A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and the trees are mostly bare, with some snow on their branches. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene is quiet and serene.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

February 2023

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Photograph courtesy Jonathan Hilder

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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	
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Naphill Neighbours	Janet Judge	01494 563186	
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Chairman - Clive Lawrence

Email: chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings - Tanya Stevens

Email: hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Tel: 07851 169275

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk

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Hughenden Parish Councillors	Usha Prashar		usherprashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors			
Hughenden Parish Councillor	Chris Janes		chris.janes@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
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

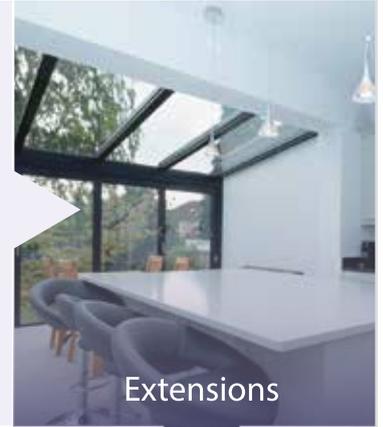
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Stroke Support Service	Stroke sufferers, carers & family support	0300 3300 761
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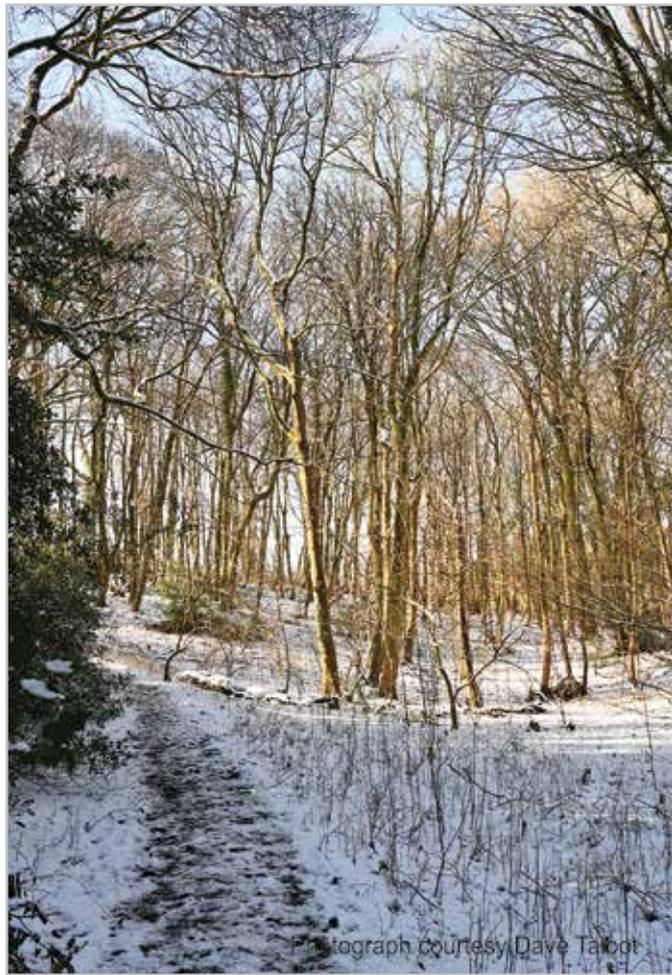
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Copy Date March Gazette 15 February 2023

Editorial: New Year greetings to you all and welcome to the February edition of the Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette. After a lovely Christmas and New Year, I am delighted to be back in the office chair.

Looking forward, we have the Coronation too in May. and I am sure there are lots of plans afoot possibly with more street parties, group activities and hopefully a big village celebration. These things will not "just happen", volunteers to organise and help will no doubt be needed!

My thanks to everybody who has contributed to this edition of the Gazette. Special thanks to Jonathan Hilder who does so much to help with the Gazette content. I look forward to receiving your contributions for possible inclusion in the March Gazette on or before 15 February please. As always what goes in the Gazette and how it is displayed is an editorial decision.

Best wishes,

Sonia

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

We are a NOT FOR PROFIT group!

Each and every member of this team is a volunteer including the editor. Nobody is paid in any shape or form for the time, effort and skills they put into the Gazette. Producing and delivering TEN editions a year is a time-consuming task! Each edition incurs costs in excess of £2,000 for which we are solely responsible.

We have a website and a Facebook page which are organised and run by team members. These members, along with our treasurer, the distribution team, and the editorial assistants are all vital to our team. Each individual member gives of their time and talents as a volunteer, conscientiously fulfilling their designated roles to support the editor.

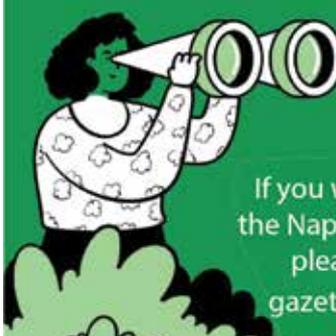
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The Gazette is run entirely independently of ANY other village group, we do not donate to these groups nor do they to donate to the Gazette. Groups are invited to submit items for inclusion but NO group or individual contributor can have control over what is published or who edits and leads the Gazette team.

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Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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The village hall committee met on Monday 9 January. Among items discussed were the playground where the swing frames have been condemned. One quote to replace them was £10,000 to £12,000. We decided to review our options including obtaining a grant or perhaps sponsorship from a local company.

We agreed to install new doors at the entrance from the car park at a cost of over £4000, it has taken over 3 years to obtain quotes for this project. It was also agreed that a new hot water unit would be purchased to replace the existing one that has stopped working, hopefully this will be under £1000. Chris Keats has drawn up a new contract for grass cutting and hedge trimming and this will be passed out to various contractors for quotes.

The new heating system was also discussed and although the new boilers are working well there are still some problems with the original pipework. The plumber that we used has been contacted and has come up with a couple of solutions but with such a system it is going to be difficult to rectify the problem.

It was also noted that dog fouling on the crick is on the increase. The football players have to clear this up before they can play! With children playing on the crick the fouling is a health and safety risk. If this problem is not alleviated then the village hall council will have to consider banning dogs from the crick. Please remember that the crick is not a public area and the committee can take steps to ensure that it is a pleasant area for all who use it!

Fundraising events were discussed and the Music Night will be on Friday 9 June and Classics on Sunday 11 June. A village Fete day could be held on Saturday 10 June but at the moment there are not enough helpers to make the event viable. The village hall does struggle to find volunteers for the events that it organises. It would be great if more people gave a small amount of time to help organise these events, even a couple of hours a month would be a help. There are many ways to help, from making phone calls to typing up minutes and supporting the fundraising committees. If you would like to consider helping please get in touch with me. You can email me, chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk. Please do not let these events fade away through lack of community support.

The King's coronation is on Saturday 6 May. It has been suggested that a fireworks display is organised in the evening. More ideas as to how the community might celebrate this momentous occasion are welcome! We appreciate that many people will be watching the televised ceremony which will be finished in the early afternoon so planned activities will need to be later in the day. We do not have many coronations so let's make the most of this one!

Clive Lawrence

Chairman Naphill Village Hall



Bradenham Parish Council

The Council met for the first time this year on Monday January 9th 2023. Cllr. Robert Carington attended and was able to update the Parish Council on some Buckinghamshire matters.

The Bledlow re-cycling centre will open on January 16th. Full details of opening times are available on www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bledlow-hrc

The site will open Friday to Tuesday inclusive. Oxfordshire residents will be charged to use the centre. Bucks residents will need to show proof of residency.

The contractors' error in white lining Bradenham Woods lane has not been rectified despite two sets of remedial work being carried out. The contractor's contract has now finished without the remedial work

being completed satisfactorily. Cllr Carington will take this up with the unitary authority. High tension cabling for the new data centre at the old Molins site has started to be laid along Bradenham Woods Lane. The budget for 2022/23 was agreed, using some of our reserves in 23/24. The precept for 2023/24 was set with an increase of 2% on 22/23.

The Council is organising a small working party to plan for the village coronation celebrations. The church and the cricket club will be involved.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on
March 13th at 7pm.**



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We wish everyone in the parish a very happy New Year.

One of our most important activities in the first months of 2023 is a tendering process for the maintenance of hedges, verges and grounds. Hughenden Parish is a bit unusual in that the Parish Council owns about twenty plots of meadow, woodland and amenity land. The Council hasn't thoroughly reviewed how it wants to manage and maintain the land for many years. We are now taking the first steps to take a fresh look in the light of the local and global ecological and climate challenges we face. A small first step was to support the planting of wildflowers by the Hughenden Valley Climate Action Group at the road junction at the Harrow Pub. This will involve mowing the verge there on fewer occasions each year.

We are reletting the maintenance contracts for verge, hedge and grounds maintenance for just one year. During that time, we intend to develop a Site Management Plan for the larger plots of land, in consultation with residents. For example, we might wish to encourage grazing rather than mowing on meadows, but this might have implications for dog-walkers that need to be discussed. We intend the Site Management Plans to form the basis of future maintenance contracts.

In our updates last year, we encouraged local organisations to apply for small grants if they needed support to provide services of benefit to parishioners. Grant applications dried up during the Pandemic years, but we are pleased to see the number of grant requests increasing. In recent months we have provided grants to residents associations to produce gazettes and newsletters, and to Bryants Bottom Community Trust to help maintain the Village Green. We have also provided two benches on the amenity field at Primrose Hill.

We are sorry that our Clerk, Emily Ranahan, left us in December and we are currently recruiting a Clerk. The position of the Parish Clerk, the parish's executive officer, is vital to the smooth running of the parish. Please check the job advert here if you think this important position in the local community might be of interest to you. We also have a few vacancies for Councillor positions in Hughenden Valley, Widmer End and Naphill & Walters Ash. If you think you could contribute to the local community by serving as a Parish Councillor, please contact clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk for an application form. We are pleased to have three new Councillors on board, Usha Prashar

representing Naphill & Walters Ash, Marc Byrom representing Hughenden Valley and Jaye Hawkins representing Great Kingshill.

In January, the Parish Council agreed to adopt the streetlights in Widmer End. There has been considerable uncertainty as to the ultimate ownership and responsibility for the lights, and this has caused residents of Windmill Estate much anxiety. After an exhaustive effort to get to the source of the ownership of the lights, the Council decided that the Parish was the most likely owner, and that the right course of action was for us to adopt the lights, ending uncertainty for the residents. A Working Group including Councillors and representatives of Widmer End Residents Association and Windmill Estate Maintenance Company are now working on ways to improve the efficiency of the lighting.

The Council has also initiated a project to renovate the playgrounds at Great Kingshill and Templewood. A consultant has been appointed to guide us through the process. The first phase will be to consult with residents and equipment suppliers and establish a scope for the Council to consider.

Hughenden Parsh Council

Contact Details:

Call us on: 01494 715296

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Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights 2022

The team hope that the lights provided something to cheer everyone up in the middle of a fairly dismal time, with a pandemic, a land war in Europe and a grim economic situation.

Firstly we must give thanks to our sponsor, Upward Powered Access, who provided the essential cherry-picker without charge. Secondly we must give thanks to our lead climber Mike Leggett, who was climbing for the 31st season. This time he climbed three times, once to pre-position the sphere and connector box at the top on the tree, a second time to put up the garlands and a third time to replace a garland which had failed. He then had to have a hand operation and our reserve climber Andy Debrou did the climbing when we took the lights and other equipment down.

We must thank Dan Smith who drove the cherry-picker, Kevin Oxnard who was in the cherry-picker for putting the lights up and Stephen Fountain of Lacey Green who was in the cherry-picker for taking the lights down. Neil McMinn, Andy Debrou and Dave Perkins were up a tall ladder for some time attaching or detaching the ends of the garland ropes to the tree. Other members of the team were: Peter Davis, Ron Collins, John Harris, Gary Putnam of Lacey Green, Paul Hewitt, James Foster, John Camp and myself. We had three new members of the team for taking down the lights: James Foster, John Camp and Dave Perkins – welcome!

Marlène Mason provided the essential freshly-made hot mince pies, tea and coffee, Ross Greenlee the electrician tested and repaired the equipment with the help of Paul Hewitt and Peter Davis helped me to test and sort the

bulbs for next time. We must thank Cathryn Carter who organised the fund-raising and we must give thanks to you, the public, who contributed so generously to the funds we need to pay for the essential insurance, purchase of replacement equipment and electricity, the total cost of which was about £830 this time.

Photo: from left to right in photo above: James Foster, Andy Debrou, Gary Putnam, Stephen Fountain, Dan Smith, Peter Davis, Paul Hewitt, John Harris, Mike Mason, Neil McMinn, John Camp, Dave Perkins.

Mike Mason

Thank You from Village Hall Committee

Our spectacular tree lights never fail to bring joy! They are loved by everyone and also considered to be the best in the area.

As always, our thanks and admiration goes to the team, led by Mike Mason, who brave the elements each year to bring us all such pleasure, and cheer up the dark evenings. Once again they did a truly remarkable job.

However, the biggest thanks must go to everyone who contributed towards the lights by going online to make a donation through our Total Giving page or who put a donation in one of the few collecting boxes. You were incredibly generous and the donations via Total Giving were an amazing £698, the collecting boxes and other donations came to £131.26 giving a grand total of £829.26

We can safely say that our tree's future remains very bright!

Cathryn Carter

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Don't fall for romance fraud this Valentine's Day!

Romance frauds happen when the victim thinks they've met the perfect partner through an online dating website or app, but the other person is using a fake profile to form a relationship with them. They're using the site to gain the victim's trust and then ask them for money or enough personal information to steal their identity.

Spotting Romance Fraud:

Generally, the scam starts with an initial contact by the scammer. Their profile picture is very attractive. It's common for scammers to use stolen photographs of beautiful people. You can check whether someone's profile picture is associated with anyone else by accessing the website in Google Chrome, right-clicking on the picture and then clicking 'Search Google for image'.

The scammer asks you a lot of questions about yourself. This is because the more information they know about you, the easier you will be to manipulate.

The discussion is friendly at first but turns romantic very quickly.

Eventually, the scammer asks you to lend them money. They use any number of reasons: they need help to pay for the flight or other transport to meet you, medical care, or they have a great business or investment opportunity that could benefit both of your futures.

Protecting Yourself From Romance Fraud:

Just because there are some mean, dishonest people out there doesn't mean you have to stop using dating sites altogether. If you're using social media sites like Facebook, don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.

Don't give away too many personal details about yourself online. Revealing your full name, date of birth and home address could lead to your identity being stolen.

NEVER send or receive money or give away your bank details to someone you've only met online. If anyone asks for your financial details stop communicating with them immediately and report them to the dating site.

Use reputable dating sites. Fraudsters will want you to quickly switch to using text messages, social media or telephone so there is no evidence on the dating site of them asking you for money, so keep communicating through the dating site messaging service.

Learn more about preventing this and other crimes by joining Neighbourhood Watch!

office@wdnhwatch.plus.com

A Letter from Buckinghamshire Councillor, David Carroll

Dear Residents,

We have many challenges at the moment in life but I will continue to try and get action on issues in our community and continue to protect our area wherever possible.

We are constantly under pressure to preserve the environment and with the support of many residents in our community, I will certainly try to protect the great place we live in.

I have always tried to remain a Community Councillor and so over the years I have made a point of walking around our area and actually talking to residents. Perhaps these days, this

is not commonly done, but I think that talking to you and listening to your concerns is a very important part of my role as a Buckinghamshire Councillor.

It's a privilege to be your Councillor. If you have any concerns re the council work please do contact me, details as below.

Regards

David

David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk





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Friends of Naphill Common

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and that the coughs and sneezes going around didn't interfere with the festivities too much. Writing this in mid-January, it already seems quite a long time ago!

The refurbishment of our five information boards at the entrances to the Common has been a slow but steady process that has now completed successfully. Tim Bird, the specialist from Merlin Signs in Hatters Lane, has done a wonderful job, and they are all looking pristine. We need to keep an eye on the supports, one of which has already been found to have rotted and been replaced, as reported previously.

The cost of the project was £1,356 and Buckinghamshire Council have subsidised half of this amount, for which we are very grateful.

At this time of year, our garden birds (but not, as explained in previous columns, our beautiful red kites, which will find plenty to scavenge without our help) need food and water on a regular basis. Birds need water, not only to drink, but also to clean their feathers, so make sure that any water bowls are ice free during cold weather. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can: in the morning and in

the early afternoon. Birds require high-energy (high-fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights. Use only good-quality food and scraps.

Always adjust the quantity given to the demand, and never allow uneaten foods to accumulate around the feeders. Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly. Good hygiene is vital in all seasons, or feeding may do more harm than good. Keep your garden birds healthy by cleaning feeders, bird tables and bird baths, to keep the birds that use them, fit, healthy and disease free.

Meanwhile, our working parties continue 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

Naphill Neighbours

Nearly 40 neighbours enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal at the Black Lion early in December. In the new year, in contrast, Neighbours enjoyed a visit from 'The Bug Lady', who brought lots of insects and minibeasts for us to inspect.



Victoria Cheeseman is an enthusiast who has a special warm room in her home to house a range of minibeasts. The temperature has to be very warm for the creatures to thrive and breed. Victoria breeds these tiny creatures and has a successful mail order business.

She has 21 species of stick insects, plus tarantulas, millipedes, snails and cockroaches. I may have forgotten some? Members were fascinated to look at the minibeasts

which Victoria had brought with her in cages. Very little coffee/tea was drunk in the interval! I was less intrigued than most but you can't please all of the people all of the time. Hence the varied programme which Jo Keatch has put together for 2023. Our thanks to her.

We have lost three more members recently. Vera Burgess at the age of 103, Valerie Whale who used to organise outings, and Mary Pawley. We shall miss them all.

Our next meeting is on February 13th when Kerry Franklin will talk about 'Hub Care Support'.

Peggy Ewart
565969

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Happy New Year!

We are delighted to be back at brownies for a brand new year. We are starting the term on a broad weather theme – that could be rainbows (anything multicoloured), wind (blow football, windchimes), rain (anything involving water) etc. The brownies have already come up with some great ideas!



We will also mark the Chinese New Year (The year of the rabbit), have a go at our very own escape room and have an evening of science-based fun. There is so much to look forward to.

If you have a skill you would be willing to share with the brownies, please do get in touch. We love to try something new.

I hope you have all been having a New Year clear out and have lots to donate to our Spring Jumble Sale on Saturday 4th March. Pop the date in your diary and come along and grab a bargain.

If you know a girl aged 7-10 years old who would like to get involved in Brownies, do get in touch.

You can either register interest via the Girlguiding website (girlguiding.org.uk) or email me directly.



Brown Owl

Ruth Daly

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

1st Naphill Brownies

Thursdays 5:45-7pm



Brownie Jumble Sale

Naphill Village Hall
4th March 1.30pm

We will be collecting items for the sale around the village on the morning of the sale and we would also welcome any items you wish to bring to the village hall on the sale day.

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Shear Madness Pricing Update

As you all know I hate putting my prices up and I don't do it very often but from the 1st February they are going to have to go up if I'm to stay in business in the village. Some will think that it's quite a jump but pensioners haven't gone up in seven years and everyone else went up two years ago. If for some reason you can't afford it please come and talk to me privately, I am here to help, if I can. We are still a lot cheaper than town.

New price list:

- OAP £12
- Under 5 £12
- Crewcut £12
- Under 13 £14.50
- 13 and over £17.50



Sorry

Love as always

Mandy x

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Group News and Updates



Our Tree Planting Ceremony at Wycombe Museum

On 9th December Jay Blades, from the TV Repair Shop program, received an enthusiastic welcome at our tree planting ceremony. Jay, pictured here with Sylvia Chadwick, our chairman, planted a tree in the grounds of Wycombe Museum and spent some time talking individually to those present. We all enjoyed the refreshments served by the museum curators.



Our Christmas Party had a record audience and was very much enjoyed by everybody!

New visits planned for our Local History Group

Following on from the very successful visit to Haddenham Museum in late November, members have requested that we repeat the visit and extend the walking tour of Haddenham. We've provisionally booked this for April or May. But before then, we will be visiting the High Wycombe Magistrates Court in February with visits to another local attraction in March. New members are welcome.

Fancy a short holiday?

Our annual holiday – is in May – and we're exploring Suffolk. We have a few vacancies for singles or couples. Do contact me urgently for the itinerary, dates and prices. gilliamph@aol.com

Exciting Plans for 2023 discussed

At our 'Convenors and New Members' Discussion Forum in January, we introduced ideas for new groups and reviewed the progress we had made on introducing Facebook and a new administration system. We start work shortly on a

new web site. We also plan to increase our local publicity keeping members and potential new members up to date with our activities. We are doing our best to help everyone make new friends, share our members' knowledge and expertise with everyone. And have fun.

If you can help us, as a volunteer, in these areas, please contact me. (gilliamph@aol.com)

You could be attending as many as 10 monthly group meetings a week and 10 Guest Speaker monthly meetings as well as special events for around £30 for a full year! That's value.

Paul Gilliam



2023

Naphill School New Year

After a breather of a two week break, Naphill and Walters Ash School are back for 2023 with new topics and fun.

One of the new things 2023 has brought are some new after school clubs open to all pupils in KS2 that take place just after school has finished.

Each term we start a new PSHE topic on the website Jigsaw. This term we are focusing on the 'Dreams and goals' piece of the Jigsaw.

As we write, the school is very excited and is looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year next week!

Y6 Media Team





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Why do dogs sniff?

It can be really inconvenient when you're in a hurry, or the weather is particularly bad and all your dog wants to do is stop and sniff at every opportunity on a walk.

Have you ever considered why your dog sniffs at every opportunity? Dogs are able to understand and appreciate smells they encounter in ways that we can barely comprehend. Letting our dogs sniff and explore not only allows them to gather information, a bit like reading the local village gazette, but it can be relaxing and mentally stimulating as well.

There are many factors that can cause stress in our dogs, from changes in household routines, which over the past couple of years, many of our dogs will have experienced, to a visit to the vet or pet groomer. Taking your dog on different types of walks, including dog-led walks can be a great way to reduce stress and help build your dog's resilience. Dog-led walks are where you let your dog take the lead on where you go and they set the pace. It can be beneficial for us too, to take a few minutes at a more leisurely pace!

- Time – give yourself time to go on a dog-led walk whenever you can
- Safe Space – ensure that wherever you are, you and your dog are in a safe space, away from dangers and hazards.
- Treats – take your dog's favourite treats or toys to ensure that if they are off the lead, you can recall them when you need to
- Long line/lead – if your dog is easily distracted and therefore their recall isn't consistent, consider a long line or lead, so that you can still enjoy a dog-led walk, without the worry of them losing you
- Stimulation- it is always satisfying to bring home a tired and happy dog from physical exercise, but your

dog needs to use its nose-brain connection for mental stimulation too – which can be through dog-led exercise, as well as tricks and dog classes

- All dogs/breeds/ages – all dogs can benefit from dog-led exercise, including those that are unable to walk far, due to age or medical conditions. In addition, high energy/high anxiety dogs can really benefit to bring their stress levels down

What are you waiting for – grab your dog and lead and enjoy some dog-led adventures. Remember – there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing!

Charlie Hughes

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Church News

After the busyness of Christmas in the Church, January can sometimes seem quite quiet! Not so if you attend any Tiny Tots Toddler group, which continues to expand with the arrival of some very new members (and others expected almost weekly!) 'Our' newest baby, very handily stood in for the Christ Child in the story of the Magi in our Epiphany meeting in January.

Providing for (slightly) older age groups, the regular meetings of the Friendship Morning and Mothers' Union also continue, in their usual timeslots.

The Community Choir has started their meetings again on Mondays in the church, open to all, whatever the standard of your singing. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

The trainee bell ringers are also making their presence felt (or rather heard) with 11 novices aged from 10-64 learning this ancient skill under the watchful guidance of David Cornwall.

Looking ahead to February, the first Men's Breakfast of 2023 will take place at Church House on the 4th, to hear Kerry-Jane Harrison present her talk: Mental and physical health - Making Parity A Reality. Kerry-Jane leads a programme of work at Berkshire Healthcare to reduce the inequalities experienced by people with mental illness.

On 19th February John Barringer will be speaking at both Sunday morning services about Open Doors. Every day millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom. For more information about the origins of this charity please visit our website.

On the personnel front, TJ, (Tracey Jones) who has been our Curate since the summer of 2019, will be moving to St Mary's Church, Wexham in February. Although she is sad to be leaving Hughenden, TJ is looking forward to ministering in a large, diverse parish with plenty of opportunity to build on her experience at St Michael's.

I have covered just a snapshot of the activities within the Church: additionally there are (of course) services on Sundays and Tuesdays, housegroups meeting every week, and groups such as eco-church meeting from time to time.

For details of all activities within St Michael's consult the website : www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Jane Tyrer

From the Vicarage



Regular readers of this column will recall that I spent some time on sabbatical last summer, which included a memorable two weeks in South India, through a diocesan link which Oxford Diocese has with Nandyal diocese, in the Church of South India.

Many people have asked me about these experiences, and are keen to learn more about my trip, so I have decided to organise "A taste of India" event in Hughenden Church on Saturday 25th February, starting at 7pm.

During the evening I will be showing lots of pictures and videos of my trip, and sharing some of my experiences in more detail.

There will be (hopefully) some genuinely authentic South India snack food to taste, a quiz, and an opportunity to ask me any questions you might have. There will be no charge for the evening. You are welcome to make a donation to Hughenden Church if you wish. Please let me know if you are planning to attend to help with catering numbers. You can reach me by email on: keiththevicar@gmail.com or by phone on 07772 642393.

Through word and image, I hope to be able to give you a taste of what it is like to visit one of the most amazing countries in the world, which bombards all the senses, and has left me with some wonderful, lasting impressions of the people, the food, culture and climate of Asia.

What were my first impressions of being a passenger in a car on the roads of Hyderabad, as we left the airport and headed south? What was the weather like? What was it like going to Church in Nandyal? What stories do I have of meeting a wide range of Indian people? What is it like being a Christian in India? Which tourist attractions did I visit in Hyderabad? How did I feel coming back to the UK after two weeks in India?

For the answers to all of these questions and many more besides, put Saturday 25th February into your diaries now.

Rev Keith Johnson,

Vicar of St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden

News from Saint Boltolph's Bradenham

It was pleasing to have such a high attendance at the services on Christmas Eve and Midnight. For many of us these services are the highlight of the year. Good singing, too! We were very glad to welcome the RAF padre to take the midnight service. We have one service in January, on the 22nd.

We hope to increase Sunday services in future with visiting clergy. St. Boltolph's is more active than it was. A book club meets regularly, Pete Baldwin gave a much appreciated history talk. Pete and his wife have given much time to the graveyard so it now looks attractive even in the winter.

Peggy Ewart

Home Thoughts from "Home" Abroad

Having moved house last November, we have relocated again! Not permanently, but temporarily – to Gibraltar. Retiring from paid ministry in the Church of England, my partner (Hugh) has taken up a voluntary position as a locum port chaplain with the Mediterranean Mission to Seafarers. This involves living in Gibraltar in two month 'shifts', alternating with another port chaplain. I now find myself living as a native in a culture that is new to me – or rather, newish.

Gibraltar is a curious, cosmopolitan amalgam of 200 or so years of trying-not-to-be-Spanish-anymore combined with Moorish, British, military and seafaring cultures (to name but a few). Parts of it could not be more British, the historic naval dockyards being almost identical to those in Portsmouth and Devonport. Limestone cliffs and rocky shorelines could easily be those of Plymouth Hoe (I fooled my Plymothian brother with a photograph of said cliffs!). Eateries abound selling traditional British fare; we have M&S, John Lewis and many other British shops. Equally, we have Moroccan, Indian, Japanese, Spanish, Mexican, Thai, Kosher, Halal and Irish hostleries that cater for almost any culinary whim or cultural necessity. It's abroad, but also home.

We live in a flat next to the cruise ship terminal, and never know from one day to the next who our neighbours will be. Sometimes it may be a huge container ship or another form of cargo carrier, but we also see ferries, cruise liners, super yachts and the occasional marine research vessel. The port tugs, pilot boats, tenders, dredgers and the like give some form of stability to the transient populations that live and work here. In addition, we have a great view of the aviation traffic as commercial or military aircraft come and go along the famous runway which opens and

closes to allow for the everyday passage of commuters to-ing and fro-ing from Spain (or the supermarket).

Having already downsized once, we have downsized again. The flat is of a good size by Gibraltar standards, but for years it has been a bit of a bachelor pad, quite Spartan and equipped with a motley assortment of incomplete dinner services, pots, pans and some 'interesting' gadgets. We had only the vaguest of idea of what we would find but furnished with the promise of a fully serviced two bedroom flat, some photographs and a crudely drawn floor plan, we agreed to give this project a try as we believed God was calling us to a new adventure in ministry.

The Bible has a story that is a bit like ours. When Abraham was a few years older than us, God called him to leave his home and travel to an undisclosed land where he would receive great blessing. In faith, Abraham obeyed. The Old Testament details the adventures of his travels and the rich blessings he received along the way, in time becoming the patriarch of a great nation.

I am not anticipating Hugh becoming the patriarch of a great dynasty, but I do know that when we set out on a venture in faith by way of response to God's call, God will always be there for us. As hymnist William Runyan once wrote 'all I have needed thy hand has provided, great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me'.

Every blessing,

Rev Jenny Ellis

**Ding Dong Dell
Kitty's Down the Well**
By Patricia Gay

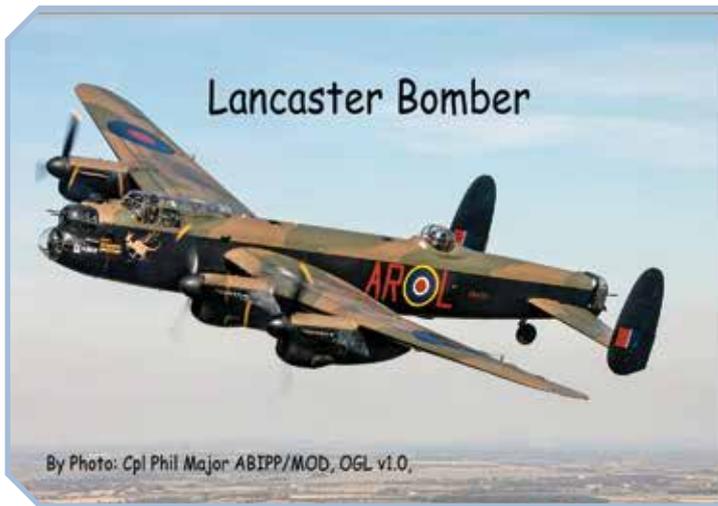
Murder Mystery Evening

Kitty Blaine, the casting director of a pre-war mystery company, has been stabbed and her body dumped in a stage prop set.
Can you help Police Inspector Laura Lovelace uncover the mystery?

Friday 10 March 2023
7.30pm (doors open from 7pm)
Naphill Village Hall, HP14 4SX
£15 per person including supper
Bring your own refreshments and glasses
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Local Tales - Update on "Hanging Man" article - November 2022

One of the problems of writing the 'Local Tales' is that I am reliant on my memory and the precision of the villagers at the time of the incident so please don't expect 100% accuracy. This problem emerged after my piece entitled 'The Hanging Man' in the



November 2022 edition of the NWA Gazette. You may recall that the story concerned a parachutist who had landed in a tree at the edge of the wood in Stocking Lane just beside the house 'Vivaldi' which all those years ago was occupied by the Mead family. Fortunately, Nick Cliffe of North Dean has been able to correct some of my errors. Nick is a aircraft enthusiast and has access to information about aircraft crashes that I did not know existed. He tells me that the parachutist was probably not from the Mosquito that crashed in the field next to Piggotts Hill. The Mosquito had a crew of only two men and both were killed in the crash.]

There are at least two other possibilities of aircraft that crashed nearby. A Hurricane came down in woods at Lacey Green in 1940, but the pilot bailed out over Amersham. (Sadly he was killed in Greece in the following year.) It is much more likely that the Hanging man was the rear gunner in a Lancaster bomber. This was a Pathfinder aircraft returning from a raid on Chemnitz in Saxony. Pathfinder aircraft did not carry bombs. Instead they carried flares which could be dropped over the target to show where following bombers could drop their bombs. It seems that a remaining flare ignited inside the aircraft as it was returning to its base in

Bedfordshire on 5th or 6th March 1945. It crashed at Bellingdon, only 8 miles from Stocking Lane killing six of the crew. The sole survivor was the rear gunner, Bill Hart, who bailed out. So it is possible that he is our parachutist. However, in the video of a short ceremony marking

the crash of the Lancaster at Bellingdon, one of the audience gathered at the site, mentioned that the rear gunner parachuted out in a field near to Bellingdon and Ashridge. If that is correct, he is not the man at Vivaldi. So our mystery remains.

Perhaps you will forgive my errors as I would have been only six at the time and the two girls who first saw the man hanging in the tree outside their bedroom window would have been either six or seven.

Trevor Hussey

With thanks to Nick Cliffe

A Note from the Editor:

On a personal note! I love "local tales" as I know many of you do, and this update gave me an ideal opportunity to invite Trevor, Philip, Diana and Nick Cliffe, along with Jonathan Hilder, to come and have a cup of tea and talk more about this article and hear more "Local Tales".

Himself and I very much enjoyed their company and I was delighted to be able to put "faces to names" and plan more articles to share with you in the future! My thanks to Nick for the research, Trevor for writing this report and to them all for coming here, it was a pleasure to meet them.

Sonia



Local Tales - Loopy Thompson

Until his death a few years back, everyone in the village would have known Loopy Thompson. He lived in a brick and flint house on the Main Road roughly opposite the Black Lion pub. Not many would have called him 'Loopy' to his face and to us children he was always 'Mr Thompson'. None-the-less he was known to all as 'loopy', yet he was certainly not seriously crazy - just a little eccentric and very likeable.

I believe Loopy spent his working life in a furniture factory, but he had become the village barber. He cut the hair of boys and men in a little wooden shed on the lawn at the side of his house. I seem to remember that he charged 6d for boys and 9d for adults (2½p and 3¾p). He had a few stock jokes: he would ask us boys if we wanted our hair cut for courting or fighting, or he would say that he had two styles to choose from: a Parisian Topknot or a Piccadilly Fringe. To both we had to reply by asking 'What's the difference Mr Thompson?' and he would then say 'There baint none' - which was considered hilariously funny.

His shed was about 6' square. The walls were lined not with wallpaper but with sandpaper, with the back of the sheets outwards. There was a Windsor chair in the middle for the customer and a chairs in each corner where men would sit and smoke while waiting their turn. In winter, with the door shut, you left feeling and smelling like a kipper. He was a great talker and this could be very inconvenient if the customer had an appointment to keep - perhaps he wanted to get to the Camp Pictures before the film started.

Loopy kept a (loaded) 12-bore shotgun in the shed and if he suspected that there were pigeons attacking his cabbages, he would nip out and have a shot at them while his customer sat half trimmed waiting for the bang. On the ceiling of the shed was another gun wired into place. I could see that this was a rusty old muzzle-loading shotgun of considerable antiquity. It had a bore about 3/4inch (2 cm) diameter. One day while having

my hair cut, I said to Loopy "That is a remarkable old gun, what age is it?" His response was to say: "you can have it." So I left carrying what was probably an early 19th or late 18th century shotgun.

A friend of mine gave me a leather shot horn and a copper powder horn and I went to Georges the iron monger in Wycombe and bought some gun powder and some shot, plus a little tin of percussion caps. (They were allowed to sell such things in those days.) The gun was equipped with a ram-rod and had a little nipple on the top of the barrel for a percussion cap, so it was fairly clear how to use it. My main concern was that it might not be safe to fire it. Holding an ancient rusty gun next to your face and pulling the trigger seemed a rather silly thing to do. So, to test it I tied a rope around the trunk of a tree and hung the gun from that. I had poured a measure of powder down the barrel followed with a wad of newspaper, then some shot followed by another wad; all rammed down tight by the rod provided. I tied a length of string to the trigger, stood back and fired. Apart from the loud bang, the result was not as I had expected. I had not tied the rope tightly enough and the gun whizzed backwards round the tree spraying out the shot. I was lucky not be injured and learned a lesson about how stupid I was. None-the-less the gun had not burst so I had also learnt that it was usable.

During the War and for some decades after our family, like many others in the village, relied on rabbits, pigeons and even the occasional pheasant to supplement the meagre meat ration. Snares, ferrets, nets and shotguns were familiar to most young lads. But as I aged I became less fond of the idea of killing wild animals even for food. I eventually I disposed of the old gun and, as its safety was doubtful, I felt that I ought not to pass it to anyone else, so I threw it in a pond.

Trevor Hussey.



Nikki Annable Dip FH MCFHP MSC

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The Wheel

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year and thank everyone who joined us over the festive period. And as always, the village Christmas tree lights were amazing.

It is unbelievable that we are in 2023 and it is our 17th year at The Wheel. We have lots planned this year for your entertainment and can't wait to update you on the events as we go through the year. The big one for your diary is CoRONation FEST on Sat 6th May, (Yeah you got it, Ron Fest on Coronation Day).

February and March we will be showing all the Rugby 6 Nations games and as always we are running the sweepstake too. Chloe and I are both really happy as we can show off our new England tops we got over Christmas. The games will be shown on both TV's in the front bar and backroom. This year we will also be seeing the Rugby World Cup in September.

The following are a few dates for your diary:

- **Valentine's Day** – Tues 14th Feb
- **Mother's Day** – Sun 19th March
- **Easter Weekend** – Fri 7th – Mon 10th April
- **CoRONation FEST** – Sat 6th May

The next couple of months always feel long, dark and miserable, but do not fear we are here with the smiles, the laughter, real ales, great food, a roaring fire, chocolate Labradors, great staff, great atmosphere all from midday till late.

Mark and I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work over the last year and especially the Christmas season. We are sad to see Alison go again, but we also welcome Arthur, Niamh and Skye to the Wheel team.

Thank you to you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Claire and Mark



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Toddle In Group nurturing curious minds

Cold crisp days and hibernation

Brrrr, it has certainly been a chilly few weeks. The children have all been coming in to Nursery wrapped up in hats, scarves, gloves and thick coats so we can keep exploring outside. Today, the children are going on a frosty welly walk across the field. We are tuning in to the sounds of Winter. It can seem quieter on very cold days, but with lots of children in welly's, quiet can be impossible unless we really try to tune in to our environment. The children were able to hear the noise that their boots made on the frosty grass. They observed that welly's were not able to splash in puddles as they were frozen. These observations led to the children realising that maybe wildlife needed a little bit of help from us. They set about leaving little bowls of water out for birds and animals, and are in the middle of planning how to feed birds whilst the ground is frozen and too hard for their beaks.

Hibernation is always a fascinating subject to explore with children. They have used lots of fabulous books to develop their concept of hibernation including 'Winter sleep' which has beautiful illustrations of the creatures that hibernate.

We also have a lovely song that the children have learnt, sing along to the tune 'Do you know the muffin man?'

Do you know who hibernates?
Hibernates, hibernates.
Do you know who hibernates?
Great Big bears!
(then replaced the last line with)
Spikey little hedgehogs
Buzzy Bumblebees
Sleepy little dormouse
Slithering grass snakes



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.

Kim Crompton



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How do you get a pothole fixed and other highway issues?

The weather cycle of alternating heat, wet, cold causes damage to our roads which becomes very evident in winter months. The quickest way to get this situation resolved is to report it on <https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk>. The advantage of doing it this way is you can see if other residents have reported the pothole and should you have the misfortune to suffer damage to your vehicle at a later date you have evidence that you or another resident has reported the problem.

Yet again the daily lives of residents of Naphill and Walters Ash are being disrupted by roadworks due to end 2nd March. This time it's G2 Energy India Ltd putting a high voltage grid connection to Saunderton. NAWARA will be discussing how utilities, etc, communicate planned traffic disruption with residents at our next meeting and investigate whether there is a way to improve communications.

Public rights of way-What are they?

The one thing I noticed when I moved to this area was the numerous bridle/footpath signs and it's a really pleasure to be able to walk unhindered in the beautiful countryside but I wasn't a 100% sure what the difference was or whether a right of way is the same as a footpath. To avoid confusion, you can walk on all public rights of way but some public rights of way are also open to horse riders, cyclists or motorists. You can use:

- footpaths - for walking, running, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- bridleways - for walking, horse riding, bicycles, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- restricted byways - for any transport without a motor and mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- byways open to all traffic - for any kind of transport, including cars (but they're mainly used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders)

A clause in the 2000 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act stated that any pre-1949 rights of way must be recorded on the definitive maps by the 1st January 2026 or the right would be extinguished if not properly recorded. This was an enormous task requiring evidence that the right of way had been used for "at least" 20 years without hinderance. Thankfully last year interested parties finally got agreement that this requirement would be rescinded. However, if you are interested in whether your favourite walk is on the definitive map you can find the information at <https://prow.buckscc.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx> or if you want to find out how to get a footpath on the definitive map <https://www.oss.org.uk> or contact NAWARA. We hold membership of the Open Space Society on behalf of residents.

Planning Applications

This December was very unusual in that there were no planning applications for NAWARA to discuss, not sure if it's a first! If you want a quick link to local planning applications you will find it on our website.

Next meeting at Naphill Village Hall is 13th February 2023 at 7.30pm. All residents welcome.



Bartha Pitman

NAWARA Chair

www.nawara.co.uk



Raising Money for BURPS

Total Raised 2022/2023 - £105.45!

The Christmas lights at Windswept came down on 5th January after another successful year for donations to BURPS. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't as kind as last year and so there were a few nights where it was too windy to leave the decorations inflated. The snow and deep frost also curtailed the switching on of the lights at times. Sadly, we had a few of the inflatables die on us (seems to happen every year). but I now have a source for replacement air pumps so they will be back in all their glory next Christmas. We added a Christmas arch with a snowman and Father Christmas and it was good to see some people using this as a photo opportunity.

We were pleased to see so many people wander into the drive for a better look. Hopefully the display brought a little joy during these difficult times and we are very grateful for all the donations made; thank you. We really appreciate the donations made given the current energy crisis and cost of living pressures. However, we are pleased to report that we have received a total donation amount of £105.45. We know BURPS will be very appreciative of this money and put it to good use.

Thank you again and we wish you all a Happy New Year; looking forward to seeing you again at Christmas 2023.

Trevor & Jan May



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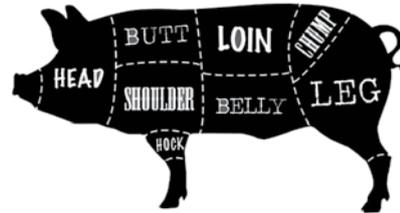
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The Black Lion

Welcome into 2023 from us all at the Black Lion!

We are heading into the new year with some really exciting things going on that we can't wait to tell everyone about! From Fish Fridays to Baby, Toddler and Parent groups, we've got something going on for everyone!

New Seniors Lunch Menu

We have launched a senior's lunch menu from only £11.95 for two courses and £14.95 for 3 courses. Our menu includes some of the classic pub favourites! The menu is available on our website or you can pop in and grab yourself a copy – we are running the seniors menu Wednesday to Friday between 12-3pm every week.

Fish Friday

Fish Friday's have taken off a storm at the Black Lion! Join us every Friday anytime between 12-9pm to enjoy our Catch of the Day accompanied with Chunky Chips, Garden Peas and Lemon Tartare Sauce for only £10... We also have a Children's portion for only £5 taking the hassle out of Friday night dinner!

National Pizza Day – Thursday 9th February

With our Pizza oven in place, National Pizza Day is the perfect opportunity to show off our delicious Rustic Pizzas! Join us on Thursday 9th to try out our gorgeous Pizzas for only £10! We promise you won't be disappointed!

Valentines Menu

We understand that it isn't always easy to be available for your loved one on Valentine's Day itself, so we are offering our Menu by pre order from Tuesday 14th – Saturday 18th February! So if you're looking to head out that week and want somewhere to go for a delicious meal with the one you love, look no further! The menu starts at £26.95 and includes a glass of Bubbles on arrival and a gorgeous candlelit dinner!

Baby, Toddler and Parent Group – Starting 23rd February

Being parents of a 'Lockdown Baby' we understand the difficulties faced over the last couple of years with getting our children socialising with others of the same age. So, we have decided to put together a very casual group on a Thursday Morning at 10am where parents can get together, talk about the highs and lows of parenting and enjoy a cup of coffee whilst the children interact with each other! Our group will be £3 per child which will include drinks and snacks for the children.

We hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

Tanya, Jon
and the Team
at the Black Lion!





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AbelatedbutsincereHappyNewYear to all the Magazine's readers. Our fundraising efforts over Christmas were very successful. The donations we received during numerous events, which included our Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Stall at the Princes Risborough Lights "Switch-on", our Tree of Lights remembrance event and our Christmas Collections (undertaken whilst braving challenging weather conditions), have bolstered our Charity Account considerably - again demonstrating the incredible generosity of the population of the Town and surrounding villages. What we collect goes to numerous, primarily local, charities. Amongst which most recently we have provided financial support to Saunderton Lodge, the Princes Centre, the Rennie Grove Hospice, the town's Community Bus, a local children's playground, the Bucks Young Carers Christmas Party and the Princes Risborough Charity "Christmas Hampers". Overall, we have donated more than £15,000 over the past few weeks. We continue to provide both physical and financial support to the Ukraine2Chilterns Charity (based in Loosley Row/Lacey Green), including to their Party on the 7th of January (Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas Day).

But the social side is just as important to the Club. Three more individuals have recently applied to join, which brings the total to 9 over the past few weeks. They are welcome additions and already involved in our work in the local area. Our Christmas Dinner and Quiz included over 60 members, including partners. Also, since Christmas, we've had fascinating talks given by Bill Hamilton (retired BBC correspondent), and Helen Fry (author of several books on the activities of MI9 and MI19 during WW2). At the end of January we celebrated Burns' Night with a traditional dinner supported by a Bagpiper, and the following week we hosted our District Governor. Additionally, in the middle of February the MP for Princes Risborough will be talking to us.

If you are interested in joining the Club, or if you wish to make a donation, the following will be of help:

You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or contact the Club



President, David White

07787 750889

email: david@dhwhite.plus.com.

Naphill Tennis Club

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all readers of the Gazette!

If you haven't played tennis for a while or are looking to work off the excesses of Christmas now is the time to try out our very enjoyable group coaching sessions with Mel & Becs. These are intended for both 'rusty' and 'improver' players and take place on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Visit our website: www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk

Our informal 'Festive Tennis' eventually went ahead just before Christmas. We had an excellent turnout, the sun shone and the mulled wine flowed. Even Father Christmas deigned to pay us a visit.



Earlier in December, the extremely cold spell of weather had caused both courts and fencing to freeze which made for an interesting photo. Now, 2023 has seen us very much back in action again and looking forward to a wonderful year of tennis.



Jenny Tench
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Black Cap



Gold Crest



Grey Wagtail

Gordon the Birdman

A long standing record was broken in week ending 18-12-2022, with 32 species of birds recorded in the garden that week, beating the previous total of 29 set in the second week of January 2009. Three species I would have expected, Jay, Pheasant and Green Woodpecker failed to appear but this was amply compensated by sightings of a pair of Blackcaps, a Goldcrest and Grey Wagtail.

To those of us who garden, the summer of 2022 will be remembered as one where it was difficult to keep a garden looking it's best and allotments producing as well as we would like. So spare a thought for an area of a country which has not seen any meaningful rain in three years.

My late wife and I were lucky to be able to visit many countries in Africa over a period of 45 years, first visiting Kenya in 1972 and again in 1979 where we unexpectedly met a friend in the lounge of our hotel in Nairobi. he promptly invited us to the launch of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Later David and his wife Daphne came over to our table, not I

hasten to add, because of us but to see our friend David Shepherd. David, at this time, was head of the Kenyan Wildlife Service, charged with stopping the ivory trade, which was rife at this time. Daphne, after some years of experimenting and heartbreak, had finally come up with a milk formula that a baby Elephant could digest. Up until this time, any orphan under one year old had only a slim chance of survival. Since this time 344 orphans have been successfully raised and reintegrated into the wild with a further 137 currently in care.

In view of the drought, 32 boreholes have been drilled over the past three years. This entails puddling the red Tsavo soil to a depth of 30 – 100 centimetres and 15 metres across. These are solar powered by day with wind turbines by night to provide a water source for all wildlife, 24 hours a day.

Sadly, both David and Daphne have passed away but their legacy lives on through their daughter Angela.



Gordon



A Little About the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

Born from one family's passion for Kenya and its wilderness, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was established 45 years ago and is best known for its Orphans' Project, the first and most successful elephant orphan rescue and rehabilitation program in the world. The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is a pioneering conservation organisation, dedicated to the protection of wildlife and the preservation of habitats in East Africa.

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Growing Your Own

The Office for National Statistics has reported that, compared with one year earlier, food prices increased by 16.6% in November. All the more reason to grow your own. Nuff said.

I am about to start my first season without my allotment, so I need to make the vegetable plot in my garden as productive as possible. It is also an opportunity to cease growing some of the crops which were more difficult, or less popular in the kitchen. Also, for reasons of lack of land, I will not be growing crops which demand a lot of space, such as potatoes and my beloved asparagus. So, what shall I grow, what are my favourites which taste good and will give a good crop from a small space?

My "Top of the Pops" will probably surprise you. It is poirée, which I have grown here for 49 years. It is a leaf vegetable, difficult for supermarkets to sell since the leaves are difficult to handle and they go limp too quickly. However, straight from the garden they are great. The stems are about 2.5 feet high, and although the outer green leaves can be eaten as a superior form of spinach, it is the broad white stems which are the best bits. The stems can be 3 inches wide and should be washed, cut into chunks, and boiled with a little lemon juice to stop them going brown whilst being cooked. The slightly lemon flavour adds to the gastronomic experience. They go equally well with meat and fish. One has a crop in the autumn, then the frost knocks them down, then in spring up they come again and they are among the first vegetables to crop. Yes, two crops per year! It is the only vegetable I know which produces two crops per year, and the second crop is obtained at the height of the "hungry gap" in late spring when there are few other vegetables to crop. Muntjac deer, connoisseurs of allotment produce, put them at the top of their wish list and will go to great lengths to steal the crop. They will tear away any fleece or plastic netting put over as protection. They will jump any enclosure fence when they realise the precious crop is inside. However, I found that steel chicken wire simply draped over the crop stops them every time.

The seeds are very easy to grow and the plants are robust. For many years I obtained my seeds from France, but about 15 years ago the seedsmen in the UK cottoned on to this fabulous vegetable and started selling them as "silver chard". So you do not need to go to France to stock up on wine with the excuse that you are just going to obtain some poirée seeds, you simply have to visit your local garden centre! Not as much fun as going to France, but there you go.

Good gardening!

Mike Mason



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The Winner of the Gazette Facebook Competition

Moose, a gorgeous Samoyed owned by Bex Bockette-Pugh was the winner and Jonthan Hilder very kindly did a professional photo shoot for inclusion in the Gazette.

Bex sent us an extra piece of information about Moose and the Samoyed dog breed.

Moose is an 18 month old, big bundle of fluffy fun. He is a Samoyed, a Serbian sledge dog, an ancient dog breed. He loves nothing more than saying hello to everybody, usually by sticking his nose under the back fence! Samoyeds were bred to look after children and he loves saying hi and playing games with them.

He loves a good muddy puddle and walks in the woods and cries to be cuddled like a teddy bear.

Sonia

Tips for Taking Good Pet Photographs

Following the Christmas competition in the Gazette for most festive pet, several people have asked for some tips of how to take good pictures of your pets. Now I should say go and get professional pictures taken as they will have good backgrounds and understand how to choose the right light and get the best positions for the camera. However, this is not always possible or within everyone's budgets so let explore some tips of how you can do this at home with your camera .

1. Find a space which is clear of anything in the background and has access to good windowlight. You will need to be able to get far enough away from your pet so that you can get complete shots of them as well as close ups
2. Put something your pet likes on the floor a rug, jumper or blanket so they are comfortable and happy that this is their space
3. Make sure there is plenty of light falling on your chosen area if you are going to use a flash please don't point it directly in the dog's eyes, point it to the ceiling and use the bounced light
4. Get your pet to sit on your chosen area using a soft voice and get them to sit or rest where you want them. Have treats on hand to help bribe them if necessary
5. Once in place talk to them to reassure them and then focus on their eyes as this will come across in the photos
6. Get down to your pet's level rather than taking them from above as this is much more flattering for them.
7. Shoot your pictures as portrait and landscape and full and close up as this will give a better set of images
8. Add their favourite toy or human and make it fun but try not to get them too excited as this make the picture taking process far harder

Hopefully this will give you some great pictures.

Jonathan Hilder
PIERS PHOTO



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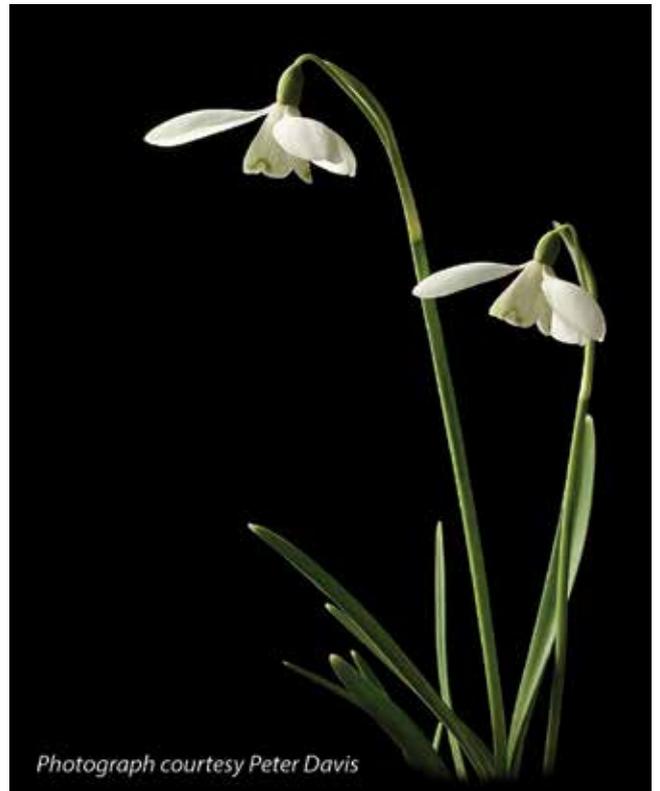
Time to look out for Snowdrops and other early flowering harbingers of Spring. Get down to their level to take your photograph.

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm. We have a new programme of events, wider range of Guest speakers and lots more.

- 1st Feb Members Evening – showing your work
- 8th Feb The Digital Workshop - Lightroom & Photoshop
- 22nd Feb Members images & critique

To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: - www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

Peter Davis
Membership Secretary
Wycombe Photographic Society



Photograph courtesy Peter Davis



Be Kind To Yourself.... You Are Worth It.

For many people a 'new year' signifies 'new start'. This is the year to give up smoking, get fitter, be more environmentally aware.....

The continuing cost of living crisis and significant unrest in the public sectors suggest that 2023 is going to be challenging for many people. Whilst there is plenty of advice and support available there is no doubt that a feeling of isolation or loneliness will be the reality for many. At the core of Hughenden Street Association is the desire to reduce these feelings and to actively encourage neighbourliness and friendship. Our pub lunches continue to be popular and the latest one in the Kingshill area started in January. Getting together once a month is an ideal way to catch up with friends and make new ones. Do get in touch if you would like to join one of our lunches (hughendensa@gmail.com). You will be warmly welcomed and if you know someone who might like to come along, why not ask them to join you?

There is of course a huge difference between being 'lonely' and being 'alone'. It is fair to say that spending time 'alone' gives us the chance to recharge and reflect enjoying the quiet that this brings. As a rule, we are sociable beings (for the most part!) however sometimes simply being alone is exactly what we need. Life can sometimes seem a bit frenetic and everyday pressures can overwhelm. Taking some 'time out' is the perfect antidote. If we are kind to ourselves then everyone around us will benefit. Whether it is by sitting listening to the radio, reading a book, or enjoying a hobby or even having a snooze in a comfy chair, we benefit. Even when the weather is not great, wrapping up warm (and waterproofed!) and heading out to enjoy the countryside surrounding us certainly helps to blow away any cobwebs. As a dog owner I appreciate that a happy dog is often a wet and muddy one!

However you relax, it is important that you do. Be kind to yourself. You are worth it.

Hilda Stearn

Communications Co-ordinator.
Hughenden Street Association
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Welcome to new feature that we hope to run in the gazette through 2023. The idea is to celebrate businesses who advertise in the Gazette and people who make living in our community a little better. The news appears to be full of doom and gloom but here we are living in a community full people who are helping to make our lives better. If you have any suggestions of who we might feature we will add them to our list. Please send your suggestions to either Sonia at the Gazette or Jonathan@piersphoto.com.

Naphill Local Mini Market

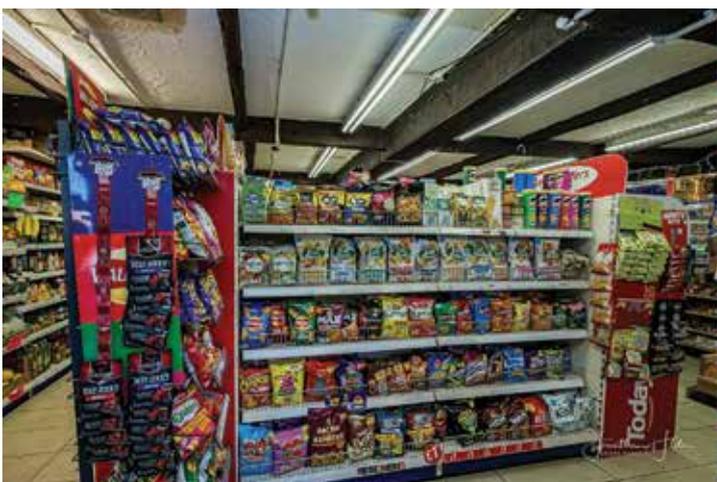


Our first business and person is Nadeem Akhtar who runs the Naphill Post Office with his wife. His cheery disposition and kind words to all who enter gives a warm welcome. Having run a large fruit and veg store in Wycombe he continues to offer great vegetables as well as a large number of household essentials. As he says, his aim is to try and stock what people need and if he does not have it, he may well the next time you come in.

Nadeem realises that there are some people who live alone and he is therefore the only person that they get to talk to regularly so this is part of what he offers to the community. He can be seen regularly chatting to our older residents. He will always have a chat and his smile is infectious. Checking on neighbours and making sure things are OK is what community shops are about and Nadeem does this so well. We are lucky to have a local Post Office as it is a lifeline to a large number of people and we need to use it for it to stay open.

Thank you Nadeem for your smile and easy way and making our community a better place to live.

Jonathan Hilder



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Stocking Lane Marina News and Update

Regular readers may recall my previous musings as to how we are set to be converted from residents of a Chiltern Hill top village to the inhabitants of a wooded promontory sticking out in the Wycombe Sea.

The winter has seen the Stocking Lane Marina briefly back in water a couple of times and the experts in the recently established Naphill Oceanographical Research Institute are carrying out studies to determine whether these have just been exceptionally strong tidal surges.

I feel that it is important to bring Naphill and Walters Ash residents up to date with what is happening.

As you know, one of the cornerstones of our new life as a seaside community will be income from the Stocking Lane Marina and from the berthing of cruise ships in the Hughenden Valley inlet. We will open up negotiations with Hughenden Valley residents as to how to best accommodate the cruise ships. The organizing committee did some Green Sea thinking about the effect on those who live in Hughenden Valley.

We realized that residents of the valley would not be happy to have cruise ships mooring over their homes. To start with we just thought that would be a severe case of NOMBYism (Not Over My Back Yard) but then we put ourselves in their shoes. Just imagine how you would feel if you had fired up the Barbie and cracked open a beer on a nice summer's day to suddenly have a cruise ship moor over your head blocking out the sunlight or even worse have a ship's anchor crashing through your conservatory.

So, we decided that cruise ships will only be able to moor over open farmland. This will limit the mooring in the Hughenden Valley Inlet so we will have to moor some of the cruise ships in the Bradenham Straits between the Aylesbury and Wycombe Seas.

This brain storming exercise was not without a side benefit. We realized there was going to be a potential obstruction to navigation in the inhabited part of Hughenden Valley anyway. As the water levels rise, Hughenden Residents would first need to waterproof their homes and then would have to achieve a reliable source of fresh air. It is felt that many will progressively raise their chimneys to form snorkels but these would cause a serious obstacle to navigation as well as putting the residents at risk as any collision could cause an inrush of water down their chimney.

Discussions will need to be held about a district breathing system with a communal air inlet and outlet. Delivery companies are interested, as post and parcels could be distributed from one point. We are unsure, though, whether to permit Naphill and Walters Ash eating and take away establishments to waft cooking smells into the system to entice fresh business.

We are also looking at business opportunities. We know that some local businesses have stocked up on fishing nets, buckets and spades to cater for the inrush of holidaymakers but we realise that there will be opportunities for local tradesmen as well.

For builders, there will be work waterproofing the Hughenden houses and the raising of chimneys. Gas engineers will have business converting BBQs to operate underwater. Another, particular challenge is how to convert lawnmowers firstly to operate underwater and also then how they will need to be modified to be able to trim seagrass and seaweed.

There is still a lot to be done but many opportunities to be had.

Charles Leigh-Dugmore

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