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November 2020

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# Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

## November 2020

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## Come and Join Us!

### *Our Local Clubs and Organisation Contacts*

Beavers	Barry Reading	01494 447121	
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	
Guides (Naphill)			
Men's Club	Andrew Wasilewski	01494 562770	naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Residents Association	Gloria LeFlaive	01494 563634	glorialeflaive@msn.com
Naphill Evening W.I.	Sarah Bacon	01494 563479.	Sarah.bacon39@googemail.com.
Naphill Neighbours	Janet Judge	01494 563186	
Scouts (Naphill)	John Huddleston		naphillscouts@aol.com
Seniors Lunch Club	Jan Gaunt	01494 562282	
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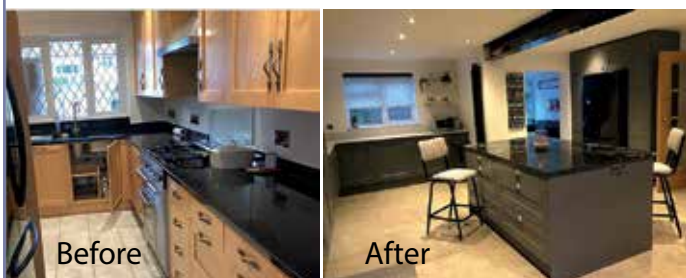
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# Naphill Village Hall



Reg Charity: 300309

**Chairman** - Clive Lawrence

Email: [chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk)

**Bookings** - Tanya Stevens

Email: [hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk)

Tel: 07851 169275

[www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk)

## Local Council Contact Information

Bradenham Parish Council Clerk	Deirdre Hanson	01494 562254	<a href="mailto:clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com">clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com</a>
Bucks County Council	David Carroll	01494 716967	<a href="mailto:david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk">david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk</a>
Hughenden Parish Council Clerk	Melinda Woof	01494 715296	<a href="mailto:clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk">clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Chris Waterton	07968 268067	<a href="mailto:chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk">chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Peggy Ewart		<a href="mailto:peggy,ewart@hughendenpc.org.uk">peggy,ewart@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>
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Bucks Council Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	<a href="mailto:Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Bucks Council Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	<a href="mailto:David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Bucks Council Councillor	Clive Harris	07768 876568	<a href="mailto:Clive.Harris@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Clive.Harris@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Bucks County Councillor	Graham Peart	07785 98677	<a href="mailto:Graham.Peart@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Graham.Peart@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>

## Helpful Contact Numbers

Hughenden Surgery	See website <a href="http://www.ourpractice.co.uk">www.ourpractice.co.uk</a>	01494 562189
Out of surgery hours		101
Breast Unit Wycombe Hospital	Breast lumps self refer	01494 526161
Stroke Support Service	Stroke sufferers, carers & family support	0300 3300 761
Shaw Clinic - Genitourinary Medicine	Genitourinary Medicine	01494 425430
Hearing Clinic Wycombe Hospital	Self refer	01494 526161
Specsavers Hearing (NHS hearing tests)	Self refer	01494 520304
Healthy Minds	Anxiety, depression, stress, postnatal wellbeing	01865 901 6000
Bereavement Listening & Support	Bereavement counselling	1296 332600
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Alzheimer's Society	Dementia information & support	01296 331722

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# Welcome to the November Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

*Copy Date for December/January Gazette 15 November*

**Editorial:** As hibernation is still not an option for me, I have decided that I should be POSITIVE! The heating is on in the house, as the nights draw in I can snuggle up in front of the fire and I will spend even more time fussing over the Gazette! You see, I felt that the October edition lacked colour, there was such sad news about some of our groups closing, no Fireworks on the Crick and more Covid restrictions announced. SO! Best foot forward and here we go! It might be grey outside but this edition is NOT GREY! I have splashed the colour and there is good news to include!

Tanya and Jon at the Black Lion have a beautiful, new baby daughter, see page 27. Congratulations to them!

Dave Brown, General Duties Coordinator at RAF High Wycombe, has been awarded the British Empire medal in the Queen's birthday honours list, see page 25. Congratulations to him!

We welcome Group Captain Phil Arnold who joins our community as the commanding officer of our RAF base. He has kindly written an article about himself, see page 12. I am sure, that when the current restrictions allow, we will all look forward to meeting him at our local events.

Occasionally, as the editor, it is necessary to make decisions which might not always be popular. When this is particularly difficult, I consult my committee. We have agreed that in the case of the ongoing planning for Clappins Lane, I will only accept updates on proceedings but not comments, for details as to where comments can be viewed, please see page 13. I remain neutral, I cannot publish all the comments and so the decision is that the Gazette will not publish any further comments on this matter. Groups and individuals have Facebook and their various websites where there are no constraints on space allocation.

I did have to stick to the deadline this month so my apologies if some items have not been included. My thanks to all of the contributors and to Paul Goby for the photos I have arranged as our November cover.

We will all miss the village fireworks this month! If you are going to let off fireworks at home please adhere to the firework code and be considerate of others.

Stay safe and my best wishes to you all,



*Sonia*

## Gazette Annual Subscription

The vast majority of 2020/2021 subscriptions have now been collected by our distributors. Thank you for your prompt payment which really helps to keep the Gazette functioning.

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*Ian Hall*

Distribution Co-ordinator

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

Registered Charity No: 300309

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A meeting of the committee was held on the 5th October, there were 15 members online.

Reopening of the hall was discussed and a risk assessment has been completed. Some of the exercise classes and the dance class have restarted using the hall. The village hall has provided hand sanitizers and anti bacterial wipes to be used by the hirers. Due to the regulations the kitchen and the small hall have been closed and the chairs, tables and piano moved to enable the hirers to clean the hall. It has been made a part of the hiring agreement that the hirers are responsible for the cleaning prior to them using the hall and also it is their responsibility to adhere to the covid guidelines. A NHS Q code has been granted and is displayed in the hall for users to scan for track and trace. All users should abide by the current regulations on social distancing.

The playground is locked at the moment and although the government advice is that they can open, there are rules that must be followed, these include the cleaning of the equipment by the users. Each user of the playground would be responsible for cleaning after their children had used the playground, there would only be 2 household bubbles allowed in there at a time. The playground has still not been inspected by an outside contractor. This is delayed as they are trying to catch up with the backlog of inspections caused by lockdown. We have been told that we are near the top of the list to be inspected.

The good news is that the Christmas Fayre is being held, adhering to the current covid regulations, on the 4th

December. The Christmas tree lights will also be put up this year as Mike Mason has been able to reorganise the volunteers so they can operate within the covid regulations. The tree will be a welcome sight in these trying times!

The village hall has signed up to Amazon Smile. If you shop at Amazon we will be given a donation of 0.05% of your spend less VAT and carriage. The link to Amazon Smile is: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/300309-0> from there select Naphill village hall. With the current climate, I would think many of you will be ordering online for Christmas from Amazon. If you sign up for Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the village hall at no cost to you.

Talking of money, the village hall normally spends between £27000 and £29000 a year to keep running. For the last 6 months we have been forced to close so apart from £200 from the pizza van, there has been no income. Whilst we did get a grant from the government and even with turning the heating down to 5 degrees and not using much electricity or water, we will still spend around £19000 this year, so there will be a shortfall of at least £7500. We do rely on the fundraising events which due to the restrictions, were not held this year, so your donations are very welcome please.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well,



*Clive Lawrence*  
Village Hall Chairman

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## Naphill Village Hall Fund Raising Appeal

Please support our Fund Raising Appeal!

For more details please see page 29



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Dear Parishioners,

## OVERGROWN HEDGES AND TREES BORDERING ROADS AND PATHS (Encroachment)

### OVERGROWN HEDGES AND TREES BORDERING ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

You may not be aware that there are laws governing the encroachment of trees and hedging bordering footways and roads.

1. There should be clearance of at least 2.2m (7' 2") above a footway, pavement, or verge to allow pedestrians free passage.
2. Hedges/vegetation should be cut back to the property boundary line so as not to overhang or encroach onto the highway (meaning carriageway, footway or verge)

Hughenden Parish Council (HPC) only owns a small number of hedges, mostly around allotments, the Common in Great Kingshill and some of its open areas. HPC also looks after a small number of hedges on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. The vast majority of hedges are owned by you, our parishioners.

We request that you check all of your boundaries to make sure that you are compliant with the above. Especially those with hedges bordering pavements and encroaching onto roads.

Hedges should not be cut within the period 1st March to the 1st September, to support our wildlife, unless they are causing a hazard and risk to health and safety, when they can be cut back regardless of date.

Should you be unable to maintain your hedges within the legal guidelines, please contact the office who will suggest a list of contractors who may be able to help you. If you aren't sure which are your boundary hedges, you can check them at:

<https://mywycombe.wycombe.gov.uk/> by clicking My Maps option and ticking the Land Ownership category. This will take you to the website where you can purchase land registry details of your property which may help you.

## COUNCIL COVID NEWS UPDATE

We are frequently asked how the emerging Covid situation will affect the ongoing use of playgrounds, halls and now, our Remembrance Day Celebrations. I thought I would share the latest information we have received following Mondays announcements to help you in your deliberations. Buckinghamshire is still within Tier 1, although our levels of positive tests have quadrupled in the last seven days, so should our status change, then guidance will surely be changed again.

For our part the Parish Office remains closed to the public and the officers are working predominantly from home. Even when we are not here to answer your phone calls, we do receive alerts on our mobiles and will return calls as quickly as we can. An email is probably the best way to contact us. Emails to [Clerk@Hughendenpc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@Hughendenpc.org.uk) may be answered by Jill or me. Emails to our councillors at [firstname.surname@hughendenpc.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@hughendenpc.org.uk) may only be seen by councillors and answered by them directly. We will continue to monitor advice on playgrounds and, knowing how much young families value this facility, we hope that we will be allowed to keep them open. Our signage does reflect the need for parents to clean touch points and their children's hands and not to eat or drink within the play areas.

Our Councillors will be attending the memorials in our patch, to lay a wreath as a mark of our continuing respect and remembrance whilst observing all the rules around social distancing. We are encouraging those who ask, to join us in the moments of remembrance from their doorsteps and driveways. I know that there are plans also to broadcast wreath laying from some organisations around the parish.

In the longer term, it looks like we might all be faced with rekindling the support networks which pulled together so well in Covid Round 1. Some networks have continued their support and operations without interruption throughout the summer. We hope to reacquaint everyone again via a virtual meeting early in November."

Kind regards,

*Melinda Woof*  
Parish Clerk Hughenden P.C.

Council Offices, The Common, Great Kingshill, HP5 6EN  
01494 715296  
[clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk)  
[www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk)



## Group Captain Phil Arnold -Local RAF News



I was asked by the Editor to pen a few words of introduction. My name is Phil Arnold and I had the pleasure of taking over command of RAF High Wycombe from Group Captain Shaun Harris on 1 September. I joined the Royal Air Force as a Logistician in 1992 and have been lucky enough to serve at High Wycombe on 4 previous tours over the past 20 years. So, it is fair to say that I have fond memories of the local area and many of its characters. My wife Allyson and I are certainly looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and meeting as many of you as we can over the next two years.

Sadly, opportunities to meet new people are few and far between as COVID-19 has impacted many of the local events that really bring the community together. However, I very much look forward to the moment we can begin holding these events once again. For this year's Remembrance Day, the Station will be holding a virtual Act of Remembrance in the absence of our usual 'mass gathering' on site. We also hope to see our new Station Memorial Stone in place by that Sunday – a project that has been over 2 years in the planning. Furthermore, I will be paying my respects at Naphill Village Hall's memorial stone on Remembrance Sunday with as many people as the current COVID restrictions allow. It was also disappointing to hear about the cancellation of the Naphill Fireworks Night. I remember it as a fantastic evening where I would normally have had the chance to meet many of you and enjoy a cracking display. At least 'The Crick' is safe from being burned down by me this year!

Looking to the future, I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas with much festive cheer to lighten spirits. I also hope that as we move into the new year, we can return to face-to-face community events that reinforce our close local connections!

Here's to a normal 2021!



*Phil*

## A Message from Hughenden Vicarage

*The plane leaves  
fall black and wet  
on the lawn;  
the cloud sheaves  
in heaven's fields set  
droop and are drawn  
in falling seeds of rain;  
the seed of heaven  
on my face  
falling — I hear again  
like echoes even  
that softly pace  
heaven's muffled floor ...*



I felt that the words of this poem entitled Autumn Rain by DH Lawrence was very appropriate to share with you as we are now into the heart of autumn, and winter is around the next corner.

This poem was published in 1917, during the heart of World War One, as men were slain daily in the trenches. Lawrence's words hint upon a link between the fallen in war, and the stunning landscape of autumn. These words are not without hope, as autumn time and Christian redemption are intertwined in rain from heaven.

In November we remember those we have loved and see no more. Our loved ones who are now at rest, those brave women and men who have given their lives in the services for a better tomorrow.

At St Michael's & All Angels Church we will be stopping to remember at 11am on Remembrance Sunday, and there will be other events across the parish that weekend and on armistice day.

It is so important that we never forget those who have gone before us.

Once the last bell tolls and silence has ended, we look ahead towards advent, the season of preparation for Christmas. No one knows quite what Christmas will look like this year, but we will be celebrating the birth of the Saviour of the world as always, and I encourage you to look on our Church website for the latest information about our Christmas services.

*Rev Keith Johnson*

Vicar of Saint Michaels and All Angels  
Hughenden @ [www.hughendenparishchurch.org](http://www.hughendenparishchurch.org).

**Planning: The following are planning applications received by Bucks Council between 7th September and 12th October 2020 for Naphill & Walter's Ash. Any responses by NAWARA appear in full on the Bucks Planning website.**

**20/07507/FUL 42 Woodcock Avenue, Walter's Ash. HP14 4TN.** Householder application for construction of single storey front porch and single storey rear extension. Received 25 Sept. Validated 25 Sept. 2020. Officer Matthew Jackson.

**20/07550/FUL 12 Grimms Meadow, Walter's Ash. HP14 4UH. HA** for construction of porch, single storey side extension, conversion of garage into habitable space and fenestration alterations. Rec. 30 Sept. Validated 30 Sept. 2020.

**20/07601/ADRC 40 Main Road, Naphill. HP14 4QB.** Application for approval of details subject to Conditions 4 (Approval of Surface Materials), 6 (Landscaping Required), B (Boundary Treatment), 13 (Noise Insulation) and 15 (Ecological Enhancement) of planning ref: 20/05862/FUL. Rec. 05 Oct. Validated 07 Oct. 2020.

**19/08031/FUL OS Parcel 1789 Clappins Lane, Naphill.** Erection of 63 dwellings with vehicular access from Clappins Lane, parking, landscaping, sustainable drainage, public open space provision and associated infrastructure. Received Wed 18 Dec 2019.

**Permitted. 20/07010/FUL. Cherry Coombe, Coombe Lane, Naphill.**

### News re Clappins Lane Planning Application

No date has been set for the Planning Committee to consider this application. The Naphill and Walter's Ash Residents Association, along with many other people, strongly oppose this proposed development. All the comments regarding this development are available at "www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk-planning applications" then click "Wycombe" for the required area and follow through.

### Community Speedwatch

This proved to be very successful in encouraging drivers to slow down through Naphill & Walter's Ash and to respect the speed limit. We will be setting up Speedwatch sessions again once the pandemic restrictions permit and we hope that former volunteers will rejoin the small CSW team to which new volunteers are most welcome.

Thames Valley Police are taking on the insurance for Community Speedwatch and so they want volunteers to pass a simple training course. This initially involves completing a short test on-line (in the comfort of your own home) on "communityspeedwatch.org" and then an explanation of how to use the Sentinel equipment. All very straight forward. Do please let me know on 563634 or 07954812302 or by email if you would like to join the team.

### Bucks Councillors

We presently have 4 Bucks Councillors for our Ridgeway East Ward:

- Councillor David Carroll
- Councillor Steve Broadbent
- Councillor Clive Harris.
- Councillor Graham Peart BEM.



(All their contact details are on page 5 of this publication).

**Audrey Jones** has retired from her position as one of our Bucks Councillors and we thank her for her work in this role.

*Gloria Leflaive 563634*



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## The Gregarious House Sparrow



As everyone who has House Sparrows in their garden knows, you rarely see one by itself. (I have not recorded one in my garden since 2013). They nest in gregarious colonies and in many areas will not wander or mix with other colonies, particularly if they can find sufficient food near their nesting site. After the breeding season in late summer and early autumn adults and juveniles from several colonies may congregate and roost together in areas with good food supplies.

Birdwatch counts peak at an average of seven sparrows per garden in August probably due to juveniles of the year gathering together around feeders. By November adults have faithfully returned to their nesting areas where they will remain all winter. Juveniles will either return to the colony they are originally from or go with other adults to a colony nearby. Once a bird has joined a colony as a juvenile it will generally stay there for life.

Natural nest sites include dense creepers, tree holes and rock cavities. They can also set up colonies in the foundations of much larger birds nests such as Storks, Crows and birds of prey.

In most gardens Sparrows nest within a roof space accessed under tiles or through holes in fascias. Nests are made with grass or straw and holes are stuffed full of material with fresh added between broods.

People are often surprised that House Sparrows are red listed birds of conservation concern, they are still one of the commonest birds in the UK and where they are found it is in large numbers. However, monitoring has shown we have lost 71% of our Sparrows since 1975, which means this species meets the criteria for red listing due to population decline.

### Factfile on the House Sparrow.

Diet – seeds, berries and scraps, (insects for nestlings).

Longevity - Typically three years, max recorded 12 years.

Ecology – Clutch size 4-5 eggs, 2-3 broods.

Incubation 13-15 days.

Young in nest 15-17 days.



*Gordon*

## Naphill Brownies

Great news! We have finally got the go-ahead from Girlguiding to get back to Brownies. Obviously this is only if local and government restrictions permit and once a full risk assessment has been done and approved.

We are really excited about seeing all the Brownies again. It feels like such a long time since we met up. We hope to run a couple of return-to-brownies sessions before Christmas to welcome back our existing brownies and say farewell to those who would have left us in recent months and then get properly back in action in the New Year

In the meantime, if you have a daughter who is interested in getting involved in Brownies. It is a great time to get in touch in readiness for when the fun starts.



*Brown Owl*

Ruth Daly 565571.

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

1st Naphill Brownies

Thursdays 5:45-7pm

***N.B. Please note that the local Cubs and Beavers will not meet until the New Year.***

*Sonia*

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## Friends of Naphill Common

Because of Covid restrictions, none of our regular FoNC activities are taking place at present, except for our working parties on Thursday mornings. But we can still enjoy the attractions of our Common, whether walking, cycling or riding.

Naphill Common is the largest wooded common in the Chilterns at 70 ha (170 acres) – although there are larger commons, such as Dunstable Downs, those are mostly grassland or heath. But it was not always heavily wooded, grazing only ceased slightly less than a century ago. Grazing animals prevent small shrubs and bushes from taking hold, and prior to that date it would have been largely open with a few large trees and many juniper bushes, of which only a handful now remain.

**How open the Common was may be judged from this 260-year-old newspaper advertisement:**

*To be Run for on Napel Common, near High Wycombe in Bucks, on the 25th of July Inst.*

*A Purse of FIFTY POUNDS, between a Horse of Mr James Warrel's, rising four Years old, and a Mare of Mr. John Barton's of the same Age, the best of three Heats on a Four-mile Course; to run Weight for Inches, and to start at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely. At the same Place and Day will be a Poney Race. The Poneys to start at Three o'Clock.*

*And on the 26th of July, at the same Place will be a Free Prize for Horses that never won Five Pounds at any one Time, Matches excepted. To*

*run the best of Three Heats Catch Weight: To start at Four o'Clock, and no less than Four to run. The Conditions to be seen there.*

*N.B. There will be Cocking in the Morning of each Day at John Ward's, at the Falcon Inn in High Wycombe for two Guineas a Battle; and two Pair of Shake-bags, at ten Guineas each Battle. Dinner at the same Place, to be on the Table at One o'Clock.*

**from The Oxford Journal 19th July 1760.**

### **A helping hand with the terminology:**

Weight for Inches – *handicap weights were increased or reduced by 7 lbs for every inch above or below a standard height (usually 14 hands for horses and 13 hands for 'ponies')*

Matches – *head-to-head races between two horses*

Catch Weight – *no handicap weights applied*

Cocking – *cock fighting*

Shake-bag – *a larger and more powerful fighting bird*

Horse racing would be difficult to arrange today – one wonders what this four-mile course would have looked like, it would surely have involved considerable climbing and descending! No other record has been found of this event, so we may never know whose horse was victorious.



Chris Miller - Chairman

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## Wycombe Photographic Society

This month in 2016 was our first article in The Gazette so I thought for this edition I would use the 2016 article as we commence our 5th year with The Gazette.

### 2016:

As this is our first appearance in the Gazette here is a bit about us.

We are a friendly group of photographers who get great enjoyment from our hobby. Our meetings are open to all ages and abilities and held most Thursday evenings from 07.45pm (for an 8pm start) through to 10pm, from September to June at Micklefield Community Centre.

The meetings cover all aspects of photography, guest speakers on a variety of subjects, practical sessions and competitions. However, do not let the thought of competitions deter you from coming along as the judges give out a wealth of knowledge plus tips and tricks of taking photographs. You will very quickly find yourself taking Photos not just another Snap of Aunt Millie with her flower hat on her head or granddad asleep in his favourite chair. After all, we have an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty right on our doorstep

whilst others have to travel to the area so no excuses for not taking a great photograph to show your friends the magic of where we live.

### 2020:

Despite the global situation we are all faced with, social distancing, being in bubbles, we are continuing with our programme. Of great interest is the fact that we now have guest speakers from across the UK talking on a variety of subjects as we use Zoom to enable this. A guest speaker can be at the other end of the country, or even overseas,

Have a look at our website for more information on our programme and how to contact us and whilst there have a look at some of the images in our members' galleries along with some of our competition winning entries.

[www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk)



*David Greenwood*

Membership Secretary  
Wycombe Photographic Society

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## Growing Your Own



What a marvellous year for growing your own! I have had my garden and allotment for 47 years and this was easily the best growing year I can remember. Usually gardeners, like farmers, moan about the weather. But not this year!

The gardening year got off to a good start. March, April and May were warm and sunny, and it was the warmest and driest spring on record. That start to the year was followed by warmth, sun and rain in appropriate amounts right through the summer, such that crops grew very well indeed. Unfortunately the weeds also profited from the excellent growing conditions and I, amongst others, found it hard to keep up.

Fruit was the high spot for my garden and allotment. Forced rhubarb was followed by a profusion of strawberries, then tayberries, gooseberries and raspberries, then the top fruit of figs, apples and pears. I had twice as many figs as in previous years, and three times as many eating apples. There was much bottling and freezing of tayberries and wrapping-in-paper of apples for the winter. The size of crop from my raspberries was not too good, so I shall be digging them out and buying new stock for next year. My Josta berries produced no fruit for the third year in a row so they are coming out also. Luckily, we did not have any serious frosts during my fruits' flowering time.

As for vegetables, my early potatoes were not too good, probably because the plants lacked rain just when the tubers were swelling. However, the maincrop potatoes were much better since we had good rain when their tubers were swelling. The asparagus in spring was pretty good and a welcome addition to the menu after the winter scarcity of fresh produce. Elephant garlic, planted the previous October, were very good as were the maincrop onions. However, overwintering onions and shallots were again a disappointment and I have decided against growing them in future (I have found that some modern sets are not as good as those in the past). I had a profusion of dwarf and climbing French beans – prolific and very tasty. Last year my turnips did not germinate, so I sowed thickly this year, with the inevitable result that they all germinated. I did not thin them and I have the most amazing crop. I had to water my carrots in the dry March, April and May but germination was very good and now, in the autumn, the crop is good. My sweetcorn was the best ever, grown in the garden rather than on the allotment to stop the badgers having an undeserved feast. On the allotment I suffered no losses through Muntjac deer because I fenced off most of my allotment with a simple plastic netting fence – which worked!

Good gardening!



Mike Mason

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## We Plough the Fields and Scatter



One of the joys of living in this area is being able to follow the farming year. One of our recent walks took us down what we know as the 'Coffin path'. It starts as Church Lane just off Hunts Hill Lane which soon becomes a footpath leading to Hughenden Manor and Church. Like many old footpaths the 'Coffin path' took the most direct route from the village down to Hughenden Church.

It was a lovely autumn day and, in the fields along the way, we noticed that the farmers were also taking advantage of the good weather. They were busy preparing the fields with some impressive machinery, first a cultivator and a seed drill planting what we learned was barley. I hope we'll be able to appreciate the fields of barley swaying in the sunshine next year when we walk the Coffin Path. Before then we're looking forward to appreciating the autumn colours on Naphill Common and in the beechwoods around our village.



Nina Downes





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This is the hardest article I have ever had to write during our 14 ½ years at The Wheel and I really am not sure what to say as I have no idea what is coming next or what new rules will be implemented.

I would however like to praise and congratulate all our local pubs and businesses for doing everything they can to ensure their customers and staff are safe. We as an industry have had to adapt and change so many times and at short notice. We understand how confusing this is for all our customers and that many may disagree with the regulations, but it is our livelihoods and staff's jobs that are at stake if we do not adhere to them. I am so sorry to sound negative but more than ever we as small businesses need your support, because if you do not many of us will not exist by the summer months!

Mark and I are so thankful to those who are coming out and more than ever to our staff who are working through such difficult times. Our team at The Wheel are amazing and we are learning to adapt continuously and finding new ways to improve your visits (whilst being told what you can or can't do). Hopefully, our

Spare Wheel which is non-smoking will be well used now the weather has changed and The Smoking Wheel is still out the back ready and waiting. We have blankets for warmth outside, but even better the fires are now lit inside to help put a smile on our faces.

To help with the long dark evenings and having to leave us early we are providing an aftercare package!! We are now doing takeaway food every evening between 6pm and 8.45pm (except Sundays) and can also provide you with your beer and drinks. You can pop in for a drink and then take them home or alternatively you can ring us to place an order for collection. We have kept the menu simple for now but may expand the choices if it proves popular. If on a very scary note we are forced to close again, we will aim to continue offering both the takeaway food and beer although times may change.

Once again, I am sorry and sad that this not my usual happy article. Stay safe and support your local pubs and businesses.



*Claire, Mark and The Team.*



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November is here, and the leaves are changing colour and falling. As autumn turns to winter, here are a few suggestions to help prepare your garden for the winter months.

Lawns should have had their final cut for this year in October. To ensure you have lush green grass in the spring aerate your lawn now. You can either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals to avoid waterlogging over winter. Next, edging. Nothing looks better than a neat and tidy lawn so don't forget to edge your lawn and lastly rake up any fallen leaves and petals to keep it healthy and increase light to the grass.

Once your roses and climbing shrubs finish flowering, prune them to reduce the height and so avoid wind rock damage over winter. Clear up any fallen rose leaves to prevent diseases such as black spot from over-wintering.

Make time to give hedges a final trim before the bad weather sets in, so they look neat and tidy for the winter.

A good general tidy up! Clear overhanging plants from pathways to maintain access around the garden. Remove saucers from under flower pots and raise them off the ground for the winter to prevent waterlogging. Use the last of the dry weather to paint sheds and fences with preservatives before the winter arrives.

A last thought! I always enjoy seeing the gardener's friend, the robin. Please invest in a bird feeder to help our feathered friends through winter!

*Jason Fletcher*



Photograph courtesy Richard Newsham



Hi, I would like to introduce my business, Rays Kitchen. My name is Ray Pullen, I'm a professional chef and have a real passion for all things food. My partner, Nathalie, and I have recently moved into Naphill and would love to share my passion for cooking and my dishes with the local community.

I will be cooking every day from my fully registered home kitchen and am offering free delivery or pickup of my dishes for residents in Naphill and Walters Ash. Prices start from £12 for one meal and £15 for a 2 course meal, discounts are available if you book for the week. I will always have a vegetarian option and vegan dishes are available on request.

Get in touch or visit my Facebook page to see what i'm rustling up today.



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ray\_pullen\_

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### *Produce to Plate*

I really like to use ingredients which have been produced locally and would love it if the keen gardeners of Naphill and Walters Ash could provide me with any of their surplus produce.

In return, I would offer discounts on my dishes or perhaps a free dessert or two!

Get in touch if you would like any of your locally grown produce turned into something delicious!



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## Dave Brown is awarded the British Empire Medal



***British Empire Medal in Queen's Birthday Honours  
For services to the Royal Air Force and to Aviation Heritage***

If you have ever taken the opportunity to visit the 'Bomber Harris Room' and the old tunnels at Air Command in Walters Ash, you may well have met our local military history enthusiast, Dave Brown. Dave is a born story-teller who uses his wealth of knowledge to bring history to life for visitors of all ages.

But there is more to Dave Brown than a contagious enthusiasm and 'scouse' accent! His commitment to serving the Crown has spanned more than 53 years, having been based at 13 different RAF stations, at home and abroad. Dave is justifiably proud of his 28-year career in the RAF. Starting in 1967 he worked primarily in the catering trade as a steward in exotic places such as Gibraltar and Masirah (Oman). After finishing his regular service as a Mess Manager at RAF High Wycombe in 1995, Dave transferred to the Civil Service where he has become a mainstay of the station team.

In his current role as General Duties Coordinator at RAF High Wycombe, Dave helps organise all the major events on the station, such as Award ceremonies and the Annual Reception, as well as maintaining the Gate Guardian aircraft outside the base, painting offices and moving items around the 3 sites. He loves to go the extra mile to help people, often working outside normal hours to see a job done properly. The Harris Room is just one of the myriad tasks that Dave has taken on.

'Bomber' Harris's office has been preserved almost exactly as it was back in the days when he led Bomber Command during WWII. This historic record has been brought together by Dave's enthusiasm and hard

work, researching and collecting the once-scattered contents (furniture, maps, pictures, etc) from venues all round the country. What's more, all this was achieved without any public funding. Over the past 6 years, Dave has welcomed some 5,000 people to the venue including HRH Princess Anne, Chiefs of the Air Staff (past and present) politicians, and many RAF veterans. These veterans have enjoyed sharing their own military recollections with Dave. All of this has added to his rich historical knowledge.



Dave has welcomed many local youngsters to the 'Harris Room' from schools, youth groups and Air Cadets. Most of these have been in the evenings and at weekends in addition to the normal working week. By using interesting facts and entertaining anecdotes to share details of Sir Arthur Harris's complex and somewhat controversial WWII campaign, Dave brings a light-hearted approach to visits giving a fascinating insight into events that shaped Britain's aviation history, passing on a historic legacy to future generations

The British Empire Medal (BEM) is one of Britain's most prestigious medals and is presented for meritorious civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown. Dave has been awarded the BEM for his massive, untiring contribution to the RAF and in particular his work to preserve military history and heritage.

If you have not taken up the opportunity to visit this history on your doorstep, Dave would be delighted to arrange a visit. He can be contacted on 01494 493019 or you could just ask him as he strolls around the village of an evening with his ever-supportive wife Brenda.

*Ruth Daly*



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Firstly, we would like to apologise for missing last month's edition, we were busy welcoming our gorgeous daughter Emily-Rose into the world.

We would like to thank everyone for the ongoing support we have received since opening a couple of months back now. Hospitality is a difficult industry to be in at this current time, with lots of challenges and obstacles, as so many other industries are experiencing too. We want to assure everyone that we are continuing to follow the ever-changing guidelines and restrictions, we keep a close eye on all Government updates to ensure we are always up to date. Keeping you and our

team safe is our number one priority. We have designed and are waiting on delivery of a large heated outdoor area to add more space for you to enjoy over the colder months.

Now, enough about rules and restrictions, we would like to share some exciting news with you. So... For those that don't already know, we have launched our new Takeaway menu! We are now offering takeaways from Tuesday through to Sunday. We know that getting food deliveries in Naphill and Walters Ash can be a challenging task, so we are pleased to announce that we are offering both collection and delivery! For more information on our Takeaway service, to view the menu or better yet, order your meal, please visit our website [www.theblacklionnaphill.co.uk](http://www.theblacklionnaphill.co.uk). You can also order by calling us on 01494 506065.

Finally, keep your eye out for our Christmas menu, this will be available soon! Don't let Covid-19 be the reason you don't get together with friends and family over the Christmas period. At the time of writing (because of course, this may well change!) you are able to get together with people up to groups of 6 so why not book your table now to avoid missing out. Our Christmas menu will be available on a pre order basis so you will need to book your table in advance to enjoy our festive meal!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we hope to see you soon!



*Tanya, Jon and The Black Lion Team*



*Flowers by Karen*



*Flowers by Karen Elliott*

*Photographs courtesy Paul Goby*



I hope my flowers will brighten up any dull, late Autumn Days!

*Karen*



# Naphill Christmas Gift Fayre

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

Having had a Covid Risk Assessment done, we are happy to say that at the time of writing we can go ahead and run this fabulously festive shopping evening in aid of Village Hall funds.

It will all be very different this year (isn't everything?), and all the restrictions that you are now so familiar with will be in place. Hand sanitising, social distancing, compulsory face masks, and there will be a one-way system in operation on the night.

What we need you 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 who have had a rough ride this year.

There will be more details in next month's Gazette, but you can also follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NaphillChristmasGiftFayre>



Cathryn Carter & Moira Harris

## Bon Ami



Hello to you all,

It is with sadness that in view of the continued Covid-19 restrictions we remain unable to open Bon Ami! This has even greater relevance because we are under threat of these rules being increased at anytime.

We are, however, continuing to offer our pre ordered takeaway Afternoon Teas.

### This month's menu will be:

- Assorted finger sandwiches

Homemade:

- Scones with clotted cream & strawberry jam
- Ginger fudge shortbread
- Coffee, fig & hazelnut cupcakes
- Carrot cake with cream cheese icing

For those of you who have a "sweet tooth" we are also able to offer the following:

A box of 6 seasonal homemade cakes £12

A box of 4 homemade scones with clotted cream & jam £9

**Go on spoil yourselves!**

With Christmas in mind next month if you are looking for an individual present why not give a Bon Ami Afternoon Tea gift voucher?

Please contact either of us if you would like to place an order or via our Facebook page.

Stay safe & take care,



Amanda & Ruth.

# NAPHILL FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR 2020

## Naphill Village Hall Funding Appeal



*Reg Charity: 300309*

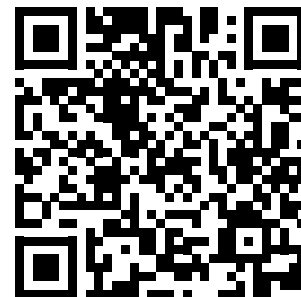
After much deliberation and soul-searching, given the impact of Covid-19, the Fireworks Committee have sadly unanimously decided to cancel this year's event.

This means that the two biggest fundraisers for the village hall have both been cancelled this year. Despite these cancellations, we still have ongoing maintenance and development costs to fund. If you would like to make a donation to help your village hall you can do so in one of three ways:

- By scanning this QR code (see below)
- By going direct to our TotalGiving Appeal Page <https://givi.ng/988h>
- Or by visiting the Naphill Hall Village Hall web site [www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk) and following the links

Please gift aid if possible as every bit helps!

*Clive Lawrence*  
Village Hall Chairman



## Naphill & Walter's Ash School Remembrance Display 2018



## Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020

With the worsening of the situation nationally regarding Covid19, and in consultation with the RAF, it has been decided to seriously curtail the plans for Remembrance Sunday. Ultimately, safety considerations for all of us in the village are of paramount importance.

There will be a wreath laying ceremony at 2.45pm which will be preceded by a short service at the Remembrance Stone conducted by RAF Padre Chrissie Lacey. At this time wreaths will be laid on behalf of the RAF, the Royal British Legion, Naphill Village Hall Chairman, a local Councillor and the youth of our village represented by a member of one of the youth organisations.

During the day at other times, other organisations and individuals will wish to lay wreaths and have a moment of remembrance at the Stone. This is of course perfectly acceptable.

The decision to amend the day has not been taken lightly but with all your safety in mind. Stay safe and let us hope we can resume our normal Remembrance Service in 2021.



*Reg Horne*



Photograph courtesy Paul Goby

## An Old Soldier And Good Friend, Gone But Not Forgotten!



*Ron Crutchfield 1924 - 2017*

The mention, in the October Gazette about the Battle of Britain and that this November issue will coincide with Remembrance Day, got me thinking about my, not-so-long, deceased friend and neighbour, Ron Crutchfield. Ron lived for over 60 years in Anne's Cottage, at the rear of the allotments. A lovely old brick and flint with original slate roof, which the Smiths would like to demolish, though that's another story.

Ron's father made Sergeant in the Great War. While fighting near Menen, Belgium, which later became the site for the Menin Gate, Sergeant Crutchfield took some shrapnel between his shoulder blades. The shrapnel stayed there all his life. He survived the war and thought that was the end of that, the war to end all wars. He was subsequently dismayed, to find just 21 years later, it all kicked off again and he had to see his sons go off to France, to fight.

Ron went ashore on D-Day, Sword Beach, second wave. Took weeks to fight their way to Caen. Fought his way beyond Caen, into Germany with the Kings Shropshires Light Infantry. Ron had many tales to tell about that time. He was driving a Willys Jeep a lot of the time.

Another period in Ron's war, he sailed to North Africa in a Liberty Ship. He felt terribly sea sick for the entire, 2-week, journey. After getting settled in Palestine, he was issued another Jeep and was tasked with driving an officer from Palestine to Cairo, a journey on poorly-marked, dangerous and lonely desert roads. A journey of some 500 miles, loaded up with 'Jerry' cans of fuel. It was a non-stop, overnight drive. At one point, on a long, straight monotonous section, Ron fell asleep but the Jeep carried on (crude 'cruise control' with a manual throttle, rather like a choke knob) There was a bend and a sandy dip and the Jeep careered off the track and in to the desert. This jolted him awake and he steered the jeep back to the track. The Officer also woke up with commotion and asked, "Were you asleep, Crutchfield"!?

Ron replied, "No Sir, I was steering around a large pothole" and he never slept after that! He said that out of all the dangerous situations he was in, during the war, it was that one that often wakes him, with a similar jolt at night!

While waiting for the Officer in Cairo, some Military Police asked him to assist them with a fight at a local brothel. Some Scots Guards, who were in drink were out of bounds. Ron said "No fear mate" and made himself scarce. He felt that breaking up a fight between drunken Scotsmen was more of a risk to his life than the Hun!

Unimpressed with his reluctance to assist them, they checked his Jeep that was parked on the street and issued a ticket for not removing his rotor-arm from the distributor, which was standard operating practice when leaving the jeep unattended. He protested as he had, in fact, removed an HT lead from the distributor instead. When the paper-work made its way to his commanding officer, they checked it thoroughly and found that the MP's had written down the jeep serial number incorrectly. The Major told the MPs to get their facts straight in no uncertain terms!

Back from the war, he drove a Caterpillar bulldozer for many years, for the local firm, Smiths. It took him to a home in Chalfont for 'simple people, y'know, epileptics and such like'. He said that they kept rabbits to sell and to eat. They would always sell a Buck, knowing it would be given back to them in 6 months, when the new owner couldn't cope with its size or aggressiveness. The home would accept it back, freely. And then dispatch it for the pot! They earned from the initial sale, someone else pays to fatten it up and they get it back for free. Ron said, "perhaps they weren't so simple after all"!

I have a few more tales, but these will probably suffice for now!



*Neil McDonald*  
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It has certainly been a challenging year for us all in more ways than one. As the evenings draw in and winter beckons it is perhaps time to take stock of what has been positive. Hughenden Street Association has continued to work with partners across the parish keeping residents informed via its weekly newsletter about a wide range of topics from scams, mental health and competitions going on across the parish. Using its Facebook page and Twitter account the Association seeks to reach the wider community. Whilst there has been a lot of sad news there are some beacons of good news that should draw us in. The renewed and sustained sense of community has been amazing. Add to this a willingness to look outside of our immediate community through the fantastic support given to the One Can Trust food bank in High Wycombe.

At the time of writing the Government has introduced it's Three Tier System which will limit our ability to meet and chat in person. The Association has come up with

an idea to at least help us take a stroll (safely) with its 'Light Up Hughenden' project. Working with Hughenden Church the idea is to decorate our gardens at Christmas to bring as much light as possible during the winter nights. Hughenden Valley has already signed up and we do hope that all Wards will take the idea and develop it to suit their location. Naphill has, of course, its amazing festive tree which is a great start. What else can you do to make Naphill and Walter's Ash light up? Let us celebrate what we have achieved by lighting up Hughenden.

If you would like to receive your own copy of the Association's weekly newsletter then drop an email to the editor with 'newsletter, please' in the subject line. It is also available on our Facebook page, published on Twitter and uploaded to the NAWA website.

*Hilda Stearn*



Newsletter editor  
 Communications Co-ordinator  
 Hughenden Street Association  
 E: hughendensa@gmail.com  
 Twitter: @HughendenStreet  
 Facebook: #HughendenStreetAssociation

## Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

Over the last few months I have written about some of the local activities still available to us while the more mainstream venues and sporting facilities have been closed.

Under normal circumstances I would have continued the theme this month. But having spent most of the summer carrying out weeks of garden maintenance and home based DIY, we thought we would chance a small break away.

After some fairly extensive research on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website it became pretty clear that safe options for overseas travel are severely limited. As Turkey had a green light Istanbul appealed. The city had been on my "bucket list" for years and ticked a number of boxes. It can have fantastic weather at this time of year. There is plenty of interesting architecture to enjoy, and 'probably' the best doner kebabs in the world. With flights and a hotel booked, I put the government travel advice website on my favourites list for a daily check on the restrictions. Come the day, with our bags packed, face masks on, and sanitising gels to hand, we headed off to Heathrow.

I am guessing that Turkey entered the FCO list for "all but essential travel" on Thursday 1st October at about the same time we entered Turkish airspace. We learned about

this three hours into our trip, ironically over a beer and a kebab.

As I write, we are nine days into two weeks of isolation. Lockdown is a great antidote to procrastination and general laziness. We now have enough firewood split to last for years. The cupboards in our house have never been more tidy, and an audit of the freezer has brought us to the conclusion that a single portion of spaghetti bolognese, frozen in 2014, probably belongs in the bin.

Things I have learnt so far about not leaving the house...

- Online supermarket shopping can work well, but has limitations.
- Daytime TV's reputation is well deserved.... it really is dire.
- Local friends can be incredibly supportive.
- The kebabs in Istanbul probably are the 'best' in the world.

Just another five days to go before I can venture out. My car is due an MOT and I want to do a proper fruit and veg shop. Is it wrong to get inordinately excited about the prospect of this?

Best regards, stay safe,



*Mike*  
 Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

## Letter from Bradenham Vicarage - *The 6 month wall*

This month, I would like to share with you a text from Prof Aisha Ahmed that was part of a church course on coping with Covid. Prof Ahmed is based at the University of Toronto and her text is a series of Tweets reflecting on her experiences in disaster zones and relating them to the pandemic.

The 6-month mark in any sustained crisis is always difficult. We have all adjusted to this "new normal", but might now feel like we're running out of steam. How can we keep going?

First, in my experience, this is a very normal time to struggle or slump. I always hit a wall 6 months into a tough assignment in a disaster zone. The desire to "get away" or "make it stop" is intense.

This time, our crisis is global and there is nowhere to run. That's OK. I've had to power through that 6 month hump before and there is life on the other side. Right now, it feels like we are looking ahead at long, dark wintery tunnel. But it's not going to be like that.

Rather, this is our next major adaptation phase. We've already re-learned how to do groceries, host meetings, and even teach classes. And we have found new ways to be happy and have fun. But as the days get shorter and colder, we need to be ready to innovate again.

This is my first pandemic, but not my first 6 month wall. So, what can I share to help you? First, the wall is real and normal. And frankly, it's not productive to try to ram your head through it. It will break naturally in about 4-6 weeks if you ride it out.

Of course, there are things we have to do. Work. Teach. Cook. Exercise. But just don't expect to be sparkingly happy or wildly creative in the middle of your wall.

Right now, if you can meet your obligations and be kind to your loved ones, you get an A+.

Also, don't be afraid that your happiness and creativity are gone for the rest of this marathon. Not true. I assure you that it will soon break and you will hit a new stride. But today, roll with it. Clear away less challenging projects. Read a novel. Download that meditation app.

Frankly, even though we cannot physically leave this disaster zone, try to give yourself a mental or figurative "shore leave". Short mental escapes can offer respite and distance from the everyday struggle. Take more mental "leave" until you clear the wall.

In my experience, this 6 month wall both arrives and dissipates like clockwork. So I don't fight it anymore. I don't beat myself up over it. I just know that it will happen and trust that the dip will pass. In the meantime, I try to support my mental and emotional health.

Take heart. We have navigated a harrowing global disaster for 6 months, with resourcefulness and courage. We have already found new ways to live, love, and be happy under these rough conditions. A miracle and a marvel. This is hard proof that we have what it takes to keep going.

So, dear friends, do not despair of the 6 month wall. It's not permanent, nor will it define you in this period of adversity. Trust that the magic that helped you through the first phase is still there. Take a breath and a pause. You'll be on the other side in no time.

I hope you find the wisdom and insight of this text helpful.

May you be blessed by God's grace at this time.



Rev Jenny Ellis

### **Benefice of West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge, Radnage and Bradenham Church Sunday Services November 2020**

1 Nov	9.30am	Eucharist	St Mary's, Radnage
8 Nov	9.30am	Eucharist	St Paul's, Bledlow Ridge
15 Nov	9.30am	Eucharist	St Paul's, West Wycombe
22 Nov	9.30am	Eucharist	St Botolph's, Bradenham

These will be short services of said communion.

29 Nov 9.30am All Age Worship St Paul's, West Wycombe- a Service of the Word without communion



***Booking will be required for all these services - to book your place:  
E: westwycombebenefice@gmail.com T: 01494 483311***

## Remembrance Sunday at St Botolph's Church 8th November 2020

A short outdoor service of Remembrance will be held at St Botolph's Church, Bradenham, on Sunday 8th November. The service will begin at 10.45am at the lych gate, which forms Bradenham Parish war memorial. All are welcome to attend, though social distancing will be in force and the wearing of face masks is required. We need to know in advance how many are coming, so to reserve a space please contact Rev Jenny Ellis by email: [ellisjene@aol.com](mailto:ellisjene@aol.com) or mobile phone: 07895775991

There will be an opportunity to recite the names of those we wish to remember. If you are unable to attend and would like a name recited, please email the name together with rank/role (if applicable) to Jenny at the above address.



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As parents, you play a critical role in your child's fine motor skill development. The most important thing you can do is to provide opportunities that are fun and interactive for your child. Developing fine motor skills in early childhood education helps build the foundation for important future skills like writing and self-care. In this article, we describe what fine motor skills are, and give you some great ideas for end-of-year activities that you can do together to help your child develop their fine motor skills.

Fine motor skills involve the use of the smaller muscles of the hands. Fine motor skills include:

### Academics skills including

- Pencil skills (scribbling, colouring, drawing, writing)
- Scissors skills (cutting)

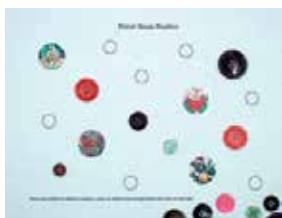
### Play

- Construction skills using Lego, puzzles, train tracks
- Doll dressing and manipulation
- ICT use (mouse manipulation)

### Self-care including

- Dressing – tying shoelaces, doing up sandals, zips, buttons, belts
- Eating – using cutlery, opening lunch boxes and food bags
- Hygiene – cleaning teeth, brushing hair, toileting

The development of fine motor skills is so crucial for children's development and success in learning and in life. Here, you will find some fun and colourful activities centred around Christmas, that you and your child can do together!



Ask your child to use their thumbs and forefingers in a pincer grasp to place buttons, stickers, coins, or any other small manipulative material on the dots.



Trace over the lines in a variety of shapes to work on pencil grip and overall fine motor control. The pack includes straight lines, angled lines, curvy lines, and looped lines.



Children can use tweezers to place cotton balls or pom poms on the tree.

You can also have cutting activities to cut shapes for a Christmas card, punch

holes using a puncher to make decorations, or even tear shapes in tissue paper to use as decorations.

At Hoppers, we've been super busy practicing our fine motor skills using Autumn and Harvest, and Halloween themes. We can't wait to use some of these ideas nearer to Christmas.

We hope you try some of these ideas, and would love to hear from you if you do!

We have limited spaces available. Please visit the school website at [www.hughendenprimary.co.uk](http://www.hughendenprimary.co.uk), or email the school office at [office@hughendenprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@hughendenprimary.co.uk) to arrange a socially distanced visit.



Sam Shafique

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'You create a stable learning environment. You simply make our children happy.'

PARENT



'Calm and caring environment which is appropriate to their age and abilities.'

PARENT

## Take our virtual tour:

[naphillandwaltersasheschool.co.uk/september-21/](http://naphillandwaltersasheschool.co.uk/september-21/)

'This is a school where the welfare of the pupils is very important. Staff go the extra mile to support pupils and their families.'

OFSTED 2017



## Hugenden Valley Slimming World



Group is in now back in full swing, and many members are enjoying the benefits of being back in our warm and friendly Slimming World Group.

Some members during lockdown found their weight loss journey challenging, but other embraced it. I remember so well my first Zoom session where Debbie said "I want to come out of lockdown a slimmer person". Debbie certainly did that! Debbie joined my group a few weeks before lockdown and was very nervous. I reassured her that I would be there to support her through her weight-loss journey. After 2 weeks in group I gave Debbie

her half stone award. Then I had to close the doors to our Slimming World Group. Debbie stayed with me throughout lockdown on our virtual sessions. Debbie had a total of 18 awards and lost a total of 3 stones during lockdown (see photograph).

A couple of weeks ago we held our Woman of the Year Competition. I was very proud and had great pleasure in awarding Debbie with this well-deserved award. Debbie has now lost almost 4 stone since joining.

Here is what Debbie said,

*'I had extremely high blood pressure and was on the verge of type 2 diabetes - it was time to take control and look after my health so I could run around after my little grandson. Slimming World group and Kerry's support gave me the motivation to come out of lockdown a new me!'*

To find out more about our warm and friendly Slimming World Group at Hughenden Valley Village Hall every Thursday 5pm, 6pm & 7pm booking is essential.

**Please contact me, Kerry, on 07887 567264**



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As a member, you can book a court online to play when you wish or just turn up at a club session and join in with everyone else.

We are delighted to announce our new Winter Coaching Programme which is:

Junior Coaching on Saturday mornings during October/ November

- **Adult Beginners/Improvers on Mondays 9 – 10 am**
- **Adult Improvers on Mondays 10 – 11 am**
- **Adult Improvers on Wednesdays 9 – 10 am**

In addition, club sessions take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

For further details on coaching, please contact our Head Coach, Mel Burn ([melebbles@hotmail.com](mailto:melebbles@hotmail.com)) or for details of membership, please get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Sarah Dengel ([sarah.dengel1@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.dengel1@gmail.com)) or visit our website: [naphilltennisclub.org.uk](http://naphilltennisclub.org.uk).



*Jenny Tench*

## Naphill Evening WI

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These are frustrating times, aren't they?

We continue to chat on the phone and meet up for coffee when we can. The Committee keep us up to date with everything but it is not the same as all meeting up.

However, we will have had our Annual Meeting on 15th October via Zoom, which will be a quite different experience from our normal October meeting.

Nothing to do with WI, but we have new neighbours who have moved into 'Plum Tree Cottage' in Naphill and they would love a copy of the Naphill and Walter's Ash book which contains some information and old photos of the Cottage. Apparently it is out of print but if anyone has one that they do not need, please let me know.

Best wishes to everyone.



*Carol Gilliam*

## A Message from Padre Lacey

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### What hits the mark for you?

I'm sitting writing this as the weather has just turned, it's late afternoon, it's too cold in my office and I'm tired so I've just broken in to my emergency chocolates (Celebrations)! I did myself a deal, I would grab a few and that would be my treat and boost...BUT, I wouldn't pick and choose, the chocolates my hand dealt me, would be the ones I ate! Well...that's what I thought I would do!

Turns out, I'm in a Snickers kind of mood today, so when I got two Mars', I exchanged them for Snickers. That surprised me though, because usually I'm a Maltesers kind of girl! And it got me thinking, because sometimes there is something we need to do, a place we need to be, a thing we need to eat or a person we need to be with, to hit the spot.



You know, when we're happy, is there a particular person you want to share it with? When you're sad is there a place you need to go to? When you're down is there a craving for something yummy to eat or when you're ecstatic is there something you just have to do...a time when nothing else will do?

For me, this afternoon, it was a Snickers. We're all creatures of need, there's no denying it...but that's not a bad thing. When we recognise and acknowledge what it is that we need to help us, or to share in the moment we are in, then we can improve that moment. I'm very much a believer in striving to live life to the full, I mean it was a promise that God gave to us through Jesus, that we would be able to live life to the full.

Through the COVID guidelines we may have realised what or who it is we need to 'hit the spot', because we haven't been able to access it/them. We may have taken things for granted before, or not even realised our need for them. And if there is something or someone that you need, how are you nurturing that need? Maybe we've have discovered new things, places or people who hit the spot...or are being a good substitute?

Christmas is coming, and lists of wants will be being composed, but how about pause for a minute and ponder on what your 'Snickers' is today?

To continue this conversation contact Padre Chrissie on: 01494 494469 or [christina.lacey102@mod.gov.uk](mailto:christina.lacey102@mod.gov.uk)



*Padre Chrissie Lacey*



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Plans for a very special Christmas Coffee morning (Wednesday 16th December, 10am) are now well advanced with our Groups showing the activities they have been undertaking during these difficult times, to new or existing members. Reserve your virtual cup and mince pie!

On the following evening (Thursday 17th December) at 7pm the World We Lived In Group will be inviting you to join them on a 'Grand Tour' of Christmas. The Grand Tour was the 17th- and 18th-century custom of a traditional trip through Europe undertaken by upper-class young European men of sufficient means and rank (typically accompanied by a chaperone, such as a family member) when they had come of age (about 21 years old). The custom — which flourished from about 1660 until the advent of large-scale rail transport in the 1840s and was associated with a standard itinerary — served as an educational rite of passage. We will be stopping at some of the places on their Grand Tour. This gives you an opportunity to alight and share your own memories of some of the places we know you will have visited.

### A very busy October

On October 8th, we held our first evening event when the Convenor of a new Group -The World We Lived In – introduced us a new understanding of George as Regent and King. We explored his life and what a life! Lots of pictures and great cartoons were shown. Did you miss it?



*Gillray's Engraving of George IV (1792)*



*Equestrian portrait of George IV by George Stubbs (1971)*

Some of the other activities in October ranged from our Local History Group reminding us that Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl and Sir Terry Patchett were from our area. Our Local History Group communicate through emails and phone calls. Our photography Group goes from strength to strength. We were introduced to great videos on Comets, from our Discovering Science Group. Fingers crossed we will see some more in the Northern hemisphere soon.

There was also a first use of Zoom by several of our 40 Groups. including our Quiz Group. If you like Quizzes, you'll love these. And you mark your own. No cheating now.

On 28th October, our Monthly General Meeting welcomed Ginny Davis who gave her presentation entitled: "To The Fringe and Beyond". Ginny talked informally about changing career from being a barrister to a full-time writer and performer and performing at the Edinburgh Fringe. On 25th November, Michael Kerry White will be addressing: "What did the Ancients do for us?"

These monthly General Meetings are from 2.15pm on the 4th Wednesday (excluding December) of each month. We've a full programme from January thorough to August 2021. Hopefully in 2021 these talks will resume at Lacey Green Village Hall in the future but for the time being we will continue using Zoom.

We do appreciate that not everyone is happy using the internet but we do pay for the service to Zoom which has the maximum possible internet security, but we appreciate there can be no absolute guarantee (as the Banks have found).

And all this for £20 per annum! You can attend all our Groups. Check out all our activities, including those currently using Zoom, at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/highwycombe/events> You will need an 'invitation' from us to click into any Zoom session. All you need is a PC, Tablet, Laptop or iPad. You do not need to download any software in advance. Please email our Membership Secretary for an invitation at: [hw.u3a.membership@gmail.com](mailto:hw.u3a.membership@gmail.com)

We'd like to tell you more about what we do, the fun and laughter we all have at our meetings, including those held over the internet. Do not forget to mention topics that interest you most. You may even want to suggest an idea for a new Group. Of course, we all are missing meeting up with our friends in either members' houses or Village Halls. The good times will come back and those cups of tea although we've noticed that decaffeinated coffee is popular for our evening sessions.

Please do find out more. At £20 for a subscription from September 2020 to August 2021, the only extras will be for cups of tea and biscuits when enjoyed in homes or, as we all hope, in Halls. Who might one meet, virtually of course.



*Paul Gilliam*



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# Toddle In Group *nurturing curious minds*

## Autumn Days

Autumn days. As the days get shorter, and the weather turns colder the temptation to head indoors and wrap up warm and cosy is very real! However, if we did that too often we would miss one of the most beautiful seasons we have here in Buckinghamshire! With so many woodlands right on our doorstep, Autumn is the time to get our wellies and coats on and head outside on a big adventure with our children!

Whilst for now we have stopped our outings here at Toddle In Group, we are still really lucky to have the school fields and grounds to explore and enjoy. Almost every session the children are able to head out to find beautiful leaves, conkers, fir cones and other signs of Autumn almost every session. When the adventure is done and we are ready to warm through, we all head inside for some seasonal food and spend time examining our Autumn treasure. If you need any inspiration to help you to make the most of this transformative season, I would recommend taking a look at the National Trust's website and read their programme called '50 things to do before you're 11¾'. It is full of lovely activities such as star gazing, den building and biscuit making. We will be working through some of the activities with our children here at Toddle In Group to see how many we can achieve as a team! I'll update our Facebook page as we go along!

Sometimes, even we are beaten by the torrential rain or the bitterly cold winds. When this happens we make the most of our time inside and immerse ourselves in in lots of activities including sensory play, exploratory play and role-play. Our children make their own sensory playdoughs or soaps that they then get to take home. and they enjoy selecting the spices, the scents and the colours to add. All of these elements elevate playdough

and soap to new heights, and really anything goes, so it is super creative! We also create little exploratory zones for the children to play and create. Our Autumn corner has opportunities for the children to introduce a narrative into their play, whilst developing their stacking and counting skills, and their knowledge of the world around them. Our Autumn corner is positioned in front of our full height windows so the children can still engage with the real world outside.

The children's play and experiences are always supported with a book. Books help to extend the children's understanding about the changes in Autumn that perhaps they cannot easily observe eg, things like hibernation, hedgehogs, and other environments.

We know it works, and as you can see, all this new information filters through in their play! We are particularly fond of 'The Scarecrow's Wedding', 'Pumpkin Soup' and 'Leaf Man' if you need any pointers!

We are currently collecting for the food bank 'One Can Trust' in High Wycombe as part of our Harvest celebration. If you would like to make a donation, please add an item to our donation box at the front of the Nursery.

We are still offering socially distanced tours, and now we have a short video of our Nursery on our website [www.toddleingroup.co.uk](http://www.toddleingroup.co.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@toddleingroup.co.uk).

Happy adventuring!



*Kim Cahalan Compton*

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## Winter is Coming

Winter is coming! And with it a likelihood of more home time again – apart from beautiful walks in our glorious countryside – if the weather is truly frightful there is another activity which I would encourage anyone to partake in. Reading aloud to your children. I have always read to my children and we thoroughly enjoyed re-reading the Gruffalo and others a million times and getting excited when a new “supertato” book arrived. And then it came to the stage where they were learning to read and it became a nightly homework to sit and have them read to me and I still took pleasure in finding them new books and comics for them but I definitely didn’t read to them as much.

Reading aloud to your children, no matter their age has been shown in numerous studies to have amazing benefits to their language, information retention and writing skills. Although my children can read – I of course can read faster and we can cover more ground.

There are millions of great books out there but some take a while to get into and your newly reading child may lose interest, as an adult you have more patience - so here are my tips for creating a readaloud environment in your home – you won’t regret it.

1. Set your space – autumn is the perfect time to create a cosy area – blankets, cushions, mugs of hot chocolate and biscuits, low lighting - we are currently reading ghost stories by candlelight which adds to the atmosphere.
2. Start small – one chapter a day unless they are transfixed
3. Find things for them to do – colouring, beading, lego, plasticine – all of these things keep little hands busy and they will still be listening – don’t make them sit cross legged in front of you and expect entranced expressions - it will still go in.
4. Go with their interest first – let them help you choose – if they know they don’t have to read it they won’t be tempted by simple ones or ones they know – go by interesting illustrations or front covers.
5. Get the whole family involved, my husband says he isn’t interested in our latest book but strangely always manages to just make himself a coffee when I have just started.
6. Don’t be afraid to try things that seem above them – you get reading levels drummed into you by school but this is you reading and them listening - you will be amazed at what they do understand and can take part in – we are currently reading medieval tales from the Welsh Mabinigion and despite my terrible welsh pronunciation my 9 year old understands and enjoys the stories.

7. Discuss what you read while on your beautiful walks, get your kids to draw the characters – school will no doubt talk to you about “finding nuance” – this is it and is a wonderful way to grow your child’s analytical skill.
8. Keep throat sweets on hand – I have lost my voice on various occasions

Use the glorious autumnal weather to give it a go. And finally some of my best recommendations:

- Land of Stories series
- Wolf Brother Autumn Chronicles
- D’Aulaires book of Greek myths
- The invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
- Puffin Classics
- Charles Dickens – particularly with Christmas approaching, read the actual story of A Christmas Carol – light a candle and watch the films after
- Frostheart, Flobber – stories written by Phoenix and Beano comic authors
- Dara’O Brien series of space books.



*Eleanor Caldwell*

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## From Our Wye Correspondent

Apologies for the lack of contribution last month, I can honestly say that at that time I have never been busier. I am grateful for those in the village who continue to use their local agent; after all there is no substitute for in depth local knowledge when trying to sell to people from outside the area, particularly London, where many of our purchasers are now coming from. I do sense a slight slowing of momentum in the housing market but it is still strong and a good time to try to sell.

I would like to mark the passing and pay my respects to one of my former colleagues at Paddington Green, Sergeant Matt Ratana who was tragically murdered in the line of duty earlier this month. Matt was a true gentleman and a real character who worked tirelessly for the benefit of others. A very sad loss.



For those of you following the story of Teddy our recent foster dog, you will be pleased to know that he has settled in well with his new owners. However, like my daughter, they are having to sleep downstairs with him as he is still suffering from anxiety separation. I think like us, they know that is unlikely to

change and are just doing the best for him in the time he has left. The picture is of Teddy at his new home complete with neckerchief.

Some of my more regular readers may recall that our dear friends Sarah and Martin parted company with their beloved Airedale last year. They had decided to have a break from dogs having recently retired and thought to go travelling for a while. Enter Covid 19 and an enforced change of plan so imagine our delight when invited over for a little soiree to be greeted by Harvey their new addition, pictured here killing his favourite toy. A bundle of energy with razor sharp teeth! Amazing to think he will turn into the regal dog that characterises Airedales.



Finally I would like to add my personal congratulations to Dave Brown, my neighbour, friend and fellow train enthusiast on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the recent honours list. A thoroughly deserved honour for a man who has dedicated his life to the RAF.

Alan Draper



## Shear Madness



Wow! What can I say? I'm absolutely overwhelmed by all the bras for "Hammocks for Hope", WELL DONE LADIES! So far I have got two huge black bin bags full and at the time of writing this we have two more weeks to go. For those who don't know about it, October is breast cancer awareness month so I have been collecting old, uncomfortable bras. The material is stripped from them, this is weighed and converted into cash which goes to

the charity "Action Against Breast Cancer." I am one of 36 donation stations across the Vale of Aylesbury. I hope you have liked my display outside the shop, it certainly got people talking!

If I am honest, business is struggling at the moment due to the cost of PPE, all the disinfectant, hand sanitizers and the other hidden costs like my card reader. I am sad to say that I have no choice but to put my prices up from 1st November by £2.50. However, I will be keeping over 65's and under 5's at the usual price. When we all came back to work after lockdown most barbers put their prices up by £5 making an average haircut nearly £20! So let's hope that my small increase will help with my added costs and I thank you for your understanding in these trying times for small businesses.

Have a happy and safe November.

Love as always,



Mandy x

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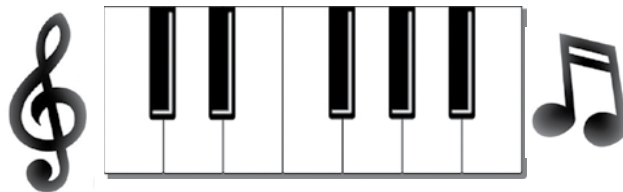


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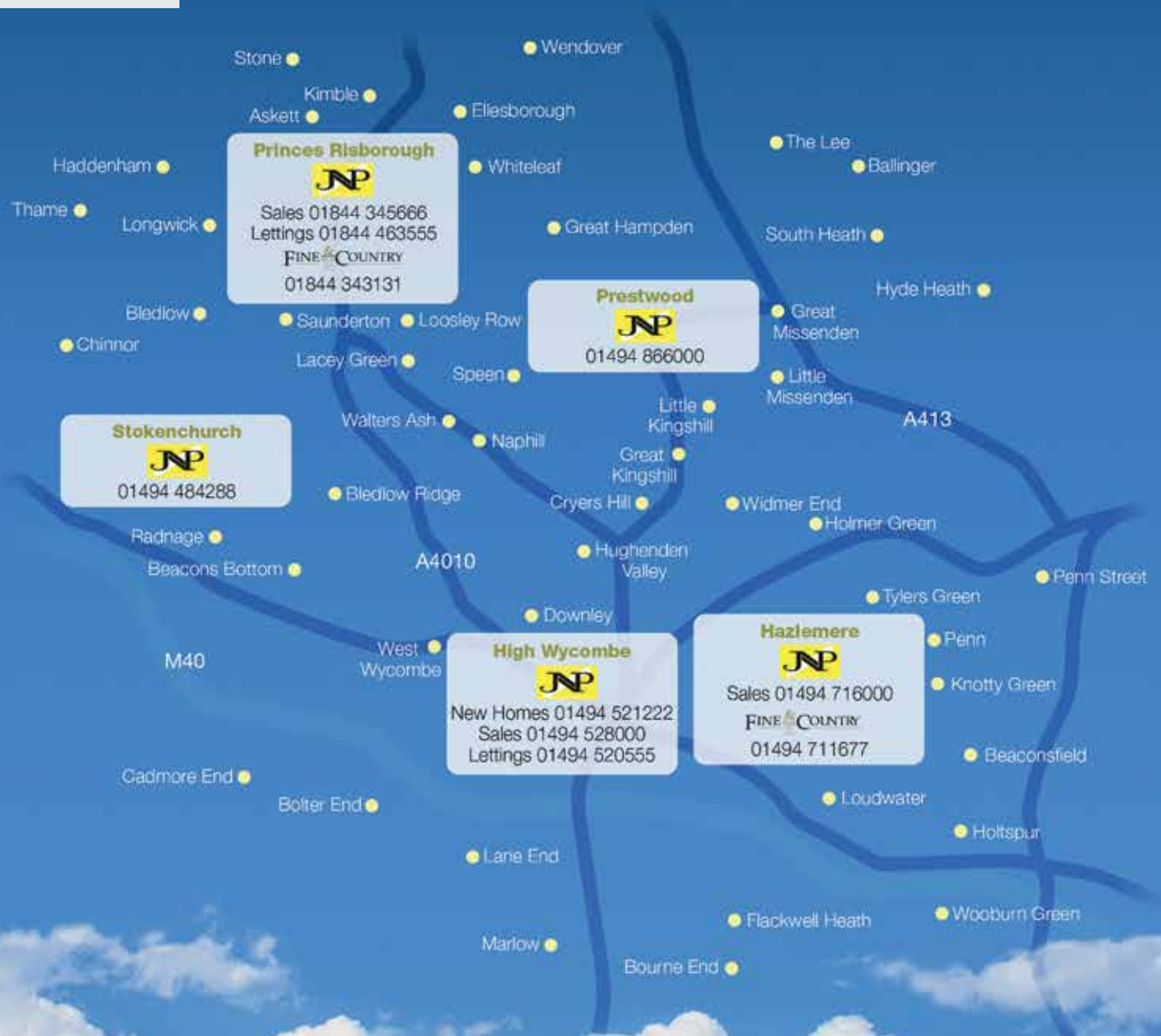


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