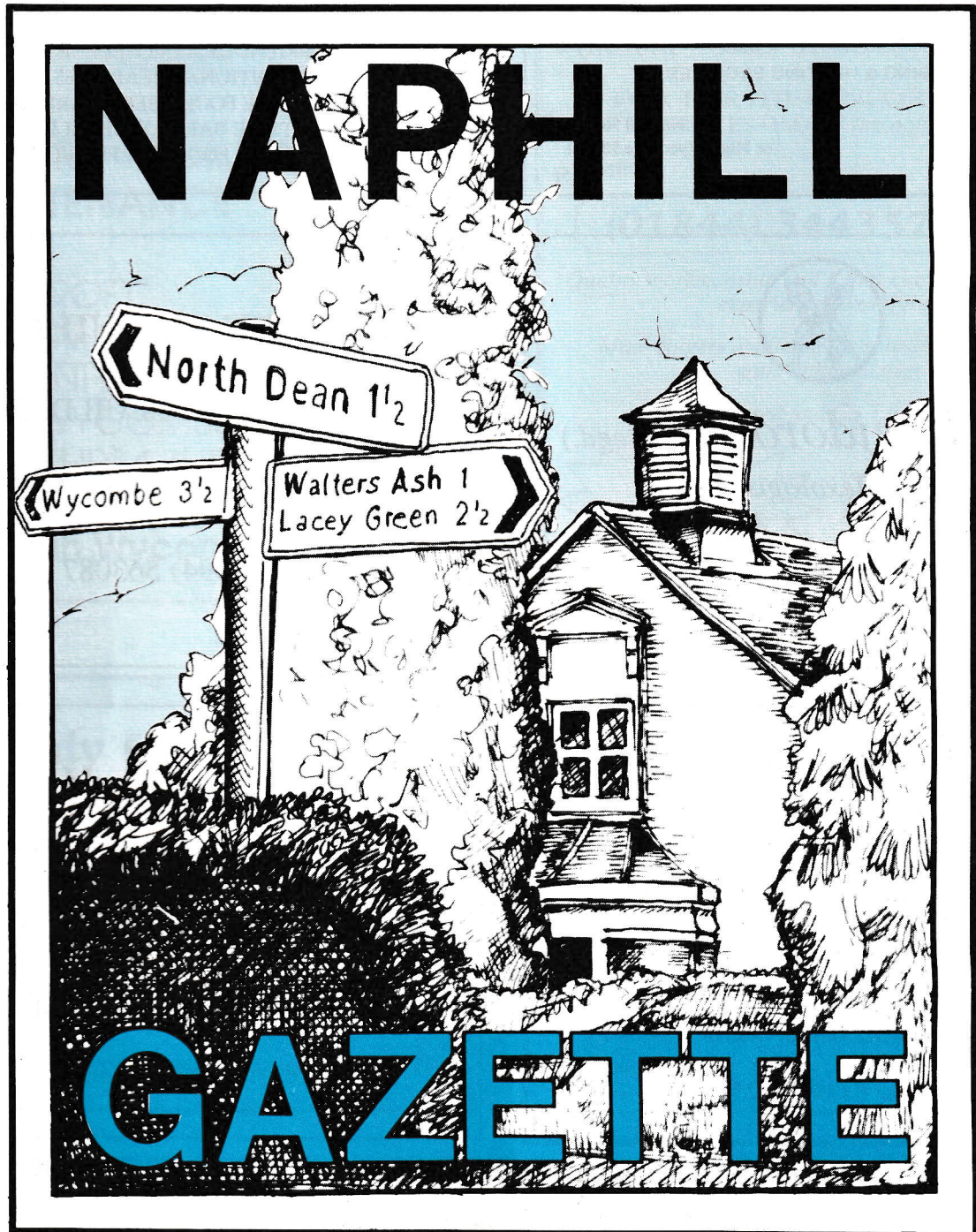


SEPT. 96.



NAPHILL GAZETTE 1996: No. 7: September 1996

Thank you to all the regular contributors for their articles etc: I was away almost up to the deadline date and am sorry not to have spoken to or seen those who dropped in their copy to me personally, but my "housesitter" (a currently- between -homes New Zealand friend) was most impressed by everyone's efforts and by the warmth and friendliness of Naphill villagers.

This month Lewis Stringfellow relinquishes his long-standing role as Treasurer: notwithstanding the demands of a busy job, he has been responsible for *The Gazette's* finances for a decade and he is to be congratulated on, and thanked for, all his hard work in keeping *The Gazette* "in the black". David Leith has kindly agreed to assume responsibility for the money side of things from now on.

Sheila Sellars

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NEXT ISSUE :October ie for events and activities up to and including the 31st of October



Please let Sheila Sellars have your copy as soon as possible but **no later than by the end of Sunday 15th September:** the editor cannot guarantee inclusion of material received after that date. Note: Although every effort will be made to print everyone's contributions as written, she does reserve the time-honoured right to edit as necessary, or to hold over items to subsequent issues.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE: (venue Village Hall/Crick unless noted otherwise: for full details see relevant article)

Saturday 7th	Naphill Horticultural Society: Autumn show
Sunday 8th	Naphill Football Tournament
Saturday 14th	Naphill Village Hall Council Jumble Sale
Sunday 15th	Nearly New Children's Clothes and Toys Sale in aid of Spring Valley Riding for the Disabled Group
Friday 20th	Naphill Pre-School Junior Disco
Saturday 21st	W.I. Jumble Sale
Thursday 26th	Annual meeting of parents at Naphill and Walters Ash School
Thursday 26th	Safety Session: Naphill Toddlers
Friday 27th	Total eclipse of the moon at Naphill
Saturday 28th	Conservatives' Jumble Sale

Naphill Village Hall Council Jumble Sale

on Saturday 14th September at 2pm

Jumble to hall on morning of sale or call D.Leek on tel:562602 to arrange collection

No furniture or electrical goods please

NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL: ORGANISATIONS' DIARY

(new entries in bold: please advise the editor of amendments/additions)

Art Group	Each Thursday	7.30pm
Ballet and Tap classes	Each Monday	4.00pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30pm
Child Health Clinic	First & Third Wednesday for 2 hours	2.00pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday each month	7.45pm
EXTEND Gentle Exercise class	Each Monday	2.00pm
*High Wycombe and District U3A	Fourth Wednesday each month	2.00pm
Keep-fit	Each Wednesday during term time	8.00pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday each month	12.30pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays for 1½ hours	3.00pm
Modern/Jazz and Tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15pm
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday each month	8.00pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday for 2 hours	2.00pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2.00pm
Playgroup	Each week, Monday to Friday	9.15am
Residents' Association	Second Thursday each month	8.00pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday each month	8.00pm

*For details of the U3A (University of the Third Age), contact John Town on tel:562409

For information re private lettings, contact Graham Wagner on 562206

VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL NOTES

No meeting in August but care and maintenance goes on. Redecorating is taking place in the Sports Club extension and steps are being taken to repair the seats and some of the equipment in the Children's Playground. On top of that, an inspection has revealed that there are many roof tiles that need replacing. All this costs money so it was a great relief to have good weather on our Fete Day when we raised about £5,000. A great effort by Andrew Wilmot and his team, the helpers, the participants and you, the money spenders.

The Tennis Club has asked if they might move the bar across the entrance to their end of the Crick, in order to provide a little more space for cars. They will finance this themselves. There is no intention of laying out a formal car park. Do you have any views on this? If you do, please let me have them, in writing so that they can be given consideration when the time comes!

I have one name to date for the Millennium Planning Committee. Is anyone else willing to join?

Don Turner, Chairman, tel:562645

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES: JULY

The meeting at Great Kingshill village hall on 5th July, to discuss the possibility of building a new hall on part of the allotment site, was well attended. Unfortunately I was away at a funeral so missed it. In the event there was a majority of 64 to 44 against the development. Such votes are not binding on the Council but are a valuable indication of public feeling. When the formal proposal came before the Parish Council on 16th July to consider in principle whether the Council should sell or lease part of the allotment site to the village hall committee there was another lively debate and the proposal was defeated with two in favour, five against and four abstaining.

Allotments, it seems, are enjoying a wave of popularity to the extent that there is a waiting list on some fields. The Council has adopted a "use it or lose it" policy and will be terminating tenancy agreements where allotments are uncultivated and there is a waiting list. The allotment field in Common Road, Great Kingshill is becoming a dumping ground and is to be tidied up and given a new gate. One module of the new computer program being purchased for the Clerk handles the paperwork needed for letting allotments and should result in a more efficient service. (I think this is a polite way of saying the bill will arrive earlier!)

The Council is introducing new procedures for parish organisations who wish to apply for a grant. The practice of making automatic grants will cease and any organisation seeking a grant will be asked to apply in writing and send a copy of the latest accounts. Those organisations who have previously received a grant should send a covering letter but organisations seeking a grant for the first time will be asked to fill in a form which is available from the Clerk. The Council makes provision in its budget for a reasonable level of grants but has to exercise due diligence when distributing the money. In the end of the day it comes from the Council Tax payers who fund the Parish Council's activities through the precept which you can see on separately identified on your Council Tax demand.

David Frost, tel:564466

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



The problem with taking a holiday is the amount of paperwork which accrues during one's absence. Whilst the District Council's committee system is largely in recess during August, paper is still produced and a six inch pile of A4 sheets and letters greeted me on my return. There has been insufficient time to read them all before the compilation of these notes so this month's comments will be selective.

Firstly, another Community Safety Forum, arranged by the police in conjunction with the District Council, took place in the Village Hall on Thursday 29th August.

The Western sector development, that is the area adjoining Bridge Street, has now been agreed. I understand that several stores have shown interest in the plans and hopefully Wycombe will get its much needed department store.

Plans have been submitted for an extension to Naphill and Walters Ash school to cater for an expected increase in numbers over the next five years. Any impact of the change in the age of transfer from 12 to 11 years will no doubt be compensated by the provision of nursery education.

Finally, I was sorry that Naphill's place amongst the finalists of the Best Kept Village competition did not end in success. There was a lack of clearly defined community care illustrated by litter around the Village Hall and the near obscene graffiti in the bus shelter.

Richard Pushman

**News in triplicate *News in triplicate *News in triplicate*

Congratulations to Sally and Robert Slade on the birth of their triplets, Harriet, Katrina and Jack on August 9th

BUCKINGHAM ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Volunteers are needed for the Outpatients Eye Clinic at Stoke Mandeville Hospital to provide information on various eye conditions and the services that are available to patients with a visual impairment. If you can spare a couple of hours and are interested, please contact Mrs. Maureen Matthews on 01296 87556.

NAPHILL W.I. EVENING



At the July meeting we were entertained by a clairvoyant - nothing spooky, just a mini-skirted lady who radiated happiness and fun. BUT she certainly surprised us with her accurate revelations. Choosing members at random, she described their aura and passed on messages from the spirit world, mentioning personal things, for example, a family joke about a crowded garage and problem curtains that would never close properly. All true. She also sensed that one member was moving house - true. There were probably sceptics amongst us, but she certainly left us wondering how?

There was no August meeting, but we had an evening walk, ending with a meal at the "Black Lion". There are plans for a trip to see "Les Miserables", which will be worthwhile, despite the long wait. There will be a Jumble Sale on 21st September at 2pm in the Village Hall.

Dorothy Butler

NAPHILL NEIGHBOURS

After the summer break the "autumn term" will start on 9th September with two speakers: their subject, "Old and New Coppers".

The President and Committee extend a warm welcome to all.

Margary Howland

OVER 60s CLUB

On July 12th we had our "bring and buy" afternoon and bingo session and so enjoyed Ron White's singing on the 26th, and we hope to hear him again soon.

After the summer break we meet again on September 6th when we will be entertained by the "Gracenotes", and have a "bring and buy" sale. On September 20th we have our Harvest Festival.

We meet in the Village Hall on alternate Fridays at 2pm and new members are always most welcome.

V. Graves

TENNIS CLUB



The Tennis Club is proposing to apply for a Lottery Grant to resurface the Courts and replace the outside netting. As part of this work it is planned to include an improvement in the small parking area by the entrance to the Crick by the Glebe.

Car parking plans have been submitted to the Village Hall Council and are being considered. (*See Village Hall Council report for details*).

Ian Leek, President

ADVERTISEMENT

Don't hibernate this autumn - get out and have some fun at Jilly's aerobics-body conditioning. Mondays 7.30pm at Hughenden First School. First session free. For queries call Jilly on tel:565412.

WHAT IS IT?

Question:- What's big, grey and has sixteen wheels?

Answer:- An elephant on roller skates.

Question:- What's big, yellow and has six wheels?

Answer:- A Buckinghamshire Mobile Library

Have you seen the yellow mobile library by the Village Hall at Naphill and wondered, what's it doing there? Can I go in it? Or what's inside?

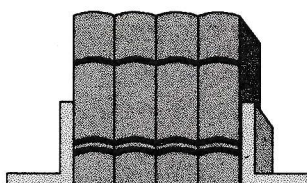
Well, the answer is that it is waiting for you. You are welcome to go and have a look as there is something inside for everyone.

If you have a Buckinghamshire library card you can borrow books, cassettes, compact discs, videos, magazines and children's items from the mobile library. There is a small charge for audio-visual items but books are free.

If you don't have a library card you can join on the mobile library (just bring along some identification). Its free to join for the first time.

Remember the mobile library visits Naphill from 3pm - 4.15pm every Wednesday and it's waiting for you.

For further details, please contact Amersham library on tel:724691.



WANSA

By the time you read this, we will be preparing for the new term at school and the summer holidays will be (almost) a dim and distant memory.

A very belated thanks to all the people who helped to make the Summer Fair such a great success. We raised a huge sum of money which will be put to good use by the school.

We have a number of things planned for the new term, including a Christmas Craft Fair on November 9th. If anyone would be willing to have a stall at this Fair, please call Elizabeth Charleston on 562262. We will also be looking for willing helpers to help on the day.

Grant Woodruff, Chairman of the School Governing Board, reminds us that there will be four vacancies for parent governors in the autumn. A letter will be circulated to all parents at the beginning of term giving them the details of the process. If more than four nominations are received, then there will be an election. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the school on 26th September. The meeting will also give parents the opportunity to consider the annual report from the governors.

Elizabeth Charleston

NAPHILL TODDLERS

Welcome to a new year for the Toddlers' Group. The following provides an idea of our activities for the term ahead. Further updates will be given in future issues of *The Gazette*.

5th September - The new term begins. All carers and under 5s are welcome, especially new babies born over the summer.

26th September - SAFETY DAY

A stimulating session run in conjunction with our Health Visitor, Caroline. We will be displaying the latest safety advice from retailers Boots and Mothercare.

There will be updates on vital First Aid procedures, practical demonstrations, quizzes and prizes.

Put this date in your diary now. Everyone is welcome, including mums-to-be, grandparents and non-members. If you are involved in any way in caring for young children this session is not to be missed.

Other diary dates:

17th October - Hat Sale - classic and wacky hats. Great ideas for some early Xmas shopping.

24th October - Half term - no meeting.

31st October - Our ever popular photographer, Anne Statham, will be attending the session to take individual/family portraits.

14th November - Dorling Kindersley books will be on sale. Superb Xmas shopping opportunity

19th December - Xmas party with Poppy the clown.

There will be other events slotted in so check *The Gazette* and Toddlers' noticeboard for the latest updates.

A quick reminder for those who have not been before. The Naphill Toddlers' Group meets every Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4pm at the Village Hall. We provide a range of toys and activities for babies and children under school age and a meeting place for their carers. Mums, dads, grandparents nannies etc are all welcome. For further information, please contact me.

Joanna Lane, tel 564557

NAPHILL PRE-SCHOOL



Yes! From September we will be known as Naphill Pre-school. This is to reflect the essential learning that takes place through planned activities at the group. It also recognises the fact that our umbrella organisation changed from the Pre-school Playgroup Association to the Pre-school Learning Alliance some time ago. It does not mean the end of play and fun through which much early learning takes place!

To publicise our name change and to show the local community what opportunities we offer, we held a very successful open morning. General information and our new brochure were available as well as lots of activities for children of all ages.

The morning was very well attended and guests included Betty Barrett and representatives from Social Services as well as Valerie Pushman who began the playgroup. Norma Clarke and Mary Harris, our Supervisor and Deputy were kept on their toes answering a stream of enquiries from prospective parents.

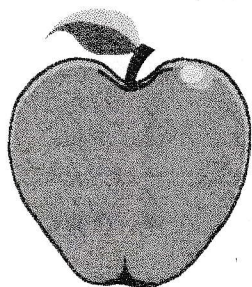
Our traditional Teddy Bear's picnic and walk through the woods took place on the last day of term and those walking their dogs on the common might have been surprised to see a group of real teddies having their picnic under the shade of a tree!

Plans for next term are well under way and will include a Junior Disco on September 20th. 6.00-7.30 pm for 4-6 year olds and 8.00-9.30 pm for 7-10 year olds. The cost will be £1.00 and £1.50 respectively. In addition our nearly new sale will take place on Saturday 19th of October.

We have a few vacancies left on some days next term, please contact Mary Harris (tel: 563117) if interested.

Clare Grasham

NAPHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



AUTUMN SHOW

2pm Saturday 7th September in Naphill Village Hall
Refreshments * Produce auction 4.30pm

Another chance to show off your prowess at growing and making around the house and garden. Show schedules are available at the Post Office and Bachelor's Hardware. I should be surprised if there is not at least one class you could enter. In any case, do come and have a look around in the afternoon if only to say "Mine's much better than that and that's won a prize".

Don Turner, tel:562645

VENTURE SCOUTS

Are you planning to have a "do" at home or in the Village Hall? Catering is no problem, but the thought of all the washing up to be done after a lovely meal is quite daunting. Well, help is at hand. The Venture Scout Group in our village will do the chore for you - willingly and cheerfully. All the youngsters require is a donation towards their fund. Please support your own Venture Scouts. If you require their services, please contact Nigel Clarke on tel:563116.

A satisfied "customer"

NAPHILL FETE : "YOU NAME IT, WE'VE GOT IT STALL"

As I mentioned in the July edition the response for items to sell was tremendous. I am sure that you will be pleased to know that your efforts produced a total sum of £515. There is one special piece still to be sold - a wooden shaft golf club (putter), obviously old - any offers?

The above sum was attained in about three hours. So particular thanks must go to those who worked extremely hard on the day, Pauline Flynn, Hazel and Ken Vickery and an unnamed gentleman, who saw we were being overwhelmed and pitched in to give us a hand.

Bob Davis, tel:563846

A Nearly New Sale of Children's Clothes and Toys and Baby Equipment

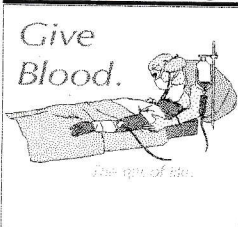
in aid of

Spring Valley Riding for the Disabled Group

on 15th September at Naphill Village Hall between 1- 3pm

If anyone has any items to sell (25% of proceeds to the Group and 75% to the seller), or who is willing to help on the day, please contact Sue Bird tel:562109

BLOOD DONORS



The session held in the Village Hall on 19th July produced a record number of attendances. 139 people turned out, which was 15 more than the previous highest figure.

The Oxford Blood Centre have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who attended. I can only reiterate those thanks for that truly amazing effort.

I am also very grateful for the help on the day from Vera and from my wife.

Bob Davies



NEWS FROM THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Planning: SN/96/06017/FUL Walters Ash Service Station, Main Rd., Walters Ash. Construction of extension sales building and conversion of car workshop into car wash. Objection to car wash until several questions are settled. These relate to impact on neighbourhood, including noise, lighting, interference with car access to adjacent shops and traffic implications, also doubt whether sufficient turning space allowed for vehicles approaching car wash. Although enlarged shop will increase competition with existing shops, this is not a planning consideration, so objection pointless. 96/06392/FUL 9 Main Road. Revised plan for porch, single storey and 2-storey extensions. DAL/96/06156/CONCG Refurbishment of Vulcan Block. Change of use to RAF station headquarters at New Road. (a) we hope that this will not result, sooner or later, in replacement 'single' accommodation being built as extra development in the AONB/Green Belt, (b) services hitherto provided from existing Station HQ on Site 1 will now be on a different site, so evaluation requested of traffic movement implications. SN/96/06191/FUL. Conservatory to rear at 10 Battingswood Gds, Naphill. DAL/96/06278/FUL Erection of conservatory at Kinkellas, 241 Main Rd., Walters Ash. DAL/96/06256/FUL Rose Cottage, Naphill Common. Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of new two storey rear extension and conservatory. This appears to infringe GB policy. SN/96/06407/FUL 9 Louches Lane, Naphill. Single storey side extension. JC/96/06322/FUL 14 Louches Lane. Single storey rear extension and detached garage. CC/96/06464/CONCC Naphill and Walters Ash School, extension to teaching accommodation.

In response to NAWARA objection to Central Railway proposals, we had helpful and supportive responses from MP David Lidington, The Chairman of Wycombe District Council and The Chiltern Conference AONB Officer, Steve Rodrick.

Highway matters: Bucks CC had an official on site within less than 24 hours of a complaint about an obscured 30mph sign at junction of Chapel Lane/Main Rd.

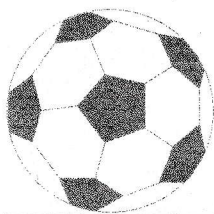
Edible Woodland Fungi. The walk and cookup will take place mid-October. All places are now booked, but if you are particularly interested, please leave your name on 563634 in case someone drops out. It will also give us some idea of the level of interest with a view to a repeat next year.

Candlelit Dinner/Dance. Saturday 16th November 1996, Naphill Village Hall. By popular request, music by the lively Late Edition Band in their slightly quieter mode. The usual excellent menu with a choice of three dishes, desserts and coffee. Price close to last year's will be printed next month. To book ring Joyce Tel: 562703.

Don Baker and Gloria Leflaive

NAPHILL FOOTBALL CLUB

Yes! We are back - but did we ever go away?



This season we will have four sides: three South Bucks League sides - under 12s, under 13s and under 14s - also a combined under 10s and 11s side playing regular friendlies. At the moment our under 14s are looking for a few more players. If you are interested, please phone Andy (865177) or myself. The Club is also looking for referees for the coming season.

The Crick will certainly provide lots of entertainment on Sundays so do come down and support the boys!

The serious stuff starts on 8th September when, along with the "Valley Rovers", we host the **Naphill Football Tournament:** Ten boys' sides, under 12s and under 13s, coming from Chesham, Marlow, Penn, Downley, Hughenden, Risborough and Loudwater. Also an exhibition game with our younger stars, eight and upwards, and a veterans' game for the older ones - over 40 and we are promised some older stars will show off their skills for this one! There will be a penalty competition and you can also test your "keep the ball up" skills. Side stalls include a tombola, teas, coffees, ices, sweets, barbecue (featuring our now famous bacon rolls) and most importantly **THE BAR WILL BE OPEN ALL DAY !** Matchday programmes are 50p with a lucky prize draw of a weekend for two at a country hotel! Last year's tournament was a super day out for the whole family so please come along and join us in making this year even bigger and better!

Bob Hathaway, tel: 563332

NAPHILL CUM BRADENHAM CONSERVATIVES

When you receive your Gazette in September, we shall have enjoyed our barbecue at "Blacksmiths", thanks to Ron and Pat Kirvan.

This month sees our Jumble Sale on Saturday September 28th in the Village Hall. If you have any jumble, please telephone Gill Hayes on 562765 to arrange collection or simply bring it to the hall on the morning of the event.

For your diary - our Christmas Party will again be at "Umtata" on 7th December, by kind permission of Richard and Valerie Pushman.

David Hayes

PERSONAL

Roy, Julie and family would like to thank all the people from the village who attended the Memorial Service for Mary at Amersham. Also a sincere thank you for the cards, donations and messages of sympathy. We are very grateful for your kindness and consideration.

Julie Arthur

TO BE TAKEN WITH A PINCH OF SALT

I am shocked to discover that I have written these pieces for nine years without once mentioning the Domesday Book. A proper local historian wouldn't ignore this earliest record to mention his locality. It's not that I haven't analysed Domesday and read a lot about it - I did this till my head spun when I was first educated in these matters some years ago. A contemporary record tells us that "At Gloucester at midwinter the King had deep speech with his counsellors and sent men all over England to find out what each landholder held". My research showed that academics have debated for 100 years without agreeing on how to interpret the vellum pages of Latin short-hand that resulted. The information was gathered to help William the Conqueror levy taxes and was used for this purpose long after his men collected it in 1086. Domesday identifies the holders of estates both before William won at Hastings and again after he had shared out the loot with his fellow-Normans. It talks about a unit of taxation called a "hide" which is the subject of much of the scholarly controversy. The detail given in describing manpower and other resources varies in different counties and historians also argue about how far it provides a literal description of things as they were 910 years ago. However the statistics do distinguish important places from the others and reveal interesting features in some of them.

Estates are generally identified by place names that we now know as parishes, and indeed many of them cover the whole of a parish. So there is no entry for Naphill, which is within Hughenden. This was a sort of middling estate assessed like High Wycombe at 10 hides, compared with 20 at West Wycombe and 2 at Bradenham. High Wycombe seems under-assessed since it had 40 villeins and land for 30 ploughs against Hughenden's 15 with 10 ploughs. West Wycombe somehow had twenty-four-and-a-half ploughs while Bradenham had two. Bradenham had no serfs, but Hughenden had 5 and High Wycombe 8. Hughenden had previously been held by Queen Edith, Edward the Confessor's wife, but William granted it to his brother, Odo, the brutal Bishop of Bayeux. At Hastings the bishop led his own knights into battle and reacted to the Pope's disapproval of priests shedding blood with a sword by swinging his mace instead. West Wycombe was held by the Bishop of Winchester both before and after, but a Norman replaced the Anglo-Saxon, Stigand, in the office. In 1086 Bradenham was held by Suarting and Herding who sound like a couple of Anglo-Saxons keeping their heads down to survive the Conquest.

Hughenden had woodland for 600 swine and I would guess that much of this was up here on our hill. This is how woods were measured and mention of swine is a particular feature of Chiltern estates. High Wycombe had 500 and the royal estate at Princes Risborough had woods for 1000 in what is now Loosley Row and Lacey Green. West Wycombe too had 1000 swine, presumably up at Downley and elsewhere on its borders, and it also had a fishery of 1000 eels - the conventional way of describing the fishponds that were a source of food in some manors. On the other hand swine are absent from the record for estates in the Vale, even for Haddenham with its 40 hides. Haddenham is one of only six places in Buckinghamshire where a church is recorded, whereas there are many more in other counties - so we can't say Hughenden didn't have one just because it isn't mentioned. The same may be true about the watermill at Hughenden which is recorded later but not in Domesday. High Wycombe had six mills and West Wycombe three.

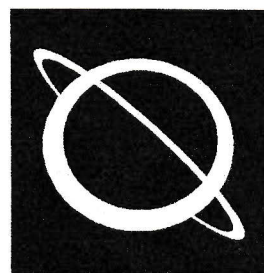
For real Domesday distinction in the neighbourhood, however, we look to Princes Risborough. There is quite a story behind the simple entry which translates as "A salter of Droitwich renders loads of salt". Salt was vital to the medieval economy since contemporary agriculture couldn't feed all the livestock throughout the winter months. Many were slaughtered in the Autumn and their meat salted to preserve it in storage. Some of the best salt available came from Droitwich and was distributed widely by ox-cart and pack-horse. Domesday records that 71 manors had the right to receive deliveries of salt in this way. Risborough is the remotest of these and it is thought that it was a trading point for the area. With all that pork to preserve in Hughenden our predecessors must have been good customers.

Rex Leaver



THE SEPTEMBER SKY IN NAPHILL AND WALTERS ASH

Our sun is only one of over 100,000 million stars in a vast spiral shaped star system known as the Galaxy or the Milky Way, which could be described as a huge discus with a much larger central bulge. The disk is about 100,000 light years in diameter and the thickness is about 3000 light years. The sun is about 30,000 light years from the centre and takes about 220 million years to revolve around the centre of the galaxy. This means that the sun has revolved round the Galaxy only 20 times since it was formed 4500 million years ago.



Although there are so many stars in the Galaxy, it is possible only to see about 2000 of them with the naked eye at any one time. The Milky Way can of course be seen from Naphill and appears as a fairly faint ring of light extending completely around the celestial sphere. When we see the Milky Way we are looking along the length of the disk as opposed to across its thickness. Unfortunately street lamp pollution makes it difficult to see its full beauty but with quite small binoculars it is immediately possible to view a much larger number of the constituent stars.

The Galaxy is not the only galaxy; in fact there are 1000s of millions of them but because they are so far away from us there is only one in the northern hemisphere which we can see with our naked eyes. It is sometimes known as the Andromeda spiral galaxy or M31 and can be found in the sky at about 65° above the eastern horizon at about midnight in the middle of the month and a little lower in the sky an hour earlier or at the beginning of the month at the same time. It appears to be a small hazy white patch of light when viewed with the naked eye. In fact it is even larger than our galaxy containing some 300 billion stars and a diameter of 200,000 light years. It is one of the local group of 30 or so galaxies and is about 2.2 million light years away from us. One way to find M31 is first to look for the W of Cassiopeia and to follow down the third stroke of the W about three times the length of the W stroke and then move your eyes towards the east for one length of the W stroke. For those who visit the southern hemisphere it is possible to see two external dwarf irregular galaxies in the local group with the naked eye and they are the Large and Small Magellanic clouds. They are our nearest galactic neighbours and look rather like island pieces of the Milky Way; they are about 160,000 and 200,000 light years away from us.

In the middle of September the sun rises at 6h 20m and sets at 19h 20m. The autumnal equinox is on 22 September and the nights become longer than the days. The moon is new on September 13 and there is a total eclipse to be seen from Naphill on September 27 when the shadow of the earth from the sun completely envelops the moon. The eclipse starts at 2h 12m and ends at 5h 36m with the total phase starting at 3h 19m and ending at 4h 29m. On September 9 the moon is at its apogee (the point in the elliptic orbit of the moon at which it is at its greatest distance from the earth) of 405,757 km and on September 24 at its perigee (the least distance) of 363,053 km. The apogee and perigee distances in the moon's orbit vary month by month and during 1996 the greatest apogee of 406,576 km and least perigee of 356,975 km occurred in July. The angular diameter of the moon varies between 0.49° and 0.56° at its apsides (the name given to the two points in the elliptic orbit of a planetary body at which it is at its greatest and least distances from the body about which it revolves) which is a variation of 14%. When the apogee coincides with full moon, which it did in January this year then the moon appears to be at its largest in the sky.

On September 3 in the early morning, a bright Venus is 3° south of a much dimmer Mars. During the last days of September Mercury might be seen low in the eastern sky at about half an hour before the sun rises. Jupiter is now a conspicuous evening object in the south-western sky.

Grant Woodruff

NAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday services: 10.30am

Thursday 5th September : 10am - 12 noon Friendly Coffee Morning

Sunday 22nd September : 10am Harvest Festival Service, followed by

12.30pm Harvest Lunch (tickets £3.50 adults; £1.75 children) contact

Michael Webb - tel 562046.

Towards 2000

Throughout the land thoughts are turning towards the turn of the millennium and ingenious ideas are arising for the celebration. At a recent meeting of our church members, inspiring plans were set in motion for our own "Vision 2000". It was proposed that an extension to the premises be constructed at the front of the church. This will provide a much-needed improvement to the entrance area and, it is hoped, an enhanced welcome to all. The exterior appearance will remain in keeping with the present architectural style.

All plans are, of course, subject to attaining official approval and to partial help from Methodist church central sources. We are very excited with this plan and it is acknowledged that four years of serious local fundraising will be involved. The aim is to have the work completed by the year 2000 and to celebrate the church's 150th Anniversary that year by cutting the red tape!

We offer our vision to God in Prayer and look forward with confidence to the coming of the next century.

Yours, *Bob Webster, senior steward*

NAPHILL FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

By the time you read this, most of you will already have had your summer holiday - or perhaps had one in the spring and are looking forward to an autumn break as well. Now although we usually go on holiday for only a week or two, we like to know quite a bit about where we are going and what it will be like once we get there. We frequently buy guidebooks and maps, or at least pick up any brochures we can find in the travel agents. If we are going to a foreign country we have many extra things to think about - passport, possibly visa, health insurance, traveller's cheques or foreign currency, time changes, vaccinations, climate, food. A lot of trouble for just a couple of weeks holiday? Well, yes, but we don't want to just go - hoping for the best, but not knowing how we are going to get there and what it's actually going to be like when we arrive, do we? Of course not!

Now, I find it rather surprising that most people take a great deal of time and effort, and often spend a lot of money, preparing for a holiday that is only going to last for a week or two, yet seldom seem to be particularly bothered about where they are going to spend the rest of eternity, once their earthly bodies have died. Despite the fact that, whereas holidays can be changed, postponed, or not even taken at all, physical death is the only absolute certain, definite, inevitable unavoidable end to which every single one of our lives is leading.

Are we like ostriches, believing that if we bury our heads in the sand the problem will go away? Are we relying on our occasional visit to church - Christmas, Easter and perhaps harvest festival - to act as some sort of heavenly insurance policy? Or do we have a personal, loving relationship with God, made possible (and only made possible) by our acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord? Only if it is the latter can we be sure that when the time comes, our passage to our destination will be certain and the destination itself will be "truly heavenly".

Your sincere friend,

Gregory Hargrove

HUGHENDEN PARISH CHURCH

Dear Friends,

St Michael and All Angels, in Hughenden Park, is the parish church for all except a few houses in Naphill, as well as much of Walter's Ash. Wedding services are a real celebration of something special, and a church wedding, a service of Holy Matrimony, (not "holy deadlock") is an occasion when we hope to involve God in all our hopes and expectations.... And seek His help for our commitment and future. You will not be surprised that many people from outside the parish ask for a wedding at St Michael's. This is not always possible, so I thought it would be helpful to publish the legal requirements that apply to church weddings, because there is now a widespread misunderstanding about "getting married wherever you want".

Weddings after banns: Any person who lives within the parish boundary is entitled to be married in Hughenden Parish Church, to a partner who lives within or without the parish, provided that neither of the parties involved has a previous spouse who is still living. Such marriages will be conducted after publishing banns of marriage. Only those who have British nationality can be married by banns. I have never conducted a marriage service for a divorcee whose previous partner is still alive. I do not see any likelihood of my doing so at Hughenden, although we sometimes offer a service of Blessing following a civil marriage. The only other situation in which a marriage after banns can be conducted is when both parties live outside the parish, and yet one, or both, are on the Church Electoral Roll. Anyone who lives inside the parish can opt to be a member of the electoral roll, but those living outside the parish can only be on it if they have been regular worshippers at the church for at least six months and then apply to the PCC for acceptance onto the roll. Such acceptance is not automatic and the PCC are unlikely to approve such applications to the electoral roll unless there are clear indications of a genuine involvement in the life of the church.

Weddings by special licence: To be married by an Archbishop's licence is a bit more costly than by banns. Occasionally, though rarely, there are good reasons why someone from outside the parish should be married here, but cannot qualify to have their banns called.

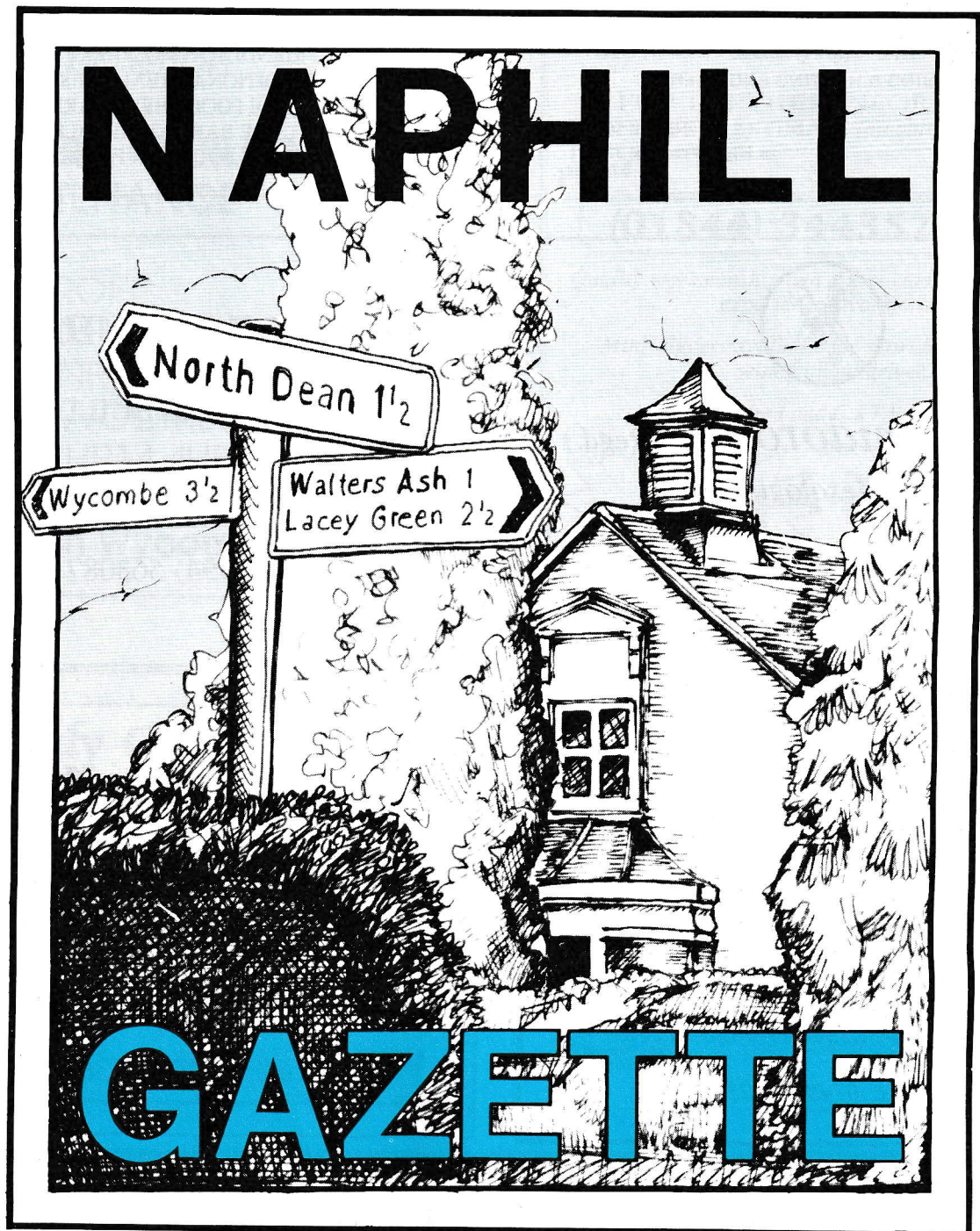
One case might be when the bride's parents live in the parish, but the bride has moved out permanently, into her own home. Another instance might be when a marriage has been booked, and then the parties involved have chosen, or been obliged e.g. through employment, to move away from the parish. In such cases it may be appropriate to apply for an Archbishop's licence, rather than to reorganise the wedding at another church. Again, parties to the marriage may be working abroad and so not be able to fulfil the residence requirements of banns, or you may be marrying someone who is not British.

Archbishops' licences are not automatically granted. The registrar must deem the reasons to be appropriate and applications have to be supported by letters from the vicar.

I look forward to conducting many weddings from Naphill in the years to come, so please get in touch if you are thinking of marriage or have any queries about church weddings.

Charles Overton

Nov. 96.



NAPHILL GAZETTE 1996: number 9 : NOVEMBER

A very full issue, so please read it carefully so as not to miss any of the many forthcoming events! *Sheila Sellars*

STOP PRESS!! * Village Hall Council Christmas Craft Fair at 1.30pm on Saturday 23rd*

Gazette contacts:

Editor: Sheila Sellars, Little Oaks, The Common, off Chapel Lane. Tel: 563670

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Treasurer: David Leith, Falcon's Oak, Forge Road, The Common. Tel:562312

*****Copy date for next issue: Friday 15th November *****

The next issue is the joint December /January issue i.e. for events and activities up to and including 31st January 1997, so please think ahead!

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL EVENTS AT A GLANCE: for full details see relevant article)

Note: This is compiled by the editor from events announced in this, or previous issues, of the Gazette.

Saturday 2nd	Naphill Fireworks
Saturday 9th	WANSA Craft Fayre
Sunday 10th	Remembrance Day Service
Friday 15th	Quiz Night
Saturday 16th	NCH Gala Concert
Monday 18th	WANSA AGM
Wednesday 20th	Naphill Common Committee AGM
Saturday 23rd	Village Hall Council Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday 30th	Hughenden Parish Church Christmas Bazaar and Auction

NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL: ORGANISATIONS' DIARY

(new entries in bold: please advise the editor of amendments/additions)

Art Group	Each Thursday	7.30pm
Ballet and Tap classes	Each Monday	4.00pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30pm
Child Health Clinic	First & Third Wednesday for 2 hours	2.00pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday each month	7.45pm
EXTEND Gentle Exercise class	Each Monday	2.00pm
High Wycombe and District U3A	Fourth Wednesday each month	2.00pm
Keep-fit	Each Wednesday during term time	8.00pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday each month	12.30pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays for 1½ hours	3.00pm
Modern/Jazz and Tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15pm
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday each month	8.00pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday for 2 hours	2.00pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2.00pm
Playgroup	Each week, Monday to Friday	9.15am
Residents' Association	Second Thursday each month	8.00pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday each month	8.00pm

For information re private lettings, contact Graham Wagner on 562206

◆ **VILLAGE GUY FAWKES** ◆

**Bonfire and Fireworks display
Saturday November 2nd, on the Crick**

**Larger display than ever before
bar * burgers* mulled wine* hot-dogs * soup**

Bonfire will be lit at 6.15pm and the fireworks will be at 7.15pm

***Advance tickets from local shops and pubs at £2.50 adults, £1 children 5 and over (under 5s free)
Tickets on the night £ 3 and £1.50***

Bonfire building: the six strong fireworks committee would welcome help in the days up to the event and on the Saturday from 9am in building the bonfire itself. (Wear stout shoes, gloves and old clothes!) Combustible (safe!) material for the bonfire can be dumped 3-4 metres from last year's patch - not on the pitches please. On the day it may be possible to collect wood, for a donation to funds of course (please telephone a committee member to arrange).

Thanks to our sponsors for helping make this such a wonderful evening for the village

Committee: Ian Brown 563830; John Harris 562099; David Hayes 562765; Clive Lawrence 653120; Mike Pool 564226; Andrew Wilmot 562770

VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL NOTES

The decision was taken not to increase the size of the space by the playground which could have been used to park a few more cars. The proposal put forward by the Tennis Club did have some support but the majority feeling was against it. It was appreciated that there was a parking problem when a football match was being played, but until we extend the main car park, as intended, we must make the most of what space is available and, if needs be, resort to on-the-road parking. It was suggested that the entrance should be closed to cars altogether by moving the bar across it: this we cannot do because it is necessary to provide access to the electricity sub-station at all times. We will however be making an entrance in the hedge for bikes and pushchairs, so that these can avoid having to weave their way through the parked cars. Greg Hargrove, the Evangelical Church minister, has kindly offered the use of the yellow parking bays outside the church, but NOT on Sunday mornings please.

The Village Hall Jumble Sale did very well and contributed a very useful amount to our much depleted coffers.

The Christmas Fair Committee are badly in need of some help and artistic guidance with the Grotto this year. Any offers would be much appreciated as soon as possible. Please contact Liz Stanley on tel:563603.

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 10th November. At the end of the wreath laying we have decided to dedicate the new cedar tree to the memory of Robert Clarke. This will include the unveiling of a plaque and a few words by the minister. Everyone who knew Rob or appreciated his efforts for this village will be welcome.

Don Turner, Chairman, tel:562645

POLICE REPORT

In response to requests for speed enforcement in the Naphill area, I, together with our traffic department, carried out a check on the Main Road, Naphill on Sunday 22nd September. The enforcement was carried out in the 30mph area. During this check I issued three tickets for speeding, the fastest recorded speed being 52mph. A number of motorists were given warnings. I was surprised however to find that half the motorists stopped were local people from Naphill!

For the month of September there were four reported crimes in the Naphill/Walters Ash area. These were as follows:- 1 burglary, 1 theft, 1 theft from a motor vehicle and 1 arson. At the present time the burglary rate in the village is very low, as is the crime rate. Please remain vigilant however and report to the police any suspicious incidents.

Lastly, reported in last month's *Gazette* was a speeding green motorcyclist. If anyone has any further information about this motorcyclist, please contact me on tel:465888.

WPC Jean Pittendrigh

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

My forecast that The Coppice path and roadway would be completed during October proved correct at long last! I am now told that the roadside path between Forge Road and the Village Hall will be resurfaced during this financial year. This path requires major engineering works to correct levels and cambers and the County Council has not got any money available for this work. However, a new top dressing will correct many of the holes and indentation and improve the surface for walkers and those using wheelchairs, prams etc. This work is long overdue and I am confident that the Highways Authority will keep their promise on this occasion.

Planning matters are always matters of concern and I was pleased to read in last month's *Gazette* the exhortation that anyone concerned about an application, whether for or against a development, should make their views known I writing to the planning office at Wycombe District Council Planning Applications Panel, which is the committee which makes the decision. It would be helpful if a copy of any letters could be sent to me so that I am fully aware of local opinion. The Planning Panel comprises 32 members. The meeting's agenda contains the officer's report and then members debate the application after which a vote is taken. During November a scheme of public participation is to be introduced for a trial period of six months. This will enable members of the public, who are objectors to the scheme, to address the Planning Panel for a total of three minutes before the debate takes place. All planning meetings are in public and are generally well attended. The next one is on the 6th November at 6.30pm.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are in the news again and are not always understood by the public. Many individual trees and groups of trees in Naphill and Walters Ash are subject to a TPO, including the large Christmas tree at the Village Hall. If any reader is unsure about a tree near to them, a quick call to me on tel:564152 or the District Council will readily ascertain if it is protected or not. Orders are usually placed on trees which make a scenic contribution to the area or which have visual impact on the local environment. There is a very substantial fine of up to £20,000 for any deliberate damage to a listed tree. Any remedial works undertaken without the approval of the planning office can result in a fine of up to £2,000. Any new resident would be well advised to check before taking a chain saw to a mature tree! Obviously any new TPO which is made is served on the owner of a property.

Richard Pushman

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES: OCTOBER

The main topic on the agenda for the October meeting was the proposal that the Parish Council should lease part of the Red Lion allotment field to the Great Kingshill Village Hall committee so they can use it for a new village hall. The committee is keen to seek millennium funding for the project and expects the Council to lease the land at a peppercorn rent. Feelings obviously run strongly as an unusually large number of parishioners attended the meeting. In the event the Council decided on a five to four majority to agree in principle to the project. Deals involving land always lead to divided views but I must admit to great unease when allotments, often the only green spaces in villages, are lost in this way. It is difficult to reconcile the demands of the larger number who may use the village hall with those of the smaller number who appreciate the opportunity to grow their vegetables on an allotment in the time honoured way. My own feelings in the matter are influenced by the fact that I can trace my family's use of allotments back to 1844 and I hope they will still be a feature of English life in another 150 years. On the plus side the Council is tidying up the Common Road allotment field which had been allowed to deteriorate whilst it was considered for sale to a developer. I hope it will be back in use as allotments next year.

Despite the ravages of myxomatosis and other unpleasant diseases spread by man to control rabbits they are flourishing in parts of the parish. Hatches Field in Great Kingshill has them in pest proportions and there must be some young lad in the area with a ferret who would enjoy keeping them under control in a humane way. Please contact the clerk if you are interested.

The road works at the foot of Cryer's Hill have caused most of us some inconvenience. It seems they have been delayed because the contractors have had to contend with 4 ft of concrete below the road surface. Apparently this is a relic of the days when the area was used by the army for tank training during the war. Perhaps some long standing resident could enlighten us about these activities of which I was totally unaware.

Security is a recurrent theme for the Council. We are currently without a Special Constable and if anyone would like to volunteer their services they should get in touch with Wycombe police station. Specials are a valuable addition to police resources but many people nowadays see the job as a stepping stone to a permanent police career. Perhaps some public spirited individual of more mature years with no aspirations to a full time police career would like to help. Rather like parish councillors, Specials are very much in the British tradition of getting (gifted) amateurs to do work in the local community.

At the next council meeting we shall be discussing the possibility of using private security firms to enhance the security of village halls. If you have views on this (or any other parish matter) please contact Sarah Bacon, Gloria Leflaive, Richard Pushman or myself.

David Frost, tel:564466

TENNIS CLUB: QUIZ NIGHT



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT: We would like to invite all the village organisations to enter a team (or two) in our "Quiz Night" at the Village Hall. The proceeds are to go to resurfacing and refencing the tennis courts.

Quiz Night :Friday 15th November at 7.30pm prompt

Teams of up to 8 members £6 per person, which includes supper

For tickets please contact Jan Curtis on tel:488416 or Helen Leek on 01628 890203

Ian Leek, President

NAPHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

Friday 1st November at 7.30pm for 8pm

Tickets £4.50

Free glass of wine and a good selection of cheeses, patés and salad are included in the ticket price.

This year's short talk will start at 8pm so don't be late!



Note: If anybody has any plants or bulbs or anything that could be sold at the Village Hall Christmas Fair on November 23rd, please let me have them at 174 Main Road.

Don Turner, tel:562645

NAPHILL NEIGHBOURS

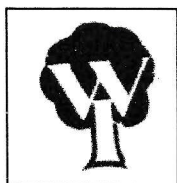
At the AGM of 1996 Mrs Lily Ellis, President, opened the meeting and the 1995 AGM minutes were read and approved. Jean Lawrence, Secretary, read her report for the year. There were 40 members and all meetings were well attended and the summer outing to the Field Garden was very successful. After very many years serving on the committee, Jean has now retired and was thanked by the President for what she had done. Lily Ellis also thanked the committee members for their support during her year in office. She agreed to stand again for the coming year. Jean Perfect is now a new committee member and Jan Dixon is the Treasurer, with Catherine Barker as Secretary. Trish Bowen thanked the President and her committee for making it a successful year and the AGM was then closed.

The game "Call My Bluff" was then played with Pat Smith and Jan Dixon as joint winners.

Reminder: Naphill Neighbours will be in charge of the Tombola at the November Bazaar and Jean Ward would appreciate small gifts etc for this stall. Please bring them along to the November meeting, which is on the 11th, when the speaker will be Mr G. Burnett on "Four Seasons".

Margary Howland

NAPHILL W.I. EVENING



At the September meeting the President welcomed Margaret Pearce who has rejoined. Mrs Lee, who is a collector of old china, talked about the pieces of china she had brought and had some interesting things to say about the many items that members had brought along. My own badly treated plate dated apparently from the 1700s but was worthless in that condition. The prize went to Joan Brough for her

attractive jug.

Tickets have been booked for "Les Miserables" on 7th February.

Several members enjoyed their daytrip to Boulogne, via Eurostar, arranged by the Bucks Federation.

Two members reported on their invitation to the Sands Valley Birthday Party, which they enjoyed.

Our November meeting will be "Fun with Flowers" by P Messenger and P Trunkfield, with a home-made Christmas card competition. In December we shall have our Christmas party with a table top decoration competition.

Dorothy Butler

OVER 60s CLUB

At our October meetings we had Peter Hurley entertain us on his guitar and mouth organ and later in the month the schoolchildren sang for us.

On November 1st we have a "banjo revival" and a bring-and-buy sale, and on the 15th Mrs Rose Miller will talk about her trip to Tonga.

V. Graves

NAPHILL TODDLERS



Firstly thank you to everyone who helped and attended Safety Day; particular thanks to our Health Visitor, Caroline Efford and her team, who made the day both informative and entertaining. Unfortunately no-one got all the quiz answers completely correct, although most of us came very close. It was particularly heartening to see lots of new Mums attend and we hope that you will visit us again soon. Our next special event is:

Afternoon tea/coffee and gift sale on Thursday 28th November at 2 - 4pm

A change of pace from our usual session with the emphasis on conversation, excellent cakes and pastries, plus luxury toiletries and pot-pourri gifts to purchase at very low prices. Those of you who attended last year will recall the high quality and value of the gifts and the delightful cakes.

Everyone is welcome, with or without toddlers and please bring along family and friends too. There will be some toys to amuse the toddlers but not our usual bikes etc. Please support this, one of our key fund-raising events.

Other key dates :

14th November : Dorling Kindersley books

19th December : Christmas party. This is always popular and Poppy the Clown comes with excellent references. Tickets will be on sale soon and Santa has already reserved his!

Pat Bull. Joint Chairman. tel: 563538

NAPHILL PRE-SCHOOL



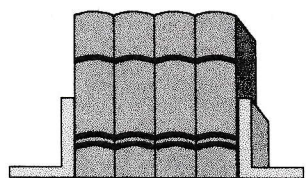
soon as possible.

The nearly new sale in October was the third fund-raising event we have held to raise funds for our Christmas party and activities. Two other events - the Chocoholics and the Junior disco both proved popular events - thank you to everyone involved. On the 5th November the photographer will be coming to take individual photographs of the children - always a good source of Christmas presents! After that it will be time to get out the tinsel and begin rehearsals for the Nativity!

If any readers have children aged two or over and would like to put their names down for a place at the Pre-School, please contact Mary Harris (Deputy Supervisor) as

Clare Grasham

THE GENEROSITY OF LOCAL FOLK: THE "HELP-YOURSELF" BOOKSTALL



May I through the pages of our ever popular *Gazette*, give the readers an up-date about the "help-yourself" bookstall, which I run from my garage?

The generosity of local folk, who donate books of every sort and who drop coins (and notes!) through my door has enabled me to take out an average of 500 books per week to charity shops in

Aylesbury * Beaconsfield * High Wycombe * Oxford

Princes Risborough * Thame * Tring * Wendover

I have also sent out the stated sums to the charities below since Easter Sunday :

The ME Association £25 * The Village Hall Fund £20 * Hearing Dogs For the Deaf £20

RAFA High Wycombe £25 * The Scan Appeal £25 * The Alzheimer's Association £25

SSAFA £25 * Great Ormond St Children's Hospital £25 * BLESMA £25

Imperial Cancer Research Fund £20 * Help the Aged £25 * The Diabetics Association £25

The STAR Children's Appeal £25 * RSPCA £25

YES - £335 and its still coming in!!

May I, on behalf of all the charities which benefit from this widespread generosity, thank all the good folk (95% of whom are anonymous givers) who make all this possible. I know that they will keep up the good work. For those who may not know how the bookstall works, all books are donated and none are priced; people are invited to take what they want and to leave what donations they wish to make. "*Undoubtedly the best bookstall in the country*", an American visitor remarked.

Finally may I add that between Easter Sunday and Christmas Day last year, the donations topped £400 - so it already looks likely that this year we will do even better!

Thank you all!

John Bullock, 157 Main Rd, tel:563429

THIS 'N' THAT

How harvest festivals have changed. My wife tells me there is no sheaf of corn nowadays and the gifts are mostly in tins or bottles. This is in no sense a criticism as I believe the recipients prefer it this way, and a sheaf would be difficult to get as the grain is safely tucked away long before the old date comes around. But I can remember a Rector of Bradenham announcing "All is safely gathered in" when a member called "Oh no it aint, there's a field of wheat grain rottin' at Small Dean Farm". This was serious for the farmer and on a large scale would be serious for the country. The weather played a big part in the harvest when I began farming in 1937. Oats, pronounced "wuts" were the most delicate crop and when my first crop was cut and standing in the field, I can remember Mr Frank Kimber of Church Farm, Hughenden, telling me "Remember, you must let them oats stand for three clear Sundays." He was a church warden, but most farmers would have given me the same advice. But I was always a sceptic and regarded the weather as more important. The real reason for the third Sunday was that this would be enough to confound the devil, who was still believed to play a large part in our daily lives. I was also told, after sowing oats on a Friday afternoon, "them wuts wunt do no good. That's bad luck to sow wuts on a Friday". Actually they did very well. Superstition dies very hard but I doubt if there is much left in farming.

Ron Piercy



NCH ACTION FOR CHILDREN

GALA CONCERT ON SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

The second gala concert in aid of the NCH Action for Children will be held on Saturday 16th November at 7.30 pm at the Lancaster Arts Centre in High Wycombe

A variety of musical items are billed, presenting dance, instrumental and vocal performers from the local area. The first concert was a great success, so order your tickets early this year @ £5.50 (£3.50 for concessions), including refreshments, from Ellen and Bob Webster tel 562587. Come along and enjoy the evening and help support children and young people in need.

Ellen and Bob Webster, tel: 562587

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Annual Remembrance Day Service in the Village Hall at 2.45pm

Everyone is invited to attend. This year the service will be conducted by the Rev. Charles Overton.

The Poppy Collection will take place throughout the village during the two weeks prior to the Service. Please give generously to support those servicemen and their families who have given their lives and health in the service of our country.

Valerie Pushman

+++++

Editor's note: This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and I am grateful to Dennis Brown who sent me some cuttings about his brave father, Mr E J Brown, who fought in that battle. Edward Brown owned the Brickyard at Walters Ash and is believed to be the first Naphill soldier to be awarded the Military Medal in the 1914-1918 War, having been a volunteer in 1914 as one of Kitchener's 100,000. Bombardier Brown was awarded the medal for distinguished gallantry in stopping single-handedly a stampede of Artillery horses in one of the Somme engagements: with great presence of mind he managed to check the stampede of the leaders and turn the team across the road so as to block further progress.

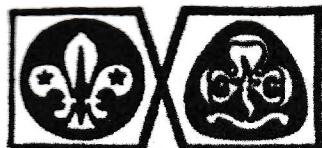
Sheila Sellars

NAPHILL AND WALTERS ASH SCHOOL

The annual meeting of parents was held on 26 September and minutes of the meeting are posted on the school notice board next to the road entrance to the school. The count for the election of parent governors was held at the school on 14 October and Eric Charleston (☎ 562262), Nigel Cox (☎ 481478), Trevor May (☎ 565101) and Fiona Stocker (☎ 563944) were elected from 19 October 1996 to 18 October 2000. The school's standard admission number has been increased from 45 to 56 from 1997/98, reflecting the building of the new extension expected to start early next year.

Grant Woodruff

SCOUTS AND GUIDES HEAD QUARTERS



Christmas Fayre 7th December at 2pm

What are you doing on Saturday 7th at 2pm? Please come along to the Village Hall and buy your last minute gifts, wrapping paper, novelties, cakes and lots more besides. Try your luck at the Tombola and Raffles and there will be lots of competitions and games to play. We also believe that someone very special will be calling during the afternoon for all children between 0 and 90!

NEWS FROM THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Candlelit Dinner Dance: Saturday, 16 November 96, Naphill Village Hall. Still a few tickets left for this annual highlight of good value things to do in Naphill, open to everyone. The generous menu is a deliciously appetising choice of Chicken à la King, Curry or Vegetarian Stroganoff, with Salad, Garlic Bread, Gateaux, Coffee. After quiet music with dinner, the lively sound of the popular Late Edition Band will have you on your feet all evening. Bar open 7.30 pm. Dinner 8.30 pm prompt, to allow plenty of dancing time. It's a super evening. Tickets £12 per head from Daisy 562602 or Carole 563508. But don't delay!

Planning: When decisions are made about Wycombe town centre, we the public are apt to let the planners and consultants go ahead, and only object when it's all over. You may well wonder how the **Western Sector Development** will affect our commuting and shopping trips. The expected disappearance of Temple St (by the Bus Station), and relocation of the Bus Station nearer Bridge St, is likely to add to traffic at Newlands Roundabout, compounded by the new Safeway store in Temple End. Apart from a possibility of Park & Ride, the impact of this on the Northern approach to Wycombe (of major concern to Naphill people) isn't considered in the County/District Transportation Strategy Panel report. Probably because no-one has any idea what to do about it.

W/96/06731 Adjacent to Harlyn, Naphill Common. Det. house/gar.: amendment to rear elevation.

W/96/06758 Bucksmill, Stocking Lane. Single storey extension to lounge.

W/96/06762 Great Moseley Farm, Main Road. Conversion of barn to living accommodation. Concern over loss of important hedge bordering Main Road and change of local character.

W/96/06769-70 Great Moseley Farm, Main Road. Construction of extension and conversion of farm buildings into triple garage. Green Belt considerations should apply.

W/96/06812 RAF Building 28 No 1 Site. Extension to offices/internal alterations/security lights.

W/96/06831 Belmont, Downley Road. Demolition of existing dwelling under W/91/6320 and erection of 2 detached dwellings.

Woodland Edible Fungi Walk: The dry autumn meant fewer fungi and small quantities, but in the cook-up we tasted the subtle flavours of Parasol Mushroom, Puff Ball, Ink Cap, Amethyst Deceiver, Oyster Mushroom and Meadow Mushrooms. A repeat in 1997, given a wet autumn.

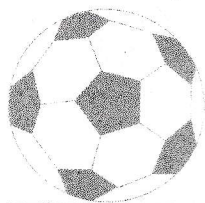
Post Box at Bradenham Woods Lane/New Road: The post box was finally moved to a much safer place in the bus pull-in on the East side of New Road. Next day, a puzzled Royal Mail collection man was seen with his van, looking for the box in the old place. The inventors of global communications had forgotten to tell him! Jill Shiu will still press for a larger box as this one sometimes overfills, with loss of security, and is too small to take larger envelopes.

Next meeting: 8 pm Thursday 14 November 1996, Naphill Village Hall.

Malcolm Leflaive

NAPHILL FOOTBALL CLUB

Bob Hathaway, tel: 563332



Yes, its a funny old game, as they say, and our boys are certainly having fun! Our "new" side - the **under 12s** - have over 20 boys training and playing regular matches. Their early season performances against sides that have been together for 2-3 years have been superb. It's only a matter of time before they get their just results so keep it up boys!!

The **under 13s** are second in the table with excellent wins against Belgrave Youth and Wendover Colts. A very hard earned point against a strong Penn and Tylers Green side and just one defeat so far to Mandeville Youth. Maybe this will be the season for promotion after getting so close last year. Go for it boys!

Pride of place goes to our **under 14s** side. Top of the table for them and undefeated in their first five games! League wins over Holmer Green, Mandeville Celsia, Chinnor Youth and Aylesbury, plus a cup win over Chinnor - they really are playing some super stuff. Well done lads!

Fundraising: NFBC now have over 70 local boys from 8 - 13 training and playing regular football and our running costs just keep on growing! The boys, parents and everyone connected with NBFC are very grateful to Colin Osborne and his company, **IMPACT COMPONENTS**, who are sponsoring our kits for the third season. Many, many thanks Colin! Also a huge thank you to Rob Coutin and all his "Wheel Pontoon Players", who continue to raise funds for us.

WELL DONE EVERYONE AND THANKS TO YOU ALL!!

So, for your free Sunday entertainment hit the Crick and cheer on the Yellows (and Greens)

FANTASY FOOTBALL

For years I have harboured this mental image of Dorothy Lamour and I all alone on a desert island, apart from the Paramount Studio Orchestra of course, where I serenade her with "Moonlight Becomes You" in the manner of Bing Crosby. Sadly Dorothy died in September so that fantasy together with scoring the winning goal in a World Cup Final, carrying off the Wimbledon men's title, hitting two hundred runs in the final Test at the Oval so regaining the Ashes and dancing "The Continental" with Ginger Rogers will never be realised. I also appreciate the chances of conducting Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony with the Royal Philharmonic are pretty remote, but Colin Davis has and Andrew Davis has, so how about "Bob"?

The problem I now have is that achievable subjects seem to be taking the form of fantasy too. The senior football team seems to be a prime example. Seven years ago the team folded, two years later it was reformed. Since when we have had new changing accommodation and a clubroom with a bar - all the attributes of a successful club. However it is success that has eluded us. We have, I consider, a very good side, which is playing excellent football. This brought me to the conclusion that we would be showing off a trophy or two at the end of the season, but results so far appear to be proving me wrong again.

Our supporter, like me, is feeling a little disillusioned. He puts our lack of success down to lack of support. He also feels rather foolish singing the football songs on his own. He only sings the Naphill versions of course, such as "The referee's a bounder" and "I say linesman, why don't you pop down to the optician". If you, dear reader, are not into that kind of merry banter, but do enjoy watching a good game, try it one Saturday. It would be nice to hear a few more voices calling "Come on Naphill".

Bob Davis

HEARING DOGS FORTHE DEAF: PAPER RECYLING

Anne and Roy Smith, Bucks. branch of the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, are sure that with your help and enough old newspapers and magazines, sufficient money can be raised to train a hearing dog. They have a three year contract for paper recycling and skips are permanently sited at 5, Honey Way, off Ash Close, Walters Ash and "Bemmerside", Common Road, Great Kingshill. For further information please contact the Smiths on tel:564620.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I thought your readers may be interested to know that I recently presented a cheque to St George's Hospital, Tooting, amounting to £2,884.92, in memory of my husband, Robert Clarke. This incredible amount consisted of donations instead of funeral flowers, and the remainder of the village fund-raising efforts.

The cancer vaccine treatment is now available at St George's and many more people will have a chance that the treatment will work for them. Although Tooting is more convenient to get to every month for the vaccine, Rob always said that California would be more appealing for him!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic amount in so many different ways.

Norma Clarke

NAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

Contact Bob Webster: tel -562587

Sunday services: 10.30am and on Sunday 3rd at 6pm

- Saturday 2nd : Church Anniversary
6.00pm Dinner and Concert by the Heath Singers
Sunday 3rd : Anniversary Gift Day
4pm Cream Teas
Saturday 9th : 11am - 4.30pm Bazaar in Village Hall

On Christmas Day the church invites anyone in the area who is alone (or a couple on their own) to come to a Christmas Dinner to be held at 12.30pm in the Church Schoolroom. If you are interested - or know of anyone who might like to join us - please call Michael Webb on Tel: 562046.

Dear Friends,

November brings Remembrance Sunday, an occasion observed more than most by the general community. When I was a young lay preacher I used to preach once every two or three weeks but always seemed to have an appointment on Remembrance Sunday. It seemed ironic to me because being born in the 1950s I was a generation too young to know what it is like to live through a war. I could not be expected to express the feelings of those now over 50. I was conscious of this when I led the service in the Village Hall last year. For me, anything which glorifies war time victories is sickening. We must learn from the horrors of war and build a better future. I do recognise the debt of gratitude we owe to those who sacrificed so much for the sake of others. Those of you who still suffer physically or psychologically because of war should never have had to endure all that, and my generation is as much to blame, because we still lust for power or wealth and are intolerant of those with a different outlook. I know people often blame religion for many of the conflicts in history, but that is only because we do not live up to our religious ideals. We must not only see the way of Jesus Christ as being the right one to live by, but we must also build a relationship with God through Christ so that His Spirit can inspire us when human resolve fails.

God Bless You,

Nick Young

NAPHILL FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Dear Friends,

At last the bulge has gone!

It had been there for a long time, annoying Judith more than me, because she's seen it more easily than I have and its been getting worse too. I started off ignoring it, looking the other way, covering it up when it became too obtrusive, trying to push it to one side where no-one would notice it and saying that I really must get around to doing something about it. Then last week I tripped over the darn thing - and that did it! I got out my Stanley knife and made two long straight cuts right across it, at right angles to each other. Then by slicing out just enough of the bulging material I was able to re-stick the vinyl sheet back in place on the floor - and the bulge had gone!

Is there a bulge or other blemish in your life which is bothering you? It very often begins as a small spot, easy to ignore. We cover it up so no-one can see it, or that's what we hope! But then, so slowly that perhaps we don't realise it, it spreads. We begin to adjust to it, work around it, accept it - rather than removing it altogether.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1st John chapter 1, v.8)
The floor looks as good as new again and what a relief it is not having to cover up the blemish or pretend it isn't there. Why, oh why, did I let it go right on, getting worse and worse. It would have been easier to have put it right as soon as I noticed it.

The next verse in John's letter reads, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".

God is in the business of removing blemishes from people's lives and making them as good as new again. All it takes is for us to realise the need and to ask Him to. And when we have done so, what a relief. We wonder why on earth we let things go on for so long. If there is some ugly blemish in your life, which perhaps you've been trying to ignore, face up to it and ask God to remove it - and if you really want Him to, He will.

Your sincere friend,

Gregory Hargrove

HUGHENDEN PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Bazaar and Auction Saturday 30th November at Hughenden Village Hall Father Christmas opens the doors at 11.00am

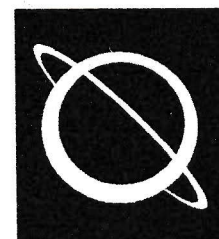
This year the Bazaar takes on a new look, with lots of interest for CHILDREN - bring along your Mums, Dads, Brothers and Sisters, Aunties and Uncles, Gran and Gramps!

- * Free gift from the bran tub for all under 12
- *Two professional shows for all children at 12.30pm and 1.45pm
- *Cartoon show for youngsters during auction for adults
- *Best White Elephant stall in the county

Christopher Mettem

THE NOVEMBER SKY IN NAPHILL AND WALTERS ASH

Astronomers describe loose collections of stars without any defined shape as open or galactic clusters because they are found in the plane of the Galaxy. The diameter of such clusters is usually no greater than a few tens of light years. The best known open cluster is the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters, named by the ancient Greeks after the seven daughters of Atlas and Pleione. In one mythological account, owing to the grief of Atlas at the death of his daughters, they were changed into stars. According to another account, Pleione and her daughters, the Pleiades, were pursued by the amorous hunter, Orion, and after five years Zeus moved them all, including Orion's dog, to the sky. The names of the sisters are Alcyone, Asterope, Electra, Celaeno, Maia, Merope and Taygeta.



The Pleiades consist of some 400-500 youngish stars all formed about 50 million years ago (compared with the sun's age of 4500 million years). On average they are about 1 light year apart. The street light pollution of High Wycombe and Walters Ash make it very difficult to see all seven of them in our area with the unaided eye - but with binoculars it is easily possible to see many of them. The Pleiades can be found in the constellation Taurus, at midnight in the middle of the month, about 45° above the south horizon. At the beginning of the month this position will be at 1h and at the end of the month at 23h.

Binoculars are an excellent instrument which can significantly increase the numbers of objects that can be seen including comets, brighter variable stars, finding planets and bright stars in twilight and the wonder of the Milky Way. But it is necessary to be careful about what kind; opera glasses are not good enough. A good popular size for observing the night sky is 10 x 50 (Beware of instruments with magnifications of over 15; they are often incorrectly advertised as suitable for astronomical use.)

The sun rises on 1 day at 6h 57m and on 30 day at 7h 46m; it sets at 16h 35m and 15h 57m respectively. The moon is new on 11 day and is full on 25 day. Sundials (which show apparent solar time) are 16 minutes 42 seconds faster than clock time (which gives mean solar time) on November 3. *Grant Woodruff*

THE NAPHILL COMMON COMMITTEE

The letter from David Leith in last month's Gazette no doubt expresses the views of others living adjacent to the Common. Members of the Naphill Common Committee may also share all or some of his annoyance, particularly at the rutted nature of the cleared areas.

The committee has continued to make the concerns of the residents known to the West Wycombe Estate, Tilhill Forestry, English Nature and Bucks County Council who are responsible for repairing the bridleways. However, the members of the committee are not a party to the work being carried out and have no more authority or power than any other resident.

The West Wycombe Estate and their agents have proved sympathetic to many of the committee's approaches. We are pleased that they have agreed to leave some areas untouched. They and English Nature have broadly accepted the need for a future management plan as proposed in Dr Chris Smith's report commissioned by the committee. The County Council has responded to our request for the improvement of the bridleways.

Many would agree that the cleared areas have returned interest and character to the Common that had been lost.

It has, of course, to be remembered that the West Wycombe Estate need not have agreed to any co-operation with English Nature or anyone else. The Estate has pointed out that although it would wish to cause as little inconvenience to the public as possible, the clearance of the Common is a commercial undertaking on private land and they are under no legal obligation to reinstate any area other than rights of way. They can work how and when they want and when they like within the law.

Many of us regret how few rights the public have over "common land" like ours, but, as things are, our only course of action is vigilance, constructive but determined representation, moral pressure and co-operation whenever possible.

Our AGM will be held at the Evangelical Church hall on Wednesday November 20th at 8pm when members will be elected at an open meeting.

Philip Hussey, Chairman

'ELLO! 'ELLO! 'ELLO!

So, the elderly are a hundred times more likely to have an accident in the home than to be mugged in the street. This is apparently because they are too frightened to venture out anywhere after dark. I can't quite see why the Chief Constables want to encourage us onto the streets by telling us this. If they are successful the statistics will reverse - none of us will be at home to fall down the stairs and we shall all be mugging each other to get enough space for our Zimmer-frames on the pavement.



Of course in the old days the constabulary didn't have time to dream up this sort of propaganda. For centuries law and order in a place like Naphill was the responsibility of parish constables elected by the Vestry to do the job part-time and unpaid. It wasn't a position generally welcomed by parishioners whose turn it was to be appointed, and they were often willing to pay someone else to take on its duties. I suppose the advantage in a small community of knowing where to find a suspect for a local crime was offset by the fact that the suspect also knew a lot about you - and his turn as constable might come round rather sooner than you'd like.

Hughenden parish had two constables - one for the Naphill side of the valley and the other for the Kingshill side. In 1894 responsibility for appointing them passed from the Vestry to the newly created Parish Council - together with two truncheons and two sets of handcuffs. Although a professional county police force had been set up six years before, the local part-timers were still thought to have a role. As late as 1912 the Chief Constable regarded them highly enough to suggest that they should have new equipment. The parish dutifully spent 11s. 6d. on this, but they ran into trouble with the constable in Naphill, William Allan, who refused to have anything to do with the new-fangled handcuffs. He was quite a local character with a mind of his own and the Parish Council quickly decided to "inform him that he could keep the old set of constable's equipment as long as he served in the office of parish constable". When he was finally succeeded by Joseph Hopkins in 1922 the truncheon was found to be missing and the handcuffs were so rusty that they were unusable. There is no record in fact that Allan ever used them, but when in 1923 Hopkins was called out at midnight to stop a fight, he must have been glad that the truncheon had been replaced.

By 1934 it is a new-style uniformed policeman who is called out when "a lady driver" knocked a girl off her bicycle in Bryants Bottom Road. The size and responsibilities of the county force had been growing steadily but, oddly enough, it seems that Whitehall simply forgot the poor parish constable swearing himself in year after year with less and less to do. It was left to each individual parish to present its case to the Quarter Sessions that the appointment of its constables "no longer serves any useful purpose". Gerrards Cross was the first in Buckinghamshire to wake up to this possibility in 1933, and Hughenden was in the second wave of parishes to do so the following year.

As is shown by some of the stories I've told you in previous pieces, life was much rougher in the days before the parish constable, and the citizen had to look to his own devices in defence of his person and property. In fact moat-diggers did quite well out of the home-protection business in the Middle Ages. However historians now think that towards the end of that period it was concern for fashion as much as security that led people to construct moats around their desirable properties. I suppose that it will get like that with these new security lights. It won't be long before those of us with nothing much worth protecting will be forced to hang out of the bedroom window waving a torch at passers-by just to keep up with the Jones's.

Rex Leaver