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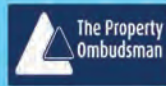
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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette December/January 2020



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Football Club - Junior Senior	Martin Beddows		naphillcubscouts@outlook.com
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Men's Club	Pat Furness	01494 565501	
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Copy Date for February Gazette 15 January 2020

Welcome!
to the December/January edition
of the Naphill & Water's Ash Gazette.

ANOTHER bumper edition of the Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette and of course, a special Christmas layout with lots of seasonal good wishes and colour. My apologies to the delivery team for the increase in size and weight, we do use much lighter paper these days so hopefully you will all forgive me. My thanks as always to Ian Hall and the delivery team. You will see on page 37 that we do need more people to help with the Gazette distribution please. Also on page 37, there are details of the Gazette advertising rates for next year. I am sad to announce that these rates have had to be increased. The event which has necessitated this will be explained by our treasurer when she publishes our annual accounts next year. Our advertising revenue is a vital factor and I thank our advertisers for their ongoing support.

So on to much happier things! Our fabulous village hall tree will once again be festooned with lights and for many of us this heralds the start of the Christmas Festivities. As always, we ask you to contribute generously towards the costs involved. The lights are always switched on in time for the Village Hall Christmas Gift Fayre which this year is on 6 December and is well worth visiting.

The Bucks Free Press asked their readers to vote for the best 2019 firework display. Of course, the result was NEVER in doubt! Naphill came first! Congratulations once again to Pete Dalby and his team, you do an amazing job every year! The weather was certainly not kind to you this year but once again, as reported in this edition, you have raised a significant amount of money to help support our villages.

Naphill Mini Market and Post Office is now under new management and we welcome Nadeem and Shabana to our village. Many local villages no longer have a village shop leave alone a Post Office. In days gone by the services offered by the Post Office were quite limited but nowadays they do so much more. If we want to keep our Post Office it is essential that we support this business.

My thanks to all this month's contributors and to Himself for this month's cover. I look forward to receiving all the contributions for the February Gazette on or before 15 January 2020 please.

Finally, my hardworking Gazette team join me in extending our best wishes to you all! We hope you enjoy our special Christmas Gazette. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year and I look forward to being back in the editorial chair in 2020

Sonia
editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council - Chairman's Report

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk



The monthly meeting of the village hall committee was held on the 4 November. There was continued discussion over the plan to reduce committee numbers. Two members of the committee had outlined a proposal to restructure the committee. There would be eight members, a trustee board chairman, a governance and regulation officer, a secretary and administration officer, a treasurer and financial officer, a maintenance and development of facilities officer, a fund raising officer, a community activities and clubs officer, and a commercial management officer. All of these appointments would be elected at the AGM and four would be initially asked to stand for 3 years and the other four for two years so that there was continuity of officers. There were various other points raised by this proposal, one of them being that the current committee is lacking younger members and will need to recruit into the committee some new people from the younger village community. The proposal was welcomed by the committee and further discussion will be held before it is recommended to be adopted into our charity structure.

The improvements to the hall have been ongoing and the soffits and guttering have been replaced around the scout and guides hall and the men's club. A new

meter cupboard has been made so that a smart? meter can be installed. Also we now have a comprehensive fire alarm system fitted throughout the whole building, including the scout and guides hall which is linked to the main hall and also Bon Ami. This system includes heat and smoke monitoring sensors and alarm points at the fire exits.

The bonfire and fireworks event went ahead despite the weather, unfortunately my order for good weather was not met by the powers that be! It was great to see that so many people came to the event, in these inclement conditions. The Remembrance service was held on the Sunday before the 11 November and the hall was filled with villagers and the youngsters from the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers. The Christmas Fayre is on 6 December so come along to buy those Christmas gifts. The committee would like someone to come along to the monthly meeting and take the minutes of the meeting. If you are interested please email either the secretary or the chairman via the village hall website www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk. We also would like to hear from anyone able to assist with health and safety experience.

Clive Lawrence, - Village Hall Chairman.



Naphill Christmas Gift Fayre

Friday 6th December, 6.00 - 9.00 pm
Naphill Village Hall

- * Stained & Fused glass
- * 'Jen Winnett Art'
- * 'Flux Photographic'
- * Home Fragrance & Candles
- * Luxury Chocolates
- * Stocking Fillers
- * Handmade Cards
- * Handmade Fudge
- * Home Decor
- * 'Chris Knits'
- * 'Forever Living'
- * Wooden Gifts
- * Door wreaths & decorations

Festive Fizz, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
GRAND DRAW

Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights

By the time you read this, the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall should be lit up, brightening the dark winter evenings and bringing festive cheer to the whole village. I'm sure we all feel the stresses of the day fade away when we see the tree looking so wonderful on our way home - some even change their route home just to admire the tree!

Our Christmas tree has brought joy to the community for generations. The lights are put up and taken down each year by a team of intrepid volunteers, led by Mike Mason, who require insurance cover which costs £350. Adding to this the necessary repairs and the electricity required to light the tree through December, last year's costs totalled £568. The current equipment was purchased in 2009 and most years the effects of wind and weather take their toll.

Please make a donation to show your appreciation and to keep our tree alight. If every household in the village gave just £1 our costs would be covered, so please give what you can. Collecting tins are in local shops and both pubs. Any donation, big or small, will be very welcome.



We are hoping to have a new online donation facility soon but as I write this has not yet been finalised. We will let everyone know via social media once this is available.

Enjoy the lights and have a very Happy Christmas!

Cathryn Carter

Bon Ami



Firstly we are sorry that we missed copy date last month!

We are thrilled to inform you all that at our MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday 27th September we raised a magnificent £245.56! Thank you very much to everyone who bought coffees and/ or donated.

Our book club continues to thrive and we are enjoying reading a wide variety of books. Everyone's taste is quite varied.

As Christmas is coming our Fayre will shortly include: Christmas cake, mince pies and a special festive panini. Watch our specials board.

Amanda and Ruth would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout 2019. As in previous years we will be closing over the festive period to spend time with our families. We will close at the end of Friday 20th December and reopen on Monday 6th January 2020.

Happy Christmas and a great 2020.

Amanda and Ruth.



FoNC AGM
Naphill Village Hall
Friday, 10 January 2020
Guest Speaket: Tom Hall
“Wildlife on your doorstep”

Our village is very fortunate to have such a large area of common land (155.4 acres; 62.9 hectares) all along one side. The Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which includes a small piece of Downley Common, is 175.7 acres (71.1 hectares). Although the people of the village do not own the Common, surely, we can influence what is done with it? The extensive felling has left large areas with very little ground cover and undergrowth, but these are vital for what animals and birds survive there. As well as a network of well posted paths for walkers we need to encourage plenty of undergrowth, especially brambles, juniper gorse and bracken. There is no reason why we cannot attract nightingales and various species of warbler if we provide the dense cover they require. There are still traces of heather and mosses which once held lizards, slow worms and grass snakes and could do so again. Fallow deer, muntjac and hares will be attracted as the grass cover returns.

Fortunately, the storm winds on 2nd November did not do significant damage on the Common or strip off all the leaves, so the colours are still brilliant and well worth a walk. The beech looks almost gaudy

against the more sober oaks, and the ash stands out with its bright yellow. Look out too, for the winter bird visitors: some redwings and fieldfares are already in the area and we may get some siskins, bramblings and redpoll. The great grey shrike was once an exotic winter visitor but has not been seen around here for many years, but you might be the lucky one to see it next (one was spotted in Bucks this october).



On the subject of rarities: Naphill now has another rare fungus to set aside the Lion's Mane *Hericium erinaceus*, it is Devil's Fingers *Clathrus archeri*. It is much smaller than the Lion's Mane but makes up for it with its vivid crimson/pink "fingers". The fungus came originally from Australia but now crops up here and there in Southern Britain. There are several specimens but, unfortunately, it is wise not to say exactly where they are growing because rogue collectors might remove them even though they are inedible and have a foul smell.

Our short walks of about 2-3 miles, led by Chris Miller, are on the first Wednesday of each month, starting from the Village Hall at 10.30am. They usually involve part of the Common. The longer walks are led by Ron Collins and are about 5 miles, generally some distance from Naphill. Join Ron on the third Monday of each month; meeting at the Village Hall at 9.25am for a prompt start at 9:30am. Members and non-members are equally welcome. These are the usual arrangements, but it is wise to look at the FONC website or ring Chris or Ron to check before you go. There are also regular working parties, generally organised by Peter Davis and Ron Collins. They are also listed on the website.

Please come to our AGM held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm on Friday 10th January 2020. You will enjoy a talk by our guest speaker, the well-known wildlife photographer Tom Hall, on the subject of "Wildlife on your doorstep" and have an opportunity to vote in a new committee and express your views about FONC, and our precious common.

Chris Miller - Chairman.

Jack Birgani - A Young Friends of Naphill Common Volunteer



Hi ! I'm Jack age 13 and I am helping out with the Friends of Naphill Common on Sunday mornings as part of my volunteering for my Duke of Edinburgh award. We are clearing the ponds at the moment which have to be done over the winter when the newts are hibernating. We are planning to spend a few weeks on each pond clearing the weeds that have grown up over the last year. If this is not done the ponds will disappear.



I got very wet in the pond but liked chopping the trees and holly down around the pond.

It's quite hard work but lots of fun and I feel good for helping save the woods where I live.

Please come and help !

Jack



PLANNING: *The following are local planning applications received by Wycombe District Council (WDC) between 10 October and 11 November 2019. Any responses by NAWARA appear in full on the WDC website.*

19/07453/FUL Anns Cottage, Naphill Common, Naphill. Bucks HP14 4SU. Demolition of existing 2 storey detached dwelling and redevelop site to form a single 2 storey detached 4 bed dwelling with new drive, parking and hard/soft landscaping Officer Heather Smith. Received: Fri 11 Oct 2019 | Validated: Fri 11 Oct 2019 (**NAWARA Objection.** Environmentally out of keeping and oversized house, Access path unsuitable for expected traffic through middle of allotment land.)

19/07410/FUL 5 Louches Lane Naphill Bucks HP14 4QH. Householder application for construction of single storey front extension. Officer Matthew Jackson. Received: Sat 05 Oct 2019 | Validated: Fri 25 Oct 2019

NEW BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Bucks CC recently wrote to remind us that “From 1 April 2020, the new Buckinghamshire Council will be responsible for providing all current county and district council services for all 546,000 residents of Buckinghamshire. This includes waste and recycling collections, roads and transport, education and learning, health and social care, planning where new housing goes or making use of our many parks, libraries and leisure centres.”

If you have any questions you can use a form provided on Bucks CC website. In your browser type Buckinghamshire Council Shadow Authority and click. When this shows, select the Home section which should come up first. Click “Contact” for the short question form, or click any other link at the top of the page for wider information about the new Bucks C C.

Gloria Leflaive 563634

UPDATE FROM CLAPPINS FIELD ACTION GROUP - *Save Clappins Lane Field*

In September’s edition of the Gazette, we reported that we were well on the way to reaching the £10,000 needed to kick start the legal case against Wycombe District Council’s local plan. That plan would remove Clappins Field from the green belt and allocate it as a site suitable for development of 64 or so houses.

We are pleased to report that, thanks to generous donations and pledges from many of you, we met that £10,000 target within 4 days of launching the appeal. This was a fantastic result at really short notice.

The case was lodged with the High Court on 26 September.

In the coming weeks, the Court will decide whether it agrees that the Council does have a case to answer and if it does, the case will progress to a formal hearing.

If we are to continue to take the case through to formal hearing, we need to raise a fighting fund of at £40,000 to pay for the continued work of our solicitor and barrister. In short, we still need donations. If we fall short of the required target, we would have to abandon the case and would return, pro-rata, any unspent donations.

Comment from our local Councillor:

When asked for his comment, David Carroll, Councillor for Ridgeway East, said that he’s always been a supporter of Green Belt and AONB and will object to anything that undermines those principles, on behalf of his residents.

If you would like to donate to the Fighting Fund, have any questions or can help in any way, you can reach a member of the team on: 01494 563634 or 07925380382 or at clappinsfield@gmail.com.

Cheryl Scott
For The Clappins Field Action Group
www.saveclappinsfield.uk

A Letter from David Carroll - Our County Councillor

Dear residents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents who volunteer to do so much within our community, for example the Naphill gazette.

I've always tried my very best to resolve the many issues or challenges over many years of being your Councillor, through home visits regarding adult care, or you may just need moral support in something going in your life.

One of the main reasons I came into local government was to protect the wonderful environment we live in and in the past I challenged many planning applications, for example on Naphill Common, which is the jewel in the crown for all of us. There was an issue involving the Common earlier in the year. I am certainly going to keep an eye on this matter, as after changes in planning regulations it's become more difficult to do so. In the future I will continue to challenge any application put forward which is detrimental to our area.

Unfortunately I had a major operation recently but hope to be back in action in December and can I thank all the residents who have contacted me wishing me well.

We had the sad news the Methodist Chapel has closed in Naphill but the good news is a lot of the congregation now attend my local Chapel in Cryers hill Lane which I attend when I can and I know is very important to them and to me personally.

So, in conclusion, I think we have a vibrant and special place to live in and I will continue to play my part along with many other residents to keep it that way in the future.

Can I wish you all a happy Christmas and new year.

David Carroll

Shear Madness

IT'S CHRISTMAS !!!

Wow! Another year is nearly over and for me personally a tough one but I am very pleased to tell you that I have got "the all clear" so now it's time to draw a line under that chapter and move on. Thank you everyone for your love and friendship during this time, it truly meant the world to me.

So what does Christmas mean to you ? Excited noisy children driving you all slightly mad? I know everyone says to make the most of the while they are little but it really is true, it's gone in a flash. I wish you all an amazing time but please give a thought for those missing someone at their table this year and to those spending Christmas alone, maybe invite them over for a cuppa. Most importantly a huge thank you to all of those working over the Christmas period keeping us all safe, fed and well, thank you.

Until next year MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

All my love

Mandy x



Christmas opening times

23rd 9.30 - 5pm

24th 8.30 - 1pm

25th closed

26th closed

27th closed

28th 8.30 - 1pm

30th 9.30 - 5pm

31st 8.30 - 1pm



125 Years of the Parish & Council

A local voice for then, now and the future



At the beginning of the year the Parish Council set out a schedule of events that would take us all the way up to the 125 Year Anniversary of the formation of Hughenden Parish on the 4th December 1894.

There were five main themes

1. Celebratory – opening presentation at the AGM on 23rd April and closing Celebratory event being organised with the National Trust on 4th December.
2. Walks and activities– centred around rogation Sunday and that time of the year, the plan being for all four Wards to host a walk in their area
3. Talks and Events – including films and planned again to be in all four wards – these were scheduled during Autumn as people become more and more aware of the significance of the year. These were all themed to have a local significance.
4. Publicity for the council and potential recruitment of councillors – both through the events above but also through stalls at the various events during the year.
5. Heritage gatherings and community events – mainly centred around Widmer End 6th May, Hughenden on the 6th July and Naphill on 12th October



We have had over 800 people come to the various events throughout the year. The most popular events being the tour of Bomber Harris's office and RAF Naphill (thanks to the RAF) , the various walks held earlier in the year and the most recent Heritage Day at Naphill which attracted over 100 people.

Understanding and enjoying discussions about the past seems to be a very popular pastime and the recent talks covering both World Wars, Chiltern Woodlands and Landscapes, Bodgers and the Suffragettes have proved to be of considerable interest to local people,

The Council have been well supported by local people putting on all these events and celebrating what has been a very popular programme during the year.

We look forward to the next 125 years and supporting future generations who will no doubt leave their mark both locally and nationally during that period.

Many thanks must go to all those who have been involved in the organisation of all of this and also to those who have attended any of the events – it's been a great year!

Cllr Simon Kearey



Growing Your Own

I have my own particular way of growing potatoes. Because I am a no-dig gardener I do not rotate my potatoes from one part of the allotment to another, since digging the soil all over the plot would seriously disturb the precious micro-organisms, so I restrict earthing-up and digging the crop to just one patch of soil. What I do is to cover the potato plot with landscape material and cut a hole for each potato. The landscape material obviates the need to earth up. The landscape material also keeps moisture in, and obviates the need to weed. It is a win, win, win situation. Some potatoes just at the surface of each hole end up partly green and I keep them back as seed potatoes for the following year; they work just as well as other potatoes. I usually select some potatoes to use as seed, and keep that going for about 8 years. After that I find the crop diminishes so I purchase new seed potatoes, Charlotte (white) as second earlies and Desirée (red) for main crop.

How have been my potatoes in 2019? First of all I must explain that we had a terrible drought in 2018 just when we needed rain to swell the potato crop. Many of my potatoes were quite small. I decided to eat the smallish ones – including the non-green ones I would have kept for use as seed for the following year. That necessitated the purchase of new



seed potatoes for 2019. And the crop? Well, we had plenty of rain at the right time in 2019. The crop was very good and I had some very large potatoes. See the photo. That potato, when washed, weighed 2 pounds ten and a half ounces. I won't claim any world records, but it was pretty good for me. I put down the excellent crop in 2019 to a combination of new seed potatoes and lots of rain. How will my potatoes fare in 2020? My landscape material is already in place, to prevent weeds germinating before I plant out my seed potatoes in April. I bring my crop on early under fleece and try to dig them up in September before the autumn rains come and trigger the slugs' rise from the depths where they hide when the soil is very dry. I did not have much slug damage in wet 2019, which surprised me. The potato blight did not arrive, thank goodness. Potato blight is caused by a type of fungus akin to an algae whose spores arrive with the wind. Farmers spray about 13 times per year against potato blight and I

heard that they sprayed up to 20 times this year, so perhaps they reduced the blight generally and my crop benefitted – without being sprayed!

Good gardening!

Mike Mason

Wycombe Photographic Society

December means Christmas and the chance to take lots of photos of Christmas festivities.

Photos of the Village Tree festooned in lights. Nice long, but not too long, exposure of the lights and if taken from the correct angle you will have the light trails of headlights and tail lights of the vehicles passing the tree to add that something "extra" to your photo. Long exposure means that you will have to support your camera on something solid and not rely on just handholding or else you will get movement in your photo.

I know that the Gazette Editor will be more than pleased if you submit your photos of the Village Tree in all its glory to her.

Not a lot going on this month at the club.

Two interclub competitions against other clubs from the South East and a workshop evening where members will bring along images from a project which will be discussed by two of our most successful members. The discussion will help members to "get that little bit of wow" in their photos.

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

We would love to see more members from Naphill and Walters Ash so please come along to one of our evenings.

David Greenwood
Membership Secretary
Wycombe Photographic Society

The Wheel



Everyone at The Wheel wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a wonderful festive season and I'm sure we'll see lots of you during the month. Santa will be back with us and our 'not dead yet' conifer will also have a festive make over.

During December, as always, we have various bookings for Christmas parties, so please call to ensure we can accommodate any other tables.

Our festive opening hours are listed below but just a reminder that Boxing Day we open at 6pm and New Year's Day we will be closed. New Years Eve will be a brilliant evening with music by Shaun Salter and everyone needs to be in fancy dress this year, but there is no theme! Or alternatively turn up in smart dress. We will be collecting for charity during the evening.

Congratulations to the Naphill Fireworks Committee for winning the Bucks Free Press award for best display this year. It is very well deserved, and you all did an amazing job, especially due to the weather not being great.

In the last gazette we told you the weight of the Pumpkin, but the winner was Dam Smith and we raised £171 for RobsArttt. We also had a couple of sweepstakes running during the Rugby World Cup as I'm sure all you rugby fans are aware Mark (yes Landlord Mark) won the Risborough Rugby Club competition. We also did a guess the score for the final which wasn't won by anyone as we're all too patriotic, so £63 is also being donated to RobsArttt Charity. Thank you to everyone for supporting this fantastic charity.

Festive Opening Hours

Mon 23rd Dec	12pm – 11pm (Food 12-2.45pm and 6-8.45pm)
Christmas Eve	12pm – 12am (Food 12-2.45pm and 6-8.45pm)
Christmas Day	12pm-2.30pm (Drinks Only)
Boxing Day	6pm -10.30pm (Drinks Only)
Dec 27th -Dec 29th	Normal Hours
Mon 30th Dec	4.30pm – 10.30pm (Food 6 – 8.45pm)
New Year's Eve	12pm – 1am (Food 12-12.45pm and 6 – 8.30pm)
New Year's Day	CLOSED
Thurs 2nd Jan	Back to normal hours

Merry Christmas from The Wheel Family

Claire and Mark



So all that leaves us to do now is our traditional Christmas Carol that has been reworded by our Chloe - sing along to *Stop the Cavalry* (by Jona Lewie)



Let the Beer Flow

Hey, Mr. CAMRA comes over here
To say we're doing splendidly
And it's very warm in here by the fire
Laughing with my family
Oh I say it's true, I'm longing for a brew
Will you let the beer flow?



I have had to work, almost every day
Walking up from Vincent's Way
That is when I say, oh yes pub again
Will you let the Ale flow?



Molly-Bob with her eyes so bright
Maxii Dog with my snacks in sight
Wish I could be drinking now
In the bar of the pub I love
Double double dub dub double double dub
Double dub dub double dub
Double double rum
Double double dub dub double double dub
Double dub dub double dub
Double rum for me



Drinking at The Wheel for Christmas

Dead! That's what the Judges said
Whilst looking at our conifer tree
We will prove them wrong
And dress it up respectfully!
We shall celebrate don't stop, please let the beer flow!



Wish I was at The Wheel for Christmas

Wish I could be drinking now
In the bar of the pub I love
Molly-Dog waits for her grub
She has been waiting far too long!



Wish I was at The Wheel for Christmas



Lucian Farwell



Lucian Farwell



Lucian Farwell



Sean Jones



Sean Jones



Pete Dalby

2019 Naphill Village Hall Fireworks & Bonfire

Hello! After 8 months of planning, the Naphill Fireworks Spectacular 2019 - Done! A huge thank you to everyone who braved the torrid conditions to come along and support us, we had 2 bands this year, on reflection we should have 3 and asked Wet Wet Wet to perform, given the amount of rain we had. Talking of music, it was nice to be able to bring Glastonbury-style mud conditions to the Crick! Delivering an event like ours requires months and months of planning and we're fortunate to have such a great team of dedicated volunteers on our committee, who each bring something different to the table, but sadly we've not found anyone with the skillset to control the weather. Still we won't let that dampen our spirits.

We had around 2,000 visitors this year, down from 3,500 last year, but still a fantastic turn out given the circumstances. We've had some really positive feedback, although there are still some people out there who expect us to drop what we're doing to send them maps to the event and rearrange bus routes for them, maybe next year we'll offer a Crick Cab service and launch a Naphill Fireworks search engine. After communicating that people should take the bus rather than drive, about an hour before the event started a tree fell down on Coombe lane blocking access, so thanks to Billy & Joe for sorting that out so quickly. We had 2 new bands this year (Reeve & Steph Willis), who were brilliant. We've always had lots of positive feedback on the live music, so much so that I now think it's an integral part of our event. Again this year we had over 80 people on our list of volunteers to help out on the day. I've said it before, but we really can't run this event without your input, the community spirit in this village is very special. We're hosting another party for the volunteers in January to say thank you to all those who helped.

Over the years we've developed a fantastic working relationship with the RAF and we, of course, thank them for all their continued efforts and support. This was the first Fireworks event for the new RAF Station Commander, Group Captain Shaun Harris, who did an impressive job lighting our huge bonfire in the rain, particularly as he was having a few challenges lighting the coal fire at his house the previous evening!

Our 2019 Fireworks display exploded into the night sky. Wow! It was well worth the 8 month wait, the Naphill sky lit up with an array of multicoloured, bright tracers, bangs and cracks through the sea of umbrellas and sideways rain. It's always worth all the effort watching the sea of faces gazing up at the display. We were lucky to have two new young photographers capturing our event this year, we hope you enjoy their work.

I'm so proud of what we as a village put on together this year! It was a huge team effort, even more so given the conditions. Even though we had decent turnout, the numbers were considerably down from 2018. Early indications are that we have made another profit for the Village Hall of around £5000, which for a 2-hour local event is still a decent return, but severely dented by the weather, unfortunately. All the revenue that we generate at our event is ploughed back into local projects, such as maintenance and improvements to the Village Hall and playing fields.

We were shocked and pleasantly surprised to be recognised by the Bucks Free Press as the Best Fireworks Display in Buckinghamshire for 2019, which was fantastic recognition for the huge team effort required to run our event.

Finally, there are some incredible local businesses in our community who go out of their way to support us both financially and also with their time, pitching in and getting their hands dirty on the day. If you haven't already, please make sure you show them support and gratitude.

We hope you all enjoyed it this year, we would love to see you all on Saturday 7th November in 2020 so we can do it all again!

Thanks and regards,

Pete Dalby

Chairman, Naphill Fireworks Committee
petedalby@outlook.com



So, the Bible never mentions a donkey, but it's logically how Joseph and Mary would have made the 160km journey to Bethlehem. Whether there was a donkey or not, it would have been much faster to go in a car to shorten the four to seven day journey considerably! And yes, I know cars weren't around in those days and things took longer, but that's what I want to ponder on for a moment.

You see, it's not just cars that speed things up for us, today; online shopping with next day delivery, the whole internet at our fingertips to almost instantly answer those obscure questions we have, contact with friends and family literally thousands of miles away is pretty delay free and if you have to wait more than a few minutes in the coffee shop for the barista to make your brew...well, it's unacceptable! I'm getting a bit frantic just writing these!

Speed, that's what we need more of, don't we? Surely it will make life easier if we can get the thing, or to the destination, faster? But, what if, what if, we take a donkey rather than a car? What if the journey is just as, if not more, important than the destination? What if our 'need for speed' (bring on Top Gun 2!) is depriving us of the ability, nay the need, to have a rhythm of slowing down?

At this time of year we journey through advent with shopping, preparing, waiting, and partying, we have twenty-four days (or from October in the shops!) on our journey to Christmas day. For Joseph and Mary they had nine months to prepare for having a baby. Jesus then journeyed through thirty years of His life before He started doing His thing...but all these times of journeying aren't being wasted. Getting on that donkey and not rushing through enables us to get things in order, to take a breather and to grow in the journey, much like a fine port needing time to develop the fuller flavour. If we lose the ability to take the donkey every now and then we miss all that we can become on the journey. So, in advent's journey of busyness maybe take time to...slow...down. And if you want to pause now, try listening to 'Shepherd' by Bethal. As you do, reflect on what can be done in the waiting and the process.

Padre Chrissie Lacey

Christina.Lacey102@mod.gov.uk, Tel: 01494 494469

RAF High Wycombe Chaplaincy

Christmas 2019

You know the drill...shopping, decorations, the adverts, advent calendars, family parties, cards and well wishing...Christmas is hectic, as a Christian I apologise for the manic-ness that has become wrapped (pun intended) around this time of year. If you want a chance to go back to your childhood, or to those traditions from times gone by...or to give your children the gift of different memories then you're welcome to come along to the Station Church on 3 Site. It may be hectic getting here...but once there, I pray you find peace and out of the possible mess find the message.

★ Every Sunday	Morning services	9.15-10.15am
	(from 1 st Dec)	
Mon 16 th Dec	Carol service	4-5pm
	(with mince pies & mulled wine)	
Tues 17 th Dec	Medmenham Carol service	4.30-5.30pm
	(Danesfield's Arms with mince pies & mulled wine)	
Sun 22 nd Dec	Christingle service	4.30-5.30pm
Tues 24 th Dec	Crib/Nativity service	4-5pm
Tues 24 th Dec	Midnight Mass	11.30pm-12.15am
Wed 25 th Dec	Christmas Day service	10-11am

For more info contact Padre Chrissie on ext4469 or Christina.Lacey102@mod.gov.uk

Service Times at Saint Botolph's



1 December	11am	Eucharist	Rev Linda Richardson
8 December	11am	Eucharist	Rev Jenny Ellis
15 December	6pm	Carol Service - <i>no morning service</i> (JE)	
22 December	11am	Matins	Alison Smale
24 December	5pm	Crib Service	Rev Jenny Ellis
	11.30pm	Christmas Eucharist	Rev. Jenny Ellis
29 December	11am	Benefice Eucharist at St. Botolph's	Rev Jenny Ellis

From Bradenham Vicarage - *Why a Stable?*

As the year draws to its close, I wonder what are your hopes and dreams for Christmas? Are you 'Dreaming of a white Christmas' as Irving Berlin wrote, conjuring a picture perfect image of a Christmas fantasy created by Hollywood? Or are your dreams of Christmas more in tune with Tim Burton's 'Nightmare before Christmas'? At Christmas, like at no other time of year, we want things to be perfect. The lunch must be perfectly cooked and served perfectly on time. Every gift must be the perfect item that the recipient will always cherish. The tree must be decorated to be perfectly attuned to this year's latest trends whilst maintaining longstanding family traditions. Everyone present will behave perfectly, no overwrought, crying children, no exhausted cooks, no arguments over what to watch on TV, no accusations of cheating at games.....all cocooned in a soft white blanket of freshly fallen snow.

And somewhere in the midst of all this perfection is a far from perfect story. A story about a displaced family unable to find a room for the night. A story about a heavily pregnant woman, forced to travel away from her home by an occupying power. A story about how God intervenes in the destiny of humanity by becoming a human being. A story about a baby born in a stable.

That original stable would have had been full of animals used for travel – horses, camels, donkeys, mules and draught oxen. There would also have been birds in the rafters, bats in the nooks and crannies, mice and spiders,

cats and dogs, chickens – a small menagerie of creatures.

We think this is terrible – no room at the inn, a scandal that the Son of God should be born in a stable. But in John's Gospel we read:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Through him all things were made.

The fact is, Jesus does not just come for humanity, but for the whole of creation.

There has been a lot of conjecture asking whether Jesus really had been born in a stable, but I would like to present you with this thought – Jesus HAD to be born in a stable. If Jesus had been born in a home or any room, the only witnesses would have been the people present. Being born in a stable makes witnesses of every living creature present. As St John tells us, Jesus is at the centre of creation, he is the King of Creation. So how fitting that when God became incarnate, the Creator was born amongst his creatures, who also had the right to witness the human birth of their maker and Lord.

May you be blessed with a renewed sense of the presence of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas this holy season.

Rev Jenny Ellis



From Hughenden Vicarage

As I write these words it is mid-November, Christmas is six weeks away, our nation is negotiating snow, floods & 24 hour General Election news coverage. I haven't yet put any Christmas decorations up (much too early, I'm sure you would agree), although Christmas goods have now taken on a prominent place in our shops, and I have been watching Christmas advertisements on the TV for a couple of weeks. I don't mean to sound like Ebenezer Scrooge, but Christmas seems to be getting earlier and earlier every year. Let me tell you up front that I love Christmas! It is positively my favourite time of the year, except perhaps my August summer holiday, watching the cricket with a cold pint in my hand.

Let me tell you what I love about Christmas.

I love the privilege that Christmas affords me to meet so many people in such a short space of time, from the excitement of School Carol services in our Church, and hearing what the children are most looking forward to about the festive season, to our Crib services, Nine Lessons & Carols and Midnight Holy Communion, with the Church buzzing with expectation, as we retell the Christmas story.

I love spending quality time with my own extended family and friends – catching up over turkey sandwiches, and carol singing in the local pubs. I still get excited about receiving presents – yes even at 51! I also love seeing the anticipation and delight (or horror) as my family open presents that I have chosen, and wrapped up for them – “Socks again, thanks Dad!”

I love opening Christmas cards from friends old and new, especially those for whom this might be our only contact of the year, and catching up on their news.

I love clambering up into the loft and trying to find where I hid the Christmas tree and decorations last January – and hoping the lights still work – and decorating our tree with a wide variety of baubles and such like – some newly purchased, others perhaps older, and more cherished because they have special significance for us. I love turning off all the lights in the lounge, and seeing that first glow as the tree lights are turned on in all their glory.

All of these things and more are important to me, and yet central to everything is the retelling of the Nativity – through bible readings and drama, as we sing eloquently of God coming down to earth in the vulnerable form of a baby through some wonderful and heart stirring carols.

No matter how busy any of us might be this Christmas, please can I encourage you to take some time out to hear us tell the story again of that first Christmas in Bethlehem... the miraculous story of a young couple who became parents to an infant born not in a maternity ward or a home, but in a stable, as bleating animals and star-stuck parents welcomed into the world the Saviour of us all?

I would like to invite you to come along to our Church this Christmas, to share in our retelling of the Nativity, and to ask God to fill you with the fullness of his love and his peace, through the hope and salvation that is found from placing your faith in Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas

Rev Keith Johnson

A festive poster for Christmas events at Hughenden Church. The background is a dark blue and purple bokeh with glowing lights. At the top left, a white star is positioned above the word 'Christmas' written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, 'at Hughenden Church' is written in a smaller, white, cursive font. In the center, a silhouette of a nativity scene is shown within a stable, with a bright star above it. Three dark, rounded rectangular boxes contain event details in white cursive text.

Christmas

at Hughenden Church

Christingle Service

Sunday 8th December - 3.00 pm

Carols at Naphill Village Hall

Sunday 15th December - 4.00 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22nd December - 6.00 pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Services

3.00 pm & 4.30 pm

Midnight Communion

11.15 pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion (Said)

8.00 am

Choral Communion

9.00 am

Family Communion

11.00 am

Carols by Candlelight

5.00 pm

Hughenden Mothers' Union

At the last meeting of Mothers' Union we listened to Anne Dean talk about Christian counselling and all the problems from which people suffered. A very interesting talk!

The national Mothers' Union is organising us to pray for 16 days against the gender violence suffered by women and girls abroad and we in Hughenden branch will be praying in church for half an hour on December 6th.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30 pm we will be having an Advent Communion service conducted by Rev. Keith Johnston in the Church House. Please come and join us –you do not have to be a Mothers' Union member.

We do not meet in January but will be meeting in February.

Norma Clarke

A poster for a carol service. The background is dark blue with a pattern of white snowflakes and stars. The text is in a white, elegant serif font.

Carols

15 December

4pm

Naphill Village Hall

All Welcome

Merry Christmas from all at LGP!

By the time this is published, we will probably have performed *The Ladykillers* at Lacey Green and Loosley Row Millennium Village Hall! Performance dates were on the 28th-30th November and we wish to thank everyone who came, laughed, supported and fundraised for our wonderful charities. The charities we will be donating to are; Aylesbury Church for a Christmas dinner for the homeless, The Waterways Experience and Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis at NRAS. I will update you on how the performance went and total money raised in the next edition of the gazette.

We've all had a blast putting this little play together. All the cast have worked well and we thank them for giving up their free time twice a week for rehearsals. We couldn't have done it without all the help from our director Val Brookhouse. We all thank you for your time, patience and guidance! I've included a photos of the cast during their first dress rehearsal to tease you!

If you are reading this and are thinking about trying drama, or maybe you fancy doing something different for 2020 and you are considering your New Year's Resolutions, why not get in touch? Now is the time to get involved! We are looking for anyone who has an interest, wants the chance to perform, help with front of house, lighting and sound technicians for our upcoming performances, we want to hear from you!

You can get in contact with us on the website above, or visit our Facebook page Lacey Green Productions. Or, feel free to come and see me for an informal chat, most of you know where to find me most days, but for those who don't, I'm usually behind the bar at The Wheel!



Once again, thank you for your continued support of local organisations, and from Cast and Crew, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Chloe Page - LGP

Napill Tennis Club

***The Tennis Club
wishes everyone
A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!***

In spite of the recent rain, our lovely quick-draining artificial grass courts have come up trumps (not that 'Trump') by allowing us to get out and play tennis as usual. It is said that many people in Britain suffer in the winter months from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) but getting some exercise in the fresh air can really make a difference to your mental and physical well-being. Our members would certainly appear to agree with this as we have had as many turning up to play at recent club sessions as we did in the summer.



Improvers' Coaching on Wednesday mornings is proving as popular as ever and our coach, Mel Burn, is also holding a One Day Tennis Clinic for members and non-members plus a Fun Christmas Doubles Tournament for Improvers.

Our AGM will be over by the time you receive this but our annual Festive Tennis Event will be taking place on Saturday 7 December at 11 am. This is light-hearted tennis with mulled wine and mince pies. To enjoy the fun even further, players are invited to bring a plate of finger food for a Bring & Share Lunch.

Oh, and don't forget to wear your Christmas 'bling' – you won't be allowed on court without it!

New members are welcome at any time. Please take a look at our website www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk or call our membership secretary on 01494 563706.

Jenny Tench

Lacey Green Singers

Happy Autumn All! I am delighted to announce that Anna Crookes is our new Musical Director. Anna is a very talented singer and pianist and has won many awards in her time. She sings with a number of professional groups and has now picked up the baton for us, which we are greatly enjoying. This term we have been improving our singing technique, making better sounds and getting our tongues round songs in German and Spanish.

Our Christmas Concert will be on Sunday 1st December, at 6pm in Lacey Green Millennium Hall. We are pleased to say we are being joined by a choir from St John's School again this year and as such, tickets will sell out fast. It will be a wonderful evening of festive music and there will be our usual festive refreshments afterwards! We will be donating £1 from each ticket sale to Suzie Aries Immunotherapy Fund. Suzie was at school in Princes Risborough at the same time as me and is a wonderful singer and performer. She has been very bravely battling with a rare form of cancer and is raising money to fund her immunotherapy treatment, which is not available on the NHS. Please contact laceygreensingers@hotmail.com to book your tickets; Adults £7, Under 14's £1.

We love to have new singers join us, so please do come along if you fancy a good sing, great company and plenty of laughs! We rehearse on Thursday evenings during term time at 7:45pm in St John's School Hall. Just turn up, no booking necessary. Alternatively, email us at the above email address. We'd love to see you!

From all of us at LGS, have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and blessed 2020!

Billy Stott - LGS Chairman



LACEY GREEN SINGERS

Lacey Green Singers and the children of St John's School invite you to our **Christmas Concert**

Sunday 1st December 2019 at 6pm
Lacey Green Millennium Hall

There'll be lots of festive choir favourites and audience carols to get you singing along!

Tickets
£7 adults
£1 under 14's

£1 from the sale of each ticket will go to the Suzie Aries Immunotherapy Fund

Tickets include festive refreshments

To book, please contact
laceygreensingers@hotmail.com

Napill Evening WI

We have a new President. At our Annual Meeting in October we said a big thank you to Juliet Shortall who was standing down as President, having done the job for several years. Our new President is Sarah Bacon and I am sure all members wish her well. The Committee, some of whom are stepping down, were also thanked for the great job they do.

At the Disraeli Group Meeting in Marlow, we were entertained by a lady barrister who had given up her career to become a stand-up entertainer, and she certainly entertained us with tales of her venture to the Edinburgh Fringe and excerpts from her amusing monologues. After the talk we were treated to enormous Danish pastries and cups of tea by Marlow Common WI.

On 21 November we will have heard Chris Miller talking to us on "Friends of Naphill Common".

The Food Group will have lunched at The Grange in Saunderton on 28 November, and the Sew and Chat group will have had their final meeting of 2019 (although we are tasked with keeping our knitting needles active during the Christmas break).

We now look forward to our Christmas Party on Friday, 13th December, when caterers will serve us with a delicious meal if last year is anything to go by.

Before we know it, it will be 2020 and our speaker on 16th January will talk about the Art of Japanese Flower Arranging.

In 2020 we will celebrate 100 Years of Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes and there will be quite a few events put on to celebrate around the County. Lots to look forward to.

Carol Gillam



Naphill Brownies

With Armistice Day in mind we took the opportunity to try to make our own poppies. We have been recycling all sorts of things this term, so we made our own paper poppies from waste paper. Our poppies are impregnated with poppy seeds so when covered with a bit of soil they will break down in to the soil and beautiful red poppies will grow (we hope)

The end of November brought the Diwali (the hindu festival of lights). Two of our wonderful parents and their brownie daughters prepared a fascinating evening to tell us about the festival and it's traditions. We heard about the stories behind the festival and then decorated diya lamps (little oil lanterns). The lamps looked lovely illuminating our enrolments that evening. two celebrations coming together.

As ever, we were really proud to be a part of the Naphill Village Remembrance service. It is a privilege to be part of a community which welcomes the involvement of our young people.



With the village Remembrance service fresh in our minds, we were delighted to welcome a couple of ex-scout / brownie leaders to brownies to do a 1940s brownie evening. The girls learned about what it was like to be a brownie in the 1940s and tried some of the activities they might have done back then

From here on it will be all about the excitement of Christmas. Our District Carol service at the end of November will start the celebrations with a theme of 'preparing for Christmas'.

We hope you all enjoy the festive season as much as we will



Brown Owl

Ruth Daly 565571.

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

1st Naphill Brownies

Thursdays 5:45-7pm

Naphill Neighbours

This month we were treated to a fascinating illustrated talk on trees given by John Tyler. He called it a 'Celebration of Trees' and talked about what trees have done, and still do, for us.

It was a history lesson beginning with the prehistoric tribes who lived here when our land was highly forested. Trees fed the population with their berries and nuts, crab apples and sloes. Trees provided fire for cooking and warmth. Wood was used for shelter in a style such as children build in our woods today. Fungi provided food, and the birch bracket fungus was found to have antiseptic properties. The sap from birch trees can be used to make wine. (I have a silver birch in my garden. Watch this space!)

People started to clear the forests to grow crops some 6000 years ago. Willow and hazel were used for weaving items such as wattle hurdles to provide fencing. Pollarding and coppicing extend the life of trees; commoners could take shoots out of the top for firewood. Some trees became hollowed out; there is a good example in Thame Park.

Trees were used to make boats for getting about. A hollowed out 40 foot tree trunk made thousands of years ago was discovered in mud. Mighty galleons and little sailing dinghies are other examples of wood used for war and leisure. Locally beech trees were used to make furniture, particularly chairs; there is much evidence of this work in the sawpits in our woods.

Holly trees were not cut down in hedges because they were thought to deter witches from running along the tops. I have two holly trees in my hedge by the footpath and can confirm witches are not in evidence.

Yew was used for killing people; bows and arrows were fashioned and the tips of arrows were sometimes dipped in sap in order to cause nerve damage. On a happier note, love spoons are fashioned from a single piece of wood!

Sticks of willow were used to record taxes paid. When there was no longer a use for these as paper became available, it was decided to burn the wooden records under the Houses of Parliament. Unfortunately this activity burned the building down !!!

The photographs, and John's amusing and informative talk, provided us with a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. I shall walk the common with renewed interest.

Peggy Ewart (565969)



Seasons Greetings
Naphill Neighbours

General Election 12 December 2019

Please note that
the local voting station
will be in the
Scout/Guide Hut
to the side of
Naphill Village Hall.

Gazette Distribution
Volunteers wanted
to deliver the Gazette.
If you can help please
contact
our distribution coordinator,
Ian Hall
email: [distribution@
naphillandwalterash.org.uk](mailto:distribution@naphillandwalterash.org.uk)

Naphill Local Mini Market & Post Office



NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

We are Nadeem and Shabana and have now been in the village for about 4 months. First of all we would like to thank everyone who has made us feel so welcome and has wished us luck for our new business venture.

It has been a very busy start as we are in the progress of making lots of changes. We have fresh fruit and veg, freshly baked bread, rolls and pastries available daily, new hot food counter, Organic & gluten free products, bio d refillable washing up and fabric conditioner, stationery and your everyday essentials. We will be introducing monthly promotions and special offers very soon. So make sure to watch out for them.

The Post Office is open every day including weekends for free cash withdrawals and deposits. We also bank in cheques as well as the usual post office services. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Gazette Advertising Costs for 2020

The new rates are as follows:

Full page colour - £675 (Back page taken year on year by JNP Partnership)

Half page colour - £360

Quarter page colour - £190

Half page greyscale - £190

Quarter page greyscale - £100

Eighth page greyscale - £55

Small Ads (text only 250 characters) - £40

Invoices for 2020 will be sent first week in January 2020

Half page grey advertisers can now have a quarter page colour advertisement for the same price. So why not have a colour advertisement!



Opening January 2020

We are delighted to be opening our new family run Nursery in January 2020 in the Annexe building at Naphill and Walters Ash school. Our opening hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday term time only for children aged 12 months to 5 years old.

We have been busy sourcing some beautiful and interesting resources for the Nursery, and organising the children's environment to reflect the home. Our approach to providing an outstanding early childhood experience centres on a creative team of professionals, an awe inspiring environment and resources that trigger curiosity and deep interest.

We will be having our Christmas Open event for families with pre-school aged children on Tuesday 17th December from 10am to 11.30am – Please note, you will need to book in advance for this free session. Booking is not essential for our first two dates but if you do know that you are going to attend please do get in contact and let us know. You can call us on 07464996390 or email us at enquiries@toddleingroup.co.uk.

We have been overwhelmed by the high-quality Nursery practitioners and Managers coming for interviews. We hope to have our core team confirmed within the next 2 weeks. However, if you would like to apply for a position with us please do get in contact by email.

Our stay and play sessions for children that are registered with us are booked for December, and letters will be coming out very soon to confirm the programme.

We would both like to thank the local community for such a warm welcome. We are really looking forward to working with many of you in the future.

Merry Christmas!
Kim and Bernie



There is not much going on in the garden at this time of year, so it's a great excuse to slack off from the pruning and weeding in favour of a long country walk instead. We are extremely lucky to be surrounded by our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Stunning beech woods and rolling hills, all conveniently laced with a comprehensive network of footpaths and bridleways.

The route I am going to detail can be started from pretty much anywhere in the village as one section runs for the length of the common. So we will start at The Crick.

Join the path that runs along the common from the footpaths that lead from the south-western corner of The Crick, walk until you reach the end of Forge Road. Turn left and take the bridleway through the woods and down the hill, past the back of Bradenham Manor, and down to the Cricket Club.

At the bottom of the cricket pitch turn left and follow the lane past The Old Rectory. This will bring you out at the A4010. I suggest crossing the road here as the visibility is at its best both ways. Carry on towards West Wycombe. After about 150 yards there is a bridleway up to Hearnton Wood on the right opposite a 50 mph sign. It is a short, but quite steep climb. Once you have passed Averingdown Farm take the first footpath on the left. You are now heading towards St Lawrence Church, with its iconic golden ball, and the Mausoleum.

When you reach the church you are about halfway round the route. There is a great view directly up the West Wycombe Road and over the Dashwood Estate. Follow the path down the hill and past the Hellfire Caves. The caves were the spiritual home of the Knights of St Francis or "The Hellfire Club". The club was founded by Sir Frances Dashwood around 1750 and boasted a membership

including politically and socially important figures of the day, such as William Hogarth and John Montague 4th Earl of Sandwich. The club had previously used Medmenham Abbey as their meeting venue. Having the motto "Do what thou wilt" the caves were allegedly the site of "illicit practises and mock rituals". After a decline in activity the club was dissolved in 1766.

Once past the caves follow the footpath down into West Wycombe. Here you have the opportunity for a cheeky pint in The George & Dragon or The Plough. If you are not stopping for a drink turn left and walk towards the roundabout. Look out for the Serbian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas on your left. It is noted for its Iconostasis, a display of religious icons or paintings.

Once at the Pedestal Garage cross the A4010 and follow the lane on its left that leads up to Downley. In 300m join the bridleway on the right that leads to Downley Common. Once the common is in front of you turn left and follow the bridleway back towards Naphill. This will take you past Le De Spencers Arms, another nod to Sir Francis Dashwood who was the 11th Baron le Despencer and another opportunity for some refreshments. From here it is a straight walk back across the common to Naphill. If you haven't stopped at any of the previously mentioned pubs, I can thoroughly recommend the hospitality at The Wheel. You probably deserve a pint by now.

Distance – 6.2 miles

Climbing – 662 ft

Walking time – 2.5hrs approx

OS Explorer map – 172 High Wycombe, Maidenhead & Rickmansworth

Mike Beckley
Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

A Point of View

The best part of December in my opinion is the prospect of Christmas, which used to be known as the season of goodwill, kindness and giving. However, the present fixations and attitudes over Brexit appear to have tested human patience to the limit of endurance and I am sure many would share my opinion that I just wish it was over and done with! There are so many important issues that should be taking up parliament's time, such as the forthcoming financial crisis concerning the funding of social care, not just for older residents but for the ever-increasing needs of children in the council's care, especially those with severe disabilities who require full time assistance and will require it for many years into the future. We must all face the fact that we need to pay more taxes, including council tax, to pay for those less fortunate than ourselves. I hope that the savings being forecast by the creation of a Unitary Council will be of some help in meeting this deficit.

I recently attended the selection meeting for the new conservative parliamentary candidate who will stand in the Aylesbury Constituency at the forthcoming General Election in the place of Sir David Lidington who has given such sterling service both locally and nationally. I am sure that there will be many residents who will join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

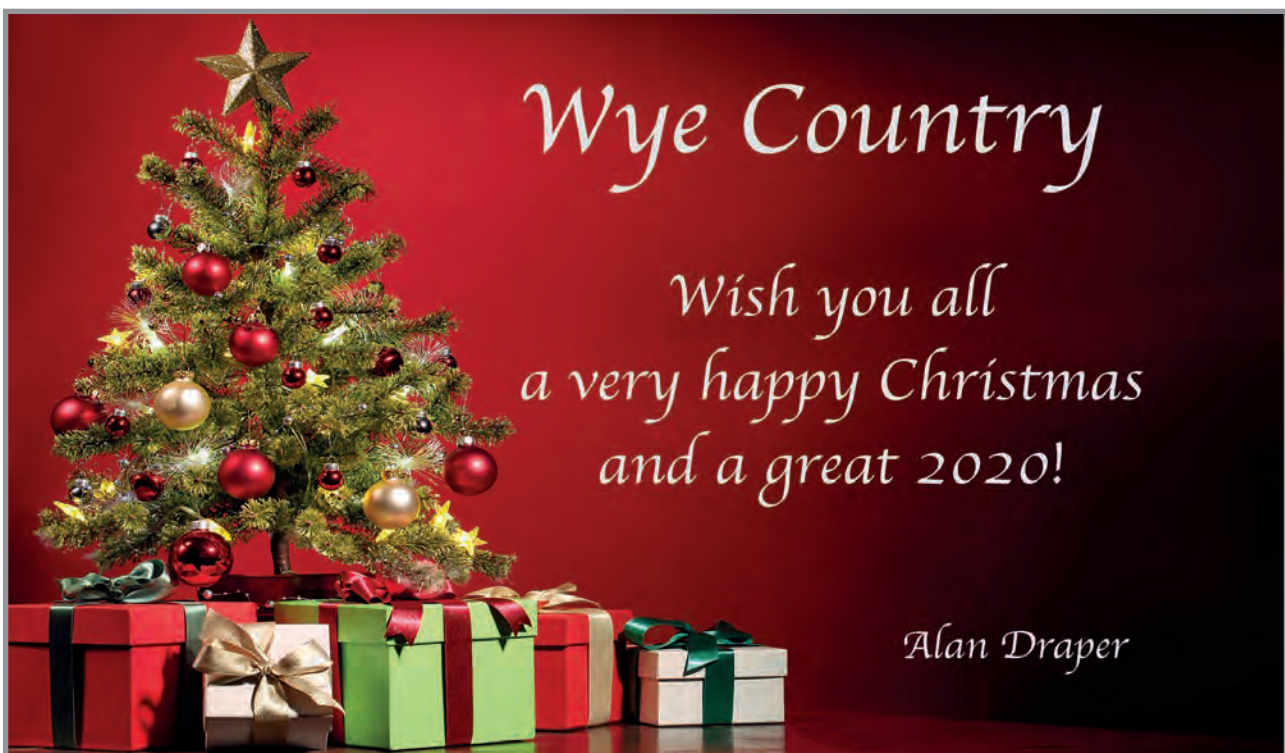
At this time of the year there always seems to be a spate of funerals and we find ourselves attending the Crematorium at Amersham all too frequently. At a recent funeral on a cold wet morning it was almost impossible to park the car such was the attendance at the Milton Chapel. It always seems a shame to me that so much good any individual does in their lifetime goes unrecognised until it is presented as an eulogy of their life and achievements, at their funeral!

With Christmas approaching fast and the prospect of making New Year resolutions I do hope we can all remember the good being done by our public services, hospitals and security forces in these difficult times, a thank you here and there instead of a complaint would, I know, be much appreciated.



May I wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Richard Pushman



Wye Country

*Wish you all
a very happy Christmas
and a great 2020!*

Alan Draper

Christmas at Hearing Dogs - www.hearingdogs.org.uk

An update from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in Saunderton

In last month's Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette, we gave you a glimpse of a day in the life of a hearing dog. With Christmas just around the corner, we would now like to tell you about some of our festive offerings here at Hearing Dogs and how you can help change the life of a deaf person by supporting our Buckinghamshire-based charity during the festive season.

Sponsor a puppy as a Christmas gift

Three of our adorable puppies are looking for sponsors just like you to support their training journeys. If you sponsor huggable Harvey, loveable Luca or the 'labradorable' Robyn as a gift this festive season, from just £3 a month, you will be supporting a hearing dog puppy's training until they're ready to change the life of a deaf child or adult.

Sponsors receive a lovely welcome pack to introduce them to their life-changing puppy and then regular 'pupdates' to let them know how their pup is getting on. This gift lasts for the duration of the puppy's training – around 18 to 24 months. Each box is personalised based on which puppy is chosen and is perfect for adults or children. We rely on our wonderful puppy sponsors to continue training life-changing hearing dogs here in Bucks and elsewhere in the UK, and it makes a great stocking filler.

For more information or to sponsor a puppy, visit www.hearingdogs.org.uk/sponsor.

The Grange Restaurant

Did you know that we have a lovely restaurant at our site here in Saunderton? We've become a firm favourite for local people since we opened, and every visit helps us to train more life-changing dogs. We have just introduced a delicious new winter menu so it's well worth a visit for those looking to warm the cockles during this colder season.

Examples of our tasty winter offerings include The Grange beef shin and Rebellion Ale pie (the perfect comfort food!), the indulgent truffled macaroni cheese with sautéed wild mushrooms and parmesan, and some delicious winter-inspired seasonal salads. If you're craving something sweet, we have a delicious almond, date and chocolate bread and butter pudding and a delicious warm homemade chocolate brownie. Perfect as a winter treat.

You can see our full menu at www.thegrangesaunderton.org.uk.



For deaf people, particularly deaf children, Christmas can be a very difficult time. Many situations that people enjoy during Christmas are a real struggle for people who can't hear. For example, Christmas dinner with lots of people talking around the table can feel very isolating if you can't follow the conversation. Many of the deaf people we help have told us that they used to dread Christmas and would become very withdrawn and lonely during the festive season. It is through our dogs and the other services we offer anyone with hearing loss that we can help people to enjoy Christmas, often for the first time in years.

Until next time, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

The team at Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Somehind About Nothing

This pondering has a very tenuous link to Christmas, trouble is I start one thing, and my mind gets independent and wanders off!

A simple task, I was looking in my work box for a piece of felt handicraft, a star decoration with blanket stitch edging that maybe could come in handy for a school project this term. Only problem, my basket had everything thrown in, certainly not neat! So decided to sort and tidy as I searched- fatal mistake! That basket was so full of curious memories, why did I keep the items? I don't know.

"Nylec" hosiery mending NYLON! I don't even remember wearing nylons (I did though!), let alone mending them! Chadwicks wool in three colours for darning the husbands socks- socks with holes now get binned -Newey hooks and eyes, according to packet are world famed, made in Birmingham and cost one shilling, as do the snap fasteners! A very stained and tatty white satin bow with a horse shoe, a souvenir from my wedding cake(not surprised its tatty, 60 years old next June) Oh dear, long pauses over every item in my Pandora's Box! Genuine wooden cotton reels-used to make tanks with these as a kid, rubber band plus matchstick, own up, I can't be the only one in the village" that old!" The list is endless but reader it could get very boring!

Can't leave though without one or two up to date items! (Well to me), a school name tag from my youngest sons school days- he's just had his Silver Wedding- a duck button left over from a cardigan I knitted my first born Grandson, that Grandson now married with a son of his own. Flowers, to turn a M&S hat into an upmarket one for a wedding (looking at photos not sure that worked!) My spare buttons stored in an empty carton from "Embassy Number 1 Extra mild", no one has smoked in this house for forty years.

A tidy work basket now, but anything less in it? Certainly not! Memories put back for another day! It would feel like throwing my life away.

I found the piece of Christmas handicraft, and after all that, have decided it was too difficult for the class year I had in mind!

Margaret Hunter




Leigh Lewis
optometrist
01494 564600

**Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year!**



Poetry Homework

For homework the school was assigned to do poetry. There were many different options such as: copy an existing poem and illustrate it, interview someone about their favourite poem, or make up your own poem. After that they had to choose a poem and recite it. They found it lots of fun and would like to do something similar in the future. All of them were great and took a considerable amount of time, which shows everyone worked really hard.

This is poem by one of the year 6's:

*A bright summer's day,
Where the green grass lays,
Where the sun shine bright,
There is a happy glow of light,
Up above is a big blue sky,
Where the puffy clouds reach so high,
Children dance, run and play,
All these memories on a summer's day.*

Yr6 RAF trip

On Friday 8th November Yr6 went on a school visit to the RAF church. They did three activities as well as meeting the RAF padre, and an RAF Regiment Corporal. The three activities were: Creating parachutes from a plastic bag and wool, making paper boats and thinking about the different conflicts around the world. They found it very interesting and had fun and they all hope to do it again



Happy
Christmas
to
all our
children!

Slimming World News - Kerry Brown, Group Consultant

It's been a very busy few weeks for me displaying posters, distributing leaflets and posting on social media in order to inform the community and promote the group's move from Lacey Green to Hughenden Valley Village Hall.

The doors opened for our first meeting at our new venue, Hughenden Valley Village Hall (in the small hall) at 5.30pm on Thursday 14th November. There is also a later session at 7.30pm. I had the pleasure of welcoming 10 new members to the group over both sessions. Members commented that the atmosphere was welcoming, warm and very friendly".

I also attended the Slimming World Awards on Saturday 9th November at The ICC in Birmingham. On the morning of this event, three fellow local consultants and I travelled up to Birmingham. When we arrived at the ICC, we waited for our Team to be called to have our picture taken with Alan Carr, fondly known as "the chatty man". I was also lucky enough to win one of the five special golden tickets, allocated to our district, which includes Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, to have my picture taken with Margaret Bramwell Miles, the founder of Slimming World. Margaret was so lovely and made time to speak to every consultant she met. It was such an amazing experience to meet her.

The evening was fantastic, watching Alan and Margaret giving out the awards to all the National Competition winners. I was truly blown away by their stories. The grand finale was watching the "Woman of the Year" being crowned. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Such an inspirational story.



I came back home even more determined to help and support everyone in my group!

Kerry Brown - Group Leader
07887 567264



New to Area Business Announcement

Camomile PT : Take a positive step towards better fitness and wellbeing

2012 was an Olympic year for me personally although I didn't realise it at the time. Eight friends and I decided to cycle London - Paris. We experienced several challenges along the way, not least a case of heat stroke and a collapsing rear wheel, however all came together on the last day when we found our rhythm (and Paris) without further incident.

So what has this got to do with Camomile PT? Well, 2 months before our Paris adventure, it occurred to me that I should train, so I attempted a spinning class. A complete shock to the system, I was virtually on the floor within 2 minutes. I was in my 40's and hadn't realised how unfit I had become. If it wasn't for the compassion and encouragement of the instructor, I would probably never have gone back, telling myself I was too old for it. Long story short, over the last 7 years I continued classes, joined a gym, signed up with a personal trainer, and am now a fully qualified Personal Trainer, Nutrition Adviser and Coach-Mentor myself, & feeling fitter and stronger than I have been since my 20's.

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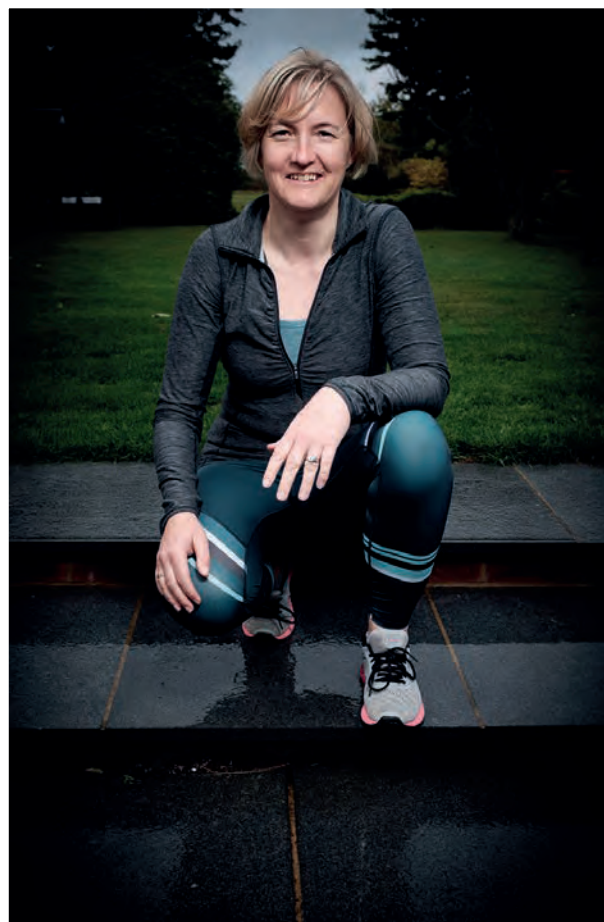
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Small Ads continued on page 38

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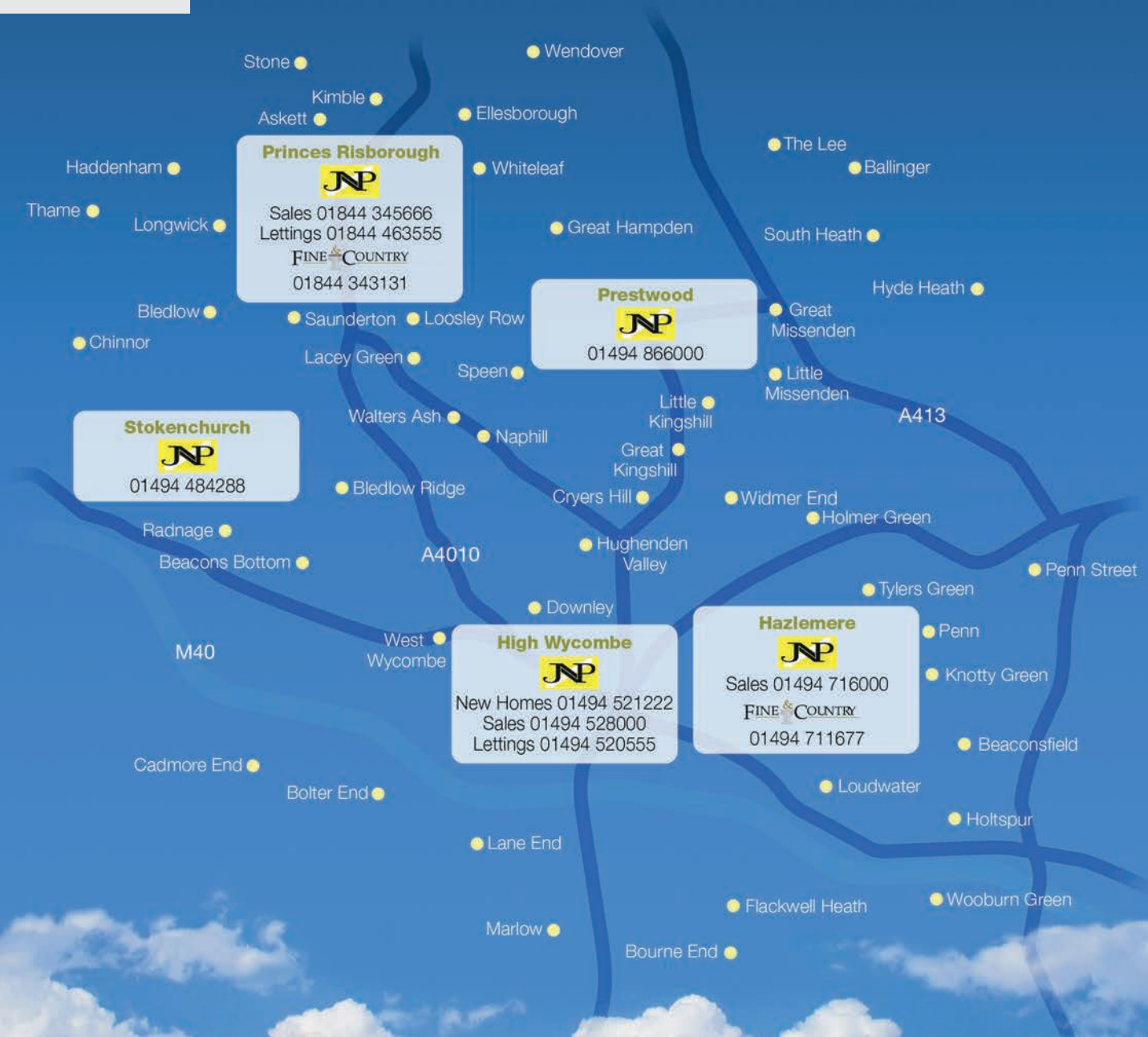


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