

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

April 2016

Small Ads

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YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN. CML Property Services for general woodwork, painting and decorating, tiling, flooring, kitchens and bathrooms, home and office maintenance, furniture assembly, garden services, removals and much, much, more! No job too small. Phone Mark Lyford on 07772 252752, email info@cmlpropertyservices.co.uk. and visit www.cmlpropertyservices.co.uk.

LOCAL AFFORDABLE ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE The House at Pooh Corner, conveniently located at 74-75 Woodcock Avenue, Walters Ash, now has spaces for children aged 3 months to five years offering high quality, caring EYFS childcare, contact Tracey - 01494 497831 for prospectus

ROOFING SERVICES - W. WHITE ROOFING Provides a modern, professional and friendly service. Call William White for your Roofing requirements, free estimates and advice! TEL 01494 355187 MOB 07832 146427 EMAIL william@wwhiteroofing.co.uk

PILATES NAPHILL METHODIST HALL. Small group or 1:1 pilates for men and women. Existing classes run Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Additional times available for individual requirements. Create a balanced, strong, stable and co-ordinated body. Sarah Markham 07507415792.

ZUMBA WITH SAL at Naphill School, Monday nights 8-9pm or the Oakeshott Centre, RAF High Wycombe, Fridays 10-11am. Zumba gold/chair based classes available for those less mobile who want to keep moving. For more info call 07917881369 or visit www.sallyhiggins.zumba.com. Email zumbawithsalhiggins@hotmail.co.uk

BOOST YOUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE WITH KUMON Your local Kumon study centre offers individualised Maths and English study programmes. Central to the Kumon Method is the principal of giving students the confidence and courage to confront new challenges and pursue their own goals. Princes Risborough Study Centre 01844 344 211 princesrisborough@kumoncentre.co.uk

**Small Advertisements
Continued on Page 30**

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

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Online now at www.naphill.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter - @naphillwa

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Naphill & Walter's Ash School	Kerenza Gwyn	562813	office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk
Pharmacy Hughenden Valley Surgery	Enquiries	565458	8.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-6.15pm
Prescription Collection	Penny Leggett Ginny Ratcliffe Celia Duncan Nancy Hussey	562866 563650 564230 563767	dbartonratcliffe@googlemail.com
Thames Valley Police NON EMERGENCY	PC Caroline Merriman	101 PRNPT	caroline.merriman@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Village Hall Bookings	Tanya Stevens	563053	naphillvillagehallbk@gmail.com 07851169275

Naphill and Walter's Ash Clubs and Organisations

Club or Organisation	Meeting Day	Location	Contact
Adult Ballet	Wednesdays 6.15-7.15pm	Naphill Village Hall	Pam Sheen 716384
Beavers	Tuesdays 5.30-6.45pm	Scout and Guide Hut Naphill	Barry Reading 447121
Bridge Club	Thursdays 7.15pm	Naphill Village Hall	Margaret Stagg 530736 Rene Ashby 482933
Brownies (Naphill)	Thursdays 6 -7.30pm	Scout and Guide Hut Naphill	Ruth Daly 565571 ruth.daly3@btinternet.com
Cubs (Naphill)	Tuesdays 700-8.30pm	Scout and Guide Hut Naphill	naphillcubscouts@outlook.com
Football Club Naphill Junior Boys Training Sessions	U6, 7, 8, 9 Saturdays 9.30-11am	NWA School	John Hamill naphillfcjuniors@hotmail.co.uk
	U10, 11, 12 Saturdays 9.30-11am	RAF Sports Field	Bob Hathaway 563332
	U13, 14, 16 Saturdays 9.30-11am	RAF Walter's Ash	
Fitness Pilates - Pyramid H & F	Fridays 9.45-10.45am	Naphill Village Hall	07500 772146 alice@pyramidfitness.co.uk
Football Club Naphill Men's	Sundays 10.30am	RAF Walter's Ash	Phil Crawford 07500 007644
Fraser Morgan Dance Classes	Mondays 4.45-8pm	Naphill Village Hall	Elaine Tucker 816539 07974 121081 elainetuckeret@aol.com
	Tuesdays 3.30-7.30pm		
	Wednesdays 3.45-6.15pm		
Friends of Naphill Common (FONC)	Various	Various	Trevor Hussey 563767
Good Companions	First Thursday every month	Hughenden Village Hall	Sheila Veysey 562332
Guides (Naphill)	Wednesdays 7-8.45pm	Scout and Guide Hut Naphill	Toni Green 562089
Horticultural Society Committee	Occasional Mondays 8-9pm	Naphill Village Hall	Cathryn Carter 563233 naphillhorticulturalsociety.co.uk
Jujitsu	Monday Evening	RAF Walter's Ash	Holly 07957 727054
Line Dancing	Tuesdays 8-9.30pm	Naphill Village Hall	Sarah 718595
Men's Club	Monday to Friday 7.30pm	Naphill Village Hall	Andrew Wilmot 562770 naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Mobile Library	Wednesday 10.55-11.30am 11.35 -11.55am 12.05 -12..20pm	Naphill Village Hall Forge Road Eastlands, Lacey Green	
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday in the month 7.45 for 8pm	Naphill Village Hall	Sheila Rolfe 562888 Hazel Vickery 563977
Naphill Women's Fellowship	Wednesday afternoons 2pm	Methodist Church	Betty Jones 564469
Pilates - Niki Gibbs	Mondays 9.30 and 10.30am	Naphill Village Hall	Niki Gibbs 07949 164613
	Wednesdays 7.30pm		
	Thursdays 5.45pm		
Residents Association	Second Thursday in the month 8pm	Naphill Village Hall	Gloria Leffaive 563634 glorialeffaive@msn.com
Scouts (Naphill)	Thursdays 7.30 -9.15pm	Scout and Guide Hut Naphill	naphillscouts@aol.com
Seniors Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday in the month 12.45 for 1, until 2pm	Naphill Village Hall	Jan Gaunt 562282
Tennis Club Senior Sessions Junior Coaching - Summer school term-only	Sundays 1.30pm	Naphill Tennis Club	David Fletcher 532195 david @tvemf.org Sarah Dengel 563706 sarah.dengel1@gmail.com Jenny Tench 565406 jtench@gmail.com
	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am		
	Wednesdays 9.30am		
	Thursdays (April-Sept) 6.00pm		
	Fridays 4.15-7.30pm Saturday 9-9.45am under 7s		
Village Hall Council	First Monday in the month 8.00-10.00pm	Naphill Village Hall	Sarah Bacon 563479
Viper Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7.30-9.30pm	Scouts & Guide Hut Naphill	Richard Adams 07782 328148 richard@dams.me.uk
Yoga Stretch and Tone	Tuesdays 1.30-2.45pm	Naphill Village Hall	Mill Pike 463643
WI	3rd Thursday in month 7.45pm	Naphill Village Hall	Sally Woodbridge 562281

Editorial Disclaimer

Although the editor has made every effort to ensure that the information in this magazine was correct at press time, the editor does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, regardless of the cause. Any opinions expressed in articles herein do not express the personal opinion of the editor.

Editorial

Usually, when I assemble the magazine, I have five days to get everything placed, the photographs sorted and the late submissions in but of course, EASTER is in late March this year and so the rush is on to get everything in, proofed and back to PKinPrint within 36 hours. Now I am sure that for many of you this would not be a problem but I am old and slow, I am retired and rushing no longer comes easily so please bear with me. If isn't in this month's magazine it will be with you in May!

Over the last few days the Crufts Dog Show has been shown on the television. The smallest and noisiest member of our family, Carlos the long-haired Chihuahua, is an avid fan of this program but when the excitement gets too great the television is switched off! In our local community we have many dog owners who are rightly proud of their canine companions and so I have invited them to send their 'doggy photos' for this month's photo page. I will also be including a reminder that as responsible dog owners we have a duty to clear up behind our dogs!

I also had a communication this month regarding our cover photographs. As with all aspects of this magazine the buck stops here with the editor but I am very lucky to have Richard Holroyd, my assistant editor and a local professional photographer, to design our covers for me and of course, I agree these before they are placed in the magazine. We welcome contributions! If you have a photograph which you think would look good on our cover please send it to Richard. We do have guidelines for these photographs and either Richard or I will happily send these to you if you wish to receive them.

I anticipate that as in previous years, the Gazette will be publishing the NapFest program in the June edition of our magazine. Because the NapFest occurs in mid June, very near the magazine's July copy date on the 15 June, I will be extending the deadline for the July magazine by a few days to enable us to devote the July magazine to this great village event. I should also like to give advance warning that the summer combined issue will be August/September, as I did last year, and that I should be grateful if all the final round up for the NapFest could be included in this issue.

Finally, the team at the Gazette wish you all a very happy Easter holiday

Sonia Goby

Editor of the Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette
email: gazetteeditor@btinternet.com
tel: 01494 569428

Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council

We have had a good response from the village organisations to our request for suggestions to improve the facilities at the Hall and on the Crick. We have formed a sub committee who will meet to consider all these and put them in some kind of priority order. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far and do please keep your thinking caps on and let us have any further suggestions to add to our list. All will receive our full consideration.

From an earlier list the dishwasher came high on the list of priorities and this is now duly in place and in working order. If you are thinking of using it then you just need to be aware that it needs 45 minutes to warm up the water so needs to be turned on three quarters of an hour before it can jump into action. Once that is done then it does the dishes in minutes and full instructions are on the wall by the machine.

Another request was a motion sensor light in the lobby so you can see immediately when entering the hall in the dark. This should now also be in place.

The third item we have actioned is the installation of the defibrillator on the wall outside the kitchen window. It is now fully operational. If there is a need then all you have to do is dial 999 and state your position. They will then give you the code to open the cabinet and you will be talked through the procedure simply and calmly. We have a training session booked on the 18th April in the Hall at 8p.m. for all interested parties. Everyone is more than welcome. It should calm our fears about the thought of having to use it especially if the patient is a loved one.

The Hall is being used for two elections in the next few months. On the 5th May there will be an election for the Police Commissioner. As the turn out is not expected to be vast (last time it was minimal) we have managed to persuade the authorities to hold this in the small hall and access will be through the door by the Men's club. The referendum on membership of the EU is a different matter. That is due to be on the 23rd June and will be in the main Hall as usual. That date was booked well before Cameron announced the date to the nation!

You should have had a leaflet through your door asking you to help with the Clean for the Queen to get the village shipshape in the week commencing the 11th April. Peggy will be issuing lists of suggested jobs. Do please make sure your part of the village is clean and tidy, litter free and sparkling!

Our next meeting is on Monday 4th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall to be followed by our A.G.M. at 8pm. All are most welcome so do please consider coming along and seeing just how hard we work to develop and maintain YOUR Village Hall. It would be good to see you and we do serve drinks and nibbles afterwards so you have a chance to chat with us and give us your views.

Sarah Bacon

Chairman Naphill Village Hall
and Playing Fields Council

Hughenden Parish Council set 2016/17 Budget and look to take on devolved services from Bucks CC - Press Release

Hughenden Parish Council have agreed their 2016/17 budget with a Precept of £197,585 compared to £177,280 in 2015/16 being requested from Wycombe District Council. The budget includes the funds to take on the devolved services from Bucks County Council as the Parish Council believe that residents are looking for a higher level of service than BCC are likely to provide in the time of budget cuts. This will see for example, the number of grass cuts reducing.

To provide a better environment the Council also agreed to introduce a number of maintenance projects at ponds, woodland and open spaces to make up for the lack of attention over recent years.

Over the next few years the Council face the need for significant infrastructure investment in for example, playgrounds, street lighting and the Garden of Rest. To achieve this without undue burden in any one year a process has been introduced to earmark reserves as they are built up.

The Budget has not all been increases, there have been a number of cut backs and cappings so that the annual cost to Council Tax payers has been kept to the minimum. The annual grants made to local organisations have been kept at 2015 levels and the budgeted expenditure total for Administration has been reduced by £4,000. There are a number of special projects such as youth and senior provision and the introduction of a new accounting system that will bring administrative savings and enable the finances to be managed more effectively.

The budget has been approached from the bottom up to enable the Parish Council to operate effectively while at the same time be enabled to take on more responsibilities and provide the residents of Hughenden Parish with value.

Expenditure Budget	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Administration	82,960	78,985
Garden of Rest	15,450	17,225
Allotments	20,450	22,750
Open Spaces/Street Lighting	25,425	27,600
Playgrounds	12,350	22,600
Special Projects	43,075	52,575
Balance Brought Forward	1,000	1,775
Total Budget Expenditure	200,680	223,510
LESS BUDGETED INCOME		
Raised by Council via Garden of Rest Fees and Allotment Fees	23,400	197,585
Precept Requested	177,280	197,585

Note: The 2016/17 Budget does not allow for any tax based grants.

Issued by Peter Wetherman - Clerk to the Council
by calling 01494 715296 or emailing clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk

Bradenham Parish Council

HS2 has been a big part of our work since summer 2013. The A4010 group worked firstly on trying to get the construction traffic for HS2 diverted from the A4010 and when that failed worked on obtaining some mitigation (money) from HS2 Ltd to improve road safety for the A4010.

The mitigation has been achieved, as you may have seen in the Bucks Free Press, £480,000 for improved safety features along the A4010 from M40, J4 to Stoke Mandeville and some work on the A4129 into Princes Risborough.

Bradenham is only a short stretch on the route, but we will be able to get some improvements on this busy road, which we otherwise would not have obtained. We will all have to suffer at least 3 years of increased HGV traffic.

The Bradenham pond and its surroundings were discussed. The pond area needs work doing and the National Trust will trim the area before a parish council working party carries out clearing and tidying. Then the council will look at what can be done to improve the area. Neil Harris, Head Ranger for the National Trust, attended the meeting. The council took the opportunity to ask the National Trust about a variety of matters in the parish. It was decided not to enter the best kept village competition this year, instead to work on improving the parish. A new notice board for Walter's Ash was considered. We had received £310 from our district councillor to help with this purchase. The councillors discussed various jobs that need looking at in the parish and once a list has been made the council will work on the priorities.

Our next meeting will be Monday 9 May 2016 in the cricket pavilion on the Green. The Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held before the ordinary meeting. The meetings will start at 7pm.

Deirdre Hansen, Clerk to the Council.

Tel: 01494-562254 or email clerk@bradenham.org.uk

The Village Hall Defibrillator News

With help from the local Rural Community Defibrillator Group (RCDG) a public access defibrillator was recently located to the left of the main entrance to Naphill Village Hall. No training is needed to use it since the Ambulance Service will give advice in response to a '999' call and the defibrillator will give voice prompts to guide anyone trying to help somebody in cardiac arrest ... that is to say a heart has stopped and there is only some 8 mins or so start and maintain 'a chain of survival'.

The coordinator of 'Risboro' 1st responders' (R1r), a group of trained volunteer first responders deployed by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) for RED (8-min) emergencies, will give a helpful lifesaving demonstration and invite stress-free participation on Mon 18 Apr 2016 at the Village Hall from 8pm. The

demonstration will include how to gain access to the defibrillator, how to use it, and associated CPR. The demonstration will last 30 mins or so with an opportunity for questions, then there will be time for any additional questions and further free practice.

All local villagers will be welcome to this 'be a lifesaver' session; the session will be suitable for children accompanied by a parent. After the session you will be able to pass on your skill to others whenever the opportunity arises.

Judy Whitehouse.

Whoops! An Apostrophe too many!

I was so annoyed with myself when I saw the mistake I had made in my letter last month. I don't know how the extra apostrophe got into Bradenham Wood's Lane in the last paragraph, but it definitely should not have been there. It is, of course, Bradenham Woods Lane. Well, at least, here in Walter's Ash it is!

Jill Shiu

Democracy – Parish Council

After several enjoyable years on Hughenden Parish Council as a Naphill & Walters's Ash representative, I shall be stepping down in May, and I would like to thank all those who have helped me during my time in office.

There is one thing I would like to address in this letter, however. Naphill & Walters Ash have been very lucky. Whist you may have disagreed with some of the policies they have had, the ward has had many good, hard working, committed councillors almost in spite of rather than because of any election. Indeed the last three chairpersons' of the council have been chosen from this ward.

It is disheartening that in more than twenty-five years there have only been two elections for councillors in our ward due to insufficient interest in getting people to put themselves forward to serve their community.

On the current council the vast majority of councillors are now, or were co-opted, not elected. This is not to criticise the current council because they are hard working and really try to do the best for their wards and parishioners, but it does devalue democracy. Indeed several of the wards still have vacancies for councillors.

With more and more problems (rather than powers) being devolved to local parishes it will become even more critical that the parish council is representative of the people, yet within the whole of the parish we cannot get 15 people to form a full council.

I would urge parishioners to get involved, get out of the armchair and take an interest in your community. It can sometimes be frustrating, but it can be worthwhile, fun and interesting.

Dennis Hacking

Hughenden Parish Councillor

Naphill Men's Football Club

This season has been a real journey with the ups and downs of a newly promoted team to the premier table of the High Wycombe Sunday Combination!

For some reason we always start slowly, which does not help especially when you are in the premiership, you really need a good start.

We now only have seven games left in the current season and are presently sitting mid table with a semi final in the Sunday combination cup to look forward to, something Naphill Men's FC have never achieved. Please come and support your local team. Also Naphill Men's FC is looking for a new sponsor for next season.

Premier Division : League Table								
10 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
FC Beaconsfield	13	9	2	2	34	12	+22	29
Masters	14	9	1	4	46	21	+25	28
Las Piramides	13	9	0	4	43	22	+21	27
Chinnor Exiles	11	7	1	3	27	9	+18	22
King George V	12	5	4	3	26	20	+6	19
Naphill Mens	11	5	1	5	11	20	-9	16
FC D & B	14	4	3	7	25	31	-6	15
Ickford	12	2	2	8	17	39	-22	8
Italia Unita	8	2	0	6	14	31	-17	6
Arthurs	12	1	0	11	12	50	-38	3

Naphill Evening WI

Our chocolate tasting meeting in March was as good as expected and we all know now that we should not put good quality chocolate in the fridge. Much better to just eat it.

Those of us who went to see "Beautiful", the musical about the life of Carole King, had an excellent evening enjoying a trip down memory lane with all the songs from our past, such as "Oh Carol", "It might as well rain until September" and many more. Thanks to Marion Lawrence for organising another fantastic trip for us.

Our April meeting will be about "How plants solve crimes" a talk by Dr Michael Lucas. This is an Open Meeting, so please come along if you would like to. Everyone welcome.

On 27th April some of us will be attending the Annual Council Meeting at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury, which is always a good day out with excellent speakers.

The Food Group are lunching at the Beech Tree at Terriers on 28 April. They might be able to see the spring bulbs very near this venue that were planted by Terriers Evening WI to celebrate the Queen's birthday. The Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs is encouraging us all to tidy for the Queen in our local area also.

Happy Easter to everyone.

Carol Gilliam.

Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group

HNAG meet every 6 weeks to discuss matters about which Hughenden Parish residents have raised concerns. Recently we have discussed concerns regarding vulnerable people in our community. At the January meeting representatives from Community Health and Social Care, Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch joined us to consider ways in which HNAG can help. They have contributed the following information article and poster for our residents to read

PREVENTION MATTERS!

Sometimes we all need a bit of help

There are times when we all need a little bit of help. Maybe you're recovering from an illness, feeling lonely and isolated or unable to get out and about. Prevention Matters could give you that bit of help to make your life easier and more fulfilling.

Prevention Matters, delivered by Buckinghamshire County Council through a partnership of organisations, including the NHS, District Councils and a variety of voluntary and community sector organisations, is a free and friendly advice service linking eligible adults (over 18) in Buckinghamshire to social activities, volunteers and community services. We can support you in regaining your confidence, independence and getting out and about by finding social activities, volunteers and community services for you in your local area.

Here's how we helped Georgina with the worries of being on her own:

After the death of her last remaining family member Georgina was concerned about her declining health and money worries. A Prevention Matters community practice worker visited her at home to see how we could help. The community practice worker was able to help arrange a home visit to assess her property for disability allowance, get taxi tokens so she could get to appointments, catalogues on home shopping and meal delivery so she didn't have to rely on friends. Georgina now feels better informed about the services that are available to her and through Prevention Matters is now £200 a month better off, safer at home and less worried about her finances.

How do I find out about this service?

Call our friendly staff on 0300 666 0159 (local number)

Email at admin@preventionmatters.org.uk

Or use the online form at buckscc.gov.uk/preventionmatters

Alternatively you can ask your GP or health professional for more information

What would happen next?

One of our Community Practice Workers will contact you to arrange a time to come and talk to you about what services may be available locally for you. The Community Practice Worker can contact the activities and services you might be interested in attending or receiving in your home and can support you until you feel confident and happy to be independent.

It's ok to ask for help.

To find out more about Prevention Matters please visit: www.careadvicebuckinghamshire.org/preventionmatters

G. Leflaive - 563634

Member of HNAG and Residents Assn. Committees.

PREVENTION MATTERS
Helping you stay independent

“Ellen's Story
When my partner died,
I felt lost”

“Now I'm able to
reconnect
and get my life
back on
track”

read more client stories on our website...

Sometimes we all need a little bit of help
It's ok to ask

PREVENTION MATTERS is a **FREE** and friendly service linking eligible adults to community activities to support and help you stay independent.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Press Release from RAF High Wycombe

House of Lords MOD Spokesman Awards Operational Achievements



The Lords' Minister of State to the MOD has visited RAF High Wycombe to present operational commendations, and better understand the work of support staff to the HQ of the Royal Air Force.

On the 16th of February the Rt Hon Earl Howe, also Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, met with medical staff, security specialists and welfare providers to discuss their support to 1700 personnel and the current issues that it brings.

In addition to being the spokesman for Defence in the House of Lords, Earl Howe's responsibilities also cover ceremonial and medallic recognition, and he ended his visit by presenting a variety of honours and awards to Station personnel.

When reflecting on his visit Lord Howe said "It has been 20 years since my last visit, and it has been a privilege to talk to the men and women of RAF High Wycombe and learn the significance of their work. I was honoured to present awards today recognising personal sacrifice, commitment, and actions beyond the call of duty. They are truly inspirational and their families should be extremely proud".



As well as medals for long, unblemished conduct and recognition for local achievements, Lord Howe was delighted to present several commendations for distinguished work on recent operations in the Middle East.

One of the five commendations was awarded to a Corporal technician in support of Tornado GR4s operating in Iraq and Africa. His expertise and tireless work enabled continual reconnaissance to take place, significantly contributing to the humanitarian aid effort as well as gathering intelligence on the enemy.

The Station Commander, Group Captain Philip Lester, relished the opportunity to host Lord Howe, raising awareness of the endeavour of his staff and their current issues. Referring to the Honours and Awards Ceremony he said, "These are one of the most important things we do, recognising the hard work and myriad of complex tasks done by our people. As important is to be able to thank the families and loved ones for their unwavering support, without which our endeavour would not be possible".



Lord Howe also found time to recognise the heritage of the Station, visiting the former office of Sir Arthur 'Bomber' Harris and receiving a presentation on the creation during WWII of what was HQ Bomber Command.

Originally named Southdown to hide its location, building of the Station finished in 1940 and was made to replicate a normal village, hiding it from air reconnaissance. Critical decisions were made in the modest office of Sir Arthur Harris, which remains in its original and pristine condition.

For more information please contact the RAF High Wycombe Media Officer, Flight Lieutenant Andy Keeley at HWY-BSWMCO@mod.uk or 01494 494454.

All Photos in this article courtesy of SAC Tim Laurence - RAF High Wycombe

The GOOD News!

Our Village Ponds are Looking Good



How NOT to Park Your Car!



The Bad News!

Car Parking in and around our villages continues to cause problems and concerns! Please park your vehicles safely and considerately.

Some inconsiderate dog owners are continuing NOT to pooper scoop behind their dogs! Dog excretia and litter are ongoing problems particularly on the Crick.

These problems are easily resolved if we ALL cooperate!

The Not Seen at Crufts Variety



Daisy
Judy Pope



Cooper



Lily
Richard Underwood



Brandy
Peter Williams



Coria
Clare Underwood



Jasper

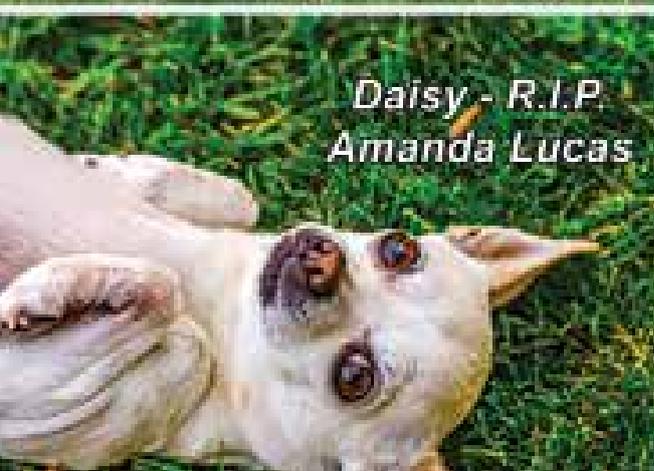
October 2009 - 11th February 2010
Cathryn Carter



Roseo



Frank
Judy Underwood



Daisy - R.I.P.
Amanda Lucas



Nero & Daisy

Imogen & Ben Underwood

Growing Your Own

April is the month when outdoors seed-sowing really becomes possible. One of my main crops is carrots and, if the weather is OK, I sow them and immediately cover the carrot row with horticultural fleece to provide a micro-climate for germination. Other small seeds receive the same treatment. I usually drag out a groove in the soil with my ridging tool, water just the groove, sow the seeds sparingly then cover with dry soil from the two sides of the groove. Rows are generally a foot apart to allow for cultivation but there are some larger vegetables which require two feet spacing, so I sow broad beans, Swiss chard and parsnips in the same row, with about 8 feet of the 35-foot row being chard and the rest split between the other two. I have been growing poirée (now called silver chard) for over 30 years and it is a real winner. It produces a large crop in autumn then another in spring when there are few other vegetables around. Unlike other varieties of chard, silver chard is not bitter and the plant has flat white stems 2 to 3 inches wide surrounded by green leaves. The green leaves can be eaten as spinach and the stems cut into chunks and boiled with a little lemon in the water to stop the chard turning brown. The stems go with dishes from fish to chicken and other meats. A most useful and delicious vegetable and one only needs a row about 8 feet long since the crop is massive.

As for potatoes, I have experimented with many varieties over the years and have settled on growing two rows of Charlotte as second earlies and two rows of Desirée (red) as maincrop. Since I am a no-dig gardener I do not rotate the potato bed since that would mean disturbing the soil everywhere. I have a permanent potato bed which I cover with a large piece of landscape material with 4 rows of holes cut every 18 inches for the potatoes. My crops are not as large as they would be if I grew

them conventionally since a light shower will not penetrate the soil but will evaporate on the landscape material, so the water-loving potatoes do not receive as much rain as they would otherwise. Nevertheless, the saving of effort of weeding and earthing-up makes the method worthwhile. I cover the bed with fleece until 1st June to protect from frost. When planting I use a potato planter to make deep holes in the soil, put a potato in each hole, put in a handful of fresh lawn mowings to reduce potato scab then put a little soil over the top. To use the potato planter I place a foot on it to force it into the ground then open the Vee using the handles to make the hole. One can go down the row in no time. A great device!



Photograph courtesy
Mike Mason

Good gardening,

Mike Mason

For Sale
HAYTER HARRIER
ROTARY LAWN MOWER
(Push) PETROL

All Enquiries:

01494 563364



Photograph courtesy
Phil Conran

A Beautiful Sunrise Photograph

One especially for those of us who are not always up on time to appreciate these things!



Little Ash Pre-school spaces available for September 2016



Please come and visit with your child
Tuesday 17th May 2-3pm

Little Ash Pre-school opens Monday to Friday 9 to
12 am for 3&4 year olds.

Spaces available for children to start
September 16



*If you would like to come visit on these dates or need to book another date
to visit please contact Judy our office administrator on 01494 562813*



MIDDAY SUPERVISOR – NAPHILL AND WALTERS ASH SCHOOL

Required as soon as possible.

Hours of work: 11.45am. – 1.15pm. (Term Time Only)

Salary: £7.50 per hour

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated person to join our team of lunchtime supervisors to work in a friendly and supportive environment.

Work will include setting up and clearing away tables and chairs for mealtimes, assisting children and general supervision both indoor and outdoor. You should be hard working, be able to use your initiative, and enjoy being part of a team.

Naphill & Walters Ash School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. Successful candidates will be asked to apply for an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service prior to commencement.

For more information about our school, please visit our website: www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk.

Visits to the school are encouraged.

Please contact the school office on 01494 562813 or email office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk for an application form or to arrange a visit.

NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COUNCIL



A.G.M.

Monday 4th April at 8 p.m.

In the Village Hall

All Welcome

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Monthly Planning List to 6th March 2016:

16/05614/FUL. 24 Ash Close, Walters Ash.

Householder application for construction of 1 x rear dormer window and insertion of 2 x roof lights to front in connection with loft conversion. **16/05445/**

FUL Bristows Barn 380 Main Road Walters

Ash. HA for raising of roof, roof extension and alterations incorporating rooflights, construction of two storey side extension, fenestration alterations and erection of timber entrance gates. **16/05446/**

LBC Bristows Barn 380 Main Road Walters

Ash Listed building application for raising of roof, roof extension and alterations incorporating rooflights, construction of two storey side extension, fenestration alterations and internal alterations incorporating removal of fireplace, new staircases & partitions removed. **16/05402/FUL. (Objection.**

Roof alterations inappropriate for a Grade 11 Listed Barn.). **Hogtrough Farm, Louches Lane, Naphill.** Demolition of existing house, erection of detached two storey 5-bed dwelling with alterations to existing driveway and parking, detached garage/woodstore building to front. **(Objection:** Development inappropriate for this GB/Chilterns AONB/Agricultural location).

Decision. Permitted. 15/08361/FUL Seletar

6 Pursells Meadow Naphill. Householder application for construction of part single, part two storey side and rear extension .

New Planning Rule. As from January 2016 any office can be converted to residential use under permitted development.

Date for your Diary. N&WA Residents Association AGM. Thursday, 9th June 2016. at Naphill Village Hall. All welcome.

Date of Next Meeting. Thursday, 14th April, 2016. Naphill Village Hall.

Gloria Leflaive
563634

Napfest Fri 10th – Sun 12th June 2016

Military Past and Present

My committee and the RAF have been working extremely hard to ensure the three days of the event are even more amazing than usual. This may sound difficult, but I am 100% sure it will be possible. I am getting really excited about all our plans, and it makes me smile just thinking about it now. I am very grateful for the huge amount of effort and input we are getting from the RAF this year. We have so much extra planned for Fete Day that I am actually worrying whether we will have enough space on the field.

Music on The Crick is coming along really nicely and we are hoping for a few different bands this year, so that you all get a different experience. Hopefully this will include a swing band to tie in with the Military Past and Present theme, so it would be great to see people dress up for the occasion (although remember to keep warm). We have booked the food stalls, and the Pizza Man is back along with Kirsty's Kitchen, the Hog Roast and Ice Cream. The Back Lion will be back running the bar and we will have an inflatable playground so that the kids will have things to do too. Tickets are now available on www.napfest.eventbrite.co.uk and are the same price as last year - £25 for a family ticket for four, adults £10, Kids £5. There will be an increase on the night and tickets will also be available at The Wheel.

Fete on The Crick is definitely going to be a lot bigger and so much better this year. We have been told that we are getting a fly past, but as we all know this will be weather dependant, and I believe we need to thank The Queen as they will do her birthday flypast and then come over to us (fingers crossed). We also have lots planned for the arena, with displays from the RAF and also some fitness classes and hopefully the Gurkhas will be performing the Cookery Dance. As always we still need all our faithful stall holders at the ready and you should have all been contacted by now. (I am so very excited).

The Classic on The Crick is coming along brilliantly and they are already getting bookings for the cars so it should be another full field. The food stalls have all been booked and confirmed and we will also have the inflatable for the kids again. If you wish to book your car in early contact Ian Bond and his team on classiconthecrick@gmail.com.

As always we still need extra volunteers for all three days and we will need tombola prizes, cakes, bric-a-brac, grand draw prizes and books.

Can't wait to see you all there.

Claire and the Napfest Committee

Picture This

You can't have missed the fact that it's the Queen's 90th birthday this month; the 21st to be exact. But here's a fact you might not know. The Queen is a collector of photographs and has around 7,789. And that's a lot of photographs.

The collection all started with Queen Victoria's husband Albert - and you might not know this: The National Photographic collection might be moving home from Bradford to the Victoria & Albert Museum which just goes to show that their influence on photography is still at work. But I digress.....

The Queen's collection holds some wonderful photographs. Roger Fenton's very moving Crimean War photograph 'The Valley of the Shadow of

Death'; an 1891 portrait of Emmanuel Louis Cartigny (1791-1892) the last survivor of the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Just another small digression. How old was Emmanuel when he was fighting at the Battle of Trafalgar? And bearing in mind that his photograph was bought by Queen Victoria, whose side do you think did he fought for? Answers are at the bottom.

The Queen's collection is still growing and the website says:

Other modern and contemporary photographers whose work is represented in the collection include Herbert Ponting, Frank Hurley, Brian Aris, Arthur Edwards, Mario Testino, HRH The Duke of York, Bryan Adams, Jane Bown, Annie Leibovitz and Rankin.

And yes, that is 'the' Bryan Adams, the 90's rock star, now a Royal photographer. Do you have a collection, something that you could show, something that people could look at, hold in their hands, marvel at, be intrigued or moved by, laugh at, cry at? Most of us don't have a collection and I've recently come to realise that this is a great loss. One of the great photographers of the 20th century, Paul Strand said "Your photography is a record of your living". We all have pictures we created - our equivalent of Roger Fenton's picture or a portrait of someone important to us, or a special event. Some of our pictures stay on our devices; some are floating somewhere in the cloud; some are stuffed away on a hard drive or in the attic or the back of a cupboard. They are a part of your life. Bring them back to life; print them and stick them in an album; make a collection, show it, share it, enjoy it.

The Queen's collection is www.royalcollection.org.uk Emmanuel was 14 and it's rumoured that all he really wanted was a Saturday job He fought for Napoleon and was awarded the Legion d'honneur medal for bravery and working in smoky environment

Richard Holroyd
richard@richardholroydphotography.com

Naphill Horticultural Society

www.naphillhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

The garden is finally waking up and surprising us with bulbs that we put in and forgot about!!.

However, if you are looking for a change to the garden, or have gaps that need filling, don't forget that we have our annual **Plant Sale on Saturday May 21st**, where we hope to have a good selection of flowering plants, vegetable plants and herbs.

If you are a keen seed sower like me (the greenhouse is a great place to be at the moment!), or will be busy dividing perennials, or have too many self-seeded plants, why not consider nurturing the spares and bringing them along to the Plant Sale?

We charge just £5 for a table, and the rest of the

money you keep for yourself- a bargain!

If you are at all interested, please give me a call.

This year we will not be asking for Membership subscriptions, but if you would like a card detailing our events, please pick one up at the Plant Sale or ask any Committee member.

The schedule for our Autumn Show will also be available at the Plant Sale, but we would encourage you to download a copy from our website to reduce printing costs.

Cathryn Carter.
563233

A Talented Gentleman!

Our erstwhile ad manager Alan Lewis had a pleasant surprise at the beginning of the year when he heard that one of the songs from his royalty-free musical *Below Stairs* was to be included in a concert in London. Organised by the New Musicals Network, the event was held in February at The Pheasantry in King's Road, with six West End singers and a four-piece band. Although Alan's show, written together with Trevor Pilling, has now had 15 amateur productions and raised £7000+ for cancer research, this was the first time one of the numbers had been sung professionally. The theme of the event was lyrics with a link to history so his song *Votes for women* met the requirements perfectly. The 16th production of the musical will be in November in Gravesend.

Sonia

Naphill & Walter's Ash School Report

Now we are approaching the end of the second term of the year at Naphill and Walters Ash School, we have settled back into our usual routines. This term, we've had a lot of emphasis on our 5 R's (Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness, Responsibility and Reasoning). These are meant to show what our school values are and also reflect British values, which we have been talking about in assembly. To express ourselves, the more artistic members of our school are volunteering to draw a superhero to represent our 5 R's.

The Y6s are extremely excited about our residential trip to Rhos Y Gwalia in North Wales. Here we will be using resilience, resourcefulness and responsibility, a few of our five R's. We will be put up against lots of challenges like climbing up cliffs; abseiling down them; rowing across freezing cold lakes; going down pitch black mines and worst of all, making our own beds! All these extreme activities will help boost our confidence and make us ready for secondary school.

The sporting year at our school has got off to a very successful start as the Y6 basketball team won their tournament undefeated. To celebrate our brilliant sporting talent we interviewed our very own sport captains; Henry Barber and Robbie Saunders. The first question was "Do you like your job?" They replied with,

"We like our job because you get the feeling that you're helping the school."

Last week we celebrated World Book Day where we all joined in with a whole-school story telling session. We've also been displaying photographs of pupils, staff and the odd governor reading in extreme places. Where do you like to read?

Daniel Crinyion, Theo Reid Cain and Saanvi Bajaj

Black Lion

As we sit here writing this article, the sun is starting to shine and the temperature is slowly rising. Easter is just around the corner and this year we are hoping to still get some Easter sunshine. The bouncy castle is being cleaned and will be ready for Good Friday. We are serving food all day, everyday through the Easter Holidays. On Sundays after the Easter weekend we will be going back to our summer service of serving food until 8pm. On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt running all day for all of the children to enjoy.

The fish and chip takeaway is still going strong; it is available all day Monday to Saturday, and until 8pm on Sundays. On top of the fish and chips, we also offer scampi, nuggets, chilli chicken bites and battered sausages.

Moving on to Mothering Sunday, it was a huge success, with all of the lucky mothers getting a bunch of Daffodils on arrival. We hope that you all enjoyed your day!

Finally, we have a very exciting milestone for the pub. On the 21st April, we will have been open for 5 years, how the time has flown! To celebrate, on Friday 22 - Saturday 23 April we will be holding a Beer and Gin Festival. We will have a marquee in the garden where there will be a selection of 8 different ales and a variety of different gins. In addition to this, there will also be live music, both Friday and Saturday night. Running alongside the festival, and tying in with St George's Day, there will be a Best of British Menu. Entry is free, and we will also be working with Help for Heroes to raise money for this amazing charity. £20 of every barrel sold will be donated, as well as all the money from the raffle that we will be holding on Saturday. We hope to see you all at this event, please bring your friends and family.

Thank you for all of your support,

Jack and all the team.

Naphill Brownies

Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported our Spring Jumble Sale. We had plenty of jumble to sell and lots of people to sell it to. What's more we were delighted to see some new faces joining the team to sort, sell and clear away. Thank you all.

With the money we raise at our jumble sales we can occasionally do something extra special at brownies. This term we spent some of our money doing a circus skills workshop with Glynn from Alightfingers. We had such fun trying out various ways of juggling things, spinning things, balancing things (including ourselves) and lots more. What's more, we earned our circus performers badge too.

In recent weeks, our four new brownies have been enrolled and already it feels like they've been with us forever. As part of the brownie promise, we promise to

serve our Queen and our community. With this in mind we will be looking to find a way to play our part in the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign

Inspired by Sport Relief, the coming weeks will include our very own skipping challenge and then before we know it Easter will be here!

Happy Easter, everyone

Brown Owl (Ruth Daly)
565571.ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

Naphill Neighbours

At the club's meeting our members from Naphill Tennis Club enjoyed the interesting and extremely informative talk by Julia Freeman, an experienced Wimbledon umpire. She was an excellent speaker and we learned so much about the "workings" of tennis and Wimbledon. (Did you know that the tennis term "umpire" includes the line judges?)

The next club meeting will be on Monday 11 April, when Tony Earle will entertain us with his talk on THE CHARITY SHOP.

We are looking forward to our first outing of the year when we go to LONGLEAT SAFARI PARK on Thursday 19 May. There are still some seats available for members and non-members/guests, so contact Hazel on 563977 if you would like to join us on this outing. The cost, including the coach, is £35 for members, £37 for guests. The coach leaves Naphill at 9am, returning no later than 6.30pm. It should be a lovely day's outing.

Hazel Vickery,
563977

The Wheel

At last! It is noticeable the nights are getting lighter. When I walk the dogs it is great to see some colour with the daffodils and crocuses appearing. It's been a brilliant month with all the Rugby and you have been out in force, no matter which nation you've been supporting. The atmosphere has been amazing. I need a bigger front bar for all you fans! It has also been the time of year when we are all trying to take our holidays. Thankfully I think we've all achieved that now, so we should be fully refreshed and ready for the summer.

We had the sad news that John Newman, who was the previous landlord of The Black Lion, has passed away. Our thoughts go to Julia and all who knew him. he is now back with Jan completing the crosswords.

March has been filled with family events, with a very busy Mother's Day and of course Easter. I would like to thank Karen Elliot for the lovely flowers that we gave to all our well deserving Mums.

A not so family event was St Patricks day. The Guinness was flowing freely and lots of silly hats were worn. It still makes me smile how much we celebrate this day whether or not we are Irish. Doubtless, we will see you all out again this month for St. Georges Day!

We are really proud of our new menu and the great new design, so much time and effort was put in, it does feel like it taken ages to finalise. It's now here so do come down and join us for a great meal and a drink, you get the choice of the dining room or the bar, whatever most suits your needs.

Here's our usual overview of the dates for your diary: -

- Thurs 14 April Curry Night
- Sat 23 April Steak Night (St Georges Day)
- Thurs 12 May Burger Night
- 10, 11 and 12 June Napfest
- Sun 19 June Father's Day

As always there is so much to look forward to, not just with us but also throughout our fantastic village. I hope you all enjoy the start of spring. Let's keep our fingers and toes crossed for a blazing hot summer! Thanks, as always, to all our customers for your support and to the staff for their hard work.

Claire and Mark

News from 'Christians in the Community'

I hope that you all have had a good Easter and that our Easter cards told you of all the services taking place in the area.

Because we are nearly always out of money we will be holding the Traidcraft tea and coffee morning on Saturday 16th April at the Naphill Methodist Church in Chapel Lane, Naphill. From 10 am onwards there will be a raffle, bric-a-brac stall and cakes etc. for sale. Do please come!

Norma Clarke

Classics on the Crick

With only 3 months to go, we are well into the planning for what we hope will be a very successful event.

As a lot of you will know, the public parking last year became a massive headache, we just didn't have enough space with cars parked all the way along main road and on the field. This year, The Horse Trust have been very generous and are allowing us to use the first fields in Stocking Lane for public parking, this is a very short walk from the Crick and should alleviate our parking issues. The Crick will be used solely for entrants and disabled people with no parking being allowed along Main Road. We hope that this will work well.

WE DO STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS on the day! Just a couple of hours at one of the gates or directing vehicles. Please help this fantastic event!! A goody bag (including packed lunch) will be provided.

Entry slips can be picked up/filled in at Bon Ami or The Wheel, you can email classicsonthecrick@gmail.com or contact myself on 07710 869775

Thank you!

Ian Bond.

Naphill Tennis Club

The 2016/17 Annual Newsletter and Membership Form is now available!

We provide tennis coaching for youngsters on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings during the school summer term and would like to see more children taking advantage of this facility (tennis coaching is included in membership).

In addition, we are keen to get more juniors from local primary schools involved in tennis. How about a 'Play Tennis' after-school club? If you think your children, grandchildren

or any of their friends might be interested, then please let us know. There might just be a little 'Andy Murray' or 'Heather Watson' out there!

We also have Improvers' Coaching for adults starting in April or, if you prefer, private lessons can be arranged with our tennis coach.

Now is the time to get out your racquet and join us on the courts! We are a sociable group and always pleased to welcome new members. By joining Naphill Tennis Club, you will be eligible to enter our club draw for Wimbledon tickets and the opportunity to see some of our tennis stars in action—a great day out!

For further information, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sarah Dengel, on 01494 563706 or myself on 565406.

Jenny Tench

Services at St. Botolph's

3 April	11 am	Eucharist
10 April	11am	Eucharist - followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting
17 April	11am	Eucharist
24 April	11am	Matins

Peggy Ewart

Bon Ami

At last the good weather is with us. Our new heated roof terrace will be ready for its grand opening and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining us to celebrate with our special seven course meal on 1st April!

Otherwise it is business as usual. The rhubarb is imminently ready for use. We are waiting to make our scrumptious rhubarb cake and rhubarb curd to go with our daily homemade scones as soon as it is available.

With both our Queen's 90th birthday and St George's day in April we will be celebrating with patriotic cup cakes.

Now that the sunshine is making more of an appearance we hope you will enjoy lunch or coffee and cake on our lovely terrace, watching all the comings and goings on the Crick.

Bon Ami will also play its part in the "Clean for the Queen" campaign. We will, as always, litter pick the car park and Crick.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Kind regards,

Amanda & Ruth.

Hughenden Parish Council

HPC FACTOID #8: Hughenden is one of the 10 largest (by population) Parish Councils out of 168 in Buckinghamshire.

In the words of singer-songwriter, Joni Mitchell, "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone." So imagine for a moment what it would be like without our Parish Council.

For us councillors that would mean some free time back mainly on a Tuesday evening along with a significant reduction in emails and reading material, but we fear that this would be perhaps the only benefit of such an event.

The first thing for many of us to notice would be the

overflowing dog bins. Those on and around the Crick and the other playing fields and open spaces across the Parish would be full in a matter of days.

People might start to notice that hedges and verges within 30mph areas would begin to overgrow and nothing would get done about them. Trees bordering some open spaces, footpaths and allotments would not get pruned and maintained. Several ponds would slowly fill up with leaves, surrounding trees and bushes would close in and we would forget that they even existed, that is until the broken down fencing gave way one day to who knows what end.

The local playground equipment would not get maintained or regularly inspected, so some would have to inevitably be removed. No new bus shelters would be installed and the ones that are about would slowly decay and collapse (or perhaps just get blown down in a strong wind). The buses would still (hopefully) run but everyone would have to stand out in the elements until they could climb aboard.

Our local village hall, some of the sports clubs even this great Gazette would all carry on, though they may have to come round to all of us, cup in hand once more as the grants they receive from the Parish Council would no longer be there to help support them.

Whilst planning requests would still get reviewed by Wycombe District Planning department (assuming they had dodged whatever had befallen the Parish Council in this hypothetical exercise) they would no longer get visited, reviewed and commented on by our local councillors on the planning committee every two weeks.

Neither should we underestimate the effect to local enterprise. Along with the immediate financial loss to our Council's three staff there would be a loss of income for our contractors, most of whom are locally based.

Sonia, our great gazette editor would also be on the hunt for other contributors to fill this space next month!

So while this has just been an exercise into an alternative reality, perhaps it gives some perspective to the £4.50 every household on average spends each month on things that we don't notice every day but we would notice soon enough if our Parish Council stopped doing them.

Happy Easter to all

Your Parish Councillors: Phil Crawford, Dennis Hackling,
Chris Waterton & Peter Williams
email nawa@hughendenpc.org.uk
website www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Friends Of Naphill Commonk

Spring is here! It is time to listen out for the chorus of birds. We should soon be hearing some warblers. An increasing number of Blackcaps have spent the winter with us, but they will be joined by Chiffchaff, Willow Warblers and, if we are very lucky, Wood Warblers. Whitethroats have almost deserted the Naphill Common since the spread of trees removed the bushes of gorse and juniper they prefer.

Our resident woodpeckers will be calling and drumming. The Green Woodpecker makes the familiar, loud "laughing" call and sometimes drums rather softly. The Greater Spotted Woodpecker drums rapidly and loudly. One rare resident that may be around is the Lesser Spotted *Woodpecker*. It is about the size of a sparrow, like a miniature Greater Spotted Woodpecker but without the red vent area. It is very elusive, so if you don't see it before the leaves are on the trees you are unlikely to – its drumming is more extended than that of its larger relative, so if you hear drumming lasting more than a couple of seconds it may well be from a Lesser Spotted

Woodpecker.

Our resident Treecreepers nest in cracks and crannies on the trunks of trees, while Nuthatches nest in holes. Look out for holes that have been partially blocked by mud if they were too large. We may, if we are lucky, hear a Cuckoo. They were once a dependable part of spring; their calls welcome, if eventually monotonous. Who would have thought that a time would come when they, together with Martins and Swallows, would be sporadic visitors?

As well as being invigorating, our walks may also be a chance to spot some birds. The short walks (2-3 miles) are led by Chris Miller (always happy to help with bird identification) starting at 10.30am from the Village hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Ron Collins leads the longer walks (about 5 miles) on the third Monday of each month. Meet at the Village Hall at 9.25am for a start at 9:30am sharp. The walkers are a friendly lot and the walks are open to all and free.

Our working parties, organised by Peter Davis, will be busy clearing around paths and cutting back the invasive holly. They have also cleared Ash Pond of some invasive Floating Sweet Grass. The next will be on 3rd April and 17th April – visit our website for more details. We are not insured for the use of chainsaws so we hope that the West Wycombe Estate will clear the fallen tree near the end of Chapel Lane, as well as removing some of the side branches from the Great Beech that has fallen into Dew Pond. Work near ponds has to stop now that newts, toads and frogs are arriving. However, previous clearing and felling has let in more light and water levels in the ponds are high after all the rain, so we hope for a good year. A survey of the aquatic life, especially newts should take place soon.

Pickup's Pond (which lies just outside the boundary of the common) has had an overdue clearance by contractors working for the Parish Council. Although the clearance has been slightly more vigorous than expected, herons have started visiting again and toads have already been seen mating. We hope that Great Crested Newts will also return.

Talking of surveys: over a decade ago we started a survey of the larger trees on the Common – those with a circumference, of 2.5m or more (measured at breast height) plus any other significant specimens. The task seemed fairly easy, but has proved anything but. We had expected perhaps a hundred large trees including a few veteran or ancient individuals. We listed details of each tree; the species, its girth, state of health, whether once pollarded or coppiced, its location (by GPS) and we labelled and photographed each one. They are all plotted on a site map. The squirrels ate the plastic labels, so we switched to aluminium, but that only increased their appetite. Why squirrels eat aluminium I do not know, unless it's to sharpen their teeth, but as well as the labels they have gnawed quite a way through a discarded aluminium motorcycle engine casing. Trying to find out which trees we have already surveyed and which remain often consists in searching for tiny nails which once held the labels. We are now approaching 600 specimens, including numerous veterans, and have still almost a third of the Common to search. The survey was originally undertaken so as to make an historic record, but has proved useful in other ways, such as telling us which trees to mark so as to ensure they are not felled.

If you would like to join or renew your membership please contact our membership secretary, Lynn McMinn, or any committee member. It is only £5 and we hope you agree that it is to a good cause.

Chris Miller. Chairman.