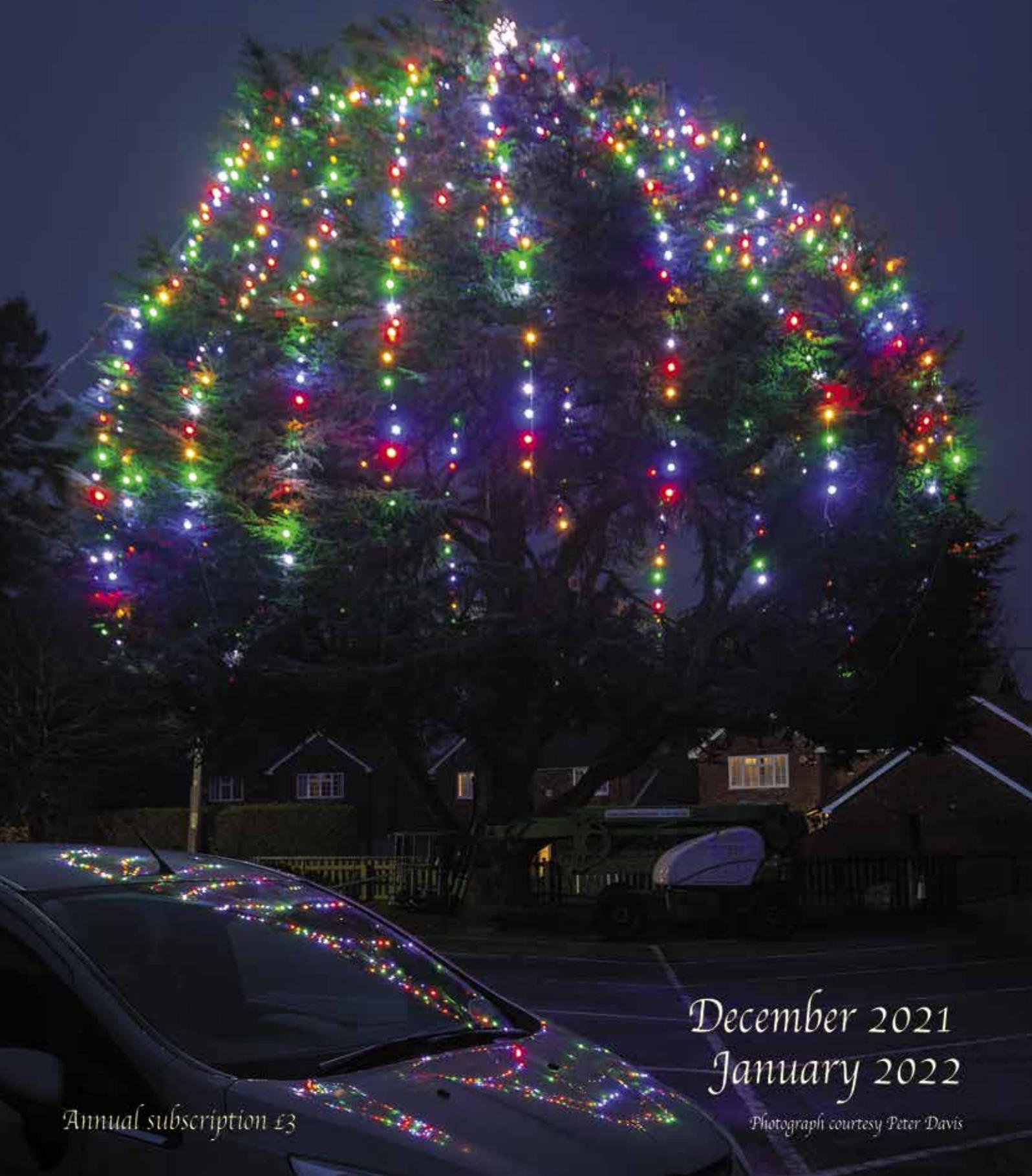


Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette



*December 2021
January 2022*

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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

December 2021/January 2022



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Our Local Clubs and Organisation Contacts

Beavers	Tony Bobbin	01494 447121	naphillbeaverscouts@gmail.com
Brownies (Naphill)	Ruth Daly	01494 565571	ruth.daly3@btinternet.com
Bridge Club	Margaret Stagg	01494 530736	
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	
Men's Club	Andrew Wasilewski	01494 562770	naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Residents Association	Gloria LeFlaive	01494 563634	glorialeflaive@msn.com
Naphill Neighbours	Janet Judge	01494 563186	
Scouts (Naphill)	Adrian Curtis		naphill@chilternvalescouts.org.uk
Tennis Club	Jenny Tench	01494 562282	jttench@gmail.com



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Bookings - Tanya Stevens

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Tel: 07851 169275

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Local Council Contact Information

Bradenham Parish Council Clerk	Deirdre Hanson	01494 562254	clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com
Hughenden Parish Council Clerk	Melinda Woof	01494 715296	clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Paul Hardinge		paul.hardinge@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Vacant		
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Buckinghamshire Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Clive Harris	07768 876568	Clive.Harris@buckinghamshiregov.uk

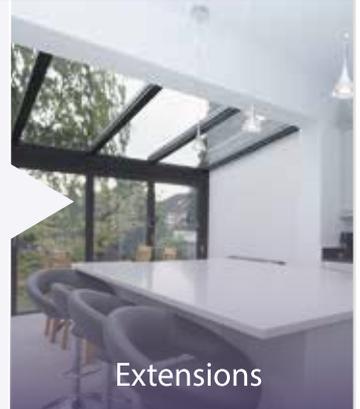
Helpful Contact Numbers

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Out of surgery hours		111
Breast Unit Wycombe Hospital	Breast lumps self refer	01494 526161
Stroke Support Service	Stroke sufferers, carers & family support	0300 3300 761
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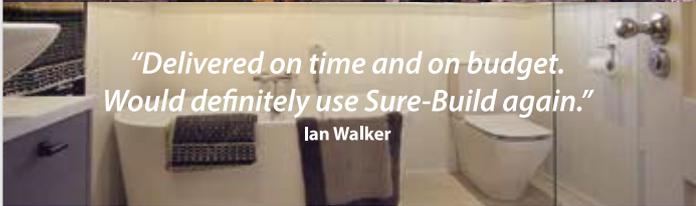


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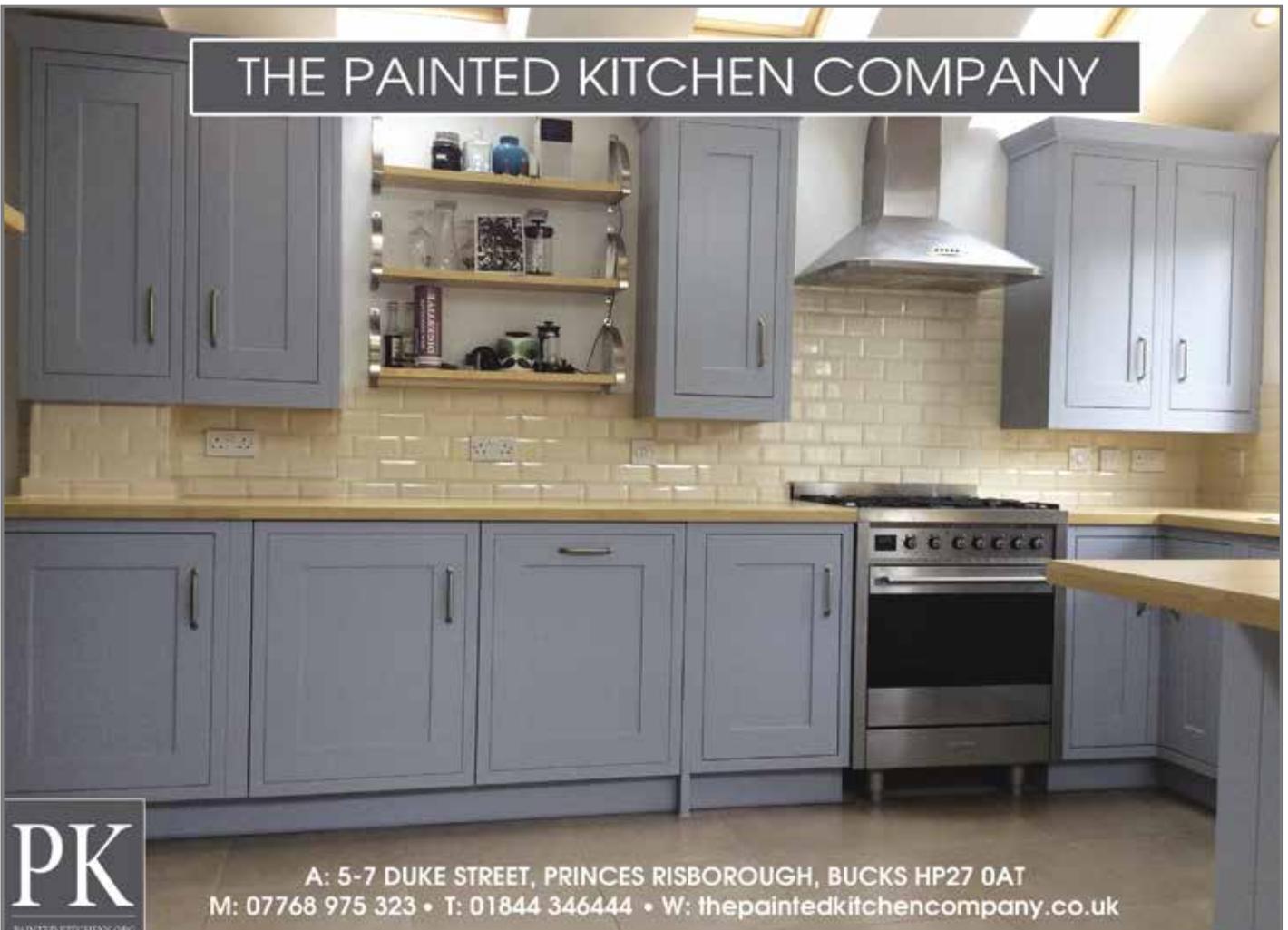
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*Wishing you all a
merry Christmas
and a happy,
healthy 2022*

Copy Date for February 2022 Gazette, 15 January 2022

Welcome to the Christmas/New Year 2021/22 edition of the Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette. Although we might be sad that this was another year blighted by the COVID restrictions, we surely rejoice that we have come through it, we have picked up the pieces and our lives are returning to life as we enjoyed it pre Covid.

On the subject of ENJOYMENT, the Naphill Firework Spectacular was another huge success which was enjoyed by everybody! Congratulations to the firework team and everybody who worked so hard to make this event so special.

December is always a busy month with lots to look forward to. The Village Hall Christmas tree lights will illuminate the long, dark, nights, ably assisted by the Light Up Walter's Ash and Naphill event which is being organised by the WANSAs team. Then we have the annual Christmas Fayre to look forward to and the Community Carol service in the village hall. Details of all these events are in this edition of the Gazette.

I deem it a great privilege to edit the Gazette, to be able to communicate with so many people, young and old and to talk on so many aspects of village life. Of course the end of the year is always a time for reflection and perhaps to reminisce a little about the good old days!

Himself and I moved to my "Sunny Naphill", nearly 35 years ago. Yes, it is always sunny here regardless of the weather, because it is the place where I most want to be, where I am happiest, safest, content. There have been some comments over the last few months which

have caused me to think back to when we were new residents and when there were still many people who were born and raised in our villages, sadly fewer remain today. These people had seen huge changes to their quiet, idyllic village life, they had witnessed many housing developments, woodland, farmland and orchards had been torn down to make way for a huge influx of new residents. Yet there was no rancor, we were made welcome and instantly included in village life. I trust that all new residents arriving in our community will all receive the same sort of welcome and that they too will appreciate and share our love of this area and our great community.

One of my special "Naphillite" friends was Jean Lawrence Mann. Jean wrote a lovely Christmas article about life in Naphill nearly a century ago, which I am sharing with you again in this edition. Christmas is always a very special time, Jean told us "Love came down at Christmas, let's spread the love, let's spread the happiness, count our many blessings rather than our losses and be grateful that we have warm, comfortable homes. (see page 61)

My grateful thanks to all our contributors, to Peter Davis for our Christmas cover photograph, our subscribers, our advertisers, the gazette team, the delivery team and all the countless people who do so much to help make me so very proud to be the Gazette editor!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Sonia

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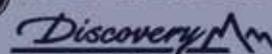


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At the start of the new year I will be sending out renewal invoices for all adverts in the Gazette. The rates that have been agreed for next year (starting with the March 2022 edition) are:

Full page colour	£675
Half page colour	£360
Quarter page colour	£190
One eighth page colour	£100
Small ads (text only max 40 words)	£40

Advertising on the Gazette Facebook page is included in the price.

The gazette is now a full colour magazine and we are therefore no longer able continue with the black and white adverts as they do not cover their printing costs. For those who currently advertise in black and white you will be contacted separately and various options discussed.

We operate a waiting list for advert space so if you do not wish to renew your advert I would be grateful if you could let me know as soon as the renewal invoice is sent out.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Judy Whitehouse
Gazette Treasurer



The Gazette's Christmas Table Top

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Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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On Saturday 6 November we held the bonfire and fireworks display. What a great event it turned out to be. Although I must apologise to all the people in the village that were inconvenienced by the parking and the crowd. We tried to keep the event organised but the sheer numbers made this difficult. Also it was good to see some younger people help to clear up the litter on the crick after the event. It looks like we have raised a very good amount of money for the village hall and after the last 18 months the village hall funds are looking more healthy. I must also thank all the local business's that supported and sponsored the event and also all of the volunteers that helped to run the event. I hope everyone enjoyed the event.

The village hall committee met on the 1st. November, there were 13 members present. It was reported that a WiFi booster had been installed to enable the card readers to work better outside the hall. It was noted that play area needed some work and this will be done in due course. The village hall has a new weekend cleaner and their contract has been

signed by both parties. We are still in the process of reviewing and negotiating leases with the tennis club and Bon Ami.

The next village hall events are the Christmas Fayre Which will take place on Friday 3 December from 6.00pm and the Christmas tree lights will be put on the tree at the end of November and stay on until the end of January.

Clive Lawrence

Naphill Village Hall Chairman.



A Letter From Councillor - David Carroll

Dear Residents,

It's been another challenging year for all of us in so many ways, but with the outstanding work of the NHS and many other organisations we can get back to some sort of normality and very much appreciate the support received for our communities. The rollout of the vaccine was a major challenge and very successful but still a way to go yet.

The Buckinghamshire Council had it's part to play in putting out updates and communicating with many partnerships involved. Several roads schemes and repairs have been ongoing.

We have a Community Board in our area which has funding for community projects, for example, the friends of Naphill common need five information boards for the common which I certainly supported for the benefit of our community.

The new local plan for the council area is being put together at the moment involving housing and the infrastructure which needs to be completed by 2025.

And finally, being brought up in a very deprived area in Wycombe in my childhood. I do realise the many challenges in life in all sorts of ways and I will continue to support my community in any way possible.

Can I please thank everyone who makes our area a great place to live.

Kind regards,

David.



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Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights 2021

By the time you read this, the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall should be lit up, brightening the dark winter evenings and bringing the usual festive cheer to the whole village at the end of what has been another trying year. They will stay lit until February 2nd, Candlemas, so January will feel brighter too!

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 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 have managed, once again, to ensure that the lights were put up in a Covid-secure way.

Insurance and running costs for the lights are usually around £600 per year and any repairs required can add significantly to these costs.

If you would like to make a donation to show your appreciation and to keep our tree alight, you can do so in several ways:

- Scan the QR code below
- By going direct to our Total Giving Appeal Page: <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/christmas2021>
- By visiting the Naphill Village Hall website (naphillvillagehall.org.uk) and following the link

If every household in the village gave just £1 our costs would be covered, so please give what you can. Any donation, big or small, will be very welcome.

Enjoy the lights and have a very Happy Christmas!

Cathryn Carter



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Plus your chance to win a Festive Hamper in our raffle !



How does a glass of mulled wine or fizz and a homemade mince pie whilst doing your Christmas shopping sound?

We have almost 20 stalls booked offering a wide range of products so join us at The Village Hall for the chance to shop local, meet friends and buy some very beautiful and unique gifts at this fabulously festive shopping evening in aid of Village Hall funds. You could also win a Christmas Hamper in our raffle!

We need to keep everyone safe, so there will be a one-way system in operation, plenty of hand sanitiser and we ask that if possible you wear a face mask.

Now all you need to do is to put this date in your diary, and please come along to support not only the Village Hall, but all the local crafters and traders.

For more details of the stalls that will be there check us out on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groupsNaphillChristmasGiftFayre>

Cathryn Carter & Moira Harris



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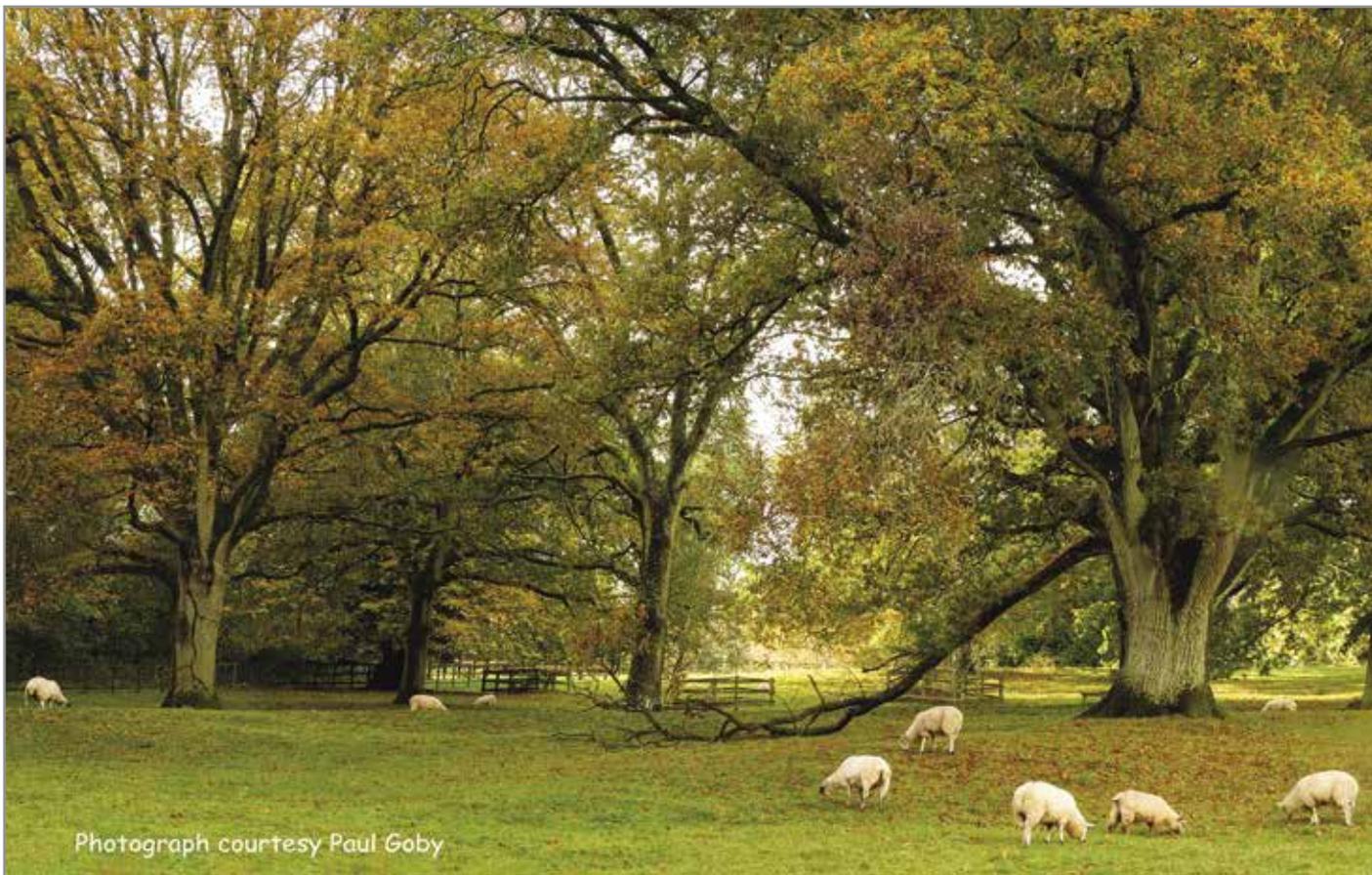


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Bradenham Parish Council

The flooding of Rectory Lane every time it rains is a permanent agenda item. We have had confirmation from the National Trust that work has been instructed on improving the existing grips and creating several new grips on the bridleway leading up Bradenham Hill. A ditch for overflow water has been dug in the field parallel to Rectory Lane and it is hoped that this work will reduce the flooding problem. It is, however, acknowledged that due to the steep incline of the hill and the nature of the track, this problem can never be completely alleviated. The parish council will again contact the National Trust about the dreadful state of the track to ask them to do something about this.

Problems are still reported with overgrown hedges along footpaths and pavements, please cut back your hedges to allow safe passage.

If you spot any potholes please report them on:
<https://fixmystreet.bucks.gov.uk>

The parish council looked at its income and expenditure for mainly grass cutting, which under devolved services, it took over from Buckinghamshire County Council in the 30mph area (excluding New road) in 2015. The amounts of cuts are of course weather dependent, but we have noted that we are now spending in excess of

the income we receive from Buckinghamshire Council on grass cutting. We will have to raise the additional funds through our annual precept, or carry out less cuts.

We have been investigating a quieter road surface for the A4010 where this runs through the parish. Road noise has become ever more prominent in recent years. The National Trust is working alongside the RAF to clear the overgrown vegetation in the woods behind the RAF site. The National Trust are coordinating tree safety work throughout the estate and have told us they are going to plant 11,000 trees, including in areas which have been affected by Ash Dieback which has caused the loss of so many trees on the estate.

The parish council is also going to investigate a new website. More news on this project in the New Year.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 10th January 2022.**

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year*

Kind regards
Deirdre Hansen
Clerk to the Council



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A Message from Rob Butler MP

As 2021 draws to a close, many of us will be reflecting on a particularly difficult year. Covid has loomed large in our lives, despite the great success of the vaccine programme. Sadly, many people have died from the virus or suffered serious illness, and I extend my condolences to all who have lost loved ones.

In Parliament, we have all been devastated by the killing of our colleague Sir David Amess. His death was all the more shocking because it happened while he was meeting local people in his constituency. MPs of all parties are subject to threats and abuse on an almost daily basis. This cannot be right, and I hope David's tragic death will prompt us all to be kinder to each other in our public discourse, irrespective of our political views.

On a more positive note, the Chilterns AONB is particularly beautiful at this time of year – the autumnal canopy of trees with flashes of yellow, brown and auburn create a vivid picture and a

stunning backdrop for anyone out walking and enjoying the fresh air. I am always surprised and disappointed that people drop their litter in such a lovely area, so I was delighted to join a litter pick in Naphill recently.

Our natural environment is a precious resource, and we must do everything to conserve and protect it. Recently, the Environment Act has become law. This is a landmark piece of legislation that will ensure we can deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country; making better use of our natural resources and cleaning up our air and water.

It is a very positive way to round off 2021, and I wish you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Rob Butler



Naphill Brownies

We have been delighted to welcome a couple of new brownies in recent weeks. Hopefully these are the first of a steady flow of new, young members. Our young brownies who have been with us for a little while have now all been enrolled into the Guiding family. Things are moving on nicely at Brownies

It has taken a little while to get used to having a smaller group of girls, but the lower number has allowed us to do a few activities that we couldn't easily manage with a full pack. We have carved pumpkins and learned to safely light the candles to go inside, made fruit kebabs, iced biscuits and even had a 'glow in the dark' night. For Children in Need, this week, we are holding a Strictly come dancing night complete with lots of bright and sparkly outfits.

With our youngsters still being unvaccinated, the decision was made to minimise the number of scouts & guides attending the Village Remembrance Service. Instead, the brownies wrote remembrance poems and prayers and painted poppy pebbles to go on the Remembrance stone. We were represented at the service by just 3 youngsters who read prayers, carried the flag and laid the wreath. They did us proud.

The remainder of the term is full of lovely winter activities, we have a Girlguiding Christmas craft night organised by the Hughenden Guides, a carol service with the scouts and weather permitting, a torchlit night walk.

We, at brownies, love this time of year. I hope you all do too. Merry Christmas!

If you know a girl aged 7-10 years old who would enjoy all this, do get in touch. You can either register interest via the Girlguiding website, or email me directly. We look forward to hearing from you

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Walter's Ash & Naphill School

Introducing the Media Team



From left to right: Lily, Michael, Sebastian and Jack

Hello, I'm **Jack** and I'm part of the Naphill and Walter's Ash School Media Team. We will be writing you a small article about our school in your local Gazette. You will be having monthly articles from our team. Our names are Sebastian, Michael, Lily and Jack. We will be writing about school achievements, events and fundraisers.

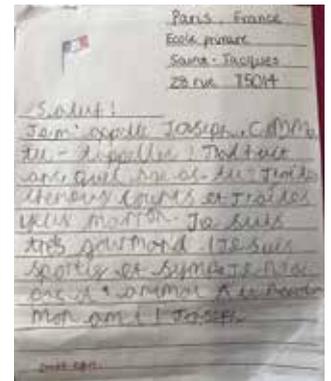
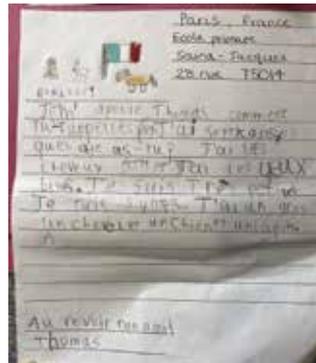
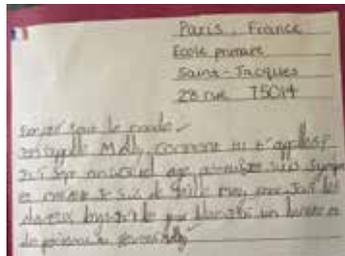


Michael

Recently, I was the goalkeeper at a match with our school football team. Even though we lost, we showed great perseverance and pushed through every minute of the game. Although this means we are knocked out of the cup, we still have a chance for the league. Come on Naphill!

Lily

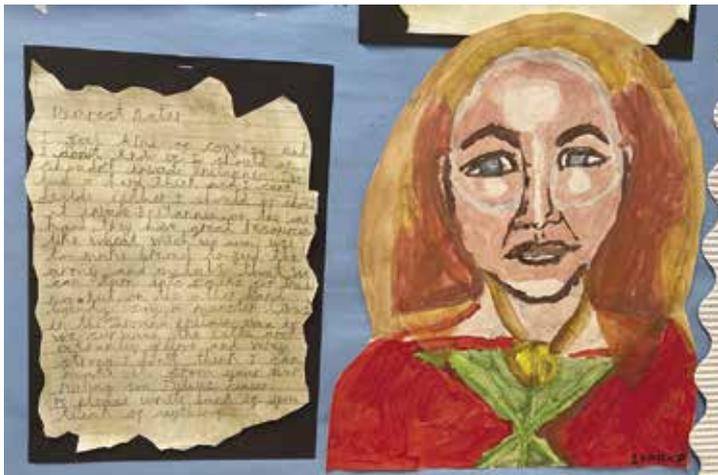
This half term, Year 3 have been writing letters in French. The letters are fantastic and they have worked very hard to make sure it is a Year 3 standard of work – even in a different language! The work was so good that they got read out in our Celebration Assembly; they even read it in French!



Here are some examples of their work.

Sebastian

I'm going to be telling you about Year 4. Recently, they have been making pictures of Boudicca – the Celtic war hero. They have made them all by themselves and shown them in a Celebration Assembly. They had lots of detail and looked amazing. Well done Year 4!





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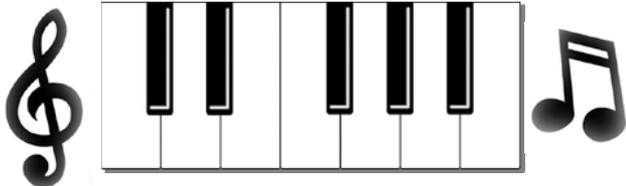
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News from Naphill & Hughenden Scouts, Cubs & Beavers



Things are slowly coming back to normal for our Scout troop, Cub pack and our two Beaver colonies. Lots of scouting activities took place over the last month. The two Beaver colonies got together for an activity day at Speen. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind on the day but the Beavers didn't seem too worried. After a soggy walk in the woods with a few games, they gathered around soggy campfires and toasted soggy marshmallows, which were rapidly eaten! The Cubs have been outdoors working on their stargazing badge and indoors working on their aviation badge.

The Scouts have gained their mechanics badge with the generous support of the Army at the Abingdon barracks. They had a fantastic day there and I think the adults with them enjoyed it too! As you would expect, the army organised it very well with lots of staff on hand. One soldier was assigned our group for the whole day who took them around eight rotations to different activities around the army base. It was very hands on and the Scouts got to do some really cool stuff that you couldn't do anywhere else.



We took part in the Naphill Village Remembrance Service but due to Covid concerns only had small colour parties representing each section rather than having everyone there. Hopefully next year we will be back to normal.

The next entry point for new joiners to any of our sections will be the beginning of next term in January. So, if you have any young people interested in joining Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, please reach out to Adrian Curtis, Group Scout Leader, naphill@chilternvalscouts.org.uk.

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Friends of Naphill Common

News

As mentioned in last month's article, the information board at the entrance to the Common from Downley Road (close to Pickup's Pond) has been removed to a local workshop, where it can be restored to original condition. The remaining four boards at the other access points will follow in due course.

You may have noticed red dots appearing on trees in the woods around Naphill – Stocking Wood and the adjoining woods have many such examples, and no doubt they are elsewhere as well. They are marking ash trees that, sadly, must be felled because of the spread of ash dieback disease. The expectation is that 95% of these trees are likely to succumb to the disease and, once it sets in, the longer they are left the more hazardous they become. As a result, most ash trees (particularly if they are near a boundary or footpath) are being felled as a precaution.

The Common itself has relatively few ash trees, but there is a stand close to Daisy Pond, near the border with Downley Common, that will be felled in due course.

The Common

Speaking of tree felling, the third phase of thinning of the Common – deferred from last year – has now commenced, and will cover an area from the end of Chapel Lane down to the bottom of the Common, shown in dark grey on the map. The red dashed lines are new rides that will be created by widening existing footpaths and bridleways.

Significant trees have been identified (by the Friends of Naphill Common) for exclusion from the thinning, and the County Archaeologist has been consulted to ensure the bank and ditch marking a Romano-British Farmstead are not affected. As before, the trees will be stacked near the end of Forge Road before being taken away for making into planks (and some of the smaller trees for firewood). As with the previous two phases of thinning, the work will remove much of the holly thickets that are filling the gaps between the trees and crowding out other species.

Managed woodlands need periodic thinning. Even after the work has been completed, tree density

will be higher than that recommended by Natural England, who (as the Common is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest) must give permission for this work, as also have Forestry England (part of the Forestry Commission). West Wycombe Estate have been extremely co-operative in allowing us to identify significant and veteran trees, which will be left alone.

Activities

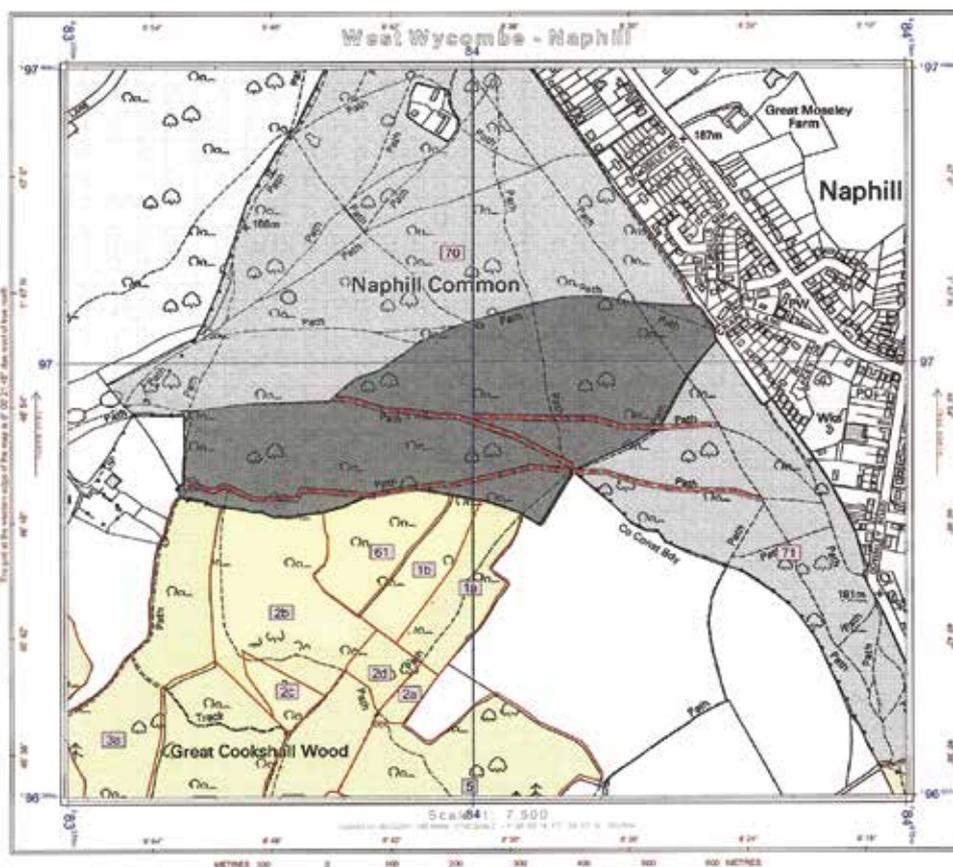
Our guided walks are again taking place, with longer walks (around two hours, finishing with optional lunch at a local hostelry when possible) being led by Ron Collins and Neil McMinn, and usually held on the third Monday of each month, starting at 9:25am prompt from the Village Hall. Shorter walks (around 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.

Our working parties are also in full swing and 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>



Chris Miller
Chairman



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The final month of the year is with us. Christmas shopping lists are being ticked off and at the Vicarage, I am preparing the Christmas catering. The formula is simple. Each guest has to tell me in advance their favourite snack, starter, main course, pudding, breakfast, cheese and beverage. With six of us over the festive period this year, catering will be easy as I will simply work through the lists my guests have given me. It's a formula I've successfully used for many years – well, more or less successfully. It didn't quite work last year. We had hoped for a 'normal' Christmas, but with the pandemic at its height and the restrictions that came into place, we had an almost virtual Christmas. I say almost virtual because we had one house guest – our daughter Kim.

As the news got grimmer, Kim's situation in London worsened and she faced spending Christmas alone in her flat with no heating, water or sanitation. Ongoing issues of leaks and damp had come to a head and now needed dealing with urgently. Clearly this was a totally unacceptable state of affairs, so I drove to London to 'rescue' her and bring her home for the duration of the work. It was a hard decision to make – at the time, staying overnight in someone else's house was forbidden except for emergencies or personal safety. I figured that having no sanitation for up to 3 weeks was definitely a safety issue.

The big day came. No joyful carol singing, no services of lessons and carols, midnight communion with the bread and wine consumed only by the priest.....an even sadder Christmas than was probably endured during Puritan rule. In a forlorn hope that we might

still be able to have some form of family celebration, even if it were an al fresco Scandi-style lunch, I had stocked up my cupboards, but most of the festive delights remained unopened. 'Oh well' I thought 'I'll save them for Easter...' (...and that's another story!).

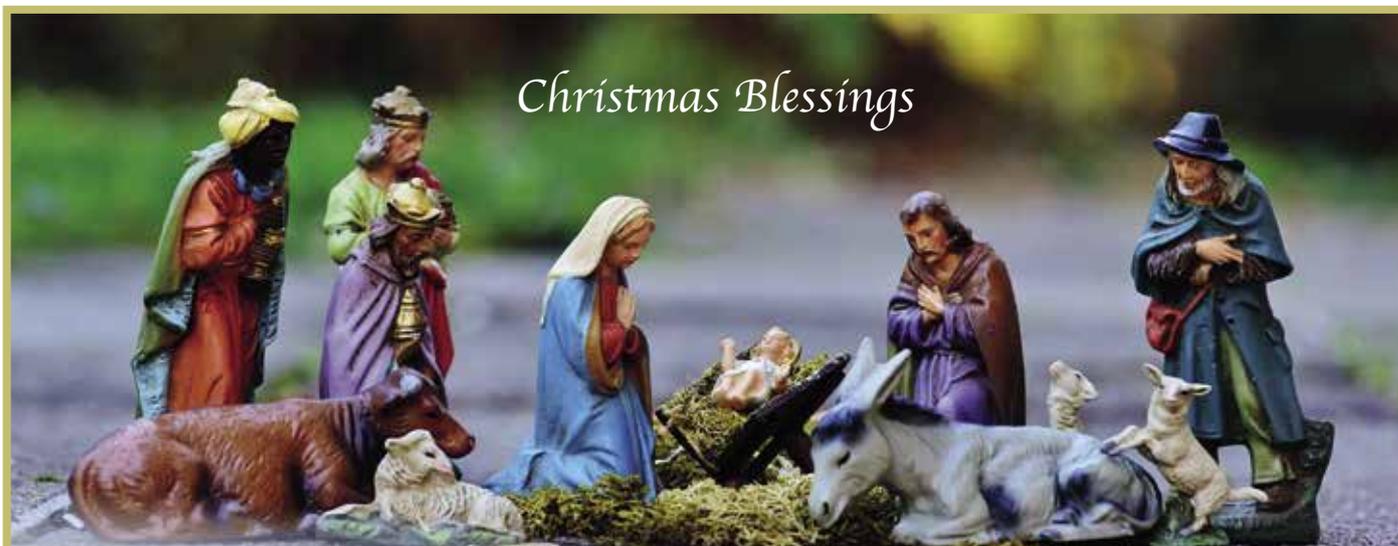
But there were good things too. We were able to have a Zoom family Christmas, which meant we could at least see each other and talk to each other through the wonders of technology. We even opened our presents in each other's company over Zoom. We were able to join together with our extended family in Switzerland and Malaysia (at a time agreeable to all time zones). It was certainly different. We made the most of it and rescued what could be salvaged of the celebration.

At the moment, things are looking a lot more hopeful for this year's celebrations – but maybe Christmas will still need to be rescued. After nearly two years of curtailed events, many will be tempted to pull out all the stops to make up for last year. Everything will be bigger, better, brighter, more; an antidote to last year's muted events, making it easy to forget that Christmas begins with Christ – and God's rescue mission to the world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

May your Christmas be blessed with the knowledge of God's love for you.

Rev Jenny Ellis



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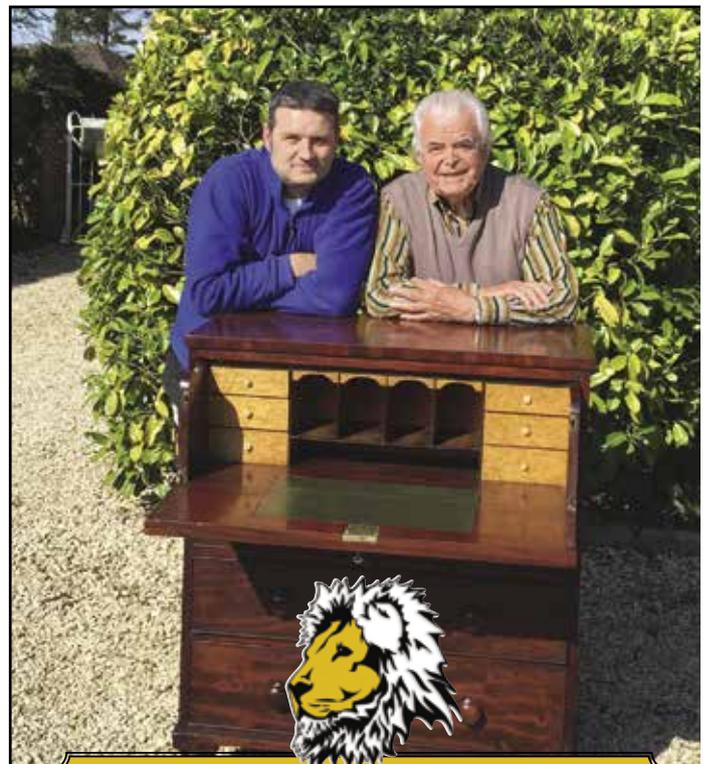
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Merry Christmas from The Wheel



Congratulations to the Naphill Fireworks Committee for an amazing display, and wow it was fantastic. The turn out was unprecedented and we also had a very busy evening here in the pub. It was brilliant to see everyone enjoying themselves and feeling a little bit more normal. A massive thank you to the fireworks committee and to all our staff who worked the night.

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 festive month. This year we have some Christmas present ideas for you, we now have Wheel Bobble Hats, Polo Shirts and Fleece Jackets to order from us.

We are looking forward to participating in the Naphill and Walters Ash Christmas Lights Trail which will hopefully become a new village tradition raising money for the school. We will update our Facebook page with more information as we get it.

During December as always, we have various bookings for Christmas parties, so please call to ensure we can accommodate you. Our festive opening hours are listed below but just a reminder that Boxing Day we will be closed

all day (so we get to see our families too). New Year's Eve will be a brilliant evening with music by DJ Shaun Salter and to make it a little bit more fun we will be having a theme of colour - Pink, Orange or Yellow. You need to dress over 50% of yourself in one or more of the colours. We will also be collecting for charity during the evening.

Festive Opening Hours

Christmas Eve	12pm – 12am (Food 12-2.45pm and 6-8.45pm)
Christmas Day	12pm-2.30pm (Drinks Only)
Boxing Day	Closed
Mon 27th	12 – 8pm (Food 12 – 4pm)
Dec 28th – 30th	Normal Hours
New Year's Eve	12pm – 1.30am (Food 12-8pm)
New Year's Day	Closed
Sun 2nd Jan	Normal hours
Mon 3rd Jan	Closed
Tues 4th onwards	Back to normal hours

Merry Christmas from The Wheel Family

Claire and Mark



Ding Dong Merrily on High,



Ding Dong Merrily on high,
 Beer at The Wheel is flowing,
 Ding Dong "another homemade pie"
 Chef at The Wheel is cursing....
 Mooooooooooooore.....
 "Cold and tasty beer please"
 Mooooooooooooore.....
 "Stick it on my Tab please!"

Santa's drunk outside again,
 And Molly's hiding in her den,
 All the bikes belong to Mark,
 And Maxii says Bark Bark Bark!
 Mooooooooooooore.....
 "Two pink gins and Fever Tree"
 Mooooooooooooore.....
 "We need another pint or three!"





A Message from Padre Lacey - *The greatest gift is me!!!!*

It sounds a bit arrogant really, doesn't it? Declaring that I am the greatest gift...how good to I think I am!?! But this is the title of the Sainsbury's Christmas advert a few years back. You can find it on You Tube, maybe have a squint at it before you read on...but I'll summarise.

There's a dad, who works in a toy factory, so obviously is very busy in the run up to Christmas, and he's trying to think of the best gift he can give his children and wife. And, after reminiscing about all the good times with his family, he realises the best gift he can give is his own time, his own presence to his family. 'The greatest gift is me' he concludes.

I have often found this advert intriguing and something which I have been drawn to at Christmas...not because of what it is advertising (sorry Sainsbury's and other supermarkets are available!), but because as a Christian, it kind of hits the nail on the head on what Christmas is all about.

God, right from the beginning knew that His presence with His people was going to be the ultimate demonstration of His love, but the timing had to be right. So, to prepare people for His arrival He sent angels, spoke to certain individuals (prophets), gave gifts and blessings to people, answered prayers, interacted with people through their stories and shared glimpses of hope and promises of His actual presence. Then, in humility and in the way which had been prophesied, God moved into the neighbourhood.

No more 'artificial' or 'almost there' connection. Kind of like going from letters, virtual quizzes, phone calls, video calls, seeing each other through a window, not being allowed to touch...when God came as Jesus it was in the flesh and blood, and then to resolve any future disconnection Jesus then gave up His flesh and blood to offer the ultimate cure for our disconnection

and separation from our creator. If you like, Jesus is the vaccine to our social distance from being our true selves in a relationship with God...well, that's what I believe anyway.

I wonder what Christmas means for you. Whatever your faith, or no faith, maybe this year the gifts given and received might be different? Because, perhaps, after the year we've had, the greatest gift you can give, is you!

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





This is the traditional time of year when we reflect on what has been happening over the last 11 months. The volunteering activities of Hughenden residents have ensured that Hughenden Street Association has been represented on various working groups, committees and the Northwest Chilterns Community Board of Buckinghamshire Council. Central to all of this is the collaboration with existing (and new!) volunteer-led groups across the Parish. With strong links forged between the Association, St Michael's & All Angels Church, Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette and Naphill Village Hall to name but a few, it has been a busy year. By working together so much more has been achieved. Helping to spread the word about what is going on locally raises the profile of events and groups thereby encouraging more residents to go along to events -such as the RAF Christmas Fayre taking place soon – or get involved in 'Lighting up Hughenden 2021 to bring festive cheer to the dark winter nights. Everyone looks forward to the 'bauble' being lit up outside the village hall and this was part of the original inspiration for lighting up Hughenden.

The Association is working with Morrison's supermarket in Temple End, High Wycombe to bring people together for an hour for a coffee and chat every Wednesday between 10am and 11am. If you have yet to pop along, do put this in your diary. A bonus is that one of the supermarket Community Co-ordinators can arrange for your shopping to be done. Imagine not having to traipse around the busy aisles at this time of year! Bliss.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday 19th January 2022

Looking ahead we are delighted to announce that in partnership with Naphill Village Hall and the Wheel pub the Association is launching the Naphill & Walter's Ash Pub Lunch on Wednesday 19th January 2022. A two-course lunch for only £9.95 will be served in the restaurant. There is a separate entrance taking you into the restaurant. Places are limited and must be pre-booked. For further details including menu choices and to book your place(s) please contact Susan Bickerstaffe (smbickerstaffe54@gmail.com or 01494 565161)

Our thanks to everyone involved in and supporting Hughenden Street Association – without YOU, we can achieve nothing!





Naphill Firework Spectacular 2021

Chairman's Report

Hello! A lot has happened in the world since we were last able to host our event, but The Naphill Fireworks Spectacular 2021 is done! I have to say, I am immensely grateful and very proud of everyone and I mean everyone, that contributed to our event again this year. Whether you sponsored us, or you were a local business selling tickets on our behalf, whether you took time out of your Sunday to pick up debris from the field or perhaps you were the mysterious team of youngsters that stayed late and helped pick up litter without being asked. Perhaps you were part of our super-talented fireworks firing team, or you helped stack wood for our fire or spent time studying spreadsheets or hours scanning e-tickets on your phone or cooking burgers, printing banners, serving pints, pouring mulled wine, selling light sabres, running around the Crick trying to stop people sneaking in without paying, or maybe you spent hours speaking to our amazing sponsors or straining your back putting out cones, or providing a stage and epic sound for our band, or fixing lights to our village hall, maybe you are from the RAF, giving up your spare time or a talented photographer capturing our amazing display. I'm sure you get the point, our event is only possible due to the kindness of local people in our community, who come together to make it happen every year, a huge thank you to you all!

It was certainly an eventful evening, we were keeping a close eye on ticket sales leading up to the day and we actually had to turn off online tickets early, which has never happened previously. We also had a queue of people waiting at the gate an hour before we opened. Unfortunately, the medical team had to treat 3 people for minor ash-related injuries and we

also had a small delay in the lighting of the bonfire due to the reckless parking on main road, which blocked the arrival of the fire engine, even though we'd clearly communicated that there would be no parking. We already have a list of changes that are under review for next year, to ensure that we can minimise the risk of the fire and the parking. We had live music from Steph and Adele (not that one), who I'm sure you'll agree were fantastic. The BBQ and bar sold out of everything pretty quickly and we've had some amazing feedback on our fireworks display!

We are still working on the final numbers, so I can't give you a total just yet, but what I can tell you, is that we believe this year will be, by some distance, the greatest ever profit generated by our event, which is incredible as it is all income for our Village Hall and community projects. The desire and determination of everyone to support our event after what we've all been through in the past couple of years, is absolutely phenomenal.

It's time for me now to start planning the Thank You Evening for all of our volunteers in January, which is always a good evening. If you'd like to help us plan next year's event or you have some suggestions, please do join us in April for our kick off meeting, we're always looking for ways we can improve and we're always looking for more volunteers.

We'd love to see you again next year on Saturday 5th of November!

Thanks and Regards,

Pete Dalby

Chairman - Naphill Fireworks Committee
petedalby@outlook.com

Naphill Fireworks 2021



Shear Madness

Well, can you believe it's that time again ! After another unsettled year we've made it through, this time last year Boris had locked us down for a third time and ruined everyone's Christmas, I know he had to do it but this one was from immediate effect so off I closed again along with the pubs and we were not to return until April! Hopefully that was the last one, with the vaccinations in full swing and rolling out the boosters we can get a bit more settled with what is becoming a new normal.

So what's new for next year? I'm keeping appointments, it is working out to be the best thing I had to do, it's amazing and you've all been very good timekeepers so a pat on the back to you all.

Dawn and I would like to wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Thank you all for your continued support and loyalty these really are the best villages you can get!

Just one last little secret so don't tell anyone..... I've given up smoking! I know, even I thought the day would never come!

Have an amazing time and lots of love as always

Mandy x

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Naphill Neighbours



Our speaker this week was Nicola Bishop, the Community Fundraising Officer for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance which operates from RAF Benson. I had looked forward to learning about the TVAA and the talk and video did not disappoint. I confess I am addicted to the TV programmes about the emergency helicopter service which operates throughout the country. One cannot help but be impressed by the skills and expertise of the doctors and paramedics who fly in to rescue the injured and the sick of all ages.

The teamwork of the crews is exemplary and their compassion for those they help is very reassuring. The TVAA serves Oxfordshire, Berks and Bucks, flying the

severely injured and ill, principally to the John Radcliffe hospital, a major trauma centre. In effect, the teams are bringing A & E out to the patient, administering strong painkillers, setting bones, performing CPR, providing transfusions, etc. by the road side. Some statistics about the TVAA service :-

- Each call out costs 3750 pounds
- There are 30 highly qualified doctors, 24 critical care paramedics and 6 emergency dispatch assistants, working shifts as well as functioning in hospitals.
- 5 very skilled pilots (they have to be able to land in some very tight spaces)
- 2570 call outs between Oct.2019 and September 2020

TVAA was formed in 1999, in ramshackle buildings, moving to RAF Benson in 2007.

The funds raised by Classics on the Crick goes to TVAA. All their income comes from fundraising and donations. No government funding is involved.

TVAA is an invaluable service which prides itself on giving patients the best chance when the worst happens.



Peggy Ewart - Secretary

Napill Village Hall Lunch Club Closure

For more than 50 years our Lunch Club has run in the village, providing a monthly two course hot meal with tea and coffee, for the over 70s, in the Village Hall.

These monthly lunches have been much appreciated by the many villagers who have attended over the years as it gave them the chance to meet and chat with friends, old and new.

The volunteer lunch club team who have been cooking, serving and clearing up for very many years are now in their 70s and 80s themselves and feel that, perhaps, they should be the diners; also, the numbers attending have dropped considerably. In spite of advertising in the Gazette, and word of mouth, neither helpers nor attendee numbers have increased. It is with regret, therefore, that we have decided not to resume these monthly lunches.

The Lunch Club Volunteers would like to take the opportunity to thank Jan Gaunt for her many years of leadership (probably at least 30 years) and the hard work in making things run smoothly, and to Terry Gaunt, her husband, for the beautiful menu cards he created each month and being chief table manager and supporter of Jan.

We are in the process of sorting out the equipment, some of which Naphill Village Hall will be able to use, anything else will be given to charity. Any funds that remain will be given to the Village Hall who have supported us over the years, and we are sure the monies will be used to improve the Hall in some way which will benefit all the people of Naphill.



The Lunch Club Team



As Covid restrictions have diminished, our Mothers' Union has returned to something approaching 'normal service', and in November, heard an extremely interesting and informative talk from Judith Smith, on her work as a volunteer in prison chaplaincy at HMP Send near Woking, a women's prison. Self-harm has increased among prisoners, particularly since Covid when inmates were confined to their cells for 23 hours a day. The Chaplaincy at Send covers women of all faiths and none, but there are always special services at Christmas and Easter.

On the 7th December at 2 pm in Church the MU Advent Communion Service, followed by hot drinks and mince pies in Church House, will take place. Items for Wycombe Women's Refuge which our Mother's Union supports each year will be collected. This year they have requested long-life food items such as pasta, rice, chocolate, biscuits, tea, coffee, jam and long-life milk.

As in previous years, our Mothers' Union will be giving out gifts to members of our community and if there is someone who you think should receive a gift please would you let Norma Clarke know on 563116.

As we approach and reach the Christmas period, we at St Michael's and All Angels wish our community a happy, safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

By the time you read this, our Christmas greeting to you all will have started dropping through your letterboxes. In case you are reading this outside the parish, or your delivery has gone astray, can I mention the following services over the Christmas period. All are held in the church unless otherwise specified. Please note in particular, the Naphill carol service in the Village Hall

In other news from the Church, work is now underway on repairing the Bell Tower, after a very successful fundraising period. The work will continue into the spring, to ensure that our ancient building can continue to serve the community in safety. Please be aware over the next few months of the presence of scaffolding deliveries, and occasional lorries in the church car park.

As ever, should you want to check on details of what is happening at the Church, please consult our website www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk.

Jane Tyre

Christmas
at Hughenden Church

Christmas Eve

Carols by Candlelight:
4.30 pm

Midnight Communion
11.15 pm

Christingle Service
Sunday 5th December 3.00 pm. All age service looking at the symbolism of the Christingle

Carols at Naphill
Sunday 19th December 3pm. A service at Naphill Village Hall for the community to come together, to celebrate, and to sing.

Nine lessons and Carols:
Sunday 19th December: 6.00 pm

Christmas Day

Communion service
9.00am (traditional)
11 am (contemporary family service).



Message from Hughenden Vicarage

Surely it can't be nearly Christmas? Already!

I wonder, how organised are your pre-Christmas plans this year?

Have you pulled out your Christmas jumpers from the darkest recesses of the wardrobe, risked life and limb by climbing into the loft to rescue your Christmas decorations, started panicking about being weeks behind with your gift buying, and tried to find a last minute advent calendar for your godchild, before realising that you have left it too late, and they have all sold out?

Christmas comes but once a year, so it shouldn't take us by surprise, and yet it still does.

Last Christmas was a difficult one for many. We were in the midst of one national lockdown after another, and the vast majority of us were not able to spend Christmas day with our wider families, unless they formed part of our bubble.

Very few services took place in our Church, and those that did were severely curtailed due to necessary health & safety restrictions.

Spending less time with those closest to us, gave us the opportunity to experience a deeper appreciation of those annual customs which we have so often taken for granted. When all the tinsel was stripped away, a quieter and simpler Christmas was enjoyed by many, even in such circumstances.

As you will read elsewhere in this publication, we are offering a wide range of in person services at Hughenden Church this Christmas, and I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and your loved ones to come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us.

As you gather around the dinner table and pull crackers with your nearest and dearest on the 25th, I invite you to pause for a moment to give thanks to God that he has brought us through the past year, although for many that has been at a great cost.

At Christmas we celebrate the most important birth in human history – that of the Christ-child, born in a stable, under a bright shining star, who was worshipped by Kings. He was sent into the world to reveal the full extent of God's love for us, and the world is so much richer for his life, death and resurrection.

So why not make room for Jesus at your Christmas meal this year?

Happy Christmas & God bless you

Keith the Vicar





An Exciting Announcement!

Ray's Kitchen is joining forces with the Whip at Lacey Green and we hope to see everyone there to sample our delicious new menu soon!

See our Facebook page for more news!

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Growing Your Own

What is the connection between my allotment at Walter's Ash and the destruction of the Amazonian rainforest? In Brazil they remove trees and use the land for planting crops. And the most useful crop is soyabeans. In the UK we cannot grow soyabeans, so we import soyabeans and soyabean husks from Brazil to feed to cattle, sheep, chickens etc. Soyabeans are the principal feed for our animals and birds. In the case of cattle, their poo, or some of it, ends up on my allotment to be incorporated into the soil to provide the nutrients that my crops need. So I am contributing to Global Warming by using cattle poo from soyabeans. Trees in the Amazonian rainforest absorb carbon from the atmosphere, so helping with Global Warming. They also give out precious oxygen which we can breathe. The trees are good for us, and chopping them down to enable the production of soyabeans is terrible. But if I refuse to take delivery of my annual dose of farmyard manure it will end up being ploughed into farmers' fields. What a quandary! Should I continue to make my soil ever more productive, or should I let that valuable manure be used to manure farmers' fields?

With soil, one must put back the nutrients which one takes out with crops. It is as simple as that. Otherwise, the soil will become more and more impoverished and the trace elements our bodies need and our crops need, will be deficient. The last time I heard the

figures, 34% of farmland in the EU was described as "poor", in that the soils lacked nutrients and humus because of inadequate manuring. I am sure that the figure will be much more than 34% today, with the intensification of agriculture. As farming becomes ever more productive, with machines able to do the work ever more efficiently and chemicals being used more and more to improve productivity, the soil must suffer more and more. And so our supermarket food becomes ever more deficient in vital nutrients, which is very bad for our health. We can combat this by growing more of what we eat ourselves. In our gardens and on our allotments it is possible to grow all the fresh vegetables we need every month of the year, eating seasonally. As for fruit, we can eat our own fresh fruit for probably 6 months of the year and rely on stored fruit for much of the other 6 months, but I would agree that one might have to resort to supermarket fruit in desperation in the winter. However, if you grow most of your own food you can ensure that your family will obtain all the nutrients their bodies need, provided the soil is replenished with nutrients from manure every year and that, by avoiding pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides etc we can help the billions of species of soil micro-organisms to thrive and keep our soil healthy.

Good gardening!
Mike Mason

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Naphill Tennis Club

The Great Naphill Firework and Bonfire Display caused quite a stir and plenty of excitement for spectators and officials last month. The wind, somewhat unkindly, decided to target the tennis courts with its ammunition of burning cardboard and firework fallout. Fortunately, initial spraying of the courts by the RAF fire engine followed by our diligent and watchful volunteer Club members, who rushed out with buckets and bowls of water to stifle the glowing embers, prevented any serious scorching of the court surface. A hazard we could, however, do without!



On to other matters. We recently celebrated the 90th birthday of our oldest playing member (who says tennis doesn't keep you fit?) at a Thursday morning club session. Inge's positive attitude to life and get-up-and-go spirit is an inspiration to us all!

 **Festive Tennis** 

Saturday 4 December from 11am

 Mulled wine and  mince pies 

 Prospective new  members  most welcome!

 Don't forget your  Christmas 'bling'! 



Further information on tennis activities and membership is available on our website:

www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk

Jenny Tench

Effects of Climate Change



As birds gear up to breed, a new challenge is looming on the horizon. The increase in midsummer heat. It is easy to imagine that dealing with heat is just a problem faced by birds in hot climates but this is not true. For birds living in or near deserts, in conditions where air temperatures frequently exceed 40°C, dealing with heat is indeed an everyday problem. But "hot" is a relative term. For birds living at high altitudes or latitudes with bodies that have evolved to cope with average temperatures near zero, even temperatures in the low teens can cause thermal distress.

In Britain, birds such as Dotterel, Skuas, Snow Bunting and Ptarmigan are at the southern reaches of their breeding range. All are ground nesting birds who can leave nests to find shelter if it gets too warm. Great

Skuas are forced to leave their nests unattended and seek water to cool off at temperatures above 14°C and as with the other species this leaves chicks and eggs open to predation.

In hotter climates, birds have evolved many adaptations for dealing with heat, where the difference between the hottest and coolest places in the landscape can be well over 20°C. This has happened over many thousands of years but those in the northern tundra and snow edges may not have the time to do so.

With around 11 million pairs the Wren is now our most common bird. They have seen the largest increase since monitoring began, with over six million more pairs compared to 50 years ago.

Cranes bred for the first time since 1585 at the Otmoor R.S.P.B. reserve near Oxford. They have now been seen with other immature birds at the Gallows Bridge Farm B.B.O.W.T reserve on the A41 between Aylesbury and Bicester. These reserves are both part of the Upper Ray Living Landscape Scheme, currently covering 42 square kilometres.

Gordon

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As the colder, darker weather continues, it is tempting to stay in the warm rather than exercise. However, it is important for us all to maintain our physical and mental wellbeing.

There are many benefits to spending just a few minutes a day outdoors. Here are a few of them:

- Regular exercise outdoors every day can improve both our mood and our physical health, leading to reduced stress and increased self-esteem.
- Some research also suggests moderate exercise can strengthen the immune system, reducing the risk of coughs and colds.
- Always make sure you're warm before you go outside. Wear several layers to keep heat in and warm up for 10 minutes before you start.
- Meet up with friends to exercise, whether a walk, run, or drop in to Lindengate during one of our open to all sessions (see website for opening times)
- If you like to be active in the garden, there's no reason why you should stop just because the temperature drops. You can plan a Winter garden, so there is always plenty to see and do, during the colder months of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you to Lindengate, where nature breathes new life into anyone looking for a little support with their wellbeing. Situated over 5 acres, take time for yourself and let nature nurture your wellbeing.

For more information on Lindengate and its programmes & events, go to: www.lindengate.org.uk



Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

AGM - The Annual General Meeting of NAWARA took place on 22 October. Following the official business of the Association, a new committee of nine residents were duly elected. Thereafter a most interesting and very relevant presentation on "Cons and Scams" was made by Geoff Pegg, Director of Operations, Neighbourhood Watch, Wycombe District and his team. The evening concluded with a convivial reception with Wine and nibbles. Monthly committee meetings held on each second Monday at Naphill Village Hall will resume in November. The meetings are open to all residents who may wish to express concern over any issues they may have relating to Planning, the Environment, Traffic etc. affecting the two villages.

Speedwatch - Regrettably In the last month we have not been able to conduct any speed watch operations due to the non-availability of our currently, small team of volunteers. If you are concerned about the speed of traffic through the two villages and have an hour to spare on a monthly basis please contact Gloria on 563634.

Crime Figures - Figures from the Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group indicate that during the 7 week period to mid October there were 5 incidents in Naphill including 2 assaults, one theft and one drug offence. During the same period Widmer End had two incidents; Hughenden Valley three incidents and Great Kingshill no incidents. Unfortunately it now seems possible that the Action Group may be closing down through a lack of support.

Next meeting of NAWARA Monday 6 December.

John Russell - Chairman





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Valley Players (Hughenden) Panto 2021 – The Wizard of Oz

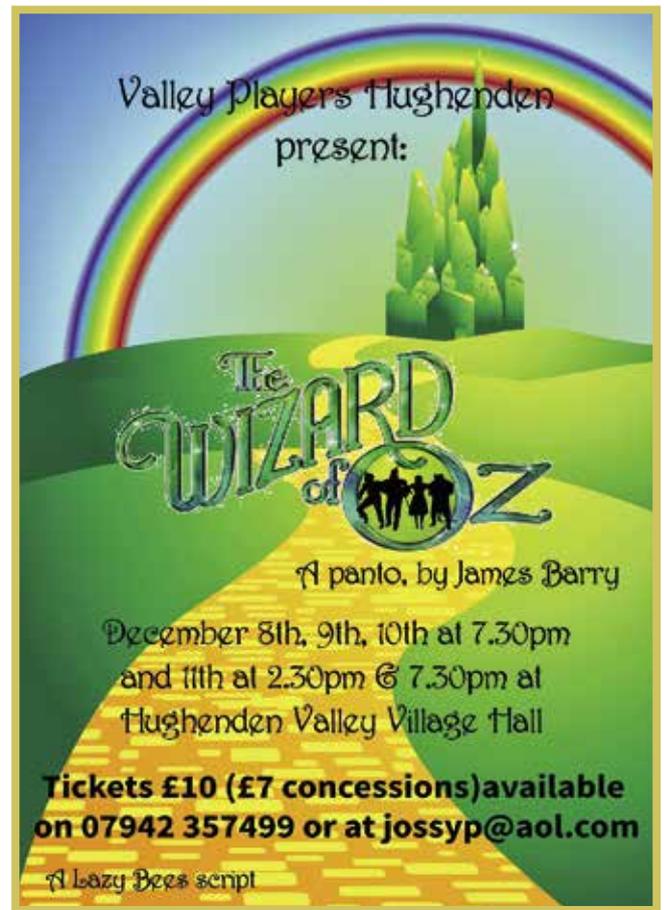
It's Panto time – Oh yes it is!

Hello from the Valley Players (Hughenden)! Who, you might ask? Well, we are your other local Am Dram club who live down Coombe Hill in the Village Hall. We have been producing well received shows for a number of years, and are a lively good-natured group. Many of you may have been to see our shows, not least our award-winning Pantomimes!

Like all performing Arts, Amateur Drama clubs took a big hit over the past 18 months with the Covid restrictions forced upon us all. No matter, Valley Players kept ourselves busy and by meeting on Zoom we managed to produce Radio style plays which we broadcast on our Twitch Channel. The titles were varied, a comedy, "Lock down in Little Grimley", a whodunnit, A Christmas Carol, a pantomime, "Cinderella" and classic Oliver Twist!

Now we are back in real life and "Technicolor" with our all singing, dancing and fun version of "The Wizard of Oz" by James Barry. It faithfully follows the story, includes all the favourite characters and is a real entertainment to get your Christmas started.

The venue is Hughenden Village Hall on 8/9/10/11 (two shows on the 11th!) December 7.30 pm and 2.30 for the Saturday Matinee. Book your tickets via our ticket hot line 07942357499 which will be open on November 8th. To make people feel safer we'll be doing the shows "café style"!



So come on and follow the yellow brick road and you'll be off to see the Wizard!

Andrew Pitman,
Chair Valley Players 07971840877

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Everyone is welcome, including under-18s with parents, and there are no fees. St Michael & All Angels has kindly lent us the church to practice in on Monday evenings. So the acoustics are great, and there is plenty of space to sing and park!

To get more information, or sign-up, contact Liz on 07768 790029 or email evmoseley@btinternet.com

**Hughenden
Community
Singers**

**Remembrance Sunday
Service 2021**

Thank you to Reg Horne for organising this important, village act of Remembrance and to Padre Lacey for conducting the Service.

Grateful thanks to everybody who took part and who attended. A collection was made at the service and £220 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

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If you want to start seeing the benefits listed above, why not set aside some time each day for yourself? You could try a brisk walk to and from the shop, rather than driving, or treat yourself to a daily walk with friends on the many footpaths we have in and around our villages, or join a local walking group (e.g Friends of Naphill Common).

If you would like a little help getting started, please feel free to get in touch!

If you are considering starting or changing any exercise programme or have any health concerns, it is sensible to check with your GP first to ensure that you can exercise safely.

Hilary Spain- 07909 833566

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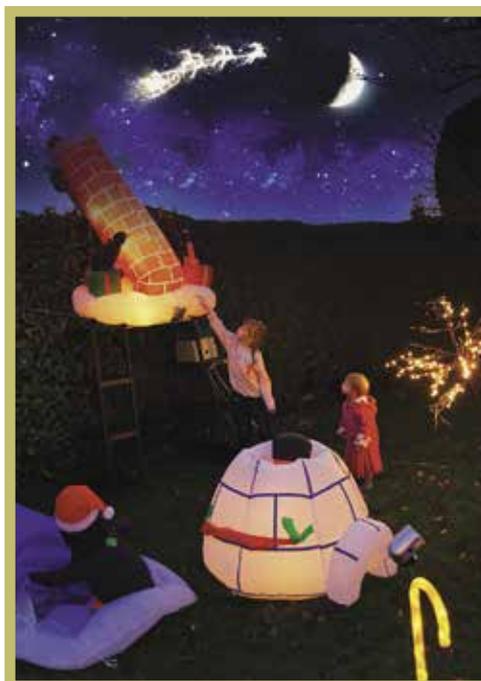
Trevor May's Christmas Lights Raising Money for BURPS

It will soon be Christmas time and we will be putting our lights out again at the top Coombe Lane. I'm sure a lot of you are aware that we raise money for BURPS, a charity that supports parents that have had an ill or premature baby on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Last year the residents of Naphill, Hughenden, Walters Ash and the surrounding areas raised over £200 for the charity. I know the money is really appreciated by them. Previously we were able to take donations via Virgin Money giving but sadly Virgin have decided to close this as an option. BURPS are now pleased to receive online donations at this web address: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18802>. I'm still happy to take cash donations and will leave a box on our gatepost for this.

Depending on the weather, I'm anticipating the lights being switched on around the weekend of 11/12 the December. As most of them are inflatables it can be quite challenging to keep them upright and in good condition during windy conditions, so we envisage taking them down towards New Year. As always we welcome visitors. Please feel free to pop in and walk down the drive for a better look. Hopefully the eagle

eyed amongst you will spot the new additions. Please be aware we are close to a bend in the road so please stay safe when visiting. I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Trevor May





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Toddle In Group nurturing curious minds Winter Wonderland!

As the nights draw in and darkness falls by the late afternoon, we have been working with the children to learn how to stay safe while they are out and about. We supported Road safety week, and the message of 'Be bright, be seen!'

We were delighted to welcome Kate, the wonderful village lollypop lady to the Nursery. She spoke about looking and listening for signs of traffic and danger, holding hands with an adult, looking out for brothers and sisters, and flashing trainers! Kate brought in her trusted lollypop stick and her high visibility jacket. The children with flashing shoes happily demonstrated with mighty stomps how bright their shoes would look and how easy for a cyclist or a driver to see them in the dark. We would like to extend our gratitude to Kate for taking time out of her day to speak to the children about such important matters, and for doing so in such a fun and engaging manner!

The children celebrated World Nursery Rhyme week in November. They really enjoyed learning new rhymes, and acting out their old favourites. Language acquisition is such an important part of early years.

The weather outside may be cold and chilly, but inside at Toddle In Group we are feeling very excited! The children came in on a Wednesday morning at the end of November to find that a band of hard working, merry elves had transformed their Nursery into a magical Winter Wonderland, dappled in fairy lights and with a new North Pole Post Office area with a wrapping station, writing station and Christmas Post box! We started our day with a festive bake for breakfast and enjoyed hot chocolate in the afternoon as a little warming treat.

This time of year can be so magical. Often at this time of year as adults we can be battling with frozen windscreens, slippery roads, burst pipes, and other inconveniences that the very cold weather can often bring. For a child, frozen cobwebs, ice, snow and early morning mist entices them to feel like they are in a magical faraway land. The Nursery continues this frozen theme inside with immersive wintry hideouts, ice experiments, and wintry walks. Our children are able to find awe and wonder in all that they see, and an enthusiastic adult is all we need to elevate the moment, and create a lovely experience. A wintry walk, baking gingerbread, and creating crafts to send to loved ones are where the real spirit of Christmas lies.

Not everybody celebrates Christmas, and that diversity is also embraced in our Nursery. We have been discovering and exploring concepts such as hibernation, and how to care for our wild birds when the ground is too hard for them to search for their own food. Winter is such a unique time of year, and so much can be learnt and explored, especially learning how to put on hats, gloves and coats independently to stay snug!

We are still offering 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.

**Merry Christmas
to you all!**





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Our Groups are now 'up and running'

Why not come along to one of our Groups, make some new friends for the New Year?

Remember your first visit is free. Once you have joined (£17 for the year ended August, 2022 if you join in Dec 2021), you can attend as many different Group meetings as you like during your year of membership. We've over thirty groups plus an additional Monthly Speaker and Christmas 'party' open to all members. How's that for value! Please contact our membership secretary for details.

In the November issue we 'showcased' Nick Corble's talk on 'Diagonal Walking', his fascinating walk from North of Liverpool to the South Kent Coast. Just as well we will be able to 'recover' at our popular Christmas Coffee Morning Party (for members) in December. We are all looking forward to seeing the results of our craft and flower groups as well as viewing the work of our Photography and many other Groups, even playing a seasonal Quiz or two and 'singing our hearts out'!

Last winter we were fortunate that many of our Groups operated on Zoom and whilst this was appreciated by many, the challenge of logging on was not always welcomed by everyone. However, as the year progressed the opportunity of listening to our speakers as well as those from India, Nepal and Australia and even an expert from The British Antarctic Survey meant that many more were able to join in. This was often thanks to our 'Beginners' Group for Computing as well as help from the more experienced members. Who knew how different iPad's were to other tablets, PC's, even mobile phones when trying to 'find the missing link' to Zoom! But now we know and when the occasion demands, we will continue to offer online as well as 'face to face' meetings in the New Year.

In common with many other local community groups we are always looking for new Convenors to run or help run our Groups and/or suggest new Groups. We often start small in homes and then progress into halls*. If you have an interest you would like to share with

others, please do contact us. We can often help with any research and prepare any materials, using perhaps PowerPoint for presentations.

We've written in previous editions of The Gazette about the many activities we offer and explained that when you become a member, you can attend as many different Groups as you like for one fee. Some groups operate in the mornings, others in the afternoons across halls and homes throughout our region. Not forgetting the walking Groups or 'pub lunches' Group. By the time this edition of the Gazette is distributed, the second meeting of our 'Discovering Music' Group will have taken place with Jazz chosen as our subject by one of our members. On November 25th, we will feature composers of film music from Prokofiev to Berstein.

You may, if you act quickly, still be in time to join us on our holiday in May 2022 to South Wales and the Bristol area. We welcome 'singles' as well as couples. An email to our membership secretary is advisable. If you are not a member but want to come and share in any of our activities, please do get in touch. You will also be able to see and take part in a wide range of extra topics offered by other organisations including the continuing and popular series of talks we offer members through the u3a's 'Thames Valley Network'.

Our winter programme has now started and you would be made most welcome at any of our Groups. We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact our Membership Secretary:

hwu3a.membership@gmail.com

**Your local u3a wishes everyone a very
Happy Christmas and New Year.**

* Meetings in homes and halls may be Subject to Government Regulations

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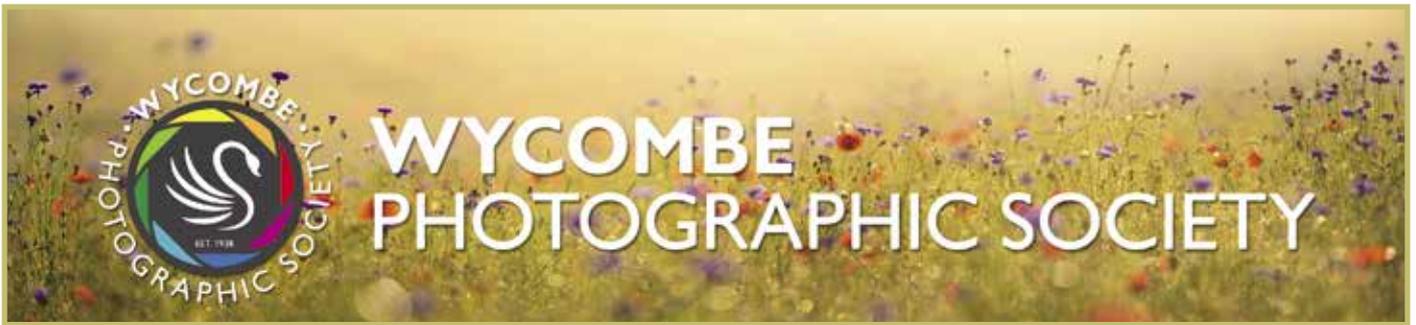
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December means Christmas and the chance to take lots of photos of Christmas festivities.

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. A chance to try out the new tripod you received for Christmas.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 1st

Talk by Mark Phillips – Chairman of the Royal Photographic Society Documentary Group

Wednesday 15th

Members Christmas Social

Saturday 25th

Christmas Day

Long walk to work off the second helping of Christmas Pudding

Start playing with the photography gear received from Santa

JANUARY 2022

Saturday 1st

More walks and using the photography gifts from Santa

Wednesday 5th

Surprise Evening event at Hughenden Village Hall

Wednesday 19th

Discussion evening on members images of "Reflections"

Wednesday 26th

ZOOM Meeting – "Demistifying Photography Distinctions"

To see everything that is happening in the NEW Wycombe Photographic Society please go to:

www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk



David Greenwood

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



Photograph courtesy Paul Goby



Photograph courtesy Neil Cockle

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The Club continues to meet on Monday evenings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club and support the local community. Recently a number of members acted as volunteers at the recent, outstanding, Naphill firework display. Additionally, the Club has financed transport to the Remembrance Day Service at the Royal Albert Hall for Malcolm Cloutt (the 100-year-old Risborough ex RAF pilot who has been walking a mile a day for the British Legion) and, amongst many other activities, has again organised the "Tree of Light" in Princes Risborough which provides an opportunity to honour, remember or celebrate the life of someone special by dedicating a light on the Tree. The Tree is being lit on 28th Nov.

The Club is particularly proud of a new Sensory Garden at the Princes Risborough Primary School. The Garden was officially opened on Tuesday 19th October by the Rotary President, Christopher Tyrer, with an informal ceremony involving school staff and pupils. The Garden is designed to provide children with a safe and tranquil area which is both visually and mentally stimulating. The funds to cover the £8,000 cost were raised by generous donations from local residents mainly at the recent Farmers Markets,

and a sponsored cycle ride. The Headteacher, Mrs Howlett, said "We are delighted with the Garden and thank the Rotary Club for making it possible. The Garden has completely transformed an unusable space into a garden that I know the children are thrilled about, it will make so much difference to their lives."

Construction of the garden was undertaken by local firm Joe Brown Home Improvements in conjunction with local companies JD Contractors, TG Building and StridersUp4Grabs, during the summer holidays in time for the new Autumn term. Rotary Project Lead Trevor Fitch expressed his thanks to those contractors for their support and in particular the local residents for their generosity.

"Tree of Light" in Princes Risborough which provides an opportunity to honour, remember or celebrate the life of someone special by dedicating a light on the Tree. The Tree is being lit on 28th Nov.

If you might be interested in joining the Club use the link in the heading, and if you would like to donate to its charity account, use the following link:

justgiving.com/campaign/rotaryclubofprincesrisborough



Report from the Clerk to the Hughenden Parish Council

Hughenden Parish Council is moving into the winter maintenance programme and you will notice our contractors working on bus shelters along with the disappearing and reappearing of benches and village signs as they are temporarily removed for refurbishment.

We continue to encourage and remind homeowners of their obligation to both sides of their hedges when bordering highways and pavements and to ensure that these are cut back to the boundary line, not just the edge of the visible pavement. Also that where they hang over the pavement, there must be a minimum clearance height of 2.2 meters. If in doubt that the hedge belongs to the property, land registry records can help. Do be aware that in some instances previous home owners have erected fences within the hedge boundary, however those abandoned hedges still remain the responsibility of the property owner.

Councillors are now engaged in the budget cycle where they review expenditure for this year and plan expenditure for the next three years. We remain under extreme pressure with only 7 councillors out of a potential 15. Should you be interested in becoming a councillor we would be delighted to hear from you, or come along to one of our meetings. Full Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month and the Planning Committee meets on the third Monday of the month. These are our most frequently attended meetings. Agendas to our meetings are published the week before and are available on our website www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk or by contacting the office.

Mel Woof

Clerk to Hughenden Parish Council

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Electric Cars

The debate rages about whether these are a good thing but I see opportunities for the village to make money.

The first will be rescuing cars where their batteries have run out. There are going to be lots of instances when optimistic drivers are nursing their cars home. They will be desperate to increase their battery range, perhaps choosing to freeze in the winter as they daren't use the heater or choosing to boil in the summer to avoid using the aircon.

Their efforts will be doomed at the last hurdle as, on the climb up the final hill into Naphill, the battery charge will reduce to nothing and they will grind to a halt. Coombe Lane will be almost permanently blocked with exhausted vehicles.

This is where we come in. A village rescue vehicle. The stranded cars won't need towing. Just a big battery or a generator in the back of the rescue truck and a spool of electric cable, like a giant electrical, expanding dog lead.

Connect up to the stricken vehicle, bringing it back to life and then the rejuvenated car can follow the rescue vehicle up to the village like a faithful dog on a walk while the retracting spool of cable prevents snagged wires.

This is a quick win for the village coffers, the other idea is a bit longer term.

The problem with any vehicle is range between re-fueling. With fossil fuels it is quite easy. We stop for a few minutes, fill up, buy a bar of chocolate while paying and we are on the way again.

For electric cars it is not so easy but we can learn a lesson from the great age of steam.

Steam railway engines could carry enough coal for a long journey but not enough water.

So, they installed water troughs to let the engines top up without stopping.

At this point I suspect that many regular readers are expecting me to make a silly suggestion that we install troughs through the village and fill them with electricity. I am not that daft. I know how these things work.

Main Road is not level so the electricity would flood out of the trough at the junction with Hunts Hill Lane and also at Clappins Lane. Also, I reckon that some unscrupulous residents would sneak out under cover of darkness with plastic buckets to top up their home electricity supply.

My suggestion is to look, instead, at trolley buses.

If we put up overhead cables through the village then electric cars could extend a pantograph to connect with the wire. They then use the electricity to power their run through the village while re-charging their battery at the same time. We charge (!) them royally for the pleasure.

An added benefit would be that when the flood waters rise and we become a seaside village then we can rescue the trams off the Blackpool seafront and run them along the promenade as far as the Pink and Lily. There it would be possible for visitors to take a passenger ferry over to the Hampden Arms.

Charles Leigh-Dugmore

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Cottage Pies Surprise


 Christmas time will soon be here,
 A time to spend with those so dear.
 Star topped trees and festive sweaters,
 And don't forget those Santa Letters!


 Now here's a tale of woe and joy,
 About a hasty, little boy.
 Who wrote to Santa in a rush,
 Scribbled, scrawled; his letters mush.


 His mother looked at the envelope,
 And posted off with little hope.
 How it landed in North Pole snow,
 No one, I think, will ever know!
 Did Julian, Wendy, Wassim help out?
 Postal wizards without a doubt.

 Arrive it did, but here we see,
 A story of catastrophe.


 Duty Elf began his shift,
 Opened the mail, and looked quite miffed.
 Another letter he couldn't read,
 Perhaps Scholar Elf could succeed.
 He called her over, "What does it say?"
 "Hmm, I'll let you know later today."
 That wasn't the first and it wasn't the last,
 The careless missives came thick and fast.
 As the sun began to set,


 Scholar Elf took one deep breath.
 "Duty Elf, listen clear,"
 "Don't use your mouth, just your ear."
 "Little Billy, I tell no lie,"
 "Would simply like a Cottage Pie."
 "A Cottage Pie? That cannot be"
 "Listen I said, Listen to me!"


 Well, listen he did, as Scholar went on,
 "A frying pan, a small crayon, ..."
 Duty Elf made a list, quite absurd,

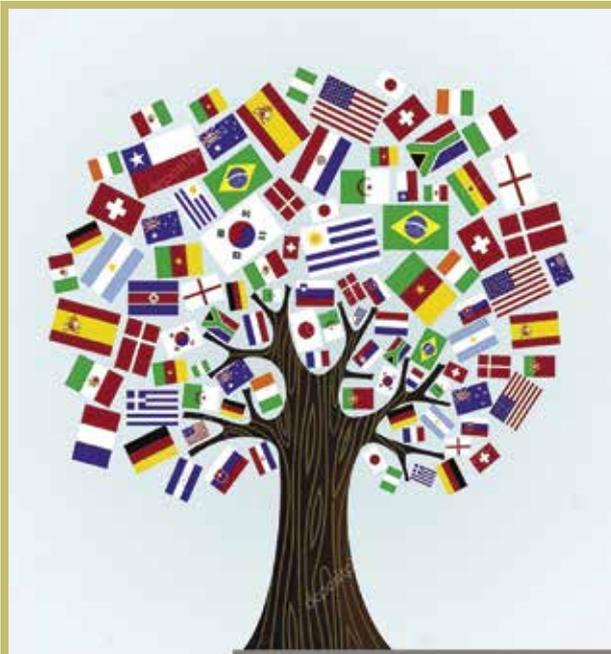
But didn't say a single word.
 For several days, he didn't speak,
 The toys were made within the week.

Well, Christmas Eve came and went,
 All the pressies had been sent.
 But not all houses filled with joy,
 "Why didn't I get my perfect toy?"

Carlos had asked for an Action Man,
 But ended up opening a can of Spam!
 The little boy, alas, wasn't alone,
 Many others cried and groaned.
 Louie wanted Call of Duty,
 But ended up with something fruity,
 Peggy was hoping for a make-up set,
 But got all tangled in a football net.
 Johnny asked for a supersonic car,
 Blushing red, wearing a ladies bra!
 A Grey Nicholls, Size 6, child's cricket bat?
 Nope, a tartan body warmer for the next
 door neighbour's cat.
 Skateboard pads to save those knees?
 Wrong again, a smelly bag of Caerphilly
 cheese.

Rest assured, those boys and girls,
 Now practise all their lines and curls.
 So when you write your note to Santa,
 Take your time, a steady canter.
 Do as the Mrs Shimmininis say,
 And practise writing every day.
 Gold standard writing, all by yourself,
 Make it easy for Duty Elf.
 And cross those T's and dot the I's,
 Unless you'd like a Cottage Pie surprise!

Peter Brookes



Chiltern Hills Arboriculture – Christmas Traditions

As this is the Christmas edition of the Gazette I thought it would be fun to look at some of the peculiar seasonal traditions and folklore from around various parts of the world.

I expect that most of us have indulged in the usual treats of mince pies and mulled wine after trimming the tree, stuffing the turkey and putting out “refreshments” for Santa and his reindeer. Of course, we all know this is primarily to reassure the kids that “he really does exist.... but he knows if you are not tucked up in bed sound asleep... and he won’t come if you are not”.

But you don’t have to go too far to find some very bizarre ideas of what constitutes festive behaviour and belief.

You don’t leave your broom out on Christmas Eve in Norway. Centuries ago it was a common belief that the witches and evil spirits would come out and steal them. To this day it is quite normal to hide your brooms away to keep them safe. They are bonkers, I know. But they do give us a very nice tree for Trafalgar Square every year, so I think we should do the decent thing and look the other way.

In Austria and other German speaking Alpine regions they have Krampus. A half goat half demon creature with dark hair, cloven hooves and large curly horns. He roams the streets, frightening the children with clattering chains and bells. He punishes the naughty ones by capturing them and whisking them away in his sack. Sometimes for drowning. Sometimes for eating. Sometimes just to take them to Hell. So....Happy Christmas Wolfgang.

In Iceland they have Jólakötturinn, the Icelandic Christmas cat.... who may very well eat you if you don’t do your

chores. Iceland also gives us Gryla, the ogress who kidnaps, cooks, and eats children who disobey their parents. I blame it on the long dark nights, and the fermented fish diet they seem to enjoy.

France has Hans Trapp, the French Satan worshipper who lives in the forest but comes out just before Christmas, dressed as a scarecrow, to scare children (not crows, oddly) into being good.

One of the strangest traditions appears in Catalonia, northern Spain. Tio de Nadal is a hollow log, about a foot long. It is brought into the house on December 8th, the date that marks the Feast of Immaculate Conception. Tio is then fed every night and is kept warm with a blanket. The children are told to “look after Tio and keep him warm” so that he will “defecate” presents for them. On Christmas day Tio is beaten with sticks which the children have warmed up in the kitchen. Of course, while the kids are in the kitchen the adults take the opportunity to hide the presents under Tios’ blanket. While this tradition maybe a bit weird I suppose it’s a saving grace that Tio doesn’t want to terrorise you or eat you.

I experienced my own personal favourite alternative cultural Christmas tradition about 10327 miles away. A barbecue on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Steaks, prawns and beer on the beach, and a picture that always makes me sing the Clash track “Bank Robber”.... using the line “Santa was a life saver... and he never drowned nobody....”. After all, nothing says “Christmas” quite like a barefoot bloke on a beach wearing red shorts and a Santa hat.



Mike Beckley
Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

I Understand Now Mum

I still observe that old Christmas tradition of making my own Christmas puddings; inherited from my Mum many years ago now, using the same recipe and time of year. My children grew up 'stirring in wishes' as I did as a child, always looked forward to on a cold winter's afternoon and in later years my Grandchildren have done the honours. Hopefully next year, when my Great Grandson is three he will understand and carry on the tradition.

When I was a young woman, and my Mum was pretty much the same age as I am now, I remember asking her 'why' she 'bothered' still to make a pudding. (As Christmases were spent with her children).

Her answer was very simple-

My Mother did it, so passing the tradition to me. Her Mother told her, when you are older stir in Blessings instead of wishes, as your "wants" will be fewer. You will find your blessings are many when you start to wander down memory lane as you stir.

So this year I have started to do the same! The puddings will get eaten when the M&S ones are found wanting!



I realise now I am older, that my Nanna and Mum were right, you don't have "wants" any more, but I can look back on eighty plus years of life filled with milestones-life is not always perfect, but the "Blessings" far outweigh the disappointments, a long marriage, three beautiful children, eight lovely Grandchildren and now another generation lined up to stir next year!

I understand now Mum.



The Shy Contributor

Memories of a True-bred Naphillite

During my early years, Naphill was a small hamlet. I knew every house by name and the family living there. There were narrow lanes with hedges either side and transport? Well that was a bicycle or a horse and cart. There was no noisy traffic or glaring lights. We didn't have electricity, just the moon, stars and lanterns. Indoors it was candles, lamps and an open log fire.

Preparations for Christmas were simple. We made paper chains and collected holly and mistletoe from the common and woods. We all helped make the mince pies, we stirred the pud and made a wish, and of course, there was homemade pork pie too, you just didn't buy these sort of things!

We were allowed to go carol singing, just to friends and neighbours and the pennies we collected often went on sweets!

As I grew older I loved to tour the village with the Methodist choir. Armed with lanterns, and accompanied by mouth-organs, fiddles and trumpets off we would go. We sometimes stopped for light refreshments. The hot soup at Doris Bailey's is such a happy memory! At another house we just started singing and some geese came to join us! They won! We fled!

Christmas Eve night we each had a sock to hang up at the foot of our bed. "Santa" filled them with sugar mice, nuts, sweets and an orange and we always had one 'special present'.

On Christmas morning the church bells rang out. It was like a very special Sunday, nobody went to work and all the shops were closed! After our Christmas dinner we had a party with singing and games.

It often snowed and there was magic in the air. I have a favorite carol:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign*

And so I wish you all, love, peace and happiness.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

Jean Lawrence Mann

13 January 1918 – 16 March 2015

A special lady, a good friend, remembered with love. Please share the love, the peace and the happiness this Christmas!

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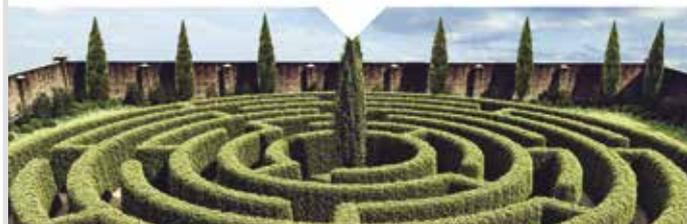
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