

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

March 2002



Naphill Gazette

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Copy date for April issue is Thursday 14 March 2002

Editorial

My first stab at producing the magazine inevitably produced both bouquets and brickbats, in the ratio 5:2. To use the modern jargon, I am on a 'learning curve', I suppose, and I hope readers will bear with me as I profit from the experience!

As promised, this issue carries the date and I hope all will see this as an improvement. The same goes for the new drawing on the cover, even though artistic licence has been used for the sake of pictorial effect. As yet, the idea of submitting photographs has not caught on to any great extent – there are none in this issue – so *please* remember if reporting local news that pictures are now welcome.

This issue, as always in March, marks the start of the *Gazette's* advertising year and so thanks are due to everyone whose ads appear. Without their support, publication would be impossible. Regular readers are therefore urged to take a look at the front and back sections, as there are a few new advertisers alongside a good sprinkling of the familiar names of local suppliers. In some cases, the ads may look a little different because I had (for various reasons) to reproduce 80% of them! That inevitably led to a slight holdup, so apologies if your issue is a little late.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8 – 9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4 – 6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30 – 7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15 – 7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15 – 7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30 – 6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2 – 3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8 – 9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10 – 11.15am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15 – 6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6 – 7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30 – 11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2 pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15 am – 12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30 – 2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the over 60s Club

'March winds, April showers, bring forth May flowers!' I think we are all fed up with being indoors for so many months and long for the better weather. To cheer us in March, we look forward to the following:

8 March Richard Pushman, who will bring us up to date with local developments and news

22 March Our old friend Jackie Wrattton and his cheerful playing

In February we welcomed Mr O'Neill most warmly with the hope he enjoys our meetings. How about us all trying to bring one new member each?

Stella Page: 562314

Good evenings with the WI

Our January meeting opened with our President, Betty Williams, welcoming members and guests, and wishing us all A Happy New Year. Dr Sandy Macfarlane was our speaker who gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on Princes Risborough and the Whiteleaf Cross. We learned what Princes Risborough looked like a century ago, and about some of the families who lived there, and the White Cross as seen from the fields below. The Cross which has deteriorated over the years is now being restored.

Arrangements are in hand for two visits to London this year, one to the Magic Circle and the other to the theatre to see *Kiss Me, Kate*.

Two dates to note:

March meeting: 21 March. Talk on the children's hospice, Keech College. Competition: An Easter posy.

Group Meeting: 7 March. Talk entitled 'The life of a Queen's Messenger'.

Valerie Pushman

Neighbours and friends

A very well attended gathering of over 40 members and guests were entertained at our February meeting by Mr R. P Johnson, who gave an extremely interesting illustrated talk on the history of Speen village – its inhabitants, cottage industries, schools and chapels, etc. The talk concluded with information on subtle links with, and similarity of changes to, both Speen and our own village of Naphill.

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is
NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at
<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

At the time writing, there are only six seats left for our 11 April trip to Wilton House near Salisbury. If you are interested in joining us, please ring me on the number below.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11 March when Jane Dunsterville will talk on 'Glass painting in the grand manner'. Please come and join us.

Sheila Rolfe: 562888

Letters to the editor

From Jack Fair, Fairprint

It was with great interest that I read the February 2002 issue of the Naphill Gazette and all the comments shown on pages 1 & 2, thanking the Editor, Treasurer, Distribution Manager, Dennis Thomas who designed the front cover, people responsible for putting up the Christmas tree lights and indeed your own wife but no mention whatsoever of the printers who, over the last 10 years, have subsidised this magazine every month.

It would have been nice to have received some form of recognition for the work we have carried out on your behalf over the years be back the week after.

[This oversight is freely acknowledged. Ed]

From John Evans, MD, Integrated Card Solutions Ltd, Church Lane

I refer to Planning Application MSR/06322/VCDN and comments made in writing by Ms Jane

Elmidoro on page 8 of the Naphill Gazette, February 2002.

Ms Elmidoro has implied in the article that the residents are in breach of the planning constraints. She stated, "*Originally, planning permission allowed these units for light industry only and the latest application has brought to our attention that this has not been the case*". She implicates the whole of the committee in this article.

Integrated Card Solutions refute these accusations and request that a statement is placed in the Gazette apologising for this misleading article.

I would assume it is the duty of the Council to protect the interests of *all* residents whether commercial or residential within the area. My company provides significant revenue for the council with no demonstrable benefits in return, employment for 10 local residents and revenue, in excess of £150k over the past 12 months, for other local businesses.

The development at Le Flaive converted a previously derelict, crime-ridden eyesore into an area thriving with activity which, whilst I admit is not totally in keeping with the surrounding area, is a great improvement on what was here before. For a local Councillor to allow such blatantly incorrect information to go into print does neither her nor the Council's reputation any good. Furthermore, when I phoned Ms Elmidoro she advised me that she had not seen the article, would not discuss the matter on the phone and had no idea of the address to which this letter should be sent.

Reply from Mrs L M Turner, Clerk to the Council

The article submitted by Cllr Mrs Elmidoro on behalf of Hughenden Parish Council was factually correct. As the application in question, MSR/06322/VCDN Units 1-4 Le Flaive Business Park, was in the name of the Business Park as a whole, the Council's comments were based on all the units collectively. However, the Parish Council wish to confirm that they have received no specific complaints regarding Unit 4 – ICS Ltd, with regard to breaches of the current planning permission and would like to apologise to ICS Ltd for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

Multiple Sclerosis

The High Wycombe and District Multiple Sclerosis branch held a Ploughman's Lunch on 13 February. The event was a great success and realised £311. Thanks go to everyone who helped or contributed in any way.

Gardeners' news

If you have not booked tickets yet for our Annual Dinner on Friday 8 March, be quick – I might just have some left! The cost is £12, which includes a free glass of wine.

Also a reminder that on 13 March our AGM will be held in the Small Hall at 8pm. It would be nice to think that somebody would be interested in coming along – we live in hope.

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Walter's Ash and Naphill School Association

Sadly, we had to cancel the Barn Dance scheduled for 30 November because of lack of support. However, the fundraising at the Carol Concerts was very successful so this was some compensation!

We are now looking forward to the following events:

Quiz night

We are still awaiting final confirmation of the date for the Quiz Night and I will let you have this as soon as it is available

10K Run

We are awaiting a final date in May. We were not able to hold the 10K Run last year owing to the foot & mouth crisis but this year it will be back – so start your training soon!

Summer Fete Saturday 29 June

We are already full of plans for this year's Summer Fete, so make a note of the date now!

Judy Whitehorse, Treasurer: 562742

Boys' Football Club

A quick reminder that Naphill Boys Boot Room is still up and running, so now is the time to sort out any old boots for sale on 50/50 basis.

This solves the problem of what to do with those old boots and at the same time helps with club fundraising. Please leave any old boots on the doorstep at Foxglove House, Chapel Lane, Naphill, with your name and phone number and I'll get them scrubbed up and ready to sell. Lots of excellent condition boots for sale £5 a pair so give me a ring and avoid those traumatic visits to the sports shops!

Sarah Boddy: 562223

Crime and punishment

Following police consultation at our last Parish Council meeting, the Council feel that it is important that all incidences of criminal activity, including acts of vandalism, should be reported to the Police Control Room on 01494 465888, regardless of whether you feel there will be a suitable response. These statistics are used by senior officers to assess future staffing levels within the community. At present, because reports are not being made, the statistics don't support the need for additional policing within the parish.

It was also mentioned at the meeting that there was a real possibility of recruitment of Special Constables to be used within the local villages. If anyone is interested in becoming a Special Constable, please contact our Community Policeman, PC Oxberry, on 01494 715352.

County and District Councillor's Report

Consultation and partnership are the new buzzwords of modern government and, although we know what they mean, they are not always easy to put into practice. For example, consultation can be a three-percent response to a tick-box questionnaire. Is that an expression of public wish or opinion, or are the 97% who did not reply a more accurate reflection of the public's mood? As an elected representative, I prefer to rely on what is said to me in conversation and what I read from my extensive mailbag and indeed from comments in the *Gazette*. So please continue to write, phone or e-mail me on points of advice or concern.

For some time, I have discussed the possibility of making the frontages to Naphill Common part of a conservation area, thereby protecting them from intensive development and protecting the more open aspect of existing development adjacent to the Common. Similar schemes exist at Downley and Loosley Row. Local plans will become more important under the government's proposed alterations to existing planning arrangements.

At long last, and I suspect with some police intervention, parking is taking place on the roadside and not on the pathway. Pedestrians are now able to enjoy free access and to push wheelchairs and prams, without having to move into the road to avoid cars obstructing the path.

I know that the condition of the old barns opposite the junction of Bradenham Woods Lane has caused concern for a long time. The serving of repair notices require the negotiation of many legal

requirements and their preparation can take several months, but I am assured by the officers concerned that the situation will be rectified in the near future.

Before Christmas, I indicated an intention to arrange a village hall meeting to address community safety and crime prevention. Preliminary arrangements are now taking place between the District Council, Police and Neighbourhood Watch and I hope to convene a public meeting sometime in April to discuss fully these matters.

The district council's dog warden on 01494 421723 can deal with neighbour concerns, such as continuous dog barking and other animal nuisances.

Richard Pushman

Hughenden Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held on 12 February. The Parish Council has expressed great concern of notice of appeal of Application No.01/07058/FUL Land fronting recreation ground at Main Road for a telecommunications mast. Any concerns on this plan and any others, please do not hesitate to contact me and also Wycombe District Council planning department.

Our next Planning Meeting at the Parish Council in Great Kingshill will be on 14 March and our full Council meeting will be on 12 March, both starting at 8pm. You are always welcome at our meetings, which give you the opportunity to express any concerns you may have.

Jane Elmidoro: 01844 275478

Volunteer drivers needed

Following a survey, I have established that there is a need for a voluntary village car service for elderly and infirm villagers Naphill and Walter's Ash who find it difficult to get to medical appointments at the local surgery, hospitals and clinics. However, in order to set up the service, I need to have a pool of volunteer drivers who have a car and can spare an hour or two occasionally. A mileage allowance will be paid.

If you feel you can help or have any queries, please ring me. Without volunteer drivers, I shall not be able to set up this much-needed service.

Doreen Burge: 565430

Downley Road pond

Conservation work on the pond and surrounding area has been undertaken over a number of

Saturday sessions since November under the expert eye of John Moorby, parish warden. Grass that encroaches into the pond during the summer months has been removed to stop it taking over – a cold job that John volunteers to do! The new hedges planted to the left and rear of the pond are now beginning to become established. Weeds around the new plants have been removed to enable them to flourish. At the rear of the pond, the dead hedge erected to protect the new hedge plants from being eaten by deer has been removed, as the plants are now of sufficient size for the deer not to be a problem. At the time of writing, the pond water level is high thanks to the heavy rainfall over the past few weeks.

Bat boxes have been put up on a number of trees around the pond to encourage them to nest there.

To the left of the pond, the small wooded area – a former damson orchard – has been cleared of debris and the hedge on the roadside has been laid. It really is looking good and if you haven't seen it I think it's well worth taking a look.

All in all, we are very satisfied with our winter's work and now look forward to the spring and summer months when we can enjoy the fruits of our labour: the bench seat adjacent to the pond makes a pleasant resting spot to sit and appreciate this wildlife habitat. Anyone wishing to join us with the conservation work next winter is welcome to do so. Do give me a ring.

Ron Collins, Warden: 562240

Balancing the Gazette's books

I have been awaiting a call from the United States Federal Administration Authority inviting me to assist in the investigation of the affairs of the giant but failed American global company ENRON. The authority is looking for investigators with financial skills and absolute integrity, a combination which seems to be in rare supply in the modern world of the quick buck. The thoughts of juggling with all those 0000000s in both dollars and pounds is quite exciting. However, it would appear that I have been overlooked and will have to confine my efforts to the Naphill Gazette and its £6000 budget!

So down to earth and the annual (2001) financial report. In fact, despite the increases in the cost of the Gazette and advertising, 2001 turned out to be a good year. We had expected to lose money and to require a further increase all round in 2002. However, as you can see from the summary below we had a significant increase in donations (for which many thanks!) and the cash collectors did

<u>Income</u>	31.1.02	31.1.01	<u>Expenditure</u>	31.1.02	31.1.01
Adverts	3889.16	3544.04	Printing	6175.12	5000.91
Collections	2017.50	1544.40	Admin	85.88	102.45
Donations	271.00	165.00			
Interest	79.38	74.89			
Total	6292.04	5328.33		6261.00	5103.36
Surplus				31.04	224.97

extremely well, with the result that we finished with a small profit (£31.04). Furthermore the new editor has negotiated a lower printing rate with a different printer so the prospects for 2002 are sound and charges for the Gazette (£2.50 for ten issues) and for advertising will remain unchanged. So would subscribers please carefully put aside their £2.50 to facilitate their payment when Dave Ratcliffe's team are in collecting mode.

To end on a gloomier note, when I look back over the year the first thing that comes to mind is an incident from last August. It was a dry (!), warm night and a 'garden' party was taking place about 100 yards away with very loud music and raucous laughter, etc. It did finish at a reasonable hour but what depressed me was the music. When in the Royal Air Force, I served in Africa during 1947/49 and what struck me about the music being thumped out was that it sounded remarkably similar to what I heard from local African villages all those years ago.

Progress? I wonder!

David Leith

Notes from a small Village Hall

In the absence of both the Boss and her assistant it was necessary to call on the services of one of yesterday's men to take the chair at our last meeting, which is why I am doing these Notes.

Other items of importance include Phil Howland's farewell to the Council after 16 years' service. We shall miss his smiling face but wish him well with all that spare time that he will now have available. Thank you, Phil. Graham Wagner, our Lettings Secretary, has handed over the reins to Barbara Clark. It is one of the more demanding and necessary jobs on the Council and Graham has held the post for some years. We cannot say farewell to him, as he has not left us, but we must

express our gratitude to him for filling this most important position for so long. We welcomed Barbara Clark (much better-looking than Graham) into our midst and pledged our support to her as she gets to grips with her new responsibilities.

We did find time for other more mundane matters. Vandalism raised its ugly head once more and time and money will be needed to re-set one of the bench seats near the Play Area which had been pulled out of its concrete base by someone. We also need to replace tiles over the Sports Extension and a piece of the downpipe by the kitchen. Our bid for financial support from the Lottery Community Fund for the Millennium Extension is still ongoing. It is impossible to rush these things but those interested should know that it is still on the stocks and has not been forgotten.

The Village Hall Council AGM will now be at 8pm on 2 April 2002. Do not turn up in your thousands on the Monday but do turn up on Tuesday and get some idea of just what is involved in running the Hall and Playing Fields. You will be more than welcome even if you do not get further involved.

Don Turner: 562645

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request. Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 562667.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on 01491 638603.

SCRABBLE ANYONE? Is anyone interested in setting up an informal Scrabble™ group? If so, telephone 562281.

CAN YOU SING? OR DANCE? OR BUILD SCENERY? OR PAINT BACKCLOTHS? If so, why not take part in the forthcoming musical comedy *Below Stairs* being staged at The Elgiva, Chesham, in May. Ad hoc group is looking for additional – and essential – chorus members. Without a good chorus, it will suffer and its composer (*Gazette* editor Alan Lewis on 564512) will not be happy! Age range is 15 to as-young-as-you-feel...

GARAGE required for small sports car. Reasonable rent paid. Tel John Harris on 562099.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

Naphill Common Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Naphill Common Committee will take place on 27 March at the Naphill Evangelical Free Church (by courtesy of Gregory Hargrove). Please come along and learn about the work the Committee has been doing during the past year and to make sure that your point of view is taken into account in the future.

Marek Pawlik: 563126

Heavens above

The moon is new on 14 and full on 28 of the month. The four planets given in the time chart can be seen in the sky this month although Venus is difficult as it appears close to the Sun. Look to the west during evening twilight. The other three planets are more or less in a straight line with Saturn in the middle. Jupiter, the brightest of the three, is near the zenith.

		Sun	Mo on	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Mar	Rises	06.49	20.45	07.18	18.13	11.34	10.00
	Sets	17.43	08.11	18.40	22.22	04.10	01.51
8 Mar	Rises	06.33	04.16	07.05	07.55	11.06	09.33
	Sets	17.56	11.50	19.03	22.23	03.43	01.25
15 Mar	Rises	06.17	07.16	06.50	07.37	10.40	09.06
	Sets	18.08	19.34	19.25	22.25	03.17	01.00
22 Mar	Rises	06.01	10.09	06.36	07.19	10.14	08.40
	Sets	18.20	02.29	19.48	22.26	02.51	00.35
29 Mar	Rises	05.45	19.38	06.23	07.02	09.49	08.14
	Sets	18.32	06.13	20.10	22.26	02.25	00.10

The Sun's future

I have been asked to give more information on what will happen in the future to the Sun. Already 4.6 billion years old, it will start to expand in about 5 billion years into what is called a red giant. Its luminous circumference will then nearly encompass the Earth. This change in size will be brought about by its changing chemical constituent parts. At the moment, hydrogen is gradually being converted into helium (fusion), creating the light and heat we all know. When all the hydrogen is

consumed, the helium will itself start converting to lithium and so on until it passes through the periodic table to carbon, oxygen and eventually to iron. Once this happens, further fusion cannot take place and dramatic changes will start, inflating the Sun into a red giant. But this will not be the end; even further changes will take place, resulting in its becoming a white dwarf. If the Sun had been much larger, then it would end in a super nova or exploding star rather than a white dwarf.

Dynamics of the Sun in the Milky Way galaxy

The Earth travels around the Sun at 29.79 km/sec or 67,000 mph. The Sun rotates round the centre of the galaxy at 250 km/sec and so, with respect to the galactic centre, the Earth is travelling at 562,500 mph plus or minus 67,000 mph depending on where it is in its orbit around the Sun. The Sun is locked with its neighbouring stars in its movement around the Milky Way galaxy but its movement is not simple. In its orbit round the centre of our galaxy, the Sun with its neighbouring stars periodically enters what is called a giant molecular cloud (GMC) that consists mostly of high densities of hydrogen and dust grains. This GMC is encountered every 27 million years or so because of the Sun's orbit moving up and down through the plane of the Milky Way. Such encounters cause major changes in the Earth's climate. Overall, the Sun does not 'change places' with its neighbours, but other star groups rotate around the galaxy at different velocities: currently it is about 26,000 light years from the centre of the galaxy and just a few light years north of the galactic plane.

The local group of galaxies

The Andromeda spiral galaxy will collide with the Milky Way in about 10 billion years' time. These two giant spiral galaxies are gradually getting closer to each other because of their mutual gravitational effect. The timing of their collision is uncertain, if only for the reason that astronomers are unsure exactly how far apart they are. For example, when these articles began to appear in the *Gazette* in 1996, Andromeda was thought to be 2.2 million light years away. Now that figure is thought to be 2.9 million. The collision itself is expected not to cause too much of a problem as the stars in each of the galaxies are too far apart. However, the relative position of stars will change and much of the spiral dust will coagulate into new stars. These galaxies are part of the 'local group' of 35 or so known galaxies. This local group has its own dynamic with its constituent parts revolving around each other in a complicated way with the

two largest galaxies gradually getting closer. The galaxy resulting from the merging of Andromeda and the Milky Way will probably be a vast elliptical with a new pattern of star movements around the new vast black hole at its centre.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill and Walter's Ash Residents' Association

Local cultural strategy

The Local Government Act 2000 calls on local authorities to promote economic, environmental and social well-being of their areas, and we have been sent papers for a major consultation on facilities for reply by 2 April. This may be a chance to promote new ideas in the district, or to question whether the balance is right with most council facilities being in Wycombe and few in the villages where much of the council tax is raised. If you have ideas please let us know.

Planning

01/7985/FUL 11 Moseley Road, Naphill. Erection of chimney (retro). Serious concerns that flue is too low to disperse smoke and fumes, so creating problems for Moseley Road and Brackenwood residents, and there is no spark arrester. The house is wooden-clad so fire hazard from sparks is a real concern. Minimum distances not met on roof. External expert fire opinion requested.

02/5004/FUL Hunts Hill Farm, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill. Two-storey side and one-storey rear extensions and enlarging existing porch.

02/5048/FUL 258 Main Road, Naphill.

Construction of 1st floor and single-storey rear extension. *02/5078/FUL 22 Grimms Meadow, Walter's Ash.* Rear conservatory. *02/5115/FUL 280 Main Road, Walter's Ash.* Questions raised as to why application has been made for continued use of site until 2007, for storage, office and builders yard.

02/5121/VCDN Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Application to carry out development permitted by *98/5449/OUT* without complying with condition 1 of appeal dated 19/1/99 (time limit for reserved matters). *02/5151/FUL Land adjacent Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill.* Demolish garage and erect new 4-bed detached dwelling with double detached garage. Object on size in relation to plot and surrounding properties. *02/5236/FUL Tarn Hows, 275 Main Road, Walter's Ash.* Two-storey side and rear extension. *02/5248/FUL Vinette, 171 Main Road, Naphill.* One-storey rear extension. *02/5255/FUL Meadow View, Stocking Lane, Naphill.* Detached carport. *02/5290/FUL Uplands, Four Ashes.* Telecom mast (Details: Guy Kaddish

WDC) Concerns over harm to landscape in conspicuous location above Hughenden Manor and Valley. 02/5312/VCDN Paul's fish and chip shop, 129 Main Road, Naphill. Application to change opening hours restrictions in Appeal decision to add Monday opening and also lunchtime Mon-Fri. Concerns over increased impact on residents. Also questions whether large advertising sign obstructs footpath. 02/5306/CONCG Ministry of Defence, RAF Strike Command, Works at C-Block car park. (Details: Mike Russell WDC).

Local shopping

Village shops near at hand, open all hours, are useful when you need them, but many close for lack of support. If we want ours to survive, we have to be prepared to share our spending between them and the big stores.

Vandalism

Incidents have been reported from Coombe Lane, through village and Naphill Common. If it is true local youths are to blame, should parents be taking a closer interest in what their children get up to?

The next meeting is at 8pm on 14 March 2002 at Village Hall. The AGM is on 11 April.

Malcolm Leflaive: 563634

Naphill Tennis Club

The new season gets under way at the beginning of April and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, why not come along on the afternoon of Monday 1 April from 2pm for a friendly game or any Sunday morning from 10.15am.

For the **Juniors** (5-16) coaching for beginners and improvers is being held between 26 March and 11 April between 4pm and 6.30pm. This is a good way for children either to start playing tennis or to revise skills learnt in previous years. The coaching leads on to junior club sessions held on Monday afternoons for the youngest members, and Friday evenings for the older ones. These start at the end of April and continue through the summer term.

As explained in the November 2001 *Gazette*, it is intended to introduce a locking system for the courts to prevent their use by non-members. So, if you want to play tennis, support your local club and become a member. We offer 50% reduction in the annual subscription to new members for the first year.

For further information and to request a membership form please give me a ring.

Sue Crooks: 562539

Neighbourhood Watch

There was a time when people said: "If you want to know the time ask a policeman." Today they say "If you want to report a crime, you won't find a policeman for love nor money."

Shortage of manpower and burgeoning bureaucracy make the police force a much different and seemingly less friendly organisation from the one many older people remember with affection. Yes, today's police are stretched and, yes, crime is on the increase. Indeed, burglary is one of the most accessible methods many of today's drug addicts adopt to feed their needs.

Yet you can help to ease the burden on the police.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community self-help scheme, involving teamwork, where simple and targeted precautions can make life better for all. Reporting anything suspicious or anything unusual makes you a good neighbour, not a nosey-parker – and can all be done for as little as 50p a year.

Being a Neighbourhood Watch member does not mean 'having a go'. You are not a vigilante. But by following some simple precautions and guidelines you can provide additional security for your home and help reduce crime figures.

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is easy and painless. All you need is a number of households to get together. The groups can vary in size, depending on what people want. Each group is led by a co-ordinator and helpers, so you do need people who will get things done; although the time involved again depends on how much you want to put in. You won't be called upon to give up evening after evening. With the most efficient groups it can be as little as half-an-hour a month. And most of us can spare that.

You will develop close links with the local police and an officer will provide and pass on information about your area and the incidence of crime there. A two-way flow of information between police and Watch helps keep on top of local crime.

Good schemes plan action to deal with your area's problems, whether burglar, vandalism, graffiti or combinations thereof. Schemes will make people aware of the need to prevent crime, will show householders simple, cheap and effective ways to make their homes more secure, and will support vulnerable people, such as the elderly, and help prevent them becoming victims.

Neighbourhood Watch will also help you improve your environment, give the area sense of pride and

purpose, and discourage vandalism. Simple and cheap systems are available for marking your property which will actually deter thieves and help stolen property be returned.

The most immediate benefits of belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch is the access to security products at greatly reduced prices. And, most importantly, most insurance companies will allow up to 15% off premiums for registered scheme members.

For more information or if you want someone to call to help you set up a scheme, ring Wycombe Police Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01494 686120 between 8.30am and 12.30pm.

Bill Potts, Regional Organiser: 528306

Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete: 1 June 2002

Preparations are now well under way for the Fete, which promises to be a day of fun for everyone, the theme this year being 'The Jubilee Years'.

The most important thing for you all to do at this time is to mark the date in your diaries and calendars to make sure you are in the village on the day, remembering also to invite family and friends along. Further details will be announced in due course but, as always, there will be an amazing array of events, stalls, and children's rides as well as the traditional procession of floats and children in fancy dress to start the proceedings.

As ever, we could do with more help. This does not mean that you have to turn up to committee meetings; there are plenty of things to be done in the background if this is what you would prefer – if you can spare some time, I would be only too happy to hear from you.

Nearer the day, we shall be asking for volunteers to help distribute programmes and sell tickets for the Grand Draw. If you think you could spare perhaps an hour in the week leading up to the Fete, again, please give me a call.

One last thing – please give some consideration to nominees for the Best Neighbour award. If there is anyone in the village who you think deserves to win this prestigious award, could you put your nomination in writing to me at 236 Main Road, Naphill.

Remember 1 June is FETE DAY!

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

The Lifeboat Station

On a dangerous coast where shipwrecks often occurred, there was a crude little life-saving station. It was just a hut with only one boat, but a few devoted members kept watch and, with no thought for themselves, went out by day or night, searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by that little station and it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and other local people, wanted to join the station and give their time, money and effort to support its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members were unhappy that the hut was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So they replaced the emergency bunks with beds and put better furniture into an enlarged building. The station became a meeting place and the members redecorated it and furnished it beautifully and used it as a club.

Fewer members were prepared to go to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do it. The life-saving badge was still on the wall and there was a model lifeboat in the room where club-joining ceremonies were held.

Then, a large ship was wrecked nearby and the hired crews brought in boat-loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and the new club was messed up. So the committee had a shower-house built outside, where shipwrecked victims could be cleaned up before coming in.

At the next meeting a split occurred in the club membership. Most members wanted to stop life-saving, as it was an unpleasant hindrance to the social life of the club. Some insisted that life-saving was their main purpose, but they were voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the different people shipwrecked in those seas, they'd better build their own life-saving station further down the coast. They did.

Years passed and the new station experienced the same changes as the old. It developed into a club and so another life-saving station was built. History repeated itself and on that coast today there are many clubs. Shipwrecks still occur in those waters, but most of the people drown.

Our life-saving station needs more crew members. Do come along and help us.

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove

Greetings from Simon Cronk

As I am newly arrived as Vicar in these parts I have been asked to write a brief note to introduce myself – Hello! (If anyone might want to know a little more about us, please read the last edition of Hughenden News.) Which puts me in mind of a Church in York, St Michael-Le-Belfry, where there is an ancient board displayed in the Church with the Lord's Prayer written on it. Unfortunately (or fortunately) whoever wrote on the board did not quite work out the spacing and so could not get the first phrase of the Prayer fully on one line. If you look at it closely it reads 'Our Father who Art in Heaven, Hallo'. (The second line begins with 'wed be thy name!'.) I love that.

For Christians, Good Friday and Easter are the most significant times when we remember that God in Jesus has shared fully in our human condition, God as it were has rolled up his sleeves and has got his hands dirty. On the cross, Jesus has been to the place of physical and spiritual death and has experienced the depths of pain and suffering. These things are a painful reality of the human condition, but no one can ever say that God doesn't understand: God does. But then, of course, the resurrection is the greatest of statements of the power of God to transform. In our churches on Easter Sunday at the end of March, we will celebrate the marvellous truth that Jesus has been raised by the power of God and that we can all share in the hope and life and purpose that he offers. It is as if we hear God with laughter and joy in his voice saying to us 'Hello'!

Simon Cronk, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

I was talking to a friend in Naphill recently about exercising. Whilst I am conscious of not doing formal exercise, I suggested that I am sufficiently active and healthy not to need to do anything special. Five minutes later, driving back to Hughenden down Stocking Lane, my clutch went (don't ask me to get any more technical than that!). I got the car home by rolling it down the slope, forcing it into second gear and staying in that gear all the way home, until I stopped on my drive by stalling the engine! I then had to collect my son from Great Kingshill School. How did I get there? I got the exercise I had just boasted I didn't need – it served me right! I know that at 46 I am into a dangerous age for men's health, but because I feel generally fit I am in danger of complacency.

We are already in Lent and March takes us through Passiontide, ending with Easter day. It is a complacent world which thinks it has no need of God. What happened to the hopes and aspirations for the new millennium? Don't talk to me about conflict being caused by religion – I already know that. I'm not arguing for religion. I'm arguing for a way of life, for a world view, for values which are given by God and most fully exemplified in Jesus Christ. It is about a relationship with him, about recognising the worth he sees in all people, about respect, justice, peace, caring; in other words, about love. Can you argue against that? Come to any of the local churches and help us work out what that means in practice.

Shalom

Nick

Christians in the community

Sunday 24 February at 4.30 pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!* . (Note the change of venue.

Friday 1 March from 7pm: *T.R.A.S.H!* (Ages 11–14). Ice skating evening – contact Jane Ticker for details on 01494 534989 or 07890 346781.

Friday 15 March from 7 to 9pm: *T.R.A.S.H!* (Ages 11–14) in Church House.

Thursday 7 March from 10am until noon at the Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Fridays 8 and 22 March from 6.30 to 8pm at the Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Saturday 9 March at 7.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *BARN DANCE*. For further details see notice boards in the area.

Sunday 24 March at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

June 2002



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

November 2002

Retiring editor: Alan Lewis, tel 564512. E-mail NaphillGazette@aol.com

Editor elect: Matthew Piercy, tel 562081. E-mail NaphillGazette@aol.com

Distribution manager: Dave Ratcliffe, 4 Allen Drive. Tel: 563650

Treasurer: David Leith, Falcon's Oak, The Common. Tel: 562312.

Copy date for December/January issue is Friday 15 November 2002

Editorial

When I took on the editorship of the *Gazette* at the beginning of last year, my primary aims were to change the typographic layout to two columns per page and to introduce the date on the front cover. A separate ambition was to incorporate photos but this has not caught on; this issue, for example, has none.

At the time, my wife suggested I needed my head examined as we were up to our eyes with producing a new musical comedy I had written – and that on top of my everyday self-employment. In the event, I survived the experience and the *Gazette* has now settled down somewhat in terms of getting each issue prepared and printed.

However, my work front has recently become extremely busy again and so, when Matthew Piercy volunteered to take over, I accepted. His offer was partly the result of an awareness of my early problems and partly that he felt he would like to contribute more to local life. I am therefore taking my leave of these pages, handing in my bucket and spade. The change comes at a time when the name has been altered to include *Walter's Ash*, a move for which there were many pros and no cons!

The succession of Matthew brings the Piercy name back into prominence, as his grandfather Ron was an early editor. I wish him well.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U14s every Wednesday*	6–7.30pm
	U16s every Wednesday*	6.30–8pm
	U18s every Wednesday*	7.30–9pm
	U6s–U12s every Saturday	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At RAF Astro turf

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS



**Volunteers needed to organise and run the
Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete 2003.
If you are willing to help,
please contact Sarah Bacon on 563479.**

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 563667.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

WANTED: Gas or electric cooker 522mm wide (narrower than normal). If you can help, please ring Bob Semple on 563304.

Horticultural Society news

If you have not yet booked tickets for our cheese-and-wine evening on **1 November**, give me a call as soon as possible – I may just have a few tickets left, but hurry, they have been selling fast!

The evening will start with an illustrated talk by Tim Miles on the 'Glorious gardens of Cornwall'. Tim is head gardener of Cotswold Wildlife Park, but has also been curator of Heligan during his varied career, so this should be a very interesting talk. Please note that the talk will start at 7.30pm prompt, so don't be late! This will be followed by the spectacular buffet of cheese, pâté, salad, etc.

The ticket price of £7 includes a glass of wine or fruit juice.

Also, following the autumn show, we had two plates left behind. So, if you have missed blue and yellow plates, please call either Don Turner (562645) or myself.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Badminton

We play sociable badminton on Sunday mornings in High Wycombe. It's good fun and keeps you fit. If you think you might like to join us and are an experienced badminton player, please telephone me for some more information.

Jackie Armstrong : 562769

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

Thanks to the sterling work by our social organizer, Maddy, and our chairperson-cum-caterer-in-chief, Pauline, club members, families and friends had an enjoyable evening at the Barn Dance on 12 October. The redoubtable Old Mole Band was on top form and successfully cajoled dancers on to the floor, guiding them through the intricacies of 'stripping the willow' and 'swinging their partners' throughout the evening. The participants were sustained by a substantial two-course supper, organised by Pauline, with contributions by club members. At the end of the evening, it seemed that young and not-so-young went home tired but happy and it was good to reflect that this had been an occasion that appeared to have bridged the age ranges!

Our next social event is not for the faint-hearted. It's the Tinsel Tournament, which is due to be played this year on Sunday **15 December**, when the elements will probably not be particularly conducive for such an event. However, with the help of a cup of mulled wine to keep out the cold and the prospect of the usual social lunch provided by club members, it's always a very enjoyable precursor to the Christmas season. (Incidentally, the lunch usually goes ahead even if the weather is inclement!)

As noted in last month's *Gazette*, weather permitting, we continue to play tennis throughout the winter on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. In addition, we have a fortnightly evening booking at the Indoor Tennis Centre for members' use, a list for which is on the club noticeboard. New members are welcome at any time: just turn up or contact our membership secretary, Sue Crooks, on 562539.

Ingrid Tomlins (Sec) : 01494 446083

Broadband for Naphill

The words BROADBAND and ADSL have been flying around our village for a few weeks now. You may have read it on a poster, read a previous article in here or even got a flyer through your door. So how is it going – well, since I started this campaign, the

registrations have gone up from just under 30 to around 185 – fantastic! Unfortunately, we do still need you others who have never heard of Broadband, don't understand it, don't want to commit yourself or haven't got round to it yet, to go and register your interest, or email me to find out more.

When BT get enough interest and realise that we are not joking and we REALLY DO want it in our villages, BT will come along and fit it for us. At the moment, they are saying that upgrading the exchange for all 56XXXX numbers – that's Naphill, Walter's Ash and Hughenden – is not an economically viable proposition.

So it is up to us to prove them wrong by demonstrating that the demand is there, or rather here.

To do this, simply go to www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10 to register your interest and tell others who have a telephone number that starts with 56 to do the same. Filling in the web page form is simplicity itself and does not commit you to anything at all.

Please do nip up to the computer, log on, put in the web site address and REGISTER YOUR INTEREST so we can get Broadband Internet into our villages like everyone else in the area.

Alan Jessop : email@alanjessop.com : 563369

Naphill Toddlers

Since the new term began, the Toddlers Group has looked somewhat depleted as many of last year's toddlers have progressed to school and the new intake numbers are much less. We have plenty of room for new faces!

Dates for your diary: 31 October – Halloween crafts session; *5 December* – Christmas party (tickets available soon).

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm until 4 in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting of steam or quietly modelling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Evening WI

Our meeting in September was the first one after the summer break and it was good to see so many members present. A letter of thanks was read from the Wycombe Scannappeal, and Doreen Burge and

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at

<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

Pauline Flynn were congratulated on completing the Flora Light Challenge for Women in Hyde Park.

The speaker was Margaret Deakin and her talk was about the history and foliage of New England. She showed slides to illustrate her talk. She started in Boston, a charming city full of history. Then on to Cape Cod with its beautiful shoreline, Newport, Rhode Island where the rich and famous lived, then through the mountains of New Hampshire and the coastal villages of Maine. We heard about a Shaker Village and a whale-watching cruise. She finished her talk with some lovely slides of autumn foliage.

Our October meeting will be the Annual Meeting and on **21 November** Dr Banham will be taking us on a trip to India. The competition is a pot plant. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Betty Williams : 563366

Bradenham Parish Council

At the September meeting it was announced that Alistair Roach, who has been on the council for eight years and for several years before that attended meetings as the National Trust Representative, is retiring from the National Trust and moving to Somerset. This sadly means he has to retire from the council. His help to the parish has been enormous. He will be hugely missed, and equally so by the Friends of St Botolph's. The vacancy has been advertised. The National Trust's representative for the Parish will be James Taylor, who lives in Bradenham and attended our September meeting.

Plans are afoot to try to restore the village pond by the youth hostel, if Bucks County Council can divert the dirty water that drains into the pond from the road. Work is proceeding carefully on some old trees in Bradenham, including the 'finest tree in the village', the old cedar in the Manor Garden.

The council is still waiting for the Oxford Diocese to approve plans for the Jubilee window it wants to present to St Botolph's church. This application has been frustratingly lengthy.

The Parish Council has reiterated its views on the parish boundaries, emphasising the centuries-old links between Walter's Ash (now covered by three parishes) and Bradenham.

The police reported no burglaries in the parish, but a further sighting of a naturist man in Bradenham Hill woods.

The RAF representative will now be wing commander Shaun Tyrer, who takes over from squadron leader Roger Simon. Roger was always a very helpful link with the RAF.

The next meeting of the Council will be Monday **9 December**.

The Bradenham Millennium book is still selling well from the Risborough News shop in Walter's Ash and the bookshop in Risborough.

Readers' letters

From Paul T Phillips

I note from the last edition of the *Gazette* Richard Pushman's responsibilities for road speed management and would like to offer a thought from our recent holiday in Cornwall.

There is obvious concern about speed through the villages in that county and many of them have a prominent 30 in a circle painted on the road on entry to the village, the sign being topped and bottomed by a double rumble strip. Our limited empirical evidence suggests that this was quite effective and provided a cheap and easy means to reduce potential speeding.

While writing, can anyone please provide me with a logical explanation as to why there are different speed limits along Main Road? Surely, 30mph along the whole length makes more sense. Perhaps we should campaign for this.

From Matt Piercy

I have just picked up the October *Gazette* and read your editorial regarding the inclusion of 'Walter's Ash' on the front cover. Since you raised this last month, it has been a topic of much discussion among the people I have spoken to, so much so that I assumed you would have been inundated with responses. Clearly, it is wrong to make assumptions!

As an inhabitant of Walter's Ash, I should like to see the name included on the cover of the *Gazette*; in fact, I would go further and suggest that we should consider changing the name to the *Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette*. These days, to all intents and purposes, we are one big village where the community spirit that we all love thrives. The *Gazette* is an important voice in this village and I imagine that if some bright spark were to create a *Walter's Ash Gazette*, in time it could only have a negative impact on our community. Let's name the *Gazette* in line with the community it serves.

From Bob Foggo

I offer the following in response to your complaint that those of us who live at Walter's Ash do not read your editorials.

Oh dear, the Ed has had a bash
At all the folks of Walter's Ash
He thinks his words they do not read
As past the editorial page they speed
But Ed, please do not lose your hair
The people here do really care
Its just that in life's rush and hurry
We have not got the time to worry
About the missing sign and name
That seems to cause you so much pain
We knew right from the very start
You had our interest much at heart
But apathy clubs will be no go
As folks from here just would not show

[Ed: I should point out that my editorial in no way singled out the residents of Walter's Ash. I was looking for response from anyone on whether the name should be changed. Also, it was a reader, not your editor, who was looking to change the name. In the event, it has been decided to retitle the publication 'Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette', since there were several voices for this change and none against.]

From Mr W Styles

I am replying to the article in the September issue from Mrs E. Livett, implying criticism of my action in the felling of three pine trees at the front of my property in Downley Road. My justification in taking this action is as follows.

Firstly, on three occasions the trees had shed large and heavy branches, one of which damaged my wife's car, the second damaged my neighbour's fence and my concern was that the next one could fall and seriously injure a person walking by.

Because of our love for the beautiful countryside we live in, the decision to fell the trees was not taken lightly. After discussions with three tree experts, it was agreed that the trees were dangerous and something should be done. Next, I sought permission from the council to fell them and, after an inspection by a council representative, we were given written permission to carry out the work.

As far as preservation orders are concerned, the council informed me *on 30 September this year* that the only trees that carry a preservation order in Downley Road are the four at the front of the two new cottages next to the Village Hall.

My final thoughts on the matter: I wonder if Mrs Livett would have offered to pay any compensation if a person had been injured by a falling branch from my trees.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

There will be a Candlelit Dinner Dance on Saturday 16 November at Naphill Village Hall. Bar opens at 7.30pm, dinner at 8.15pm. Dancing until midnight to the celebrated Late Edition Band with music for all tastes. Dinner by the highly regarded Morreen Catering. Open to all residents, with guests also very welcome.

The dinner menu (all home-made) includes: black velvet chicken (cooked in bubbly and Guinness); beef curry; vegetarian moussaka topped with delicious cheese; rice; mixed salad; french bread. Choice of desserts is: Black Forest roulade; lemon-and-lime cheese cake; apple-and-apricot pie; coffee.

As ever, this will be a fun evening of lively dancing, pleasant company, and excellent food and drink. Tickets £15 per head from Joyce (562703), Daisy (562602) or Carole (563508). Book now to ensure you don't miss this enjoyable annual event.

Planning

02/7130/FUL *Hunts Hill Farm, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill.* Green Belt, AONB. Formation of manIge for training of horses. Surfaced area on slope would be ca 60m x 20m (200ft x 66ft) surrounded by 1.8m (6ft) post and rail fence with kick boards and a new beech hedge, on the high ground to the north of the farmhouse. Details of construction and use are being sought relative to AONB and Green Belt policy.

02/7307/FUL *Moseley Lodge Farm, 208 Main Road, Naphill.* Listed Building, Green Belt, AONB. Preliminary details of application for renovation and extension to house, demolition of garden sheds, and construction of detached double garage with storage area. Questions over size of garage and position relative to green belt outside domestic curtilage.

Next Meetings

Thursday 14 November and 5 December (NB unusual date) in the Village Hall at 8pm.

Carole O'Neill: 563508

**Saturday
2 November**

Fire lit 6.30pm

Display 7pm

**BBQ from 6pm
run by Sports Club**

Mulled wine

Soup

**Pavilion bar
run by Mens Club**



**Tickets available from Costcutters,
Paul's fish-and-chips, Country Stores,
Risborough News or phone 562770**

**In advance
£3 adults, £1.50 children**

**On the night
£4 adults, £2 children**

Under-5s FREE

The Naphill sky in November

The moon is new on 4 and full on 20. Saturn with its rings rises mid-evening this month and is particularly bright. Jupiter, the largest of the sun's planets, is even brighter but rises several hours later. Mars and Venus are morning stars although Venus rises after the sun at the beginning of the month. The Andromeda galaxy is overhead.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Nov	Rises	06.57	01.44	07.14	04.15	23.03	19.06
	Sets	16.36	15.41	15.52	15.48	14.08	11.23
8 Nov	Rises	07.09	11.47	06.16	04.13	22.39	18.37
	Sets	16.24	19.01	15.29	15.28	13.42	10.54
15 Nov	Rises	07.21	15.03	05.27	06.11	22.15	18.03
	Sets	16.13	02.01	15.09	15.08	13.16	10.25
22 Nov	Rises	07.33	17.32	04.49	04.09	21.49	17.38
	Sets	16.05	10.07	14.51	14.49	12.49	09.56
29 Nov	Rises	07.44	00.47	04.23	04.07	21.22	17.09
	Sets	15.58	14.04	14.35	14.29	12.22	09.26

Life in the universe (part 1)

This column has often advocated that intelligent life elsewhere in the universe is extremely unlikely. One of the arguments stems from the so-called Fermi paradox. The nuclear scientist, Enrico Fermi, simply asked the question in 1950: 'Where is everybody?' His point was that, with billions of stars located in each of billions of galaxies, why had a civilisation not visited us? For us to be the first of many civilisations would be most unlikely. Ian Crawford of the department of physics at University College London argued some six years ago that 'the absence of evidence of extra-terrestrial civilisations amounts to evidence for their absence.' He claimed that this conclusion is supported by biological evolution on our planet and that humanity may well possess one of the very few technological civilisations to have arisen in the milky way galaxy.

The main threads of Crawford's argument are that the Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) programmes have so far come to naught. Secondly, all planets supporting intelligent life will eventually have to migrate because their sun will have died or worn out. Yet there is no evidence of such ET civilisations having visited earth or are located in our galaxy near earth. The biological evidence on earth suggests that single-celled life started here about 4 billion years ago (only a short time after earth evolved) and yet took a further 2.3 billion years to evolve into multicellular life, in part waiting for oxygen to develop in sufficient quantities for more complicated life to survive. Then there is the accidental demise of dinosaurs and the

emergence of mammals some 65 million years ago that enabled more intelligent life to evolve from mammals. More recently, two books have been published giving mutually opposite viewpoints. The first is by Amir Aczel, (author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*), called *Probability 1* Aczel argues that probability theory can show that we are not alone; the chances of intelligent life not existing elsewhere are zero if only because of the vast numbers of potential locations throughout the universe. Then there is the book published in early 2000 by Peter Ward and Frank Drake, entitled *Rare Earth*, in which quite the contrary conclusion is reached. The arguments presented by Ward/Drake will appear in the December *Gazette*.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Neighbours

Naphill Neighbours AGM took place on Monday 14 October and the officers and committee members remain the same. Following the meeting, John Beedle showed us the art of 'Straight lines and scribble'. We would all love to be as artistic as he, and his sketch pads from 1954 and tools of his trade were passed around. Mr Beedle is well-known for his lovely drawings of local scenes, and notelets and pictures of the area were available for purchase after his talk.

We still have a few seats available for our trip by coach to London on **17 December**, when we will have supper followed by a guided tour to see the Christmas lights. Please contact Sheila Rolfe on 562888 if you would like to join us. At our next meeting on 17 November, Mr P. Smith will talk on 'The Royal Collection' – not to be missed.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Pre-school news

The Pre-school AGM took place on 26 September where we said goodbye to most members of the committee and thanked chairwoman Ruth Bond all committee members for all their time and hard work over the past year. We also welcomed the new members of the committee and wished them luck in their new roles.

The autumn term has got off to an excellent start under the care of Mo, the new supervisor, and her team. The children have been having fun baking, decorating biscuits, making stew, painting, arts and crafts and also learning under the theme of 'Ourselves'.

During October, the staff have been busy preparing for an Ofsted visit and the children had their photographs taken.

Don't forget a visit to the **Christmas Fayre** in the Village Hall on **30 November** where the Pre-school will be organising for Father Christmas to visit in his grotto.

Also, a reminder for parents with children coming up to pre-school age who would like more information or wish to put their child's name down – please contact Mo Bedder on 564037 (am) or 565359 (pm) as pre-school places are limited.

Debbie Marchant

Viva Apathy!

Inspired by the vision of the editor in his October editorial, I am delighted to announce the launching of the Naphill Apathy Club (NAC). Initially, consideration was given to a slightly different name, the Naphill Apathy Group (NAG), as the latter has a more interesting acronym, especially for the female of the species, but it does unfortunately suggest *some* activity, albeit critical.

There are, as you all know, many clubs and societies operating in the area but it should be remembered that, in any cross-section of mankind, only about 10% can be accurately described as active members of a community. One can readily observe that it is the same group of people who DO THINGS, while the remaining 90% presumably watch TV! Thus, in forming the Apathy Club, we immediately create a prime force in the village with 90% of the villagers as potential members. It must surely be possible to harness this usually invisible and silent power, which has a certain parallel with the radiation produced by nuclear fission – which is invisible but deadly.

The inaugural meeting will be on 31 November. There will, of course, be no chairman and minutes will not be recorded or circulated. In establishing the club, it is important that the duties of the elected officials be clearly defined. The chairman must be a person of infinite lethargy, well-qualified to do nothing with tremendous style. The secretary will need no writing skills because there will be no requirement for meetings, no actions to initiate, and no minutes to prepare. Indeed, his/her main duty will be to discourage enthusiasm and liveliness among members. The treasurer will require no mathematics or computer skills as there will be no subscriptions to collect and no functions to finance. It is anticipated that there will be no shortage of volunteers for these posts, which clearly require no deviation from normal inactivity.

This submission to the November *Gazette* is late – naturally – and will probably not be printed. But does this matter? Apathetically – NO. Sleep well.

David Leith

NCH collections in Naphill...

Our annual house-to-house collection for NCH realised a total of £702.20. Many thanks to both collectors and donators. As a result of such collections

nationwide, thousands of needy children, young people and families benefit from such support.

Jean and Ted Lawrence-Mann

... and Walter's Ash

A big thank-you to all who contributed to the collection in Walter's Ash. We raised £387.92. I would also like to thank publicly all those who gave of their time delivering and collecting – it was your help that made it all possible.

Susan Bickerstaffe : 565161

Quiz night

Naphill-cum-Bradensham Conservatives invite you to a quiz evening on Thursday **5 December** starting at 7.30pm in the Evangelical Church Hall. Tickets cost £7.50, including a fish-and-chips or chicken-and-chips supper.

It is hoped there will be eight tables of six. We can help with making up tables if you wish. Glasses will be provided, but please bring your own drinks.

There are splendid prizes for the winning table. Lucky number tickets available from Valerie Pushman (563122) or Peggy Waterston (565969). Please ring for tickets or further information.

Christmas bazaar

The High Wycombe branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society is holding its Christmas bazaar in Hughenden Valley Village Hall on Saturday **2 November**, starting at 2pm.

On sale will be gifts, Christmas cards, toys, plants and cakes. A tombola and raffle are other attractions designed to raise funds for this excellent cause..

Hughenden Parish Council

Police consultation

The Parish Council was very sad to learn that it is unlikely that our Community Policeman will be returning to the post. We have not had a police consultation recently and are writing to the new Sergeant for an update.

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce that Naphill has managed to keep the cup for the best allotment in the parish. Congratulations go to winner Mr E.J. Wilson from Walter's Ash. He is a new tenant and within a year has turned his plot around. The cup is a tribute to his hard work and dedication.

While on the subject of allotments, there will be some work carried out on the boundary area at Louches Lane allotments in the near future. If you have a plot there, do not worry: no harm will come to it.

Cllr Pushman reported that, as a County Councillor, he had access to a Community Fund that which he

proposes to share among his wards. If anyone has a specific project, please contact him.

Planning

The Parish Council is delighted that the barns at the junction of Bradenham Woods Lane have now been waterproofed to stop any further deterioration of this Grade II Listed building.

New plans for consideration are GK/02/07311/LBC and GK/02/07307/FUL, Moseley Lodge, 208 Main Road. Application for construction of part single storey/part two storey rear extension and alterations & detached double garage.

Next planning meeting is **21 November** at 8pm. If you have concerns of any plans in the village, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Clerk on 01494 715296.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Quiz

Quiz addicts are invited to while away the long winter evenings by entering this year's Iain Rennie Hospice at Home quiz. The quiz is divided into 12 sections, each with 20 questions, covering subjects as diverse as advertising slogans, songs from shows, memorable dates, prefixes, suffixes, places and sport. Entry is £1 and copies can be obtained from IRHH shops in High Wycombe, Tring, Princes Risborough and Hemel Hempstead, or by sending £1 and sae to 52a Western Road, TRING, HP23 5AH.

You have until the end of February to complete the quiz and the prize is a £50 M&S voucher, plus five lucky number prizes. Last year, the quiz raised over £1600 towards nursing terminally ill patients in their own homes. Thank you for your help.

Mary Wiles, Fundraising Volunteer

Naphill Boys Football

With the football season well under way, our sides have all started very well and we have a number of age groups with 100% records. The U6 to U11 and U18 are all playing on the RAF sports field, while the U12, U14 and U16 are using the Crick pitches. All these games are played on Sundays so there is plenty of junior and youth football to see. Come along and give the YELLOWS a cheer.

Our Christmas Disco, always a great night out, is on Saturday 30 November. There will be our usual 'value bar' and tickets are now on sale from our age group managers and secretaries.

Bob Hathaway : 563332

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday **7 December**, there will be a Christmas Fayre in Naphill Village Hall, beginning at 2pm.

This is *the* Christmas Fayre with something for everyone – games, gifts and attractions for the whole

family – all at amazing value. Many of the stalls will be run by the Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts themselves – a real team effort.

On the day, you will be able to: buy your last-minute Christmas gifts – including the always popular cakes; play games and competitions; hunt through the bric-a-brac; and enjoy the various refreshments.

Please come along and support this event, where all the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Headquarters Building – a facility used and enjoyed by many village children. Also, we are expecting a *special* guest at the Fayre..... See you there?

Greetings from Simon Cronk

René Descartes, the French philosopher, has been called the 'father of modern philosophy'. It seems that he concentrated on the consciousness of the individual as the source and criterion of truth: basically, everything was to be doubted, but one thing could not be doubted, his own existence, and from this astonishing insight came the now famous phrase *Cogito, ergo sum* (I think, therefore I am).

There is a marvellous take on this, which perhaps for many sums up the modern world: *Tesco ergo sum* (I shop, therefore I am). There does seem to be a good deal of truth in this. Our meaning and identity seems to be based so much on our material status. Recently, I came across an article in the same local newspaper which talked about 'shopping therapy'. Now perhaps I have missed something, but personally I do not find much therapy in shopping! We have become a society of consumers and we are being encouraged to go out and consume more; this at a time when the world summit has cautiously pointed out that the first world cannot continue to sustain such consumption.

I believe that our modern culture has lost its way; we are not defined by our material status or by our image, what we own or what we can buy and how we appear. Our thirst for these things simply hides deeper yearnings for identity, purpose and love. As a Christian, I believe these needs can only be satisfied in a relationship with God. As St Augustine said: 'Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.'

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

Every Sunday in November has some designation in the Methodist Church. It's a bit like certain times of year when the charities seem to hold their flag days or door-to-door collections in successive weeks. There's a limit to how many special events you can cope with in close succession! However, they're all important and it's good that they're highlighted. So, what are our special Sundays? I'll list them because they give a fairly comprehensive, though not exhaustive, list of groups of people we should be supporting.

3 November 3: Methodist Homes Sunday. The Methodist Church has a number of residential care homes, mainly for elderly people, including a recent initiative to offer more specialist care for those facing dementia. What was it the 2001 census revealed – more over-60s than under-18s? Certainly, the proportion of older people in Britain is rising, putting pressure on the health service, pension schemes, and so on. It's in all our interests to care for older people in the community.

10 November 10: Remembrance Sunday. Perhaps the over-70s will feel most strongly about this, but there are two messages (at least) to take in from this occasion: firstly our gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives fighting for justice and freedom with its continuing expression in caring for those left with permanent disabilities or bereaved; secondly, to learn the lessons of wartime and try to avoid the repeat of such atrocities.

17 November: Prisons Week. There is much debate about the penal system and the role of custodial sentences. As a Christian, I believe that the aim is the safety of all people, including the perpetrators, a sentence which makes clear the severity of a crime, restorative action where appropriate, and the opportunity for repentance and rehabilitation into the community. In any case, all prisoners have very serious needs, so we should pray for them as well as prison officers, for whom the need to balance discipline and security with respect for their charges is a very difficult challenge.

24 November: Youth Sunday. We've all been there! But times change and, while our children often don't appreciate that we were young once, there are challenges and pressures which we didn't have to face. It's also a reminder to give to young people the respect we wished we had when we were their age! Our future is in their hands – that's a cliché, but worth remembering.

Please join us in remembering, supporting and praying for these groups of people (which include many of us) and for the associated issues.

Shalom

Nick

Naphill Evangelical Free Church



People remain devastated today in the aftermath of such disasters. In the light of witnessing obvious evil in the world, some ask, 'If there is a God, how could He let this happen?' That statement suggests there is a God but that He is cruel. Or it suggests that there can't be a God or it wouldn't happen. Or it could be calling God to account, which suggests He is responsible and is capable to bring or prevent disaster. That would mean He is all-powerful. And if He is – dare we ignore Him? What would His answer be? Do you look to one more powerful than yourself. Has he/she provided an answer for you and the world around you?

What about your life? Is it built on immovable foundations secure for eternity or could a disaster bring your life crumbling around you?

Maybe that has already happened and you are in the midst of suffering or are concerned by world events and would like to discuss this with someone. The message of Jesus brings sense into the pain and disorder we see in the world. My wife and I extend a welcome to anyone who would like to just talk or discuss matters of concern. We are often around in the church or at home – The Manse – next to the church and would be pleased to talk over a cup of coffee.

Please note that from the first Tuesday in November we will be looking to open the church each Tuesday morning for refreshments between 10am and noon instead of just once a month. There will be a children's play corner in the church so that all might be welcome.

May you know the richness of God's love.

Bob Semple : 563304

Christians in the community : contact 564009

Sunday 27 October at 4.30pm at Naphill & Walter's Ash School: *CELEBRATION* : refreshments

Fridays 8 & 22 November at 6.30pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church : *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 1–6, ages 6–11)

Tuesday 12 November at 8pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING*

Fridays 15 & 29 November at 7pm at Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H!* 'Twens Really Are Special Here' (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Sunday 24 November at 4.30pm at Naphill & Walter's Ash School: *CELEBRATION* : refreshments

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

December 2002 & January 2003



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

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Editor: Matthew Piercy, 300 Main Road, HP14 4TH. Tel: 562081

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Copy date for the February issue is Wednesday 15 January 2003

Editorial

My first words as Editor must be to thank Alan Lewis for a job well done during his time as Editor of the *Gazette*. Alan's editorial experience has bought the *Gazette* more up to date with the regular inclusion of photographs and the 2-column layout that we are all familiar with - this also necessitated him redesigning every advert, a mammoth task so I intend to leave things much as they are. Thank you Alan.

As we approach the end of another year I would also like to thank David Leith (Treasurer), Dave Ratcliffe (Distribution Manager) and the 27 people, whose names I'm afraid I don't know, that deliver the *Gazette* every month. Your on-going efforts are greatly appreciated.

The last thank you this month goes to Dennis Thomas for adding some festive spirit to our front cover. The Village

Hall has not seen this amount of snow for some time so I am grateful to Dennis for using his artistic license to come up with a *Gazette* Special Commission!

It would be nice to think that we could include some new names and articles over the coming months. Given that this publication is intended for our whole community it is surprising that we seldom hear from any of the local young adults or children - could we help publicise your endeavours?

Please note the *Gazette* has a new email address (above) for future correspondence.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Matt Piercy

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8-9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4-6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30-7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15-7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15-7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30-6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2-3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8-9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10-11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15-6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U14s every Wednesday*	6-7.30pm
	U16s every Wednesday*	6.30-8pm
	U18s every Wednesday*	7.30-9pm
	U6s-U12s every Saturday	9.30-11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am-12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30-2.45pm

* At RAF Astro turf

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS



**Volunteers needed to organise and run the
Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete 2003.
If you are willing to help,
please contact Sarah Bacon on 563479.**

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 563667.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely House and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request.
Telephone Sally on 562281.

HOLIDAY COTTAGE. Traditional brick and flint cottage Nr. Sheringham, North Norfolk. Sleeps 4-6. Two miles from beach in quiet village location.
Telephone Amanda on 565544.

FOR CAREFULLY CARRIED OUT STRUCTURAL GARDEN WORK, WOODWORK AND SMALL BUILDINGS WORK, TEL 565526

YUCCA seeks good home! I am 6ft tall and very healthy but I am getting a bit too big for the hallway where I live. If you can help, I'm free! Tel: 564512

WANTED adjustable piano stool. Tel: 564512

Horticultural Society

Once again our recent Cheese & Wine evening was a great success. The illustrated talk by Tim Miles on the Gardens of Cornwall was most interesting, showing us what can be grown not only in these wonderful conditions, but further north as well.

As always our thanks go to Joyce Thorpe for putting on another excellent cheese, pâté and salad buffet.

For those of you who are terribly well organised and like to keep your diaries booked up in advance, our next event is the annual dinner on Friday 7th March 2003. Details will be in the next edition of the *Gazette*.

Also, should any of our members be interested in visiting Wisley gardens, the Society has a Garden Entry Card, which allows entry at a reduced rate for two people. If you wish to borrow the card, please let me know.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the past year, and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

Although the recent autumn weather has been more suited to "wellies" than sports shoes, tennis continues to be played on those Sunday and Tuesday mornings when the weather has been kind. Over the weekend of 2/3rd November, around a dozen or so Naphill members (including at least 3 stalwart, self-confessed "TOGS") contributed to the fund-raising "Children in Need" tournament, organized by Richard Chapman of Widmer Tennis Club at the Cressex Indoor Tennis centre. It was hoped that as many local players as possible would take up the £5 an hour slots so that play would be continuous from the Saturday start time through to the Sunday evening finish. Besides raising as much money as possible, the aim was to possibly gain an entry in the Guinness Book of records for the most games played in a tennis tournament. As at 7 pm on Saturday, the amount raised had already reached £1,700 and, hopefully, by close of play on Sunday, this amount had increased substantially.

In addition to this activity, tennis club members also turned out in the appalling weather conditions to "police" the Fireworks Display organised by the Naphill Village Hall Committee. Our help has also been solicited by the committee to run the Cake Stall at the Christmas Fayre. Jenny & Ted Chapman have "volunteered" to take this on so that local residents can experience a taste of the club's catering abilities. As a club, we might not always be on the winning side but our post-match refreshments are legendary, so treat yourself by purchasing one of our offerings and, by so doing, contribute to your own Village Hall funds!

As everyone knows, there is always a serious side to running local clubs and organizations. In our case, this time of year is devoted to "admin" to ensure the smooth running of the club for the new 2003 season. At our AGM, arranged for Thursday, 12th December in the Clubhouse, we have to make decisions, which, most importantly, affect our Junior membership. For the first time, we hope to be able to offer them sustained professional coaching and are writing to members and parents to explain our proposals, inviting them to attend our meeting, in order to voice their views. Another task

at the AGM will be to elect a new committee, which includes a vacancy for a Junior Organizer and a new Chairman. In this respect, I am sure you will all join me in thanking Jan Curtis and Pauline Styles, for their sterling contributions to the Club. As Jan has now moved to Thame, she is finding it very difficult to travel to and fro in order to take charge of Junior activities. Pauline has been Chairman for several years, after a stint as Secretary and is also our perennial Caterer-in-Chief. Fortunately, she has been persuaded to retain the latter appointment, which is good news for us as the Tinsel Tournament beckons on Sunday, 15th December.

On behalf of all club members, may we wish all local residents a very happy Christmas and prosperous 2003!

Ingrid Tomlins (Hon. Sec) : 01494 446083

Broadband for our Villages

So, "how's it going?" I hear you ask, well we've got the registrations up to 250 now, which is very good but BT Wholesale haven't taken the bait yet. The problem is that the Naphill exchange hasn't been given a registration target yet. This could be for a number of reasons, I'm trying very hard to find out why, with a small amount of success. If there is anyone reading this who has any insider knowledge or connections in BT then please do contact me.

So if you haven't registered your interest to get broadband then please do it now. You can do it via your own Internet Service Provider or do it on this BT web site:

www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10

It does not commit you to anything at all, it's just to register your interest. The exchange at Naphill covers; Naphill, Walters Ash, Hughenden Valley (& part way up Cryers Hill), Bradenham and some houses around Saunderton, all numbers that start with 56. So if you know someone in this area who may not read this, then please contact them and suggest that they register their interest.

Hopefully, when we have convinced BT that we really do want Broadband in our villages, they will email you back to ask if you really DO want to have it in your home. When they have about 75% of the registrations signed up they will fit the equipment in the exchange.

Once the gear is fitted in the exchange and you have signed up, all you need then is a small filter that plugs into your telephone socket and an ADSL modem then away you go, phone and fast internet on the same line at the same time.

I hope to cover more technical bits in future articles, in fact during this Broadband campaign I've discovered there's a bit of a thirst in the village for more computer information and advice. So, myself or other like-minded individuals hope to do regular articles in the *Gazette* to help you through some of the basic problems with computers, especially the Internet and connecting to it.

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is nwagazette@lycos.co.uk

Naphill Website is at :

<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>

Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site - his e-mail address is aewilmot@lycos.co.uk

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill@lycos.co.uk

Local Community Beat Officer is TBA. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

I also have a plan to maybe hold evening master-classes in the village hall, so you can come along and ask those questions you've always wanted to ask.

To help me get information to you about things like broadband, articles or the master-classes, please send me your email address. I promise not to give it out to anyone, it is just to be held by me to get village information out to you all in a fast, efficient manner.

Alan Jessop : 563369 : email@alanjessop.com

Naphill Toddlers

Our Halloween craft session went very well, lots of colouring, spider making and wizard outfits everywhere! Many thanks to all the people that helped organise it and thanks to those who came along.

Next big diary event is the Christmas party on **5 December** for which we have booked the Children's Entertainer "Cheeky Monkeys". Tickets are limited and are available from Sharon Piercy on 562081 or at the Toddler Group. The cost of the tickets are £5 per child, which includes the entertainment, tea and a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Since the new term began on 5 September the Toddlers Group has looked somewhat depleted as many of last year's toddlers have progressed to School and the new intake numbers are much less. We have plenty of room for new faces!

In January the current committee will need to be replaced by a new one made up of parents of the Toddler Group, as it is a parent run organisation. The commitment is very little in terms of time but without a

new committee the Toddler Group will cease to exist which would be a great shame. If anyone wishes to take on the challenge for 12 months please phone me on the number below.

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2.00 – 4.00pm in the Village Hall. All Parents, Grandparents and Carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting of steam or quietly modeling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Evening WI

Our Annual Meeting in October was a time to look back over the past year and to elect the President and Committee for the coming year. The President took the opportunity to thank the Committee and members for their support over the past year. Marion Lawrence was thanked for organising the trip to the Magic Circle in London. This really did prove to be a magical evening with non-stop entertainment and refreshments.

Seventeen of us went to the Disraeli Group meeting on the 22 October when Dr. Brandham gave a talk with slides on a Year at Kew. It made us realise how lucky we are to have these lovely gardens nearby and we intend to visit them again in the very near future. We were pleased when Naphill won the competition with Betty Leaver's miniature garden. This was a work of art and deserved to win the prize.

On 28 November we will be going to London to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and to see the Christmas lights in Oxford Street.

Dr. Brandham will be coming to our November meeting and this time his talk will be A Camera in India. Our meeting on 12 December will be our Christmas party and Kate Tuffney from Floreat will be showing us some Christmas decorations.

As this the last *Gazette* before Christmas I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Betty Williams : 563366

Blood Donors

There will be two sessions held in the Village Hall during December. The first session is on the 6th, the attendance times being 2pm - 4pm and 5pm - 6.45pm

The second session is on the 20th, the attendance times are slightly different, 2pm - 3.30pm and 4.30pm - 6.45pm.

New and regular donors please do your utmost to attend one of these sessions.

Bob Davis : 563846

Readers' letters

From John Bullock

Appeal for missing garden tool...

Some time ago I lent out my adjustable length twig & bough, rope-operated pruning shears, and as I did not make a note of the borrower's name, I've no idea who it was! Now, another friend wants to borrow them – BUT THEY ARE MISSING!

Can I please ask the unknown borrower to return them to me ASAP as I don't want to let the friend down? Just leave them by my garden gate please. Thank you.

John Bullock, 157 Main Road, 563429

From Marge Sawney

The Bazaar held at Hughenden Valley Village Hall on 2 November was a great success. We raised £1,200 for Multiple Sclerosis.

Thank you to friends who gave their help and support.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Multiple Sclerosis, High Wycombe & District Branch

District & County Councillor's Report

I never ceased to be amazed as to what extent the County Council has an effect on our every day lives; from using roads and paths, to social services and education, but another interesting aspect is within Trading Standards, Weights and Measures and the Registrars Department. This latter service recently provided a seminar for members, where we learned that civil ceremonies are now available, not just for marriage, but for naming, and the conducting of funerals as well

A Young People's Conference was held in October, at Green Park, Aston Clinton to find out what young people want from youth services in the County. Around 150 young people aged 13 to 16 attended the conference and their views will have a direct impact on future youth services. I recently attended a meeting of the Wycombe Youth Council to answer questions they put to the panel, comprised of councillors, police and council officers. To see a full council chamber of keen young people concerned about their community bodes well for all our futures.

The recent spate of mindless vandalism in the village has caused much justified concern. The theft and burning of a car left at the village hall car park has prompted me to seek a review of the lack of policing in the village and our rural communities at large. The Chief Superintendent for Chiltern Vale has assured me that our concerns are taken very seriously and it is my intention to call a meeting in the village, early in the new year, where the police will be able to explain their plans for our future security. In the meantime, please

inform the police of all incidents, which cause concern, even a recorded message is added to the statistics

I have received several applications for support from my community leaders' fund and I am pleased to help where I can. However, I do need some specific information of the proposed scheme, regarding its planning and implementation and any other funding which might have been achieved

Recently, I have received several comments from residents concerned about noise and vibration resulting from low flying helicopters. In a detailed response from the Ministry of Defence, the following sentence might give some re-assurance. "Whilst every effort is made to avoid flying over residential areas, it is not always entirely possible due to a variety of climatic, operational and flight safety considerations. Nevertheless, crews have been reminded of their responsibilities to the general public and I would like to offer my apologies for the disturbance caused". I understand that one of the main problems is the use of the recreation field next to Courns Wood for Chinook helicopters, the site near the Headquarters building is only of use to smaller helicopters.

As Christmas will soon be upon us may I take this opportunity of wishing all readers a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

Richard Pushman

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Planning

02/7391/FUL 23 Vincents Way, Naphill. Rear conservatory.

02/7394/FUL Trada, Stocking Lane, Hughenden. Replacement conservatory roof and insertion of Velux roof lights.

02/7453/FUL ntl transmitter station, RAF High Wycombe, New Road, Walter's Ash. Installation of 4 antennas on existing tower with equipment cabin, cabinet and feeder gantry.

02/7508/FUL Naphill House, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill. Formation of riding manege.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5 December 2002 at Naphill Village Hall 8.00 pm.

Malcolm Leflaive : 563634

The December and January sky in Naphill & Walters Ash

Sunset will be at its earliest on December 13 and sunrise will be at its latest on 30 and the shortest day on 22.. The Moon is new on December 4 and January 2; it is full on December 19 and January 18. The Geminid meteor

Naphill Apathy Club Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of NAC, the Naphill Apathy Club, will be held at 7pm in Naphill Village Hall on 29

February 2003 or on the next unavailable day. Agendas will not be circulated and coffee and tea will not be served. We look forward to not seeing you. Please keep this news quiet.



shower should be at its brightest on December 13 and 14 in the east with an expected 75 hourly rate of hits. Elusive Mercury might be seen low in the west-southwest sky about 45 minutes after sunset at the end of December and early in January. Mars, Venus and an ebbing Moon will be seen very close together in the southeastern sky at dawn on December 1. The bright star just north of Mars is Spica. The large galaxy in Andromeda (M31) is overhead, and Orion is low in the southeast in the evenings rising higher in January.

Life in the universe (part 2):

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Dec	Rises	07.47	03.37	04.18	04.06	21.15	17.00
	Sets	15.57	14.38	14.30	14.24	12.15	09.18
8 Dec	Rises	07.56	11.55	04.05	04.04	20.47	16.30
	Sets	15.54	20.09	14.15	14.05	11.47	08.48
15 Dec	Rises	08.03	13.50	04.00	14.03	20.18	16.00
	Sets	15.53	03.12	14.02	13.46	11.20	08.18
22 Dec	Rises	08.08	18.31	04.00	04.01	19.49	15.31
	Sets	15.56	10.36	13.49	13.28	10.52	07.48
29 Dec	Rises	08.10	02.42	04.05	03.59	19.18	15.01
	Sets	16.01	13.01	13.38	13.11	10.23	07.18
1 Jan	Rises	08.10	06.57	04.08	03.58	19.05	14.48
	Sets	16.04	14.32	13.34	13.03	10.11	07.05
8 Jan	Rises	08.08	11.16	04.17	03.56	18.33	14.18
	Sets	16.12	22.40	13.25	12.47	09.42	06.35
15 Jan	Rises	08.03	13.25	04.27	03.54	18.01	13.49
	Sets	16.22	05.38	13.18	12.31	09.13	06.05
22 Jan	Rises	07.56	21.44	04.38	03.51	17.29	13.19
	Sets	16.34	10.17	13.14	12.16	08.44	05.36
29 Jan	Rises	07.46	05.56	04.48	03.48	16.56	12.50
	Sets	16.46	13.13	13.13	12.02	08.14	18.26

In the November issue of *The Gazette* I mentioned the two books published quite recently that gave contrary arguments about the existence of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. AmirAczel has written 'yes' in his book *Probability 1*. Peter Ward and Frank Drake in *Rare Earth* argue that although simple single-celled

life may well be ubiquitous throughout the universe, they draw attention to the need for the large number of essential but extremely rare coincidences to enable intelligent life to develop. The first is the need for a stable sun over a long period. This excludes most stars in the universe including binaries, variable stars and stars only 30% larger than the sun (larger stars burn out too quickly). Smaller stars would also not be suitable (they create other problems) and this excludes 95% of all stars. Then the 'earth' has to be just the right distance from the sun, so that water is neither permanently frozen nor boiling. Ward and Drake show that this limits the location of the earth to a zone from 5% nearer to and 30% further from the sun. We also need a Jupiter like planet, through its powerful force of gravity, located at the right distance in the solar system to protect the earth from devastating collisions from comets and asteroids. As has already been written in an earlier article in this column, the cataclysmic encounter with the Earth some four plus billion years ago that created the Moon is also significant. A similar encounter now would destroy all life on Earth.

Astronomers from Pennsylvania State University have recently suggested that the Moon is also responsible for the stability of the Earth's axis, which causes the seasons. Without this stabilising factor, the Earth would probably have a very different climate that would involve significantly larger temperature variations within the year. The Ward/Drake book argues that the location of the Sun in the milky way galaxy is also relevant. We need to be not too near the centre of the galaxy to avoid pernicious radiation; nor can we be too near the edge of the galaxy for otherwise there would be insufficient metals and other elements that make up the chemistry of the Earth. Rather like the Goldilocks fairy tale, everything has to be just right and the chances of Earth and the solar system having been repeated are too remote to contemplate. We are probably alone.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Neighbours

Members were expecting a talk entitled "The Royal Collection" at the November meeting, however the presenter, Mr. P Smith, was unable to attend owing to ill health. Into the breach stepped Mr. Andrew Howard of Beechdean Dairies in North Dean for what proved to be an excellent evening. Along with Jez and Neil, two of his employees, he brought an ice cream making machine and we were all treated to samples of vanilla and strawberry straight from the production line - quite delicious. Andrew gave us an enthusiastic insight into the workings of the dairy and its products. The 400 cows at present produce one million litres of ice cream per year, which is available in 32 different flavours. Watch out if you are travelling by Emirates or Malaysian Airlines, or are invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party, as you may be served with Beechdean ice cream! Andrew and his wife have now

started a bakery and he was kind enough to bring cakes along for us to try. He also said he would provide some cakes for the Christmas Fayre cake stall - what a gem! Thank you Andrew for a great evening, we all enjoyed it so much.

During the meeting, Sheila had the pleasant task of presenting Lily Ellis with a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her Diamond Wedding anniversary. These were passed on with the very best wishes of the members.

Our next meeting on 9th December will be the Christmas Dinner to be held in the Village Hall. Following that on 17th December, 50 members and guests have booked for our trip to London which includes supper and a tour of the Christmas lights.

To start the year 2003 our meeting will be held on Monday 13th January at 8.00pm when Mr. Mark Meltonville from Wycombe Museum will give a talk on "High Wycombe - the town before chairs". We have prepared an excellent programme for the coming year and always welcome new members to our friendly club.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Pre-school news

During November and December we have been working on the theme "Food" divided into bread, vegetables, fruit, eating out etc. The children have been making bread, rolls and fruit salad to eat as well as food themed art and craft work. We are also looking forward to the "Christmas" theme during the last two weeks of term.

We are having our annual Nativity on 6th December and our Christmas Party on 12th December.

After Christmas in the January term some new children will be joining us.

For more information or details about pre-school the contact numbers are 01494 564037 (am) or 01494 565359 (pm).

Debbie Marchant

Hoax Letters

Local residents have reported receiving letters asking them to send £10 to the author, then to create 200 similar letters and send them to random names from the phone directory in return for a large sum of money (£40,960). The police have been made aware of the existence of these hoax letters. Do with them what they deserve and throw them in the bin.



Naphill Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30 November

In the Village Hall

Doors open at 1.00p.m.

Santa to arrive at 1.15p.m.!



Santa's Grotto, Raffle, Refreshments, Mulled Wine,
Craft Stalls, Games, Tambola etc.



Viva Apathy!

Inspired by the vision of the outgoing editor in his October editorial, I am delighted to announce the launching of the Naphill Apathy Club (NAC). Initially consideration was given to a slightly different name, the Naphill Apathy Group (NAG), as the latter has a more interesting acronym, especially for the female of the species but it does unfortunately suggest some activity, albeit critical.

There are, as you know, many clubs and societies operating in the village but it should be remembered that in any cross-section of mankind, only about 10% can be accurately described as active members of a community. One can readily observe within the village that it is the same group of people who DO THINGS, while 90% presumably watch TV! Thus, in forming the Apathy Club, we immediately create a prime force in the village with 90% of the villagers as potential members. It must surely be possible to harness this usually invisible and silent power, which has a certain parallel with the radiation produced by nuclear fission which is invisible but deadly.

The notice elsewhere in this issue gives details of the inaugural meeting of the Club. There will, of course, be no chairman of the meeting and minutes will not be recorded or circulated. In establishing the Club, it is important that the duties of the elected officials should

be clearly defined. The chairman must be a person of infinite lethargy, well-qualified to do nothing with tremendous style. The secretary will require no writing skills because there will be no requirement for meetings and no actions to initiate or minutes to prepare. Indeed, his/her main duty will be to discourage enthusiasm and liveliness amongst members. The treasurer will require no mathematics or computer skills, as there will be no subscriptions to collect and no functions to finance. It is anticipated that there will be no shortage of volunteers for these posts which clearly require no deviation from normal inactivity.

This entry for the December *Gazette* is late – naturally – and will probably not be printed. But does this matter? Apathetically – NO. Sleep well.

David Leith

Hearing Dogs For The Deaf

Will readers please be good enough to drop any of their used Birthday Cards into me? I can then pass them on to Mr. & Mrs. R Smith, local members of the Hearing Dogs Charity, as they have a marvelous scheme for recycling such cards to the “as new” standard, enabling them to sell their handiwork to raise money for this well worthwhile organisation. Thank you.

John Bullock, 157 Main Road : 563429

Over 60's Club

Frank very nobly stepped in to give us an enjoyable game of "Housie" on the 1st November when we had a Bring & Buy sale.

Dates to the end of the year:

29 November - Princess Risborough W.I. Christmas Carol afternoon.

13 December - Cookham Bell Ringers. Please bring your Christmas cards for Joyce to distribute as this will be our last meeting before Christmas.

2 January 2003 - THURSDAY Christmas dinner at Village Hall. £10 approx. 12.45 for 1.00pm start.

We hope to see you again in the New Year on January 2nd and meanwhile wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a pleasant New Year.

Any who have recently moved into the village, or who don't know about us, we would give you a warm welcome at 2.00pm alternate Fridays.

Stella Page : 562314

Quiz night

Naphill-cum-Bradenham Conservatives invite you to a quiz evening on Thursday 5th December starting at 7.30pm in the Evangelical Church Hall. Tickets cost £7.50, including a fish-and-chips or chicken-and-chips supper.

It is hoped there will be eight tables of six. We can help with making up tables if you wish. Glasses will be provided, but please bring your own drinks.

There are splendid prizes for the winning table. Lucky number tickets available from Valerie Pushman (563122) or Peggy Waterston (565969). Please ring for tickets or further information.

Naphill Common Committee

Since we have experienced so many problems in our dealings with the bodies responsible for the Common (West Wycombe estate, English Nature, Bucks County Council – to name only some of them) we have enlisted the help of our local MP (David Liddington) in trying to improve the state of the Common. This has already paid dividends and we have finally received welcome news. Unfortunately the good news has also been accompanied by bad news but first the good news.

English Nature has assured us that lack of money is not an issue in resolving the problems we face on the Common. Apparently, sufficient funds are available to do all of the required work and the Common is in the top 5 sites in the Southeast Area in the English Nature priority list. The Common has also been accepted as an area to receive the status of National Nature reserve, which should further strengthen protection of the Common.

The bad news is that English Nature are unable to sign an agreement with the landowner (Sir Edward Dashwood) to start restorative and remedial work as Sir Edward has awarded a lease to the occupants of Cookshall Lane Farm to allow them to use a substantial part of the common for Pheasant Shooting. We are at a loss to understand how a landowner can do this in a Site of Special Scientific Interest let alone a National Nature reserve. This now means that guns will be extensively used on the Common, without warning and in the vicinity of bridleways and paths.

We are very very concerned about this and have of course already made our views clear about the dangers inherent in this arrangement. It would be very helpful if as many residents as possible could write to at least one, if not all of the following people to express their concerns about this. The names and addresses are as follows: Mr. David Liddington, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, Mr. Alan Law, Regional Coordinator, English Nature, Foxhold House, Thornford Road, Crookham Common, Thatcham Berkshire, RG19 8EL, Sir Edward Dashwood, West Wycombe estate, West Wycombe House, West Wycombe and our local District Councillor, Richard Pushman. The more letters these people receive about the dangers of mixing firearms with recreational walking and riding the more likely they are to pay some attention. Please don't forget to mention the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 200, which specifically seeks to extend right of access to Commons.

There has been some further damage done to the Common by recent storms and we are trying to get the footpaths cleared as a first step.

Dr. Marek Pawlik : 563126

Naphill Fireworks 2002

This popular event celebrated its tenth birthday this year since its re-launch by the present committee. November 2nd was the wettest Saturday possible. Despite this, our regular volunteers turned up and built one of the biggest bonfires ever and prepared the usual attractions. Our firework team prepared the support posts etc. and set up the display in high winds and driving rain, making every effort to protect the fuses.

The rain eased off a little at about 6.30pm and Clive Lawrence was able to light the bonfire. The display commenced on time, however fuses were slow and up to a dozen pieces failed totally causing pauses in the performance. The team were very encouraged by the crowd who certainly seemed to enjoy the evening.

Sadly numbers were understandably well down. This of course meant that our revenue, in aid of the Village Hall, was somewhat below expectations, however it is hoped that we will at least cover our costs.

As always, on behalf of the committee, Andrew Wilmot, John Harris, Mike Pool, Clive Lawrence and

Don Turner, I would like to thank Bob Hathaway and the Sports Club for their excellent catering. Thanks also to our pubs and shops for selling the tickets for us, plus the many individuals who gave up their time to help and of course thank you to Gaskins, Cilag and Tesco for their sponsorship!

We owe most of all to the village families who turned up despite the terrible conditions – thank you for supporting your Village Hall! We look forward to seeing you again next year.

David Hayes.

2002 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Once again the people of Naphill and Walters Ash have responded in a marvelous manner to the above appeal. My grateful thanks to you all. Our total this year is £1,575.14p which includes the sum of £213.79p collected at the Naphill Service of Remembrance

This year the Rev. Simon Cronk, Vicar of St. Michael & All Angels, Hughenden, conducted our service. It was heartening to see so many people attending the service and especially the members of our Scout and Guide Associations who proudly carried their flags and banners and formed a Guard of Honour. Wreaths were placed around our memorial stone by village Organisations. Thanks must also be expressed to our trumpeter, Jonathon King, who at short notice came and played The Last Post and Reveille.

Valerie Pushman

Hughenden Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 12 November.

If you read this column regularly you will have noticed that we have not had any police consultation for quite a few months now. However, although we do not have a representative from the Police attending our meetings, the council were shocked to hear of recent events of car thefts within the village. With willful destruction from vandals and cars being destroyed and dumped the Parish Council are writing to the Chief Constable and our MP, David Liddington about the slow response from the Police and our grave concerns that Hughenden Parish does not have the policing that it is entitled to.

Naphill does have a low crime rate, however we know that not every incident is reported to the Police, therefore statistics can appear false. Please report any incident, however trivial you may think it is, to the Police. You may not get the response that you want but it will show a true reflection of our needs for better policing in our community.

Naphill Ward has decided to take the initiative of preparing for a Village Design Statement. The purpose of Village Design Statements is to show how planned development should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting and contributes to the

conservation and, where possible, enhancement, of the local environment.

The Village Design Statements are the outcome of an initiative taken by the Countryside Commission in 1996. It is to be welcomed and is approved Supplementary Planning Guidance to be used in conjunction with the local plan with Wycombe District Council. It basically tells the district council what we want and what we don't want in our village. We will be informing you more of what all this entails during the next year.

Don't forget our planning meetings, which are held every three weeks. If you have any worries about any issues of plans in the village please do not hesitate to contact me or the Parish Clerk on 01494 715296.

The next planning meeting is Thursday 12 December. Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 10 December, both at 8.00pm.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all of your Parish Councillors, Richard Pushman, John Harris, Sarah Bacon and myself, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Village Hall Report, November 2002

This month's meeting started with a discussion about the events of the evening of Friday 1 November. A car was stolen from the Village Hall car park, joy ridden around the Crick, and finally dumped and torched at the end of Hunts Hill Lane. You will find other responses to these events elsewhere in this issue, but it will suffice to say here that the Village Hall Council took the matter very seriously and decided on various actions to try and address these issues.

The oven in the Hall has again been letting us down despite various visits by the engineer. We do apologise to everyone who has been let down by the eccentric behaviour of the oven and ensure you that we are doing all we possibly can to get a reliable cooker in place. In the meantime there should be a contact number on display in the Hall telling you who to contact should you have a problem. Do make sure that we know of any difficulties so that we can rectify matters as soon as possible.

The Jazz evening was a great success. It provided both great entertainment and a bit of profit to go towards the Hall's funds. Many thanks to all those of you who supported it. We plan to run a similar evening in the New Year so look out for it!

The fireworks were again a great success despite atrocious weather conditions. Actually, by the time the display was due to start the rain had just about stopped, but I think that our thanks must go out to the intrepid band who risked double pneumonia by spending all day setting it up in pouring rain. Also

thanks to all those of you who ventured out on a filthy night to support us. It has been a while since we had a wet bonfire night so I suppose we were due for one, but let's pray for better weather next year.

The next event is the Christmas Fayre on the 30th November in the Village Hall. Santa has it in his diary so come along and join him from 1.00 pm.

WANTED - BODIES OF ALL SHAPES, SIZES AND AGES TO HELP ORGANISE THE FETE NEXT JUNE. If you could possibly give up some of your time, thought and inspiration to next years Fete please phone me on 563479. We really do need some new blood to give the fete a lift and help produce a great village event for all of the community. Any help you could give however small would be greatly appreciated. You might even have a bit of fun doing it!

By the time that you read this it will be just about time to light the Christmas Tree again and what a wonderful sight that is. There will be collection boxes around the village to fund this. Please drop your loose change into these boxes to show your appreciation of this village tradition that is admired, not only by us villagers, but also by interlopers from Lacey Green, Speen, Haghenden and the like.

*Sarah Bacon
Chairman Naphill Village Hall Council*

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 7 December, there will be a Christmas Fayre in Naphill Village Hall, beginning at 2pm.

This is *the* Christmas Fayre with something for everyone – games, gifts and attractions for the whole family – all at amazing value. Many of the stalls will be run by the Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts themselves – a real team effort.

On the day, you will be able to: buy your last-minute Christmas gifts – including the always popular cakes; play games and competitions; hunt through the bric-a-brac; and enjoy the various refreshments.

Please come along and support this event, where all the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Headquarters Building – a facility used and enjoyed by many village children. Also, we are expecting a *special* guest at the Fayre See you there?

Computer Training Course at Naphill & Walter's Ash School.

Would you like to improve your computer skills and achieve a qualification?

As part of our commitment to work closer with the community Naphill and Walters Ash School together with Amersham and Wycombe College, are intending to run a Level 2 Word Processing and Excel

Spreadsheet computer course from 9th January 2003 at the school.

The course will be delivered over a period of 12 weeks (excluding school holidays) at the cost of £38.00 per person. For further information or if you are interested in enrolling, please contact the School on 562813 or myself on 565439 by 15th December 2002.

Julie Schmid, I.T.C. Technician.

Nuisance gone too far

It is with regret we have to report an escalation of the trouble at the Village Hall. By comparison some of the previous mindless vandalism seems quite tame. A line has now been crossed and I urge all residents to be even more vigilant and to report all incidents, however seemingly trivial, to the Police. It is not always possible for the Police to give the attention they (or we) would like, but some of the problem is that Naphill is perceived as a trouble free (relatively) part of the area. The recent escalation I trust will change that perception by the authorities and help the village to receive the policing levels necessary to curb the trouble.

The incident I refer to is the theft and joy riding of a car from the Village Hall car park. This was for no other reason than mindless, wanton vandalism and destruction, or drink induced mindlessness in all probability, evidenced by the beer and spirit bottles these 16-17 year old cretins leave behind. The car was crashed through the car park wooden bollards, driven around the field for upwards of one and a half hours, then crashed back through the bollards and finally driven down Hunts Hill Lane where it was unceremoniously torched leaving a burned out shell. Two of the culprits are now known - the youth who broke in and drove the car lives in Downley, as I am sure others involved may well do. One of the others who had a major role in some of the destruction lives in Naphill and is probably well known. There has been a bout of underage drinking and vandalism at the Hall catalysed now perhaps by an influx of youths from Downley and I think it is time to convey the message of "not wanted or tolerated here".

Are you sure where your son (or daughter) is in the early hours if not at home? There were upwards of a dozen 16-17 year olds involved at 2-3 in the morning! The escalation of the trouble means increased vigilance by villagers and Police and be assured both charges and even claims for compensation will be made against anyone proven to be participating in this antisocial behaviour.

It is regrettable the Police could not take advantage of the one and a half hour window to turn up and catch these apologies for future citizens and members of society. This issue is being taken up elsewhere but clearly needs to address such factors as overall Police



Village Hall Christmas tree (photo)

We all enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee this year. The previous monarch to have celebrated a jubilee was King George V, whose Silver Jubilee was in 1935. The celebrations must have been quite an event in Naphill. The photograph here, taken at the fete that year, shows Mrs. Disraeli crowning Phyllis Smith Queen of the May. Phyllis went on, as Queen of the May, to plant an Atlantic Cedar tree outside the village hall. So now we know the origin of our Christmas tree!

As she planted the tree, Phyllis said:

*Here have I set a cedar tree,
that ages yet and men to be,
may not forget this Jubilee.*

Sadly, Phyllis died 33 years ago but she must have had fond memories of 1935 and 'her' tree, especially when it was decorated with lights at Christmas. (We believe our tradition of decorating the tree outside the Village Hall at Christmas goes back over 50 years.) Phyllis came from a large family and many of her relatives still live in Naphill. Her cousin, Nesta Edwards, supplied the photograph and the information.

Mike Mason

[Editor's PS: Can anyone put names to faces here? In particular, the toddler being held on the left could well still be around.]

resourcing, priorities and as indicated at the beginning, perception of the level and nature of trouble an area receives. In this particular case several people reported these activities between 12.30 and 1.30 am. Due to the nature of the incident there was a potential issue of public safety but the Police could still not respond. We do need to make sure that jobs indulging in these antisocial activities are not allowed to get away with believing they are untouchable and that the Police will not bother to turn up. Stealing a car and joy riding it to destruction must be a far more serious concern to police and public than any previous incidents indulged by any Village Hall gang. Given the numbers (about a dozen) in the age group 16-17 I think public safety issues must be a concern.

If you are witness to any trouble or suspicious or antisocial behaviour, phone the Police on 465888 and make sure you get a call log reference number. Finally, if anyone has any thought how to make the Village Hall car park unattractive out of hours then suggestions will be gratefully received.

Village Hall Council

Carol Singing Around Naphill

K.R.A.S.H. youngsters accompanied by adults will be carol singing around Naphill on Friday 20 December between 6.30 and 7.45pm. We shall be making a circular tour starting in Lacey Drive, then Chapel Lane, Pursells Meadow and Brackenwood before returning along the Main Road into Christopher Close and back to the Evangelical Church.

The children will be rattling collection tins, the proceeds from which will be given to a charity (yet to be decided upon).

P.S. *K.R.A.S.H.* (Kids Really Are Special Here) meets on alternate Fridays in Naphill Evangelical Church from 6.30 to 8.00pm and offers children from 6 to 11 years a fun evening with singing, games, craft activity linked to a bible story led by Rev. Nick Jones, his guitar and helpers, young and old!

Norma Clarke : 563116

Changes in Service Times - St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden

At St Michael's we are about to embark on changes in service times. The principle motivation for these changes is to move the most attended service (to which the children come) from 9.30 am to 10.30am so that it will be the last service in the morning. We are hoping that after six months we will be able to make a final decision about these changes.

The changes will take effect on Advent Sunday this year, **Sunday 1st December**. From that Sunday the service times will be as follows:

8.00am - Said Holy Communion

9.00am - Chorally supported service (This replaces the present 11.15am service)

10.30am Morning worship with children's groups (This replaces the present 9.30am service.)

The monthly pattern at these services will remain as they are.

In addition, Sung Evensong will begin half an hour earlier at 6.00pm.

In December you are warmly invited to come to our special services as we approach Christmas.

1 December, 10.30 am, following the success of last years event, instead of our regular family service there will be a special Pantomime.

15 December, 3.00pm - Christingle service.

22 December, 6.00pm - Candle Lit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

24 December - Christmas Eve:
3.00pm - Crib Service
11.15pm - Midnight Communion

25 December - Christmas Day:
8.00am - Said Holy Communion
9.00am - Mattins
10.30am - Family Communion
5.00pm Carols by Candlelight

*Simon Cronk
(Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden.)*

Rev. Nick Young, Minister of Naphill Methodist Church writes ...

My life seems to be dominated by keys at the moment! I have spoken publicly about the keys I dropped down a drain at the side of the road (and managed to retrieve) so I won't repeat that story again.

Then there was the evening I was chasing backwards and forwards all over the place when all but one member of the family had left their keys inside the house. You wouldn't believe the route the one remaining set of keys took before everyone ended up in the right place.

My car has caused me some expenditure recently, including needing a new lock for the boot. When we lose keys (or have one that doesn't work properly) we can be in a right mess! You have probably heard it said before that, for Christians, Jesus is like a key because he gives us access to God the Father.

As a musician, there is another kind of key which I deal with every time I play. A key in music is the note, or set of notes, which gives the basis for a piece of music. It is a foundation on which the music is set; it helps give meaning to the music. Another metaphor for Jesus: again, we find that he fills that role in our lives, giving them a basis, a foundation, and meaning; helping us to make sense of life.

Is there a Christmas message in all of this? Go back to the first story. I nearly walked away from those keys and abandoned them to the slime, but by rolling up my sleeve and getting my hand dirty I reached down to rescue them. You don't need to look far to see what a mess we've made of this life. God could have abandoned us, but instead came down to all the messiness of this world, to reach us and restore us to a relationship with himself. Happy Christmas!

Nick

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

I wonder what does Christmas mean to you? Is it like the mixed bag of presents some children get from family or just like the specific present they have asked and hoped for?

If we think about it a varying degree of thoughts might come to mind, some good some bad. As a church minister I am expecting it to be one of my busiest times of year. Some of you may think it's the only time church ministers work more than one day a week. Mums are probably expecting to spend hours in the kitchen preparing a traditional Christmas meal only for the children to say they don't like it (the vegetables anyway). Dads spend ages digging out the Christmas decorations only to find they have to spend further time fixing the lights yet again. Children spend weeks trying to find out or inventing schemes to try and find out what they've been brought.

Christmas time is often thought of by many as a time when families can get together, for others who don't have family it is probably one of the loneliest times of year. Christmas is a time of great joy for some but sadness for others. But more often than not when it is all over everyone sits down, counts the cost, and says, "was it worth it?"

For many Christmas no longer has any meaning except to party and have a good time but in the Christian calendar it is a time we remember and celebrate the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ. At His birth over 2000 years ago I believe God had feelings of joy and sadness.

Joy in the sense that His One and only Son would be the means by which a world, which had chosen to live independently from God, would have a means of being reconciled to Him. People who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour and confess their rebellion towards God would be able to come back into a personal relationship with God.

God's Sadness is that it would cost the price of the life of His beloved only Son. That for the world to be reconciled to God, Jesus would voluntarily lay down His life for the people of the world. Sadness also because God knew so many would reject this offer of reconciliation and continue to live independently from Him. God loves each and every one of us but He knew what the cost of what we now call Christmas would be before He even started His plan to reconcile the world to Himself. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 16)*

As you give and hopefully receive presents and gifts this Christmas please don't forget the most precious gift God ever gave, Jesus Christ, and He is available to all everyday of the year if you would be willing to receive Him.

May you know the love, peace and presence of God this Christmas.

Bob Semple : 563304

Christians in the community : contact Norma Clarke, 563116

Friday 6 December at 6.30pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H.* "Kids Really Are Special Here" (for school years 1-6, ages 6-11).

Friday 13 December at 7.00pm in Church House, Hughenden : *T.R.A.S.H!* "Twins Really Are Special Here" (for school years 7-10, ages 11-14).

Sunday 15 December at 3.45pm - carols around the Christmas Tree at Naphill Village Hall and then from 4.00pm inside the hall, followed by mince pies and hot drinks.

Friday 20 December *K.R.A.S.H.* Youngsters carol singing around Naphill.

Friday 10 January *K.R.A.S.H.* 6.30pm at Naphill Evangelical Church

Friday 17 January *T.R.A.S.H.* 7.00pm at Church House, Hughenden

Friday 24 January *K.R.A.S.H.*

Sunday 26 January *CELEBRATION** 4.30pm at Naphill and Walters Ash School, Kilnwood.

Friday 31 January *T.R.A.S.H.*

**CELEBRATION* is a monthly event held at Naphill and Walters Ash School organised by members of all three local churches - a time for singing those favourite songs, enjoying live music, perhaps a mini drama presentation and more! All the local Ministers/Vicars try to be there as well as a selection of people who do or don't regularly attend Church. There is also a "Celebration" chocolate on the way in!