon spoke here! He may have left the building, but I got to use his microphone!



The world turns. It wasn't like computing in my day.. no collars and ties; my audience were more tattoos, shorts and Iron Maiden t-shirts. These boys and girls are the real heirs of the clever eccentrics that made Bletchley Park change the world.

The talk went down so well at Bletchley Park and elsewhere that I thought I'd bring it home; to the village hall. So, if you want to be entertained, moved and amazed; and find out what led this village, Great Horwood, to be for a couple of years the biggest and most important spy station in the world - come along.



Alan Biggins

...The talk, in a nutshell, is about MI6's secret broadcasting stations in this area; the voices of Bletchley Park.

A tale of generals, spies and, saboteurs with special reference to our village James Bond for real; revealing how Great Horwood once housed the world's busiest spy station. Yes!

The talk will be on Thursday the 24th of October, doors open 7.15, starting at 7.30. It will last for around 2 hours.

Tea and biscuits included. Tickets are £5. I will give part of the proceeds to Focus.

The talk is for any villagers 16 and above. This belongs to us all.

I will also be signing and selling copies of my books on the night at a discounted price for villagers of £9 each. See Amazon for reviews. I'm told they're a good read - and great gifts



Don't miss the village event of the decade! To be sure of a place, book ahead: email intzoneuk@gmail.com with your name/s and no of seats.

