

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette



September 2020
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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	Beth Foster		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)	Toni Green	01494 562089	
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	
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Chairman - Clive Lawrence

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Bookings - Tanya Stevens

Email: hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Tel: 07851 169275

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Local Council Contact Information

Bradenham Parish Council Clerk	Deirdre Hanson	01494 562254	clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com
Bucks County Council	David Carroll	01494 716967	david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Council Clerk	Melinda Woof	01494 715296	clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Chris Waterton	07968 268067	chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Peggy Ewart		
Hughenden Parish Councillor	Peter Williams		
Bucks Council Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	steve_broadbent@wycombe.gov.uk
Bucks Council Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk
Bucks Council Councillor	Audrey Jones	01494 563435	audrey_jones@wycombe.gov.uk

Helpful Contact Numbers

Hughenden Surgery	See website www.ourpractice.co.uk	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
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Specsavers Hearing (NHS hearing tests)	Self refer	01494 520304
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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette Notices

Subscription Collection UPDATE!

Because so many people are on holiday, our delivery team will now be making this collection when they deliver your OCTOBER Gazette.

Please have three pound coins ready in an envelope marked with your name and address. Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Gazette Team

Volunteers URGENTLY Needed to Deliver the Gazette

If you can help, please contact our distribution coordinator, Ian Hall

email:

distribution@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk



or

phone the editor:
01494 569428

Copy Date for October Gazette 15 September

Editorial:

Welcome to our September Gazette. I now remember exactly WHY I do not usually do a September Gazette. The glorious summer sun is shining and my office desk is definitely not my favourite place in these conditions. So barring any more exceptional circumstances, it will be back to an August/September edition next year. A big thank you to all our contributors who have given up their Summer break time to contribute to this edition and to David Bennett, a Prestwood photographer who has kindly allowed me to use one of his lovely owl photographs for this month's cover.

During the week I received an odd email! It came from a business address and was signed by a name I did not recognise as a name, "a message digest symbol" which possibly, in this context, was being used as an alias by the sender. The message accused me of having blacklisted this person from the village Facebook page. So here it is! My personal reassurance to you all! I am not an administrator or moderator for ANY Facebook page, it would be a direct conflict of interest with my role as Gazette editor and therefore, I do not have any powers to blacklist, bar or interfere with group membership. I did report this incident to the administrator of the page involved and I should like to thank them for their swift intervention and help.

The Gazette does now have a Facebook page which is used solely to send out news/messages which I would put in the Gazette. These messages will only ever go on the local village community pages. If I post anything for anybody else on this page, the message will go out with the

contributor's name and contact details plus my editorial disclaimer. I have set up a separate iPad dedicated to the Gazette to save any confusion! My personal Facebook is not associated with the Gazette.

Whilst on the subject of emails and public disclosure, I should like to mention that I do use a footer on my email accounts which clearly states that my emails are for the addressees only and I do not give permission for any of the content to be copied or passed on to a third party! I trust that this too will be respected, it is a sad world when people use personal emails for a purpose for which they are not intended and unforgivable that such information should be used to bully or intimidate the author. In my eyes the person who forwarded the email and the third party involved are equally responsible.

Back to the more cheerful! Hopefully we are going to have lots more sunshine and that the Village Hall fund raising virtual fun events on Bank Holiday weekend will be a huge success!

Finally! Hopefully back to school for all our children! New schools for the new yr.7's, off to college/university for others and back to an old but possibly rather different school for the rest. I wish you all well.

Happy late Summer everybody and I look forward to sharing with you all in the October edition of our Gazette.

Sonia

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

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A meeting of the committee was held on the 3 August. It was held online and there were 15 members present. Reopening of the hall was discussed and it was agreed that a checklist would be circulated to the hirers. This would include the principle that they would be responsible for the cleaning of the relevant areas before and after they used the hall. Cleaning materials would be provided and the hall would also be cleaned each evening. When we have a firm commitment that the long-term hirers will work within these rules and we are confident that this will be financially viable we will consider reopening the hall. The committee has bought sanitisers and will provide a register so that track and trace could be pursued if needed. Until all this is agreed we will keep the village hall closed.

The Pizza van's current use of the Village hall carpark on a Thursday evening was also discussed. As the village hall will hopefully reopen in September it was agreed that the car park will once again be used by the hall hirers and so will no longer be available for the Pizza van to use.

The play area has not yet been inspected and so we cannot open it at present. When we are able to open this area, the current corona restrictions will apply so that anyone

using the playground equipment will be responsible for wiping down before and after their children use it.

Due to the lockdown there has been increased use of the crick. Unfortunately, there are a few people who do not consider the playground is closed and they have clambered over the fence and taken their children and dogs into the playground. The fence surrounding this area has been damaged and will now need to be repaired. The increased use of the crick has resulted in more litter being left lying on the crick, many people have cleared this rubbish up and I would like to thank them for picking the litter up. They include Jackie Johnstone, Margret Hunter, Claire Christan and the staff of Bon Ami.

Although the hall has been closed some work has been done. The faulty ceiling lights have been replaced with LED units and the heating boilers have been inspected and serviced

I hope you are all safe and keeping well.

Clive Lawrence
Village Hall Chairman

Weekend cleaner Still URGENTLY NEEDED for the Naphill Village Hall

4 hours per weekend. 7-9 am Saturday morning and then depending on the Saturday/Sunday booking another 1 to 2 hours on Sunday.

We need a self employed individual with experience of vacuuming, brushing, mopping, polishing. Cleaning toilets and kitchen. Experience of using cleaning machine would be an advantage but training can be given.

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This has undoubtedly been an unusual summer in Naphill and Walter's Ash. Coronavirus has continued to dominate our lives. Sadly, people are still suffering from Covid-19, although together we have made huge progress to slow the spread of the virus. While this has allowed many family, friends and colleagues to be reunited, we are still a long way from normality – holidays have been cancelled or changed at the last-minute, A-level and GCSE results have been based on assessments rather than exams, and we now carry a face covering everywhere we go.

Locally, Napfest was sorely missed over the August bank holiday weekend. I had hoped to come along in my first summer as your MP but like so many events this year, the celebrations have unfortunately been postponed. I know this was extremely disappointing

for stallholders and attendees alike, but it's yet another example of local people's sacrifices to keep our community safe.

Despite the challenges we still face, village hubs and high streets have started to come alive again. It was great to see so many people "eat out to help out" last month to support our local pubs, cafes and restaurants and I was impressed by all the work done to keep customers safe. In the weeks and months ahead it will be more important than ever to keep supporting local businesses as they navigate their 'new normal'.

As summer draws to a close, many people are able to return to work and school. This is an important step in our road to recovery. Of course, many people still need the support of their community, and I am grateful that the NAWA Covid-19 support group maintains its tireless efforts to help. My own team and I continue to spend much of our time assisting constituents with the impact of coronavirus, but over the summer we've also helped with queries ranging from employment to housing, HS2 to visas. Many of life's challenges remain alongside coronavirus and I remain committed to helping my constituents in whatever way I can - through this crisis and long after.

Rob Butler

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Parking – a sore point in Hughenden Parish Area?

According to Local Insight 2018 published by Buckinghamshire Council 6% of households within the boundaries of Hughenden Street Association (in other words, the Parish) do not have a car. The average across England is 26%.

No cars	One car	Two cars	Three cars	Four + cars
180	965	1,420	460	225
5.8% of 3,280 households (England = 24.8%)	29.7% of 3,280 households (England = 42.2%)	43.7% of 3,280 households (England = 28.7%)	14.1% of 3,280 households (England = 5.5%)	6.8% of 3,280 households (England = 1.8%)

Looking at the number of households with more than 1 car may help us understand why the issue is a sore point at times. The table above reveals some interesting facts. When we add in the number of 'visitors' whether for the school run, football club, keep fit sessions, family visits, etc it becomes clear why there might be an issue. Even though there are some rather urban areas within the parish for the most part it remains semi-rural. There is easy access to the countryside and plenty of open places to walk the dog, take a stroll or have a picnic.

During the early days of easing the lockdown people came out to Hughenden because their local parks were so full. If you drive into High Wycombe on a sunny day cars are parked on the pavements near to the entrance to Hughenden Park.

What can we do?

Firstly, residents must lead by example. Clubs and groups in the parish that bring youngsters together should also do their bit. It needs to be continuous and consistent for the best impact.

Call to action!

Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group (HNAG) members have joined forces to try to address the issue of visitors parking without consideration. It equally applies to residents. The HNAG members are Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Hughenden Street Association and the Parish Council. The Group has created a leaflet which can be placed on the windscreen of cars parked inappropriately. The information provided in the leaflet aims to remind vehicle owners of their responsibilities... including residents.

Hilda Stearn

Communications Coordinator,
Hughenden Street Association

@ hughendenstreetassociation@gmail.com

Hughenden Valley Under 8's Football Team - *Calling All Year 3 Footballers*

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While walking on Naphill Common it is likely that you will form the impression that it is woodland composed predominately of a mixture of beech and oak trees, with a scattering of yews and rather a lot of holly. Sharp eyes will spot the occasional ash, especially at the edge, and a few whitebeams, cherries, birches, and hornbeams. Over towards Bradenham, on the Clumps, there are horse chestnuts and lime trees, but they were planted along with ashes and other species on the banks of the rings. The richness and interest of the natural tree population rests mainly in the survival of so many ancient beech pollards and oaks, together with a few really fine yews. These ancient trees are rare even in the Chilterns.

The composition of the Common woodland reflects its origins. The heavy clay soil is unsuited to agriculture so was left as open common land dotted with a few trees. No doubt the grazing animals kept the area as open grassland with gorse and juniper bushes dotted over it. As grazing declined more young trees and bushes appeared, and by the end of the 19th Century almost half of the area furthest from the village was tree covered. Even in the 1960s large areas on the village side were still essentially heathland. The area opposite Beehive Cottage was the last remnant. Eventually there survived only half a dozen straggling old junipers and just a few ancient gorse bushes.

The Friends of Naphill Common have taken cuttings from the few surviving junipers and planted out nine specimens (one of which has mysteriously disappeared) and fortunately they have turned out to include both sexes, and one already has a rich crop of berries. The recent felling has let in much more light and this is likely to transform the vegetation. It has certainly encouraged magnificent displays of foxgloves, but the way bracken is prospering is perhaps a little less welcome. We are endeavouring to ensure that it does not swamp the young junipers.

The oaks are almost all the English or Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, but in the literature concerned with making the Common a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) there is a claim that there are also some Sessile Oaks *Quercus petraea*. The English Oak is the most common on clay soils in the Midlands and the South and East of the country, while the sessile Oak dominates in the North and West. Both can grow to almost forty meters (130ft) when unpollarded. It is not easy to spot the difference between them, but this is the time of year when it is easiest because the acorns are prominent. The English Oak bears its acorns on peduncles or fine green stalks an inch or two long while the sessile Oak has them 'sessile'; that is growing close to the twig on stalks less than ½ Inch long. There are also differences in the leaves opposite to that of the acorns: those of the Sessile Oak are on short stalks while the leaves of the English Oak have almost no stalk. This difference is emphasised by the shape of the leaf itself. That of the English Oak has lobes which hide what stalk it has, while the leaf of the Sessile Oak tapers down to its stalk thus making the stalk more obvious.

We hope to resume our long (roughly 2 hour) FoNC walks in August, while observing all the relevant 'social distancing' requirements (subject to no late change to these). The first walk should have taken place by the time you read this. The Thursday morning working parties have similarly resumed – if you're interested in joining either of these activities please contact Ron Collins on 01494 562240. The Sunday working parties and short walks remain suspended for the time being, as (of course) do our other activities.

Chris Miller, Chairman.



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At the start of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy subsidies were paid to farmers for the quantity of food produced. That led inevitably to "wine lakes" and "beef mountains" because of over-production. The policy was then changed to what we have today, which is payments to farmers based upon the amount of land they cultivate. That has led to the wealthiest farmers being paid a great deal. Now, as the UK leaves the EU, we have to subsidise farmers ourselves instead of relying on payments from Brussels. What is being considered is payments based upon ecological aspects, such as making the countryside pretty, providing habitats for wildlife, etc. Subsidies to farmers are very important, amounting generally to half a farmer's income, so the government can easily influence farmers' behaviour.

But we have gone well away from encouraging food production, which fell from 78% of our needs in 1984 to about 60% today. We produced 70% of our fresh vegetables in the year 2000 and that had dropped to 53% in 2018. If we now pay subsidies to farmers based upon ecological factors one can only expect a further reduction in the amount of food we produce ourselves. Food self-sufficiency seems to have been completely abandoned as a national aim, which makes us increasingly vulnerable to dislocation in our food supplies from one cause or another. It is therefore increasingly important to grow your own if you can, in your garden or on an allotment.

How has 2020 been so far? We had no rain in February, March and April apart from a very heavy downpour early in April. The weather was fine throughout and we did not have damaging frosts. From early May onwards we have had very good growing conditions - warm sunny weather with periods of rain when needed. Therefore, a very good year for growing your own. Unfortunately

the weeds also found the growing conditions ideal and I have had great difficulty keeping on top of the weeds.

The muntjac deer have been a big problem on the Walter's Ash allotments this year. There is nothing more galling than to have planted out a nice row of broad bean plants only to find next day that they have been cropped down to the ground. Many plot holders have resorted to erecting fences round their crops as a defence. With the greatest reluctance I have followed suit and have chosen to fence off the entire centre of my allotment where I grow crops which the muntjac have on their menu. It is a simple fence of plastic netting about three feet high. It seems to work. I have suffered no damage since I erected it. Although the deer can clear a fence 8 feet high I find that they are lazy and will not make the effort to clear my barrier.

Good gardening!

Mike Mason

A DIAMOND WEDDING!

My sincere congratulations to Marlène and Mike Mason who celebrated their DIAMOND WEDDING on the 9th July 2020. Amongst all the congratulations they were delighted to receive a card from the Queen!

I loved this comment from Mike which I hope he will forgive me for sharing!! *"She is an angel for putting up with me for so long!!"* Mike, I am certain, sixty years on, Marlène wouldn't be without you! Definitely a diamond couple!

Sonia

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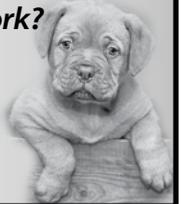
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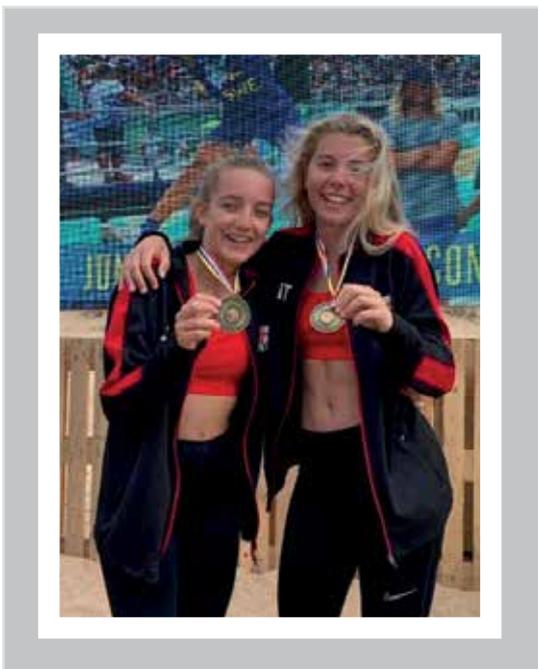
The “Shy Contributor” this month has got a story that you will actually want to read! Something we can be proud of as a village - and someone to watch in the future.

A young lady that lives in our road called Isabelle Tucker, at only fifteen years old, is rising to stardom in the sport of beach volleyball.

A sport about which I knew nothing when she moved in a few years ago, but now follow with interest – I have watched it locally and it is a fantastic spectator sport, very fast and exciting!

After spending three plus years in America, she returned to spend a short time in year 6 at Naphill and Walters Ash School before moving to Wycombe High School. In September she will join Year 12.

Isabelle has played indoor volleyball for six years, and has also enjoyed beach volleyball for the last four years. She decided to focus seriously on beach volleyball in the last two years: gaining her first England cap in 2018 with her partner Saskia (Oxford) by achieving second place in the Home Nations tournament in Cardiff, Wales and then together with Saskia went on to win in August the same year the European U19 Small Nations Championship in Edinburgh. All this as a very young teenager!



With her Partner Lisa (from Richmond) they were:

- 2017 U14 and U16 national champions.
- 2018 U16 (2nd) and U18 champion.

- 2019 they were U16 champion as well as achieving 2nd place in the U18! – This partnership lead them to win a bronze medal in the Northern European U17 Championships in 2019 - pretty good for someone only 14 years old!

I proudly write that it has just been announced that **Isabelle** and her 2020 England partner **Katie** from (Richmond, London) have been selected to **represent England** (Covid permitting-fingers crossed!) in **U20 European Championships** taking place in Brno, in the Czech Republic on 9th-13th September 2020 and **U18 European Championships** taking place in Izmir, in Turkey on 16th – 20th September 2020.

This young Lady is obviously very talented, nothing can detract from that BUT none of it could happen without a massive amount of support from her family. Her Mum and Dad are constantly in the car travelling to various practice venues around the country, this is every weekend during the season plus an evening a week going to Oxford to be with the English team! Isabelle has a younger sister Zoe who also plays volleyball and has recently joined the England national programme. I have seen her play, she's not so “Dusty” either! The girls belong to The South Bucks Volleyball Club (High Wycombe). This club was founded by Isabelle's parents to support youth volleyball in the area. They are currently working with Wycombe High School, hopefully to have beach volleyball courts constructed on the school grounds to encourage a healthy outdoor alternative for fitness and exercise.

Sometimes you will find Isabelle playing with her friends and family on the Crick – if you do pause and watch, go over and say Hi! because new members are always welcome and “guys” this includes you! – It is not a soft “girly” sport but a fast athletic one that requires plenty of physical strength!

The Shy Contributor





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What an amazing month August has been, and I can honestly say I do not know where the time is going, after 3 months closed and a very busy 2 months the year just seems to be vanishing! I am so grateful that the sun has been shining on us all and it's been great to see everyone enjoying the beer garden or on some days being inside as it's been too hot. We are so grateful for your continued support and are currently working on plans for the winter months, as we do not want you to forget us.

Mark and I would like to take this opportunity in welcoming Tanya and Jon and their team to The Black Lion and we are looking forward to be working with them in the village, and to at least join them for a drink or two once things settle down.

We would like to apologise for the confusion on the government scheme 'Eat Out to Help Out'. We had decided that we would not take part, however Greene King who we rent the pub from put all their pubs on the scheme which we hadn't realised, I did try and get the government to take us off the site. So, we apologise again for the confusion.

Life at The Wheel is slowly getting back to some normality as our opening times are almost back to normal, and please remember if you want a table

inside it is advisable to book for both drinks and food. (See opening hours below)

I am pleased to also let you know our Traditional Sunday Roasts are back with all the trimmings and our amazing fresh vegetables, we have also started the Pizza's. The Pizza's are a Stonebake base and are 12" so are great for a sharer, to eat in or even takeaway. As we are currently getting used to cooking them and with how busy we have been they are subject to availability, and the times we are offering them may vary.

I cannot believe that when this Gazette is read, in theory the schools and universities will be preparing to go back! Assuming all this goes ahead, and we're not closed again, we will have a few staff changes as our Uni students leave. They have been amazing over the last 2 months and we cannot thank them enough! We will introduce our new family members in the next gazette.

Once again thank you to our staff and customers and hope to see your continued support when the weather changes.

Mark and Claire and Team

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Black Lion open Under New Management!



First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone for the incredible support we have received from the local community – we are overwhelmed by the amount of well wishes and great feedback we have received so far. We would also like to thank our friends, family and wonderful team for helping us open the Black Lion quickly and smoothly.

To introduce ourselves, we are Tanya and Jon Murray, a husband and wife duo! Collectively we have over 30 years experience in the hospitality industry but more importantly a vast local knowledge having been brought up in Chinnor and Naphill itself. We also run The Squirrel in Booker which is currently the Number 1 Pub in the county on TripAdvisor and has recently been awarded a Travellers Choice Award. We pride ourselves on producing incredible fresh locally sourced food and delivering fantastic service, we provide a family friendly environment as well as a great evening vibe to enjoy our wide product range. These are all things we intend to replicate at The Black Lion whilst acknowledging the differences and needs of the local community.

It is hugely important to us that we create a fun, friendly and safe place to be where you feel comfortable bringing your family, friends or children alike. Those of you that have met us will know that we are currently expecting another baby at the end of September. With our ever-growing family, we understand the importance of having somewhere we can go to relax where we know our children are safe and happy.

Obviously current conditions are not the most ideal to be opening a pub, however we have implemented appropriate provisions, operational policies and procedures to keep our valued customers and team safe. We have a one-way system including an in / out route, drinks collection point and traffic lighted one in one out toilet system as well as also having sanitising stations available at the pub entrance and outside the Toilets by the Pub exit. We have followed a strict risk assessment policy that includes staff temperature checks for every shift and additional sanitizing of everything (including ourselves). As with everything our team are fully trained on this. The tables inside have been carefully placed to allow for the 1m+ social distancing measures so we are able to offer inside and outside dining. To comply with government guidelines, we do ask that everyone who visits registers with us by using our website form that can be found at www.theblacklionnaphill.co.uk/register - this can be done in advance of your visit.

Again, we would like to thank our team for their efforts so far, we are very lucky to have an amazing team who go above and beyond for us. We are also pleased to announce that another amazing chef has just joined our team so watch this space for the launch of our all new Black Lion menu!

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Tanya & Jon

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Farewell to our Yr.6 pupils as they move on to SECONDARY school!

My Last Day Of Primary School - Naphill's 2020 Leavers

Back in March, we all felt incredibly sad when our class heard that Year 6 could not go on our week-long residential trip to an outdoor adventure camp in Wales this year.

When we were in year five, I remember looking at the pictures in the school hall of everyone in the year above being there at Rhos y Gwaliau and one of my friends said "When we go there we will have so much fun" but we were due to leave the very weekend after the schools were closed because of Covid 19.

Then the schools remained shut and we realised that actually we were going to miss out on everything else too. In the Summer term we would have had amazing experiences to finish our primary school days, like the big Year 6 drama production and this would definitely have been a massive highlight for most of us!! We all felt like we had been robbed of all the great experiences that every other Year 6 in the school before us had and I guess a lot of us took a long time to get over that because it was a really sad time.

We missed out on other experiences like a year group trip to Hazard Alley, the Year 6 sports event and the Awards Presentations (we watched a video but it was sad that we couldn't be there in person) and lots of other nice experiences with the teachers and our classmates to finish up primary school.

But the past is the past, so now we all have to move straight on to secondary school - such a huge change for us! Now I'm quite sad that I have to leave my brilliant primary school that I loved where I was a senior and now I will be back to being a junior in a much, much bigger school, much further away from where I live.

I know that I am not alone and there are other people just like me in this same situation, feeling like it will be a whole new world full of new things and new people, but it's fine and I'm looking forward to it.

It was nice to go back to the school for a few weeks in our small bubble groups and at least see all the faces again before it all ended. What really made the end of primary school so special for us was the bag of personalised surprises that our teacher gave to us and the big year group collage picture that the school organised with our parents and the AMAZING surprise of getting clapped out of the school and all the way down to the Crick for the traditional Year 6 Leavers Picnic. We did not know that it was going to happen like that, as all our parents and teachers and people in the village kept it a secret from us - wow, it made us feel so special!

We were all super hot (especially those still wearing their 2020 Leavers hoodies!) and emotional anyway and then we were all so blown away by everyone who came out to the main road and clapped us as we went past or honked their car horns. There were lovely chalk messages written on the path for us to read on our way and some people had even made encouraging signs to hold up and loads of our families were waiting by the village hall to whoop and clap as we arrived and it was magical. That made the 2020 leavers walk so incredible and we will remember it forever. Thank you everybody!

So farewell Naphill, please stay safe and have a great day!!

Sam Sillars





My Last Day Of Primary School - Naphill's 2020 Leavers

Life slowly started to return back to some sense of normality when we were finally allowed to go back to school on Tuesday 2nd June. I always thought it would be great fun to stay at home and not go into school for months on end but the reality of the situation was not as exciting as I thought it would be. I missed my friends so much, I missed the teachers and I missed learning in a school environment. I was nervous, excited, apprehensive and happy all at the same time. I knew that school would be different post covid, not all my friends would be coming back and the rules in school would take some getting used to, but I couldn't wait to go back.

The school had staggered start and end times to adhere to social distancing, I was in group A, we started at 8.30 and finished at 2.15. We had to enter and leave school via the driveway instead of the main school playground, Mrs Lavender met us every day with a vast array of jokes and a huge smile which instantly put us at ease. Miss Allnut was my new class teacher and I was in a group of 10 children so it was easy to stay 2m apart in class. We had to remember to wash our hands (lots) follow the guideline given and the new routines in school.

We did lots of learning as well as fun stuff like being able to watch a movie while we had lunch and dancing to get us all moving in class. The school also started to prepare us for our transition to secondary school by reading from " Be Awesome, go Big " and encouraging us to talk about our hopes and fears for moving schools.

We missed out on lots of activities but the school made sure that our final year did not pass by unnoticed, they made sure to include as many normal activities such as shirt signing in the school hall and a year 6 photo montage, as well as a socially distanced picnic on the school field and a water fight which was great fun, a talent show as well as lots of lovely treats and gifts.

On the last day of school we received our school hoodies which were amazing, as well as everyone's names being on the back down one arm were printed the words " we stayed at home and saved the world " with a rainbow motif, these were organised by my mum and printed by Rowan at Red Oak Roller. When we left school all the staff came to cheer and wave us on but what was totally unexpected was that lots of the village including the nursery on the school site stood outside to cheer and clap us all the way to the crick. It was all very emotional and something that I will never, ever forget, thank you to everyone in the village who gave up their time for us and showed us just how much we were all loved on our last journey together.

We had an amazing time at the crick, playing and chatting with our friends, we also received sweets that were supplied by Emma Lonsdale at Tempting Treats and Kim Rhymer, thank you for these it ensured we all left the crick on a total sugar high.

Lana Hartstone

Thank you !

On behalf of the parents and guardians of the yr.6 children, I should like to thank all the staff of the Naphill and Walter's Ash School who worked so hard to organise the five bubbles for the year 6 children and give to them such a good send off! The staff arranged shirt signing, a year group photo, picnic, water fight, talent show, movies, lots of treats and gifts to make sure that the children left the school with lots of happy memories.

Thanks also to Rowan from Red Oak Roller who managed to design, print, package and send the hoodies to me within 10 working days. and to Emma Lonsdale from Tempting Treats Sweet Cart who made packets of sweets for the children to have at the crick.

Lucy Hartstone



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Hughenden School say "So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye" to their yr.6 pupils

The only thing you can be certain of in life is, of course, change. Truer words could not be uttered of 2020. As another academic year drew to a close, pupils, parents and teachers gathered two metres apart to commiserate on lost opportunities, commemorate everyone's efforts and celebrate their time together.

Sat in the sun, the Hughenden Primary School community congregated on the school field to celebrate the graduating of the 2020 Year 6 pupils. As the memories from the past 6 years flowed from the students, smiles broadened and laughs lifted up into the sky.

For these Year 6 leavers, the world will look forever different following their final year. But the new normal in which they now stride towards, will be one in which they are more resilient, more respectful and more ready to react to the everchanging world in which they live.

As the Leavers ceremony drew to a close, the children sang their leavers song to the famous backing track used in the



American sitcom Friends by the band The Rembrandts. Their final verse echoing across the field and down the valley, 'We'll remember you, we'll remember you, we'll remember you, please remember us too!'

J. Meatyard

Bon Ami

Thank you to all of our customers, old and new, who have supported us in recent difficult times with their afternoon tea orders. It has been great to see and meet so many of you and thank you for all of your positive comments. We really appreciate them.

We are continuing with afternoon teas in August; particularly over the last weekend when it will be our local virtual Fete. Why not treat your family and friends!

We do hope to be able to re-open, with COVID-19 restrictions in place, at the beginning of September. To keep up to date please watch our "Bon Ami" Facebook page or posters on our door & village hall notice board.

Thank you once again. Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Amanda & Ruth.



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Why Woke and Cancel culture could be the greatest danger of all.

Have you ever felt scared to speak up? Have you hidden your opinion for fear of being berated? It seems its more and more common these days with emotion driven topics dominating the media for years now – “I wouldn’t dare say anything”, “ its best not to get involved”, “it feels like no one agrees with me”.

In 1910 Thedore Roosevelt gave his famous “Man in the Arena” speech, arguably one of the finest speeches ever and an excellent read if you need a pep talk. Having recently reread it, its clear how like all good speeches the power in them resonates throughout time. The gist is that praise should be given to those who try and fail rather than to those who watch and comment. “The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again”

These days it seems all too common for an immediate shut down, people are afraid to speak for fear of saying the wrong thing, or people refuse to comment without having had a chance to have time for a measured

consulted approach. Of course, sometimes you should not speak in haste and will undoubtedly wish words could pop back in your mouth but surely to be “scared to speak” for fear of offending is far more dangerous. Debate is good, nuanced debate is better but sometimes just blithely discussing can also teach, open eyes and horrify. Any reaction is potentially positive even if it starts off in offence and our ability to speak without fear of making a mistake is important.

Mistakes are key to learning, we don’t give up when we try walking for the first time, we repeatedly crash down but our human nature wills us to keep trying – we have to keep talking and discussing and , yes, sometimes say the wrong thing because no one is perfect and it’s an impossible ideal – we shouldn’t be afraid to strive for something for fear of something we may have said or done years ago. Mistakes can lead to great things and as Roosevelt said over a century ago “to judge a man merely by success, is an abhorrent wrong.”

Eleanor Coldwell

Letter from Bradenham Vicarage

As summer slides into autumn, the cycle of prayer and blessing that began with Plough Sunday in January and continued to Rogation Sunday in May now finds further expression in Lammas or Loaf Mass, traditionally celebrated on 1st August, followed by Harvest. The Coronavirus outbreak that saw lockdown begin on 24th March has driven a coach and horses through any form of ‘normal’ church celebration of most of these events, but the dates remain fixed in the pattern of worship and we do well to call them to mind. Such celebrations give us anchor points in our lives.

Lammas or ‘Loaf-mass’ is an English feast in origin, held as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. It is followed by Harvest. Traditionally, at both festivals, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. The loaf should ideally be baked by members of the congregation, using local produce wherever possible and may be used as the Eucharistic bread in the service.

It’s easy to think of these festivals as reaching back to an ancient society that lived close to the land. They do indeed have pre-Christian roots, involving the symbolic offering of bread and beer to the god and goddess of the harvest. Much of this is bound up with the need to provide food to sustain human life, and the accompanying sense of a proper humility before God as source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and responsibility in stewarding the resources of the earth.

When our ancestors lived, hundreds of years ago, the harvesting and processing of grain was crucial. If crops were left in the fields too long they spoiled, bread could not be baked and families would starve. Taking care of one’s crops meant the difference between life and death.

In our modern world, it was often easy to forget the trials and tribulations our ancestors had to endure. For us, if we needed a loaf of bread, we simply drove over to the nearest supermarket and bought some. If we ran out, we just got some more. The events of the past few months have seen the abundance we took for granted shaken to the core. Panic buying in the early days of the pandemic led to empty supermarket shelves and shortages of such basics as pasta, rice and flour. Quarantine restrictions and labour shortages led to more, often strange gaps on the shelves (remember lack of the Marmite?). Suddenly, we were not so far removed from the world our pre-industrial ancestors inhabited. In our comfortable, 21st century lives, it is good to take time to reflect on how fragile our communities are and how dependant we ultimately are on God’s favour and goodness towards each us. Festivals within the church’s year give us the opportunity to do this and acknowledge God’s presence and importance in our lives.

Rev Jenny Ellis
Associate Priest
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Naphill & Walter's Ash

SCARECROW FUNDRAISER ENTRY FORM



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Class

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Telephone No

I agree that the above details may be shared for the purposes of judging the competition only (tick box)



Naphill & Walter's Ash



SCARECROW FUNDRAISER

Raising funds for our Village Hall and the One Can Trust

Full Details for Naphill and Walter's Ash Scarecrow Fundraiser

A fun event for the whole community - design & make your own scarecrow from recycled items – a real or fictional character. Display it in your front garden as soon as it is ready for everyone to see with a notice saying which class you are entering.

There will be three classes with a prize for the most creative scarecrow in each class.

Classes are:

- Junior (primary school age or under)
- Adult
- Family

Closing date for entries is **MONDAY 24 AUGUST** and judging will take place over the bank holiday weekend 29th to 31st August when we hope you will walk around the village to see many fun and colourful scarecrows in people's gardens. There is a £5 entry fee for each scarecrow and no limit to the number of scarecrows you can build. Proceeds will be divided between Naphill Village Hall and the One Can Trust which is our local foodbank.

You can enter and donate online at naphillvillagehall.org.uk (we can claim gift aid on these donations so this would be preferred)

or

Complete the entry form on page 30 and place it in an envelope with the cash or cheque made payable to Naphill Village Hall and drop it off at either :
101 Main Road Naphill or Kate Cottage, or 252 Main Road (opposite Woodlands Drive.)

Data Protection Notice:

By entering you are giving us permission to share your name, address, entry class and contact details with the judges. We will not use these details for any other purpose than the competition and we will not retain them once the winners have been announced..



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From Our Wye Correspondent

Since my last article it would be fair to say that the housing market has exhibited a massive upturn and I have never been so busy. I would like to thank those of you who have entrusted your sales to your local agent and I am working hard to achieve sales in all areas of the market.

I have now been joined in the office by Heather on most mornings and on Saturdays. She has worked for the company for a while helping mainly on Saturdays but has now agreed to give us more help during the week. Please pop in and say hello if you are passing.

Now to important matters! Teddy our foster dog, whom many of you have recognised in the street, has come on leaps and bounds - literally. A bit of weight loss and some anti-inflammatories have done wonders for his back legs so we occasionally get a few lamb-like leaps and, frustratingly, he has decided that emptying my sleeper beds of soil is good fun. Mind you shovelling it all back in has done wonders for my weight loss!!

I have attached a picture of him on his birthday, not that we know it is his birthday but, hey, every dog has to have his day, so why not when he is living with us. The Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary has now found Teddy a lovely couple to adopt him and they have a nice big garden so he will be leaving us for pastures new next week. More importantly, the new owners passed my daughter's interrogation on just how much they will love him, although I do hope they're not precious over



their flower beds! I think these charities are brilliant for the work they do for animals in need.

I may have a picture of the great "Goodbye" for next month but more worryingly is that the scheming will no doubt start again in relation to our next house guest.

Alan Draper

Red Kites: Nice Or Nasty?

You have probably read some reports in the local press about red kites "attacking" pets and people, including children, in an attempt to get food. They are certainly getting increasingly bold in their relationship to us humans and when they see people holding something edible it seems that they occasionally swoop to grab it. Since they live largely by scavenging this is predictable behaviour as they get used to a close proximity with us. There can be little doubt that the widespread practice of feeding kites with various scraps – even holding tempting samples up for them to take – has contributed to their increased confidence.

It would be a great pity if this undesirable behaviour leads to people fearing these beautiful birds and even to their being persecuted. The official advice from the Chiltern Conservation Board is as follows:-

'Red kites can survive well in the Chilterns without artificial feeding, so it is not necessary to supplement their diet. It is acknowledged that feeding has helped the local re-introduced kite population to increase

more rapidly than it might otherwise have done and has kept the population at a level that chicks can be re-located to other parts of the country. However, it is feared that providing too much additional food can prevent the population from spreading naturally and cause the birds to cluster in large numbers where food is offered. The Chilterns Conservation Board urges the public not to feed red kites. We believe they should be left to feed naturally in the wider countryside, thus enabling them to find a naturally sustainable level! <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/about-chilterns/red-kites/red-kite-faqs.html#Q9>

In brief, the population of red kites in the Chilterns is too dense and it will benefit both them and us if we stop feeding them. They will then disperse more widely over the country and be less over-familiar with their human neighbours. This will produce a more natural relationship and allow us to enjoy their grace and beauty without fear of undesirable behaviour.

Chris Miller



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Shear Madness

Although it's been a very strange year I think it's gone quickly, September is here already. Hopefully the kids can go back to school and give those poor parents a very deserved break. I take my hat off to you all for trying homeschooling. I know I would be useless at helping! For the kids too, in what must have been a very scary time, WELL DONE!

Again it's sad to hear that Bruce and Don have passed away, I shall miss them both.

Hopefully Nichola will let us into Scotland so fingers crossed I will be closed for a week from 14th September and back on the 21st. I'm really looking forward to it as we are reliving my sons best holiday ever ! Bless him he's been to all of these amazing countries but Scotland for him holds the most special memories so a week with mum and dad and my husband, son and his girlfriend and I'm looking forward to bonding again "in person" with my loved ones and you never know I might even see Nessie.

Things at the shop have now settled and the boys are getting the hang of appointments, I'm secretly very impressed but don't tell them, our secret. Back to normal is good even if it is still strange but I've got used to the PPE I have to wear and the visor is ok, so onwards and upwards. I wanted to reassure the vulnerable that the cleaning routine is tiptop, you would think that goes without saying but I have been horrified at the lack of PPE or in some cases, no PPE at all in some barbers in town. Please make sure your loved ones are safe, wherever they go for a haircut, we've come this far let's not ruin it now.

Just a little footnote as you have been asking me, I've just had my first year all clear from my breast cancer so definitely a time to celebrate, thank you for your ongoing love and support it really does mean the world to me.

Love as always

Mandy x

News from RAF High Wycombe

Raksha Bandhan is a Sanskrit word and made of two words "Raksha" meaning Safety and "Bandhan" meaning Bond. The festival is to mark the brother and sister's relationship (but not exclusively) respecting sister's love, affection and protection (in the form of her prayers and well wishes) towards her brother and brother's love and responsibilities towards the sister. This is symbolised or manifested by, sister tying a Rakhi (amulet) as Rakshabandhan(knot of safety) around the brother's wrist and in return brother gives a gift. In India, this festival is not only celebrated amongst the Hindus but by all other faiths too.



After the Station Commander's welcome address Pandit Krishan Attri, Hindu Priest started the ceremony with the prayer in Sanskrit followed by translation and explanation in English.

Practising the social distancing norms the Rakhi and the gifts were exchanged amongst the sisters and brothers from the service and local community.

Members of Defence Hindu Network including representatives Sqn Ldr Amir Khan of Muslim and WO Balbir Singh Flora of Sikh communities were present.

Flt Lt Lesley-Anne Connor
Station Adjutant & MCO

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Naphill Tennis Club

It's never too late to play tennis! The good weather during the last few months has brought more people out and we have had several new members joining the club. One member, in his late seventies, started playing tennis for the first time during lockdown when he couldn't play his usual racquet sports.

The Children's Tennis Camp scheduled for the last week of August should have finished by the time you read this. Junior coaching on Friday evenings is continuing but places are limited.

Group coaching for adults is proving popular and individual lessons are available. For further information please contact our coach, Mel Burn, at melebbles@hotmail.com.

Some of our members have regularly turned out to help with court maintenance. One task has been to shore up a bank with wooden 'sleepers' whilst other volunteers have installed 3' high netting in places to keep out grass cuttings and leaves. It all helps to keep the courts in good condition for members to enjoy.

As with all sports, it's always a good idea to warm-up before a game. One of our members strongly believes this and almost takes his stretches to extremes!

For details of membership and our special rates for new members, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sarah Dengel, on 01494 563706 or sarah.dengel1@gmail.com or visit our website: www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk.

Jenny Tench

A Point of View

September seems to have come around very quickly and with it three quarters of the year has passed with much of it spent in "lockdown" because of the Covid pandemic currently enforced upon us. It has been and is, a very difficult period in which we now live and I cannot help thinking of those who live in our cities in the high tenement blocks with little or no green space around them. One cannot help but be thankful to live adjacent to such beautiful countryside. That is why I cannot understand those who dump litter without a thought of how it despoils the very thing that they would appear to enjoy. Rubbish dumping within the Chiltern countryside appears to have increased where more households have taken the enforced holiday period as an opportunity to "spring clean" their homes. Some have employed unregistered waste collectors, who quote lower prices but dump the rubbish collected in our countryside and not in licensed sites. Some can be traced back to the householder's address and they can be heavily fined for dumping. It pays to check the credentials of anyone offering to take away your rubbish at reduced prices.

The new Buckinghamshire Council has now got most of its committees formed and in place. Their first task will be to get their draft Constitutions approved and readers might wish to check out the county website to see if that proposed representation covers their particular interests. Constitutions are a dry and difficult documents to read but once they are adopted it is difficult to change them as I have found to my cost in the past.

Richard Pushman

Naphill Evening WI

Help is needed! All members have received a letter saying that our Committee need some help if we are to survive. Our lovely secretary, Carole, wishes to step down after doing her job admirably for several years.

Is there anyone that would consider giving the role a try, I wonder? There would be plenty of support from the rest of the Committee. You might be thinking why don't you do it. But, unfortunately, I am already secretary of another WI at Terriers. This allows me to tell you it can be quite a rewarding post but prevents me from actually taking it up.

The Committee continue to telephone members to

make sure we are all OK. Although now we are able to get out and about a bit more and meet friends, some of us, especially those with partners, have let them know that there is no need. I think this was Beryl's idea and would like to thank her as I know it was lovely to have a chat with different people each week.

I am hoping the Sew and Chat Group will try to meet up in my house/garden soon. There will be plenty of chat I am sure.

There is not much other news but, as always, keep safe.

Carol Gilliam

Mark Franklin

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Do not miss out on this special opportunity to meet and make new friends!

Following on from the success of The Discovering Art Group with their talk live from Kathmandu on Nepalese Art, we are offering you an opportunity to join our General Meeting for a taster session on Wednesday, September 23rd (2pm). Our guest speaker will be talking about 'The First Battle of St Albans 1455'. Alternatively, keep up to date with the latest information on Climate Change by joining the researcher from Westminster and Oxford Brookes Universities sharing the latest research on Air Pollution (2pm on 18th).

If you're new to us and like what you see and hear, you will then be invited to join the High Wycombe and District U3A. This gives you the opportunity of joining (currently on ZOOM during the pandemic) many of the 40 Groups offering new members a chance to share in their Group activities. Check out the Photography Group (10 am on 11th); experience our Discovering Science Group at 2pm on 4th September or 2pm on 2nd October); or come to appreciate William in our Enjoying Shakespeare Group (1.45pm on 28th September). These are just a few of the possibilities open to you.

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 Do not forget to mention topics that interest you.. You can check out all our activities, including those currently using Zoom, at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/highwycombe/events>.



Paul Gillam

Wycombe Photographic Society

September already.

I saw somewhere the other day that 2020 has only had three months - January, February, March, March, March, March, March, March - well it certainly feels that way with the only change being the weather which as I write this is very hot and humid.

In September we plan to continue with our fortnightly General Discussion Group sessions using Zoom and we start our new year off with our first round of competitions.

Competitions are not everything as we also have a guest speaker, using Zoom... what else... speaking about "Wildlife of the Chilterns"

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

Also have a look at our Facebook page, Wycombe Photographic Society, where you will see more photos taken by our members.

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

David Greenwood

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



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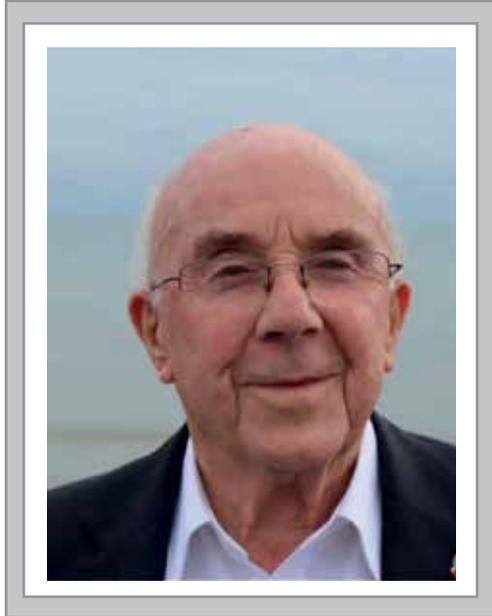
Mr Robert George Davis, our Dad, but known to all as Bob was born in Tottenham on 10th of December 1929. Despite living through the second world war in a part of London that suffered horrendous bombing raids, our dad enjoyed a very happy childhood.

One of our dad's first childhood memories was of his school teacher instructing the children of the rules they should follow if they heard the siren. If the siren went off whilst walking to school, they were always to run to whichever was the closer whether it be to school or home. In the hope that he would be closer to home and could skip school, he'd always do his best to walk as slowly as he could. He also recalled a daily paper round and a particular morning when he left home to discover that there was only half of the house opposite was left standing, with a bed still inside the remaining half of the bedroom with a picture still visible on the wall.

Despite living during these tough times, he always felt loved and protected by his Mum and Auntie and always talked fondly of his Mum Rosie and his dad Micky who was away serving in North Africa.

Dad's first job was as an assistant in a menswear shop which only lasted a short period before he joined Tottenham RDC as a clerk. This opportunity led him onto a career that lasted until his retirement at the age of 60. Dad was an extremely popular and well liked man working in local government in Sussex, the West Midlands, Slough, Maidenhead and High Wycombe.

Just after Dad had completed his national service in the late forties he took a week's break with a mate to Croyde Bay Holiday Camp in Devon. There he met the love of his life and future wife Hazel. Being the organiser of club entertainment and appearing to be a bit of a laugh, our mum soon fell for him and his rendition of Al Jolson's song, "Mammy". However, as he came from Tottenham and she Leicester, meeting would be difficult but not for Bob who frequently cycled the 120 mile journey.



Dad went through life helping others, from donating blood and plasma for many years, to obtaining grants for sports complexes and raising money at local fetes for community projects. Over the years he raised thousands of pounds all for the benefit of others and also reached over 100 blood donations for which he was honoured. He was also president of the Princes Risborough Bowls club and secretary of Naphill FC for a number of years.

Dad could be a bit of a comedian when he wanted to be and was proud of the fact that he knew and was aware of the workings of just about every speed camera in South Buckinghamshire, but was the only person who managed to get two speeding tickets within 10 minutes of each other on the same stretch of road. To our knowledge he also holds the record for being the oldest person (aged 81 at the time) to drive a quad bike through rough terrain in Bansko, Bulgaria. In fact a video was made promoting the service using dad's experience that day. He was generally up for anything and in particular liked challenges that would take him out of his comfort zone. He was always the first one to turn up in fancy dress for any party, he loved his quiz nights and socialising. He didn't have many vices and was always proud to tell people that he never had a fag in his life. However, loved his red wine and never refused a glass when offered.

Dad was our hero and adored by his daughters in law, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Even in his later years and dealing with dementia he was still looked upon as the head of family. He was happy, jokey and never stopped smiling, and was such a ray of sunshine. Everybody who knew him showed him nothing but respect. He was so loved by his family and has left a tremendous legacy. Bob will be very much missed by all.

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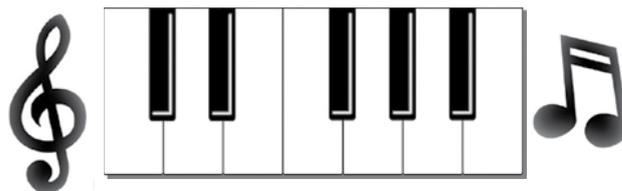


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A Message from Saint Michael's and All Angels Hughenden Vicarage

As I write these words in early August, we are in the middle of a heat wave in the UK. Daily we have grown accustomed to a diet of mixed news reports across the media, whilst some are enjoying meeting outside at a local café or in a pub garden to enjoy a half priced meal and drink, as we catch up with friends who we have only been able to greet at a distance, or wave to on Zoom for the past 5 months.

I am sure I am not alone in shaking my head in disbelief at times, as I witness how Cov-19 has impacted our world. Different nations have coped with the epidemic with varying degrees of success, and we are now experiencing perhaps the most challenging economic outlook in a generation, as job losses are announced in the thousands, beaches are crowded, high streets deserted, with no one quite sure what to expect around the next corner.

When I left school, just after my 18th birthday, and joined Barclays Bank, starting at the branch in Virginia Water, Surrey, I didn't give landing my first full-time job a great deal of thought. I do remember walking from the train station on my first day, feeling awkward, dressed in my first suit, but like many of my contemporaries at the time, there were lots of options open to me, and I was fed up of studying, so embarked instead on an 8 year career in banking.

What a different world for young adults leaving school, college or university in 2020. Jobs are as rare as hen's teeth, and not even a strong academic record guarantees you paid employment. Students who have been setting their sights on the next stage of their elevation into the world of employment, a mortgage, a car on HP and a last-minute skiing trip to Val d'Isere, are having to re-evaluate their expectations. It must feel as if the carpet has been pulled from under them.

In chapter 29 of the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah speaks the following words of hope during a time of crisis in exile for the Israelites:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

I commend these verses to you if you are experiencing hardship and an uncertain future at the moment, or you know someone close to you who is struggling. God knows our needs before the words are on our tongue, and from my own personal experience, I can testify that

a life placed into God's hands, in order that he might mould and equip our hearts and minds to become more like his Son Jesus Christ, is one which gives us hope and a future.

Dear Lord, we ask that you would fill the hearts of those who are experiencing despair, doubt and fear during these uncertain times. As they turn to you in prayer, may you give them hope and a future, help them to see the world through your eyes, and may they know your peace, and a sense of your presence beside them always, amen.

Rev Keith Johnson

CHURCH SERVICES HAVE RESUMED!

St Michael's & All Angels, Hughenden is reopening for Sunday worship with effect from 2 August 2020. In order to comply with government recommendations and guidelines from the Church of England, on a trial basis, we will be offering two services each Sunday - a 9am Traditional service and a 11am Contemporary service. Week one, the 9am will be Holy Communion, week two it will be the 11am and so on, alternating between the two services.

We will of course be maintaining social distancing, you will be directed to seating by our welcomers in church. Guidelines suggest we can accommodate 46 people at each service, so in order to manage numbers, and to avoid having to turn people away at the gate upon arrival because we are at capacity, we have set up a telephone booking service, which Lynn Brooks, our Parish Administrator will be managing, ring her to book your seats for church. Lynn can be reached on 07928 536543.

Our services will initially look and sound quite different to those we have been accustomed to at Hughenden. Sadly no singing is currently permitted in church, but we do hope to have some musicians on occasions for some services. For Communion services, we will be only offering bread to consume, in order to comply with the current guidelines. The service leader will give you helpful instructions at the start of each service, to hopefully answer any questions you might have, and allay any fears. Facemasks are advised please!

It is hoped that live streaming of Church services for those unable to attend in person will soon be available.

For all up to date information as circumstances dictate see www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Jane Tyrer

Hughenden Valley

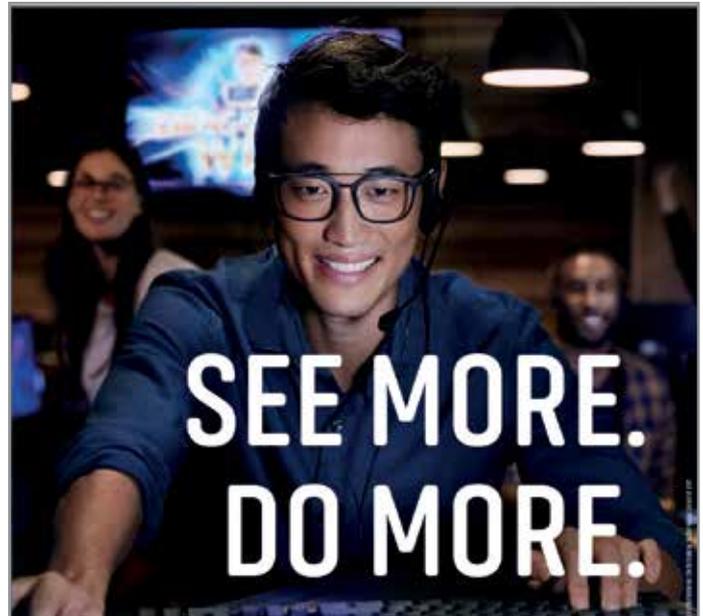
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A Message from Padre Lacey - 'Are we nearly there yet!?'

Anyone with children (or a friend or partner who is slightly impatient) will have heard the question 'are we nearly there yet?' multiple times on a long journey. Google maps with ETAs and traffic diversions help ... and even plot in service station stops for that answer to the cry, 'I need a wee'!

As we enter, whatever month it is now of COVID disruption, I want to cry out to whoever will listen, 'are we nearly there yet!?' I feel like a passenger without total grasp of the route, no concept of time and desperation to be at the destination! I don't want to be here, I want to be there, and there is no Google map to give an ETA or route plan! This isn't to say I'm not trusting the people taking us on this journey, I know there have been unknowns and route changes needed to navigate through this time...but this journey feels like a long one now, and, are we nearly there yet?

Journeying is not often the reason we go somewhere. When we go on summer holidays, for most of us, the journey is not an actual part of the holiday. It's a means to an end. But I've been challenged recently about how my attitude towards this journey through COVID, back to 'normality', is affecting my mood, outlook and interaction with others.

In church the other week we looked at the Israelites wandering in the desert after escaping Egypt. They were journeying to the promised land, and yet it took them ages to get there and there was a lot of complaining from them. But along this journey the Israelites learnt so much about themselves, their relationship with God and their reactions to external influences. And this has made me think about how I view journeys. Yes, this season we are in is dragging and it's got its sucky bits, but I'm challenging myself to not simply wish to be in the future, but to see what I can do to help the journey be more enjoyable and to grow in this process. To build up my patience muscle and to choose peace in the midst of worry... I'm not saying this is easy, but it's a journey within a journey, and as I grow, it's not a question of 'are we nearly there yet?' but 'am I ready to be there yet?'



Contact Padre Chrissie on:
christina.lacey102@mod.gov.uk
or 01494 494469

Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020

You will all be aware that historically there has always been a Service of Remembrance in the Naphill Village Hall, followed by the laying of wreaths on the Remembrance Stone.

I have held initial discussions with the RAF Padre Chrissie Lacey regarding what can be achieved this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected all of our lives.

Whilst the Village Hall remains closed and other restrictions are still in force, it is difficult to make plans for this year.

Various options are being discussed in order that our community can commemorate this special day in the national calendar.

The situation will be kept under constant review and an update will appear in next month's Gazette.

All the very best to you all during these difficult times.

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I'm writing this at the beginning of the second week in August, so I don't know what the weather is like as you read this, but I am sure you will remember the 30+ deg C temperatures and pictures in the tabloids of packed beaches in Bournemouth and Brighton.

I am pretty sure that Friday 7th August 2020 was billed as the hottest recorded day in the UK since 2004. We were planning to go on a hike in the Chilterns, followed by a picnic somewhere nice. After reviewing the forecast, some sanity kicked in. So we decided that some time on the water "messaging about in boats" would be a better idea. For this, we needed a boat.

Hobbs of Henley are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year. Founded by Henry Hobbs in 1870, they offer an extensive range of self-drive boats and river cruises. We opted for an hour hire of a four seater Pearly class launch at £43.50 an hour. We didn't book, but were able to hire a boat at 20 minutes notice. Not bad for the hottest day in 16 years.

There are plenty of sights to see from the water. Travelling upstream you will reach the weir and Marsh lock fairly quickly. There are a few eyots (islands in the middle of the river) that are home to properties with no vehicular access. One modest four bed bungalow is currently up for sale, don't ask the price. We turned our boat around and headed downstream, back to the town and on towards Temple Island, a fishing lodge, constructed in 1771 for Fawley Court.

At this point we turned around and headed back to town. Henley is a picturesque town, particularly from the water. I was channelling the spirit of Ratty and Mole from *The Wind in the Willows*, but was time to return the boat head to head out for our picnic.

However, if you want to go further you can press on past Hambleton Lock and get views of Danesfield

House at Medmenham. This place has an interesting history far too detailed to go into here. It is now a luxury hotel (George Clooney had his English wedding here), but in a previous life it has been headquarters to Carnation Foods and was requisitioned by the RAF in WW2 by the Reconnaissance and Photography Section for the interpretation of aerial photography.

Once you are done with the boating, get on the A4155 towards Reading. After about half a mile turn left into Mill Lane. Just past Henley Town FC there is a free carpark. Marsh Meadow and the riverside is just a 2 minute walk. Plenty of space to lay down a picnic blanket and soak up some sun. The kids can run around, kick a ball about, and let of some steam while you read a book or just chill out.

Mike Beckley
Chiltern Hills Arboriculture Ltd

Last Word

Having had a very generous page allowance over the last few issues of the Gazette, it really is back to the real world this month and working within the budget! SO to fit everything in, there has been some imaginative use of print size, several smaller photographs and posters plus a few items carried over until next month, for which I apologise! None the less, I hope you all enjoy this month's effort!

Welcome to Tanya and Jon at the Black Lion, I hope you are settling in up the road and I very much hope that you will continue to contribute to our publication on a regular basis.

Best wishes to you all,

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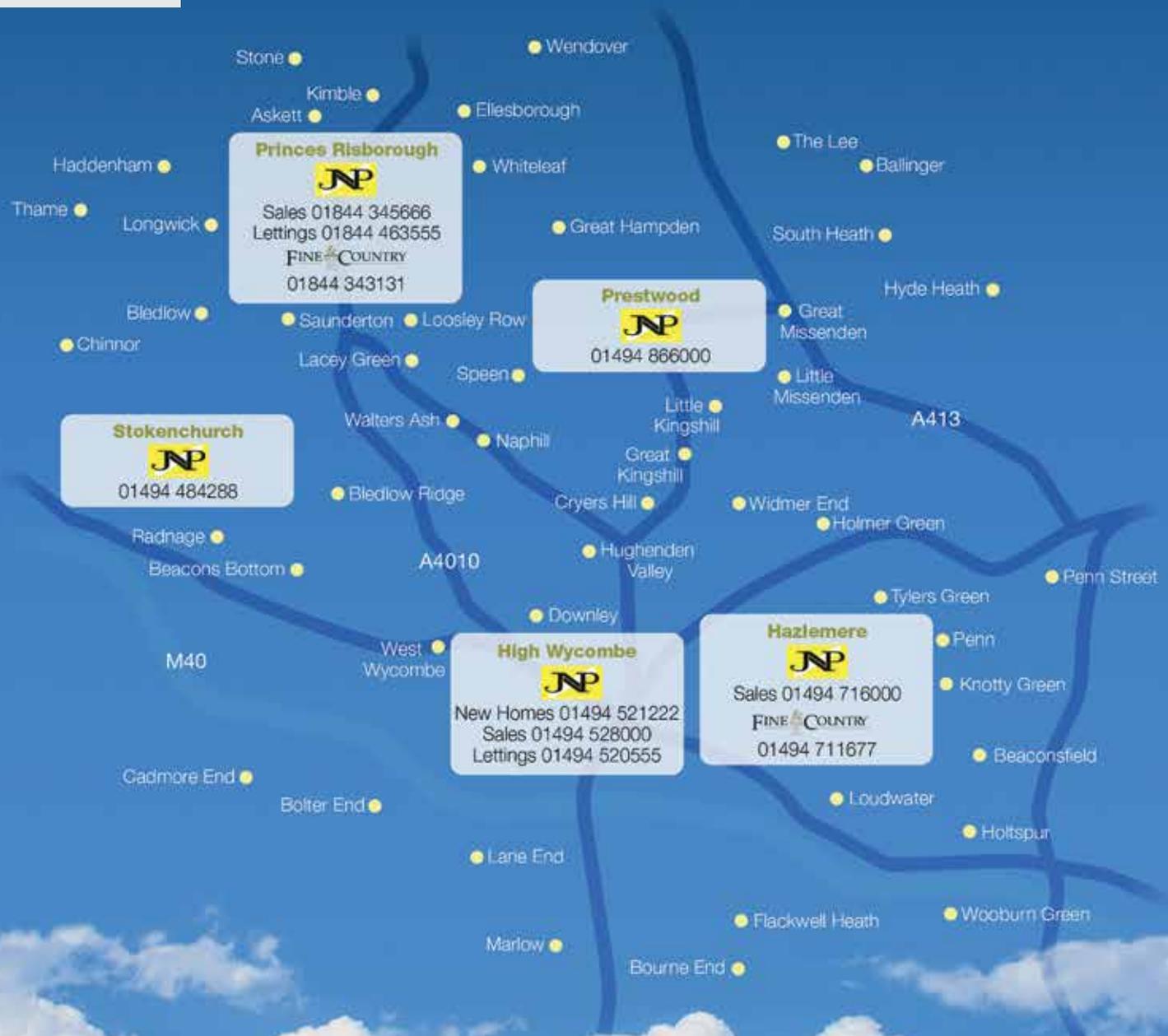


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