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July 2021

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Brownies (Naphill)	Ruth Daly	01494 565571	ruth.daly3@btinternet.com
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Cubs - Hughenden			handnhcubs@hotmail.com
Naphill	Martin Beddows		naphillcubscouts@outlook.com
Football Club - Junior	Andy Sinclair		mailto:naphillfc_cwo@yahoo.com
Senior	Harry Salter	07403 249208	
Friends of Naphill Common	Chris Miller	01494 563707	chairman@naphillcommon.org.uk
Good Companions	Pat Furness	01494 565501	
Guides (Naphill)			
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Local Council Contact Information

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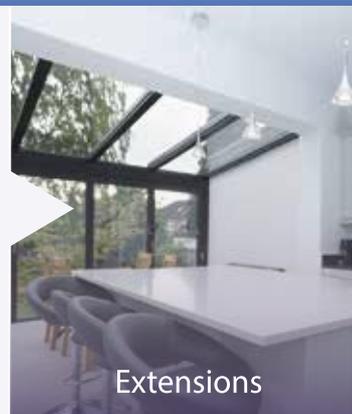
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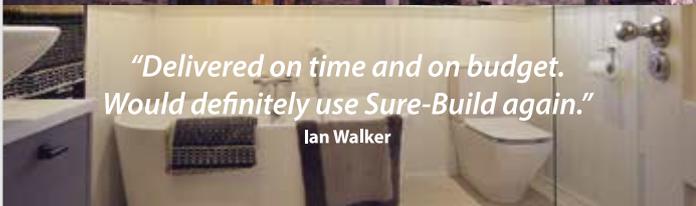


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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette



The distribution team will be collecting the annual Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette subscriptions for 2021 when they deliver your July Gazette. Please have your £3 ready. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sonia - editor
editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

Copy Date for August/September Gazette, 15 July 2021

Summer at last! Some glorious, warm Summer days in June for us to enjoy! We took my pavement scooter to Coombe Hill. The main footpath at this venue is now surfaced so that it is accessible for wheelchairs etc. and it was a joy to be able to get out to the monument and enjoy the spectacular views!

Because of the COVID restrictions we were unable to collect the Gazette annual subscriptions for this year at the usual time. As detailed above, the distributors will be collecting subscriptions this month. My thanks to Ian Hall, our distribution manager, and to the distribution team for their ongoing support both in collecting the cash and distributing the magazines so efficiently.

It was disappointing that the current COVID restrictions were not completely lifted as I am sure most of us were hoping, but keeping safe and healthy must surely remain a priority for us all.

There is certainly GOOD NEWS in this edition of the Gazette! NapFest is being planned for 11 September with a traditional Fete followed by a live music

event in the evening. Fingers crossed that all the restrictions will be lifted and this will go ahead. More details about this in the August/September Gazette which we will be publishing at the end of July. Pete Dalby, the chairman of the Firework Committee has also published the exciting news that his committee are working hard to organise another fabulous firework display on 6 November this year, so another date to mark on the calendar and to look forward to.

My thanks as always to all our contributors and to Paul Goby for our cover photo. A polite reminder that I edit, I do not collate and so nobody can dictate what goes into the Gazette, this is clearly defined in the editorial notice below.

Please note that the next edition will be the usual combined edition August/September and I will look forward to receiving contributions on or before 15 July please.

Enjoy the good weather and stay safe!

Best wishes,

Sonia

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Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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There were fourteen committee members present when we held our zoom meeting on 7 June, including Darren Lomas who is the Mens Club new representative.

Paul Riglar, our treasurer, told us that the village hall insurance has been renewed at a cost of £3538. The insurers required a new electrical test certificate and this work has been done.

During last month there was damage to a car parked in the village hall car park and on review of the CCTV we were unable to see the incident, We have had the CCTV supplier up to access the system and he recommended another camera with a more detailed image to cover the car park, this would cost approximately £200.

Napfest was discussed and the provisional date for this event is 11 September depending on the current COVID regulations. We are planning for this date and hope that everything will go according to plan.

The fireworks were also discussed and this is expected to take place on 6 November, hopefully there will not be any restrictions when the event takes place but there may be a limit on numbers allowed to attend, so please keep this in mind and buy the tickets when they are put on sale.

Classics on the Crick will be held on Sunday 29 August as previously planned.

During the past month the crick has been well used but unfortunately there is a small minority that make problems for the neighbouring residents. There appears to be a group playing football in the afternoons/evenings that shout and swear while playing and annoy the neighbours and parents of small children who are in their gardens. We will monitor the situation, also there has been a couple of incidents of footballs going onto the tennis courts and people have been climbing over the fencing to retrieve the balls. This can cause damage to the courts.

We also discussed the situation of donations to the village hall from developers and the outcome was that if the development was approved by the authorities and the monies were offered to the village hall we would take the donation after considering any further implications.

Keep safe and well,

Clive Lawrence - Naphill Village Hall Chairman.

The Cuckoo is Back!

Once again I have recorded a Cuckoo (two years in a row). This was four times between 21-29 May. Because it was calling from exactly the same area as last year (boundary of the common and Cookshall Farm) I have to believe it was the same bird.

A satellite tagged Cuckoo ringed as a chick in 2016 has again returned a short distance from where he hatched, which means during this time he has crossed the Sahara ten times clocking up more than 52,000 miles. By the time you read this, these birds will again be on their way back to Africa. With no parental duties and their host birds finished laying, most will have gone by the first week in July.

Early reports indicate that many woodland and garden birds have had a very bad breeding season. This is most evident in species which only have one brood a year (all tit species). These species time their eggs hatching to coincide



with emerging caterpillars which in turn emerge as trees come into leaf. This is normally from mid April. Owing to this year's abnormal spring things were two to three weeks late, so when this year's chicks hatched there was very little food for them and in some areas as many as 60% of nests have failed.

June and July are great months to visit many of our local wildlife trust's reserves with their wildflower meadows full of orchids and butterflies. Places to visit:

- Oakley and Chinnor Hill near Chinnor.
- Yoesden between The Boot at Bledlow Ridge and Radnage church.
- Grangelands and the Rifle Range near Princes Risborough.
- Dancers End near Wendover.

Gordon



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Bradenham Parish Council

We are now back to face to face meetings as dictated by legislation. We met socially distanced in a chilly Cricket Club for the first time in more than a year.

Following the election we co-opted 3 members to the parish council and now have a full complement of councillors. Peggy Ewart, Susan Nims and Andrew Stubbings were co-opted, Richard Langridge, Teif Jones, Paul Oborn and Paul Wooster were elected unopposed.

Teif Jones was re-elected as Chairman and Paul Oborn as Vice-Chairman.

The RAF have requested support for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Bradenham Woods Lane and Main Road. It was agreed to contact Hughenden Parish Council to investigate taking the matter to the NW Community Board. we have also sought some advice.

A village fete will sadly not take place this year.

The parish council has applied to the HS2 Road Safety Fund for LED cats eyes and white line edging on the A4010.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was signed off.

A plan to mitigate the serious flooding on Rectory Lane, Bradenham, has been agreed with the National Trust and Transport for Buckinghamshire.

Our next meeting is Monday 5th July at 7pm in the cricket club. All public welcome, but we will have to adhere to Covid advice still prevalent at the time.

Deirdre Hansen, clerk to the Council
clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com.

www.e-voice.org.uk/bradenham-parish-council

An Update from Peggy Ewart

I was very pleased to be co-opted on to Hughenden Parish Council in July 2020. However, a couple of months later my health deteriorated and I could not devote the time required to fulfil the role of councillor. Therefore I did not stand for election in May 2021 and was very disappointed not to be able to do so. I am a passionate supporter of parish councils; they are a very significant layer of local democracy which can be a force for good in the local community. They are there to try to improve the quality of life of local residents, including caring for the local environment and enhancing it where possible. The best councils listen to their communities, and know their 'patch' well. They make objective decisions, considering the needs of all ages. It is entirely inappropriate for it to be influenced by small groups, however vocal and strong their feelings. Not an easy job then but one in which I was keen to be involved.

Hughenden is a very large council which needs strong and committed councillors, 15 in all. I hope some younger members of the community will come forward to serve. I continue to be treated for polymyalgia rheumatica and also Type 2 diabetes. I may be able to give up using a walker in the not too distant future!

I have been pleased, recently, to be co-opted to Bradenham Parish Council. It is very small, serving one village instead of nine like Hughenden. I feel I have enough energy for this and look forward to being useful.

Peggy Ewart
01494 565969



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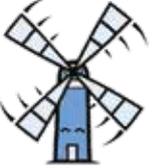
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Southern Hawker laying eggs



Broad-bodied Chaser (male)



Large Red Damselfly

Friends of Naphill Common

As lockdown restrictions continue to be eased, our regular activities have resumed. Longer walks (around two hours, finishing with optional lunch at a local hostelry when possible) are led by Ron Collins and Neil McMinn, and are usually held on the third Monday of each month (although June's will be an exception, taking place on the 28th), starting at 9:25am prompt from the Village Hall. Shorter walks (around an hour, finishing with optional coffee and cakes at the Bon Ami) are led by Chris Miller and are generally on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 10:30am from the Village Hall. The walks are free, and all are welcome.

We have also recommenced our working parties, which take place on most Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Because they are dependent on the weather, it's best to check our web site for details (where our walking and other activities are also listed):

<http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html>

A date for your diaries is Friday 13th of August when our local bat expert, Julie Hopton, will once again be leading a walk around the Common to see and hear some of our bats – bat detectors that can scale down their ultrasonic chirps to be within range of human hearing will be provided. Meet at the Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Having wished, last month, to hear a repeat of last year's cuckoo on the Common, one has put in a brief appearance. This is typical behaviour – because just a few thousand of these birds are spread thinly around the country, males must travel widely to search for a mate. The males announce their presence with their unmistakable call, which is extremely loud (almost deafening when heard at close quarters) in order to reach any females that may be in the area. The males will generally move on after a few hours and try their luck elsewhere. There is no need for pair bonding, as the work of raising their young is carried out by their victims – the smaller birds whose nests they parasitise (in this area, most likely to be dunnocks).

The ponds across the Common are warming up (and dwindling!) as summer belatedly arrives. I'm pleased to report that there are still 7 ducklings on Pickup's Pond, now resembling adult females (though, as yet, their wings are still too small for them to fly). Damselflies are emerging, both the Large Red (a relative term, being ~35mm in length) and (marginally smaller) Azure, which are the usual species to be found. They are distinguishable from their larger cousins, the dragonflies, because they rest with their wings folded along the length of their bodies, while dragonfly wings are always held perpendicular.

The first dragonflies to emerge on the Common are normally the spectacular Broad-bodied Chasers. They have a slightly flattened abdomen (which gives them their name) and the male has a bright lilac-blue body, while the female is yellow. Dragonflies are classified as darters, chasers or hawkers, according to their hunting behaviour. Darters and chasers have a favourite perch (usually a reed or flower stem) to which they will return and await the passing of a suitable insect, while hawkers cruise ponds and other open areas of woodland actively searching for their prey.

Chris Miller
Chairman

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Clappins Lane Development Monitoring Team

You may recall from my last article that Coinford (the current onsite contractors) were due to be on site for approx. 12 weeks, to prepare the landscape, with Dandara assuming control after this period to start the building process.

We are now 11 weeks into the development and as I write this, on Tuesday 15th June, the response from Dandara is (re: the types of trees being planted and the levels of toxicity). Verbatim:

“Native Species: Our priority is to plant native species, that are agreed and discussed with the local authority. Species are generally specified in order to find a balance between native species to enhance biodiversity and ornamental species to provide seasonal interest.

Toxicity: Most plants and trees have some form of toxicity and most animals won't go around eating plants flowers and trees so the risk is minimal. So minimal in fact that this is the first time I've had to respond to anything like this in 20 years as a landscape architect designing public parks. I've looked over the planning drawings we submitted last year, and it appears that only Cherry and Daffodil appear on our drawings, these being in the 'Can be Fatal' category in the Dogs Trust List of poisonous plants. Both of which are important native species and it is a completely typical specification in a scheme such as this.”

I replied challenging them on the additional types of trees that are listed in the canopy plan, as several listed contain various levels of cyanide (as per the Dogs Trust List of poisonous plants).

I honestly don't know what will happen as a result of pushing back on this, but I hope to see an adjusted canopy plan, with many more native and non toxic trees. A total of three requests have been sent to Dandara now, asking them to provide an outline or plan to show where the new boundary line / fence will be erected on the Allen Drive and Woodcock Avenue sides of the field (as many residents have raised concerns). I have received two replies so far, both which have been very non-committal. Verbatim:

“We can advise that the we will be erecting our fence along our boundary line”.

“We can advise that our intention is to install our own boundary fence inside the site line of the existing fencing”.

I am currently waiting for a response to an email that I sent to them on Friday 28th May, which asked for a drawn out plan and/or measurements, so that the RPA (root protection area) is protected.

Update: The Clappins Lane Oak Tree:

NAWARA wrote an article for the Bucks Free Press, which has appeared both online and in the paper itself.

The piece highlighted the villager's plea to save the beautiful Oak tree, which to date has received 1,083 signatures to fight it being felled.

Within the article, a spokesperson for Buckinghamshire Council said (verbatim):

“We fully explored i) building the path around the tree creating a chicane in the road ii) building the path on the opposite side of the road and providing a new pedestrian crossing iii) diverting the path behind the tree. Unfortunately, the ultimate conclusion is that none of these options can work without compromising safety and leaves us at risk of not being able to fulfil our statutory duty of protecting the lives and safety of all users of the highway when we consider new developments and infrastructure”.

The owner of the land behind the Oak tree has offered to sell an area of it, that would enable Dandara to build a safe and sturdy pathway behind the tree, thus negating the requirement to fell it. Despite this offer, neither Dandara or the Council have been in contact with him to discuss this. We fail to see how option iii in the above verbatim could have been explored in any way, without contacting the landowner. Neither Highways or Bucks Planning have responded to NAWARAs most recent plea to save the Oak.

Please feel free to join our Facebook group, which is updated as soon as we have any new information to share:

“Clappins Lane Development Monitoring”.

Cheryl Anderson



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Regrettably, we will not be able to have the long-anticipated face to face meeting in July, so the committee will revert, once more, to video conferencing. As usual, your Resident's Association has been working with villagers and addressing their issues as best we can from a remote distance, including the onerous task of trying to view plans over our computers/mobile phones. We are all looking forward to meeting up in the flesh, hopefully very soon. Should you have any concerns or issues, **please contact Gloria on 563634 as usual.**

We hope you have all been enjoying our beautiful sunny villages at this very special time of year. We are so lucky to live in such an idyllic spot. It was good to hear that the proposal to turn the Chilterns into a National Park with all the extra protection that would offer is still being considered by Central Government as reiterated by Boris on the campaign trail locally. Let us hope that this movement gathers momentum so that we can protect our precious landscape for the next generations.

Street Naming; The Parish Council approached us to suggest street names for the new Clappins Lane housing development. Many of the oldest local families we approached did not want their names associated with a development which involves building on land which was once green belt and is now being developed for housing! We supplied ten names related to local history, including Dilly Knox and Bomber Harris. One very local resident commented that they personally felt "Bomber" was an especially appropriate choice in these circumstances and our committee totally concurred with this sentiment!

Save the Oak. The Clappins Lane Group are reporting separately on this, but as an update, the Residents Association has contacted the Bucks Free Press. Our article was published on their website on 15 June and was printed in their Friday 18 June edition.

Perilous Parking; Parking is a perennial 21st century problem and our villages are not immune. The extra traffic on the roads, because of the reluctance to use public transport, in the pandemic is certainly having an impact on us locally. We have been contacted by concerned residents in the vicinity of the new 63 dwelling development in Walter's Ash and even had

allotment holders claim that they have had to wheel their barrows onto the highway due to vehicles parking on the pavement. Neighbourhood Action Group have a Bad Parking notice to stick under windscreen wipers. Please contact Gloria on the number above if you would like to be sent a copy or have any concerns.

We will update you all on the date of our next meeting which will be held in the village hall when we are able to do so.

Enjoy the summer.

Claire Patten

Planning Applications, if supplied by NAWARA, are now published at: www.naphillandwaltersash.org.uk These are also available at: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/

Planning Applications are regularly printed in the Bucks Free Press.

Editor



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Buckinghamshire, HP22 6BD

With the warmer weather upon us, Lindengate is in full bloom, with an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife across our 5 acre site. Our kitchen gardens are flourishing and it looks like another great year for produce, which will be harvested and turned into delicious jams & chutneys, as well as being sold locally.

With many businesses working towards bringing their teams back together again, after over a year of working virtually, now is the time to reconnect. At Lindengate, we believe the natural environment contributes to building resilience and improving wellbeing, so why not arrange your next team meeting at Lindengate? Bring refreshments or a picnic and take time to re-engage, surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature. We also welcome local community groups. Get in touch to book ahead, if coming with a larger group. info@lindengate.org.uk

We are open to all, so drop in on Mondays & Wednesdays, 4.30pm – 7.30pm and Saturdays 1.30pm – 4.30pm and come and see for yourself! For full details of all our programmes, go to www.lindengate.org.uk



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It is a sad fact that many people who live alone have been particularly hard hit by the Covid19 pandemic. Being unable to socialise has adversely impacted upon their self-confidence and self-esteem as well as their mental and physical well-being. It has affected all age groups, however, the older population has perhaps been hardest hit. They tend (with exceptions, of course) to be less social media savvy and the latest mobile phone seems to do everything bar making a cuppa! So complicated and overwhelming. Also, some have experienced loss and feel doubly isolated as a result.

Humans thrive on social interaction and when this is withdrawn as it has been during the pandemic it affects us all in different ways. For some, it has been possible to find alternative ways of interacting and being able to cope with the situation. Not everyone is able to do this successfully. Taking care of their mental well-being has been a huge challenge for some people. They may have become socially isolated and now find the prospect of 'getting back to normal', whatever that is, overwhelming and even convince themselves that it simply cannot happen for them. Having a friendly voice on the end of a phone can be a real lifeline and gradually create a more positive attitude. It might then lead to meeting up –

either at home or somewhere else. Self-confidence gradually returns and with it self-esteem. It may take a few weeks or even longer. It really does not matter. What is important is that a rapport has been created between 2 people who did not know each other, and things tend to seem more positive when you can talk about them.

Hughenden Street Association (HSA) is partnering with a team based at Hughenden Valley & Chequers surgeries to support residents who would benefit from some external social interaction to help them regain their confidence. We are piloting a Befriending Scheme across the parish which will match volunteers to these residents. All volunteers will be DBS checked and receive safeguarding training at no cost to them.

If you are a good listener and would like to take part in this pilot, then please contact Anne Smart (annesmart888@msn.com) to register as a volunteer. Equally if you know someone who might benefit from the Scheme do let her know.

The pilot is being supported by Buckinghamshire Council.

Hilda Stearn
Hughenden Street Association
email: hughendensa@gmail.com

Shear Madness

At last a bit of summer is here and yes, I've had my shorts on and I've put my hairy boots away for now ha! Ha! I was going to comment on the euros but at the time of writing this we've only played one game so far but well done to Wales.

I'm going away for a week down to Poole. Luckily my parents have a little holiday flat that we can use so I'll be away from the 19th. I will be taking my phone and appointment book with me so feel free to message me or ring and I will set aside half an hour each day to call you back.

Just a quick reminder that I am still laminating your vaccination cards. Either pop them in to me or put them in an envelope with your contact number and drop them in my letter box, I can get eight cards on one sheet so once I have enough I'll get them done.

Enjoy the football, weather and friends, keep safe

Love as always



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Naphill Tennis Club

According to the SundayTimes (30 May 2021), the secret to a longer life is a healthy diet, regular exercise, avoiding tobacco and drinking less alcohol. Now new research suggests the surest way of increasing your lifespan may involve hitting a tennis ball. The study found that tennis players could expect to live an extra 10 years !

Our adult beginners and improvers coaching sessions with Mel & Becs are proving to be very popular with young and old alike as are our junior group sessions on Friday evenings.

Last week, we sadly said farewell to one of our older tennis players, Ethel, who is moving to Eastbourne and intends to sign up with a tennis club there. Ethel has been a stalwart of the improvers coaching sessions turning up regularly, rain or shine. We shall miss her cheerful, friendly attitude and her 'demon' forehand. Good luck Ethel!



BEGINNERS ADULT COACHING	Mondays 9 – 10 am	Cost: £10 per person. Open to non-members
IMPROVERS ADULT COACHING	Mondays 10 – 11 am Wednesdays 9 – 10 am	Cost: £10 per person. Open to non-members.

Sign up with our head coach, Mel Burn (email: melebbles@hotmail.com or 07949 128195).

For details of membership, please see our website: naphilltennisclub.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary (01494 563706 email: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com).

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The Wheel

It has been a lovely month getting back to some sort of normality and the weather seems to be on our side and playing the game. The table service system seems to be working and the staff have been amazing getting to grips with all the new operational restrictions. Writing this is a little hard as we are still holding off in the planning for any events as we are waiting patiently and hoping that some of the restrictions may change.

In June Mark and I celebrated our 15th anniversary at The Wheel with a few 'quiet' drinks!! It does not feel that long, and we have enjoyed being a part of this amazing village, even if the last few years have been tough. I would like to take this opportunity to say to anyone who is new within the area that we are a very dog friendly pub, and we have had dogs roaming around what is their home for the 15 years we have been here. They are as much a part of this pub as some of our good old locals.

It was strange not to have Napfest last month but am truly hoping for the Classics Cars and that their day can go ahead in August and the Fete Day will happen in September. The teams work so hard and can't wait for it all to be back to normal and remind us all why this village is so special.

Over the last month we have seen so many people enjoying the outside, but we have also realised that keeping up with the Takeaway menu is proving to be difficult at this present time. So, sadly we will be stopping this for the coming months especially during the summer. I should also remind people that we are currently closed on Monday and Tuesdays until the current restrictions are hopefully lifted.

As always thank you to everyone for their support and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Claire, Mark and the Dogs

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We Need Your Help – Have You Considered Getting Involved In Your Community?

I'm Trudi Scrivener, a local woman living in Speen with my family. I'm a working mum and I run a company that provides care to people in their own home. My job is super busy but I've always been interested in giving back in other ways than just through my work. I joined Rotary because being part of my local community and supporting people at a grass roots level is important to me. Rotary allows me to get involved, get to know people in the area and really make a difference.

Throughout the last year our Rotary Club has supported over 30 charities and provided over £35,000 of funding to organisations that are doing amazing work.

Rotary is a great way to network professionally, to meet other like-minded people and to get involved as much as you are able. We are a flexible, friendly club and that means you can put as much time in as you can but equally if your work is busy you can just do what you are able to.

Why not get in touch for an informal chat about getting involved by calling Trudi, on 07825 004991 or email trudi@ashridgehomecare.co.uk or go to our Club website rcpr.org.uk and select "Contact":

If you would like to make a donation to the Club Charity Fund, you can do so by going to:

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High Wycombe Photographic Society

We have early light mornings and long light evenings so it must be SUMMER! and it looks like we may be able to spend time with people outside in the Summer evenings almost like we used to do.

Fingers crossed the sun will put his hat on and come on out to play....

Zoom is still with us and has almost become an accepted form of keeping up with family and friends.

Did you realise that if you analyse a zoom call then:

- Removal of kids from the room 10%
- Removal of cat from keyboard 7%
- OMG did I take a shower 25%
- Move the camera higher for a better picture of one's self 10%
- Wondering if your neck always looked like that 13%
- Checking out everyone else's house 10%
- Relief at seeing another human being 23%
- Actual Zoom call 2%

In the middle of all the chaos we actually held our second Annual Projected Images Competition using, what else, Zoom and everyone really enjoyed the exercise.

Please go to our web site to see all the entries including the winning entries. There are some absolutely stunning photos.

For full details of what is going on at Wycombe Photographic Society please look at our website – www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

If you see something on our programme that interests you then please contact us and an invitation to attend the Zoom Session will be sent to you.



David Greenwood
Membership Secretary
Wycombe Photographic Society

Jonny & Tom - Your Local Lads



TJ & Co. YOUR LOCAL LADS

We are a group of friendly, reliable 16 year olds living in Naphill & Walters Ash who are happy to undertake any local jobs, such as general gardening, car washing and odd jobs.

Find us on Facebook: yourlocalads
Call us on: 07899 790556




After recently finishing our GCSE exams, we decided to set up a local business to keep us busy over the extended summer holiday period. Our business is called 'TJ & Co,' and we are a group of local lads who undertake odd jobs around Naphill and Walter's Ash such as weeding, cleaning cars and painting fences, although many more options are available.

All of the 'Local Lads' have been friends for many years after getting to know each other at Naphill and Walter's Ash primary school, and since then we have kept in touch through school and extracurricular activities such as football. In doing so, we have retained strong friendships and are able to have fun but be efficient at the same time.

We aim to keep the business running after the summer, possibly with jobs such as snow shovelling in the winter, and it is more than likely that next summer we will start this up again!

If you are interested in any of our services:

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Naphill Brownies

We are back at Brownies!

The brownie units of the district (Naphill, Walters Ash & Hughenden) have joined forces for the summer to run an outdoor programme. Not only is this the most covid-safe plan, but it makes the most of the weather too

It has been amazing to see all our brownie friends again and to welcome the girls who are just starting out on their brownie adventure. I am so proud of how our older girls have welcomed the new brownies and showed them the ropes. For their part the younger girls have settled in brilliantly

It is great for us leaders to get together again too. I know that I am biased but our brownie leaders are such a lovely bunch of people.

So far we have enjoyed wide games on the crick - finding clues and solving puzzles in a race to the treasure: taskmaster-style challenges - everything

from making tiny postcards to wrapping up weird objects: tent-pitching (with varying success) and tie-dye T-shirts – can't wait to see how those turn out

We have so much more lined up in coming weeks. Can't wait!

If you have a daughter between 7 & 10 years old, now is a great time to get involved. You can either register interest via the Girlguiding website, or get in touch directly.



Brown Owl

Ruth Daly

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

1st Naphill Brownies

Thursdays 5:45-7pm

The Super Naphill Lemonade Makers



On Tuesday 1st June, 13 year old Dylan, and 6 year old William and Gabriel had their minds set on one half-term activity - setting up a lemonade stand for passers-by, to raise money for The British Heart Foundation. This is a charity close to Dylan's heart in particular, as when he was five, he lost his grandfather to a heart attack. He knows the fantastic work they do to help people and their families and was worried about the impact lockdown has had on the charity's funding for future research projects. William and Gabriel were eager to help; it's something they had been keen to do for a long time. So, armed with all

of the lemons the Co-Op had on their shelves, and the smallest of lemon squeezers, the three boys set about making jugs of homemade lemonade and set up their stand outside their house on Main Road in the hot afternoon sun.

Within 30 seconds they had their first customer, and the afternoon saw a steady flow of people popping by the stand. They also did drop offs to neighbours unable to leave their homes, as they didn't want anyone to miss out. The boys were so happy with the positive response from the community. Dylan said "I really wasn't expecting people to give so much for our lemonade, it was pretty good though!" The boys were delighted as they raised a total of £89.10, that they donated directly to the British Heart Foundation online. They hope to set another stand up again in the summer – with the addition of cake!

Sue Fitzpatrick

01525 373 019

Toddle In Group *nurturing curious minds*

Bubbles!



We have been really enjoying the lovely warm weather here at Toddle In Group. Our children have had the opportunity to make their own bubble mixture, and use fantastic gross motor skills to make ENORMOUS bubbles in the garden!

Many children find bubbles in any form lots of fun. It might be bubbles in their bath, bubbles to clean the car or the dishes, bubbles to run and jump and catch before they pop, or it can be bubbles that the children could fit inside!

We have been exploring bubble art with the children in the last week. The children experimented to make a blend of colour, washing up liquid and water that they could blow bubbles into with a straw. They added a little more of each solution until they finally blew air into their solution, and the bubbles all stayed! Once they had found the correct mix, they tried to blow the bubbles on to paper to capture their experiment forever. This also gave us a great opportunity to look at the differences between the 3D bubble, and the 2D circle print.

This week, with the weather so warm and sunny, the children have been challenged to create a mixture that we can make bubbles as big as they are. Our youngest children marvelled at the sight of these huge bubbles, whilst our older children grappled with large hoops to see who could make the tallest bubble.

We are still offering socially distanced tours, and now we have a short video of our Nursery on our website www.toddleingroup.co.uk/Naphill for families to take a look at. If you would like to book a visit please call Kim on 01494957196 or email enquiries@toddleingroup.co.uk.



Growing Your Own

The importance of putting back into the soil at least as much as one is taking out is generally recognised. But how much? And what type of dung?

When I took over my allotment in 1973 one of the first things I did was to use a soil testing kit to analyse the soil content. The pH was down a bit, ie a little too acid, so for many years I applied lime except where I was adding manure and/or growing potatoes. The potash was a little down so I applied bonfire ash whenever possible. The phosphorus content was also a little down, but I thought that manuring would gradually build up the phosphorus level. However, the BIG PROBLEM was nitrogen, which was way, way down. Obviously, previous allotment tenants had cropped and cropped without putting anything back, so the soil had become impoverished. I resolved to apply generous amounts of manure every year to gradually restore the situation. As to the type of manure, I used pig, horse and cow. I have not used chicken, firstly because I did not have a ready supply of chicken manure and, secondly, because chicken manure is very highly concentrated and there are warnings about it burning plants.

PIG - When I took over my allotment there was a pig farm a few hundred yards away and I was told "help yourself". Since it was conveniently close I used pig manure for a few years, transporting it in my big builder's wheelbarrow. However, there are some perils in do-it-yourself manure

gathering and a particular experience, involving a neighbour's dog falling into the heap one year, led me to stop.....

HORSE - I was put off horse manure from stables because of the low ratio of dung to straw, and the fact that the straw usually was not sufficiently decomposed, so I went for spent mushroom compost from a local mushroom grower. However, after a while I realised that in the mushroom compost were small pieces of chalk, and that if I continued to use that form of compost my soil would eventually become too alkaline.

COW - I then turned to farmyard manure (ie cow) from a local friendly farmer, and have applied that exclusively ever since. The advantage of two- to three-year old cow manure is that the ratio of manure to straw is very high, the straw is usually well decomposed and there is little odour. It is therefore highly concentrated.

Another benefit of applying dung to the soil every year is that one builds up the fibre and humus content of the soil. As to the results of applying large quantities of manure every year, soil analysis shows that all the readings for the 19 vital trace elements for my soil are within DEFRA guidelines – and my fruit and vegetables are delicious!

Good gardening!

Mike Mason

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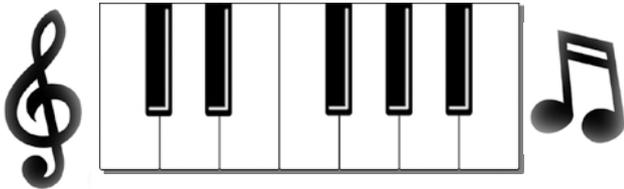
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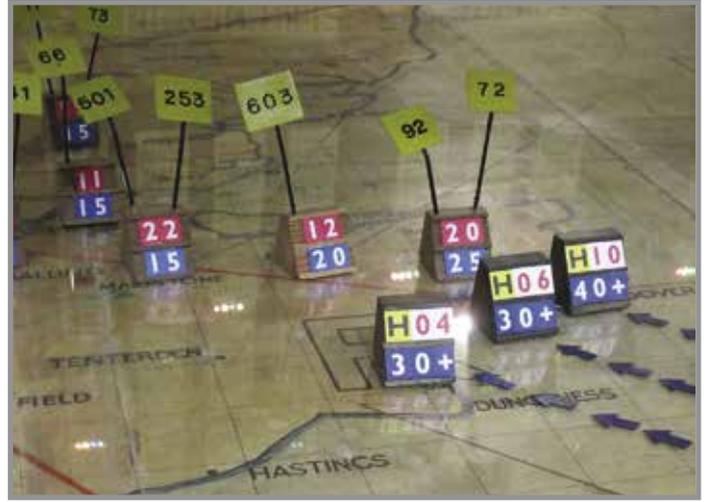
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Chiltern Hills Arboriculture – Staycation Days Out

I think it's fair to say that, after 15 months of various lock downs and restrictions, it has become more challenging to find interesting places and attractions to visit for entertainment, distraction, and wider stimulation. Particularly with school holidays coming up this is only going to be more pressing.

Back in May, the second relaxation of opening restrictions was applied. Thankfully this included the re opening of a site that has been on my visiting wish list for the last three years, so tickets were bought.

The Battle of Britain Bunker is located in Uxbridge. The underground facility was built by Sir Robert McAlpine between February and August 1939. This was our government's reaction to the rise in popularity of Hitler and fascism in Germany during the run up to WW2, and it proved to be quite timely and astute. The bunker was specifically designed to coordinate the air defences of the UK, and be impenetrable should there be an attack. When that time came "The Battle of Britain" spanned from 10th July to 31st October.

The site is basically split into three sections. There are full sized models of planes in the grounds outside, together with a large statue of Air Vice Marshall Sir Keith Park, who commanded the operations of RAF number 11 Group at nearby RAF Uxbridge.

There is a visitor centre. It's easy to spend an hour or more here looking at the exhibits and reading the information about the development of radar, how the bunker functioned during battle, and extensive timelines of both world wars.

The main attraction, of course, is the bunker. After descending 76 steps you enter the plotting room. Your

guide will deliver a presentation on exactly what went on during the battle. How the incoming information was processed and displayed on the plotting table. You will learn some fascinating facts, like what the red, blue and yellow numbers on the sortie markers mean, and why some planes have black and white banding around the wings (you have to ask about that one, like I did). I don't want to spoil any of the fun, but the two facts that astounded me were..... a Spitfire would only have enough fuel to engage with a German plane for 15 minutes on any flight. Also a Spitfire only had enough ammunition for 15 seconds of burst firing. Fifteen minutes or fifteen seconds... then back to base. The pressure on the plotting room staff was immense.

A lesser known quote from Winston Churchill after visiting the plotting room on 16th August 1940 with General Ismay, his Chief Staff Officer... after watching plotting room ops during an air battle.

"Don't speak to me.... I have never been so moved...."

The tour of the bunker took about an hour and a quarter (Mrs B and I were the only timed 2pm visit that day... so a personally guided tour). Add at least another hour or more for the visitors centre, and some time in the on site cafe or a picnic..... you have a grand day out for £7.00 per adult. (I believe under 18's are free).

www.battleofbritainbunker.co.uk

email:bunker@hillingdon.gov.uk tel: 01895 238154

Mike Beckley
Chiltern Hills Arboriculture



About our business!

Hi I am Ray Pullen and I'm a professional chef with a real passion for all thing's food! My partner, Nathalie, and I are resident in Naphill and we are very much enjoying sharing our passion for cooking and our take away dishes with the local community.

I publish a regular weekly menu on my Facebook page and I send this menu out via email, to my subscribers.

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A Message from Padre Lacey - *How's your wellbeing?*



As a Chaplain, or Padre as we are affectionally called, I spend most of my role listening to people who are, for a plethora of reasons, needing to offload. It's a most humbling position to be in, and one I am honoured to be able to offer to people. Often, after I've met with someone, or when others are asking about what I do people ask; 'who do you go to Padre?', or 'what do you do to process life?'

My answer to this has changed throughout the past year. There are some constants to how I nurture and look after my own wellbeing and nourish my headspace. For me running, walking, prayer and worship, talking with other Padre's and (without breaking any confidence) my hubby are factors of my wellbeing I intentionally focus on...but something big has slipped for me this year.

I usually journal. For me writing things down helps me to reflect, begin to 'order' and make sense of what is happening in my life, as well as unpacking and letting go of some of the grappling's that people have come and spoken to me about. But, in the past year this has fizzled a bit. And I've noticed.

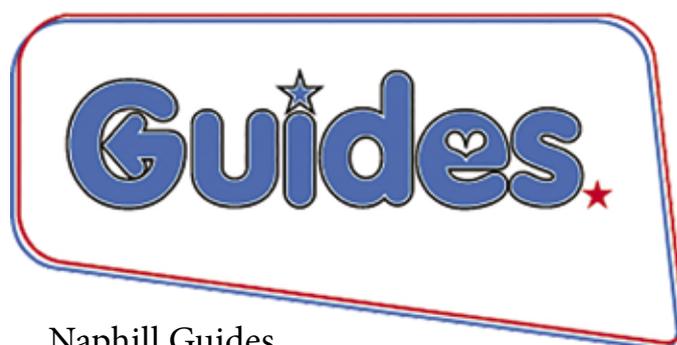
Perhaps I subconsciously don't want to reflect because I can't express what's inside? Getting it out on paper can make it more real and perhaps I'm not ready for that? Or is it too big to get out...where do I start, is it too overwhelming? For whatever reason, something that would come naturally, and part of my routine has slipped, and I have noticed how it has affected my resilience and capacity at present.

Maybe your usual wellbeing nurturing has been prohibited due to restrictions? Maybe your energy reserves have caused a neglect of nurturing your wellbeing? Perhaps, like me, it can seem too big to reflect on...how will you reclaim it, or discover new nourishment?

As we continue to journey through this pandemic, focussing on something like our resilience reserves or our wellbeing may be alien to some of us. It's not an area of ourselves which gets a lot of attention, because it just happens, like not having to consciously think about your heart beating. But this past year, however you have come through it, for all of us, at some point, we've had to check on our resilience and wellbeing. How are you nurturing yours?

To chat through anything please contact Padre Chrissie on: christina.lacey102@mod.gov.uk or 01494 494469

Padre Chrissie Lacey



Naphill Guides

Following a long period on Zoom the Naphill Guides are now finally able to meet face to face again! The first meeting took place the last week in May and we hope to continue these face-to-face meetings moving forward.

The unit currently has 10 Guide Members, and although we do have girls on the waiting list at the moment, unfortunately, the unit are unable to take on any new members. We hope to be able to welcome new members from 21 September but this will depend on social distancing guidelines in the months ahead.

The unit is run solely by volunteers and unfortunately at the moment we are experiencing a real shortage of help. No experience is needed, just a friendly face and a couple of hours of your time on a Wednesday evening. If you would be interested in helping out at the unit, please contact Jayne Green on the following email address naphillguides02@yahoo.com for further information.

Speen WI



What a challenging year we and all WI's have had! But thanks to Zoom and the telephone, we have managed to keep in touch and retain all our lovely members, rewarding their faithfulness with Christmas and Easter Gift Bags.

However, as Covid restrictions eased, we all gathered on the 9th June in a member's beautiful garden in glorious sunshine to celebrate our new found freedom with Prosecco and cake with a similar event planned for July until 'normal service' resumes (we hope!) in August/September.

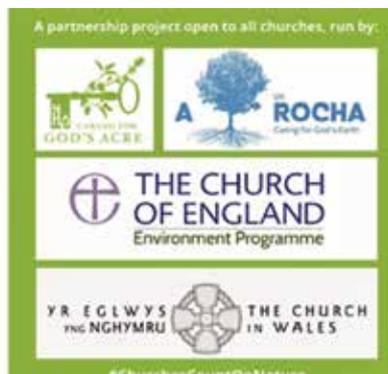
If you are interested in joining our friendly Thursday group which included members from Speen, Princes Risborough, Naphill and Walters Ash, please contact me for further information on 01494 562333

Jenny Pearce,
Secretary of Speen WI.



News from Saint Michael's and All Angels Church

The weather was especially kind for the Nature Quest weekend, which, along with many others was held on 12/13 June. This was part of the national Churches Count on Nature initiative which aims to catalogue the range of plants and creatures inhabiting the country's churchyards and add these to the National Biodiversity Network.



Churchyards, often unploughed and undeveloped, sometimes for centuries, together cover the area of a small national park, and are thought to be home to many rare and endangered species, as well as the more common ones. At the time of writing, the total count of species observed in St Michael's churchyard has not yet been finalised, but included

a nesting wren, mouse eared hawkweed, turkey oak, and grasshoppers. The rabbits who live in the church yard kept a low profile while visitors were there!

The toddlers who are now meeting each week in the Mothers' Union garden also had a special nature day prior to the weekend, and investigated all manner of creepy crawlies, before making a paper bee in their craft session.

As restrictions ease – and the weather picks up – more events are planned, including another outdoor service in June, and a parish BBQ in July.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend there will be a Flower Festival in the Church, with displays particularly reflecting experiences of the last year.

All details about what is going on in the Church can be found on our website (www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk) and our weekly live-streamed services can be followed there or on YouTube.

Jane Tyrer

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk



Helping & Supporting One Another!

Message from Saint Michael's and All Angels Church Vicarage

"You have heard it said, Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven".

These radical words of Jesus are found in the heart of his Sermon on the Mount, and can be found in Matthew 5:43-44.

The Sermon on the Mount encapsulates much of who Jesus is, his mission and purpose and would no doubt have caused more than a few sharp intakes of breath when he delivered these words.

Jesus offers a new kind of justice. A creative, healing restorative justice, not a settling of old scores, like an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth but a response of the heart characterised by love, forgiveness and compassion.

I cannot for one moment pretend that love everyone always comes easily to me. The idea of having enemies seems quite old fashioned, and from a bygone age, or during times of war. But if we substitute that instead with other words, perhaps we might find it more relevant to us today:

Love the person who pushes into the queue in front of you in the supermarket, when you have been waiting patiently for 10 minutes;

Love the neighbour who keeps you awake at night with loud music;

Love the driver who causes you to swerve in your car to avoid hitting them when they weave in and out dangerously in overtaking you;

Love the family member who always make you feel guilty at family parties by asking you embarrassing questions...

Are you more likely to tell the person off who pushes in front of you in the queue, bang on the door of the

neighbour, or call the police for a loud party, shout and hoot at a dangerous driver and tell the family member what you think of them, and be as rude back to them?

I am sure all those thoughts go through our minds instead, or is it just me?

Often in the heat of the moment our first reaction can sometimes be unhelpful, but once we have counted to 10, a more measured response can ensue, which can hopefully defuse the situation, rather than pour petrol on the fire, so to speak.

I wonder who do you struggle with? How do you usually respond in difficult situations? How might these words of Christ provoke you into a more loving, compassionate and forgiving response?

A society which is characterised by Christ-like qualities will instinctively care for the more vulnerable members. Those in need of extra support because they are struggling to cope alone. In Jesus' time the leper and others who were considered unclean were wholly reliant upon the charity of others in order to survive.

In 21st Century High Wycombe, we seek to give extra support to those who struggle to obtain food, medicine, need a lift to the hospital. Good neighbours, strong and caring neighbourhood groups ensure that no one is forgotten and those who need support are offered it. If we cannot help someone in need ourselves, more often than not we can sign post them to someone who can.

Our society has become more caring since covid lockdown was imposed last year. My hope and prayer is that this kindness will live on.

Rev Keith Johnson

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

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A photograph of two men, one younger and one older, standing behind a large, dark wood cabinet with drawers and shelves. They are outdoors, with green foliage in the background. A lion's head logo is overlaid on the bottom right of the photo.

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Message from Bradenham Vicarage - *Outlaws, banks and Jesus!*

I am a great fan of film scores and consequently often notice music accompanying advertisements. I have discovered many beautiful pieces of classical and contemporary music as a result of Google searching 'music for latest xxxxxx ad'. We are all familiar with the airline ad that used the 'Flower Duet' from Lakshme, but it goes much further than that. My first experience of Vangelis' stunning music to 1492 was through a car advertisement that used 'Conquest of Paradise' from that score. My knowledge of Carl Orff's music was pushed beyond Carmen Burana because of a frozen food outlet's use of a xylophone piece from his 'Street Scenes' suite.

The latest piece I 'noticed' had me both laughing out loud and thinking. An online bank has been broadcasting an advertisement extolling its virtues accompanied by the theme from 'Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves'. Perhaps you've seen it and are thinking 'that music sounds familiar I wonder what it what is' or maybe like me, laughing out loud at the ad maker's choice? Now I am thinking 'job done' because it got me noticing the ad and engaging far more deeply with it than I otherwise would have done, not that I am going to change from my bank of 45 years.

The bank presumably paid a lot of money to a fancy advertising agency to come up with the campaign that cleverly works on many levels. Superficially it raised a smile and a question – is this music and its associations supremely suitable or spectacularly unsuitable for a bank? Then there is the question do we want to be associated with a bank that allies itself to someone who stole from the rich? On the other hand there is something inherently

good about the folk hero who literally lives 'outside the law' and creates a moral system of his own where wealth is shared more equally and the poor, needy or outcast are welcome. Or perhaps you are just asking 'Jenny – why don't you get out more?'

The concept of someone who lives outside the law and creates a new morality that supersedes existing rules is an ancient one that has undergone many revisions. In the Old Testament, Moses flees from Egypt an outlaw, yet becomes the agent through which God delivers the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament, Jesus' radical reinterpretation of ancient law leads to him becoming a fugitive from the Roman and Jewish authorities. His crime? Telling the poor, needy and outcast that God welcomed them and demanding that the rich be accountable for their wealth. He preached a new morality that he called the 'Kingdom of Heaven' which was open and available to all.

The legend of Robin Hood is an endearing one with the idea of justice at its core, but the justice he was able to mete out was limited to those around him, ending with his death that transformed him from local hero to national legend. The story of Jesus is beyond legend. When Jesus died, he was exonerated as the Son of God - way more than a local hero. The idea of his Heavenly Kingdom spread far and wide - it is a Kingdom that is still actively with us today Every blessing,

Rev Jenny Ellis
ellisjene@aol.co

Local Church Service Notice

4 July	9.30am	Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage
11 July	9.30am	Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe
18 July	9.30am	Eucharist	St Botolph, Bradenham
25 July	11.00am	Eucharist	St Botolph, Bradenham
1 August	9.30am	Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage
8 August	9.30am	Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe
15 August	9.30am	Eucharist	St Botolph, Bradenham
22 August	11.00am	Eucharist	St Botolph, Bradenham
29 August	9.30am	Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe

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Fete & Live Music Saturday 11th September

Hello all, well, NAPFEST is back, somewhat different, with the fete and music on the same day. The Committee and I really hope that this event can go ahead, and fingers crossed for restrictions to be lifted. Also, there will be no marquee, instead we have an inflatable stage, so bring your own gazebo for a small fee.

The format for the day will be Fete 12-4pm and live music from 6pm.

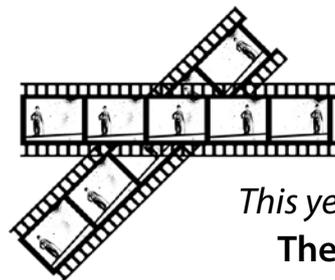
Currently, we are taking booking for stalls and I would be grateful if you could email nwafete@hotmail.co.uk to either reserve a stall or request further information.

We are also seeking up and coming local bands, so if you would be interested in taking part in this event, again please send us an email.

To ensure this event goes ahead we will need volunteers to help set up on Friday 10th and stewards on 11th and help to put away on 12th, if you can help on any of these days please email us. Thank you for reading this and let's hope we can make a special occasion for our villages. I think we all deserve it.

Regards,

Linda Clark



This year's theme:
The Movies



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By the time this edition of the Gazette is published, we will know whether restrictions 'on our lives' have been lifted or remain in one form or another. There is even some pessimistic talk in the National Press that restrictions might last until next spring. Fortunately, this uncertainty is not deterring many of our u3a Groups from operating as close to normal as possible. Why not join one of our Walking Groups, for example? Provisionally (and perhaps optimistically), September has been chosen as the date we might start back in Halls, always checking Covid safety measures are in place. We do appreciate the work all our Halls are doing to make this happen.

Groups operating on Zoom are as busy as ever and confident that their Members will come back into Halls when fully re-opened. June has seen our Discovering Science Group discussing 'Genomics' with a guest speaker from NHS England, explaining the significance of their pioneering research which we saw from the examples given, several successful treatments of previously untreatable conditions. But if these amazing advances in medical treatments do not 'turn you on' then our Flower Group is also blooming with ideas.

Our photograph will give you some idea of what they have been achieving recently. Again, why not join them? And, please remember that a full subscription allows you to attend as many monthly General Meetings as well as local Groups as you wish. The only extra might be paying for a cup of tea!



The Discovering Art Group continues to surprise all their members and visitors. Their latest talk focused on 'Women Artists' an area unfamiliar to most of us. Our Convenor pointed out that less than 1% of paintings at the National Gallery were by women. We were shown a vastly diversified range of pictures from over 20 female artists, the majority of whom we have not even heard of. We all concluded we had missed some truly inspiring work. This talk was recorded and like many others available to all members, new or those just joining. We do record, subject to permission of speakers, our audience and copyright restrictions, many of the presentations given on Zoom.

Following the sad news that our Local History Convenor (David Church) had passed, Paul Gilliam in response to several requests, gave a brief Introduction to the History of High Wycombe. He used 'The Victorian History of the County of Buckingham' as his principal source. Members were able to reminisce as well as come to appreciate the strategic significance of Wicumbea (1086 Domesday reference)

or perhaps more known as Chepping Wycombe, or even plain old High Wycombe the name given to the Town, after Wicumbea. Do you, for example, remember anyone talking about The Electroscope? The first purpose-built theatre/cinema in High Wycombe opposite Frogmoor. It was opened in 1912, and initially offered a varied programme of live artistes and silent films such as Charlie Chaplin's "It's a Dogs Life." In 1938 it was converted into a cinema, The Rex. It was then used for many purposes, including a conversion to a swimming pool, and during WW2 as a furniture store.

Perhaps you could help us develop more of the stories that make living in our community more enjoyable. Even volunteering to be our next Convenor for the Local History Group?



The availability of talks online has enabled free access to topics which can be discussed afterwards by members. We are fortunate that we have also have Members with access to many outside sources. These have included 'real time' talks from Nepal, India, Singapore and Australia as well as material researched from The British Library and others. Our National u3a Office and Thames Valley Regional Network have also been supporting local Groups with access to speakers and online activities. We do, of course, appreciate that online activities are not everyone's 'cup of tea' and that's what we are all looking forward to when we can meet in a 'post-pandemic' world. u3a recently celebrated their first u3a day with information widely distributed in the press. Please do contact us if you would like to find out more of what we do and why around half a million members enjoy clubs and meetings organised by their local u3a.

If you've been at all lonely during this pandemic, let us try to make a difference. You'll be made very welcome (online or 'face to face'. We look forward to hearing from you. You can 'try us out' free at least once on Zoom or when we can, at a local meeting in village halls including Naphill Village Hall. Our u3a Groups meet at 10am or 2pm on weekdays. Do email our Membership Secretary for full details of our programmes in homes and village halls through the High Wycombe District.

Email: hwu3a.membership@gmail.com

Paul Gilliam

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Naphill Fireworks Spectacular

Saturday 6th November

Hello! I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and enjoying the warm weather. It always seems strange to me to be planning fireworks displays and bonfires for a cold November evening, whilst sitting in my house in 27 degrees with every single window open, waiting for the smallest breeze to cool me down, not that I'm complaining after the Spring we had this year.

Planning for Naphill Fireworks Spectacular 2021 is now well under way and as always, I'm very grateful for the time our fantastic team of volunteers on our committee dedicate every year to plan and run our event. One of the few benefits of a global pandemic (that's not a sentence I saw myself writing a few years ago) is that without the ability to host large events for some time now, it means that we've been the proud holder of Buckinghamshire's Best Fireworks Display since 2019! I'm joking of course, this has been a difficult time for everyone and if everything goes to plan with the easing out of lockdown, regardless of the 4 week delay, we are very much looking forward to be able to give the village something to look forward to in November.

This year our event is being held on the evening of Saturday 6th November and we are excited to be planning another spectacular fireworks display, big red button, bonfire, live music, barbecue, bar and much more and we can't wait to welcome you all back. We cannot run our event without the support of our amazingly generous local businesses and volunteers, so if you'd like to give something back to the local community, then please do get in touch. We are all very positive that we will be able to host our event this year, however it goes without saying that the current climate is continually evolving so we will be following all the government guidelines very closely, the safety of our guests and volunteers is of the utmost importance. Therefore as a precaution we will make a final go/no go call for our scheduled November event late in the Summer and of course we will keep you all updated once that decision has been made. Enjoy the rest of the Summer!

Pete Dalby

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Naphill Fireworks Committee

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From Our Wye Correspondent

I have been fortunate enough to get away for a few days since my last article. We went to North Wales for the second week in May and stayed in a small harbour development (Y Felinheli) between Bangor and Caernarfon. It was a great base for exploring the area but unfortunately, we had very disappointing weather which did detract from our experience; however I do have a couple of highlights to share. We spent the only sunny day we had at Portmeirion. Famed as the filming location for *The Prisoner* in the 60's, the village created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, is as spectacular as it is quirky but is mainly given over to holiday lets, although the grounds are stunning, with a coastal walk along the Dwyryd Estuary (see picture above) and woodland trails reminiscent of our own Naphill Common.

If you go when the tide is out, you can climb down to one of two isolated sandy coves. We also spent the day on the Cambrian Line between Pwllheli and Machynlleth, a stunning railway route along the coast featured recently on the Channel 5 series "World's Most Scenic Railways". I also took the Conwy Valley line from Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog which follows the River Conwy from source to sea. My wife spent that day fighting off the seagulls in Llandudno, a surprising, affluent Victorian town which reminded us of a Harrogate-by-the-Sea! We found the Morrisons with the most stunning location in Caernarfon. The car park overlooking the Menai Strait is pictured above, marginally better than Parker Knoll Way!!

I would like to add my support to the "Save the Oak" campaign in Clappins Lane. Whilst I whole heartedly disagree with the Clappins Lane development I am afraid it was always going to happen once the

field was taken out of the Green Belt. However, I see no reason why some of the lovely trees cannot be retained to soften the impact. What is worrying is the time it is going to take to complete, with the current shortages of building materials this could drag on and residents are already suffering parking issues from the workforce. Let us hope that Dandara get on with it more quickly than their site in Haddenham which has just stagnated over the last 18 months, probably as there is so much development in that area.

Oh and the housing market – it has definitely quietened down with a lot less houses now on the market. However, there is no evidence that prices are stabilizing, in fact quite the opposite.

Alan Draper - Wye



The Horse Trust will be opening our gates again to visitors at the end of July which we are really excited about. We will be following a pre-booking system only

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