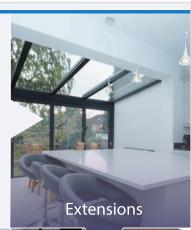


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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette February 2025

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Copy date for the March Gazette 15 February

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

It was with such enormous sadness that I received the news of Judy Whitehouse's death. Judy, a past Gazette editor, webmaster, distributor and latterly treasurer, has been a rock to me throughout my time as editor, always there to help and advise when help was needed most, coming back to the Gazette in 2019 as treasurer when her expertise was desperately needed to secure the Gazette's finances and future. Judy was much loved and respected by us all, please see the obituary on page 9.

When Judy was diagnosed as terminally ill, ever considerate of others, she made sure that everything was in order and handed the Gazette finance baton on to Hilary Spain, who has seamlessly and efficiently continued the good work, recently sending out the invoices to our advertisers for this year's advertisements, We hope that these accounts will be settled promptly and we thank our advertisers for their ongoing support. My personal thanks to Hilary for all her hard work and support.

In December, I met with Harriet Clark, a young Mum and talented professional copywriter, who has recently moved to Walter's Ash. Harriet has kindly offered to help me with the Gazette editing. This month her help has been greatly appreciated. Welcome Harriet and family to our community, I am very grateful for your help, and I look to forward to working with you on future editions.

Producing and delivering TEN editions of the Gazette each year incurs monthly costs in excess of £2,000. We rely on our advertisers and subscribers to meet these costs and we are very grateful to you our subscribers and our advertisers for your support, there is no Gazette without you! As we are all aware, times are hard for many businesses. A special plea to support our local business who do so much to support our community by advertising in the Gazette and sponsoring local events.

Hopefully, by next month, Spring will have sprung, our children will be enjoying the recently refurbished Templewood play area and we will all be looking forward to the Spring events and sunshine.

My thanks to all our contributors and my best wishes to you all for a happy February.

Sonia

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Remembering Judy Whitehouse

It is with profound regret that we record the death on January 7th of Judith Whitehouse aged 66. She came to Naphill in 1993, and settled in a house off Forge Road. Her career was in technology and the revolutionary introduction of computers and IT, working for various well-known companies, and latterly for Bucks C.C. Social Services. She entered fully into the life of the community, being for sometime a member of the Parish Council, the Editor of the Naphill Gazette, a member of the Village Hall committee and a Governor of Naphill and Walters Ash Primary School. Judith made many friends in Naphill, especially among the dog walkers on Naphill Common, and in her final illness they showed help, support and love beyond anything she expected. She called them her "Naphill Angels". Judy was a very special part of our community. Below a few of the many comments from the community, as published on the Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette Facebook page:

"Judy was an amazing lady, I worked closely with her at Naphill School when she was a school governor, she was always so supportive & encouraging. I always loved to chat in the woods with her too when she was out walking her dogs. Judy will be sadly missed by so many people. Sending love to her family at this sad time." (J.P.)

"A friend for years but an extremely close friend for the last few, we spent hours walking round the woods down bird alley as we called it looking for the goshawk. I will miss everything about her." (S.G)

"It's sad to hear. Judy was one of those rare people who achieved a lot with minimum fuss and maximum commitment. Her community led drive has left village and wider organisations and institutions all the better for her input and dedication. She was always such a cheerful, upbeat and positive person and will be sadly missed. (S.D.)"

She will very missed by many. Most people don't realise how much work she did for the village, serving on committees for the school and Crick. She was a great mentor to me as Chair of School Governors, and she put so much unseen work in. (R.S.)

"Judy was a very special friend to me and to the Gazette. She was one of the hardest working members of the community, quietly and efficiently fulfilling so many roles, always on hand to help and support, a good friend to everybody who will be so greatly missed by all who knew and loved her." (S.G.)

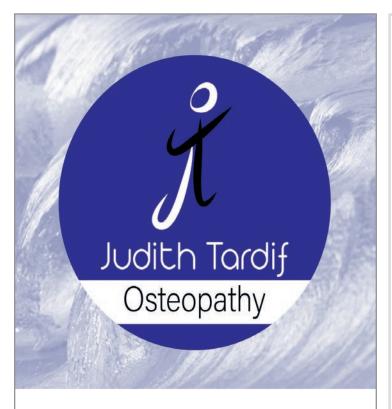
We send sincere condolences to Judy's son Jacob and to her family.



Judith Whitehouse's funeral will be held on the 11th of February at 12:15 PM in the Milton Chapel at Chilterns Crematorium, HP7 0ND. In line with Judy's wishes, the funeral will be a celebration of her life and achievements. She requested positive content and encouraged attendees to wear bright clothing. A link to join the funeral virtually will be available nearer the time and will be published on https://www.justgiving.com/page/judyw.

The funeral will be followed by a gathering and refreshments at Naphill Village Hall, HP14 4SX, between 1:30pm and 5:30pm on the same day. If you would like to join us at the wake, please visit the justgiving page set up in her memory where the online RSVP link can be found.





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Naphill Village Hall and Playing Fields Trustee Committee

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Chairman's Report

On the 6th. January a trustee committee meeting was held. Items discussed included:

- * The floor cleaner needs to be replaced and quotes for a new one will be sought.
- * The phone/internet connections were discussed. A quote of £100 a month from a local company was agreed to be high so further quotes will be sourced.
- * It was reported that the Christmas tree lights had stopped working about a week before they were due to be turned off. MB Electrics ascertained that the fault is in the wire from the village hall to the top of the tree.
- * Jason Fletcher from the team running this year's fete gave us an update. They are hoping to run the fete in a different format, and attractions include go karts, live music, outdoor cinema, and children's events including races and a fancy dress parade.

Simon Shales from the local firm Simpatico Services has completed the installation of the new duo play tower and we hope it will provide a safe place for imaginative play for generations to come. The recycled plastic tower is eco-friendly, hard wearing, less flammable than traditional timber, UV resistant, and virtually maintenance free. The duo towers have a net bridge, slide, rock wall, ladder and net wall. The height is similar to the previous structure without the roofs, which posed health and safety risks. Thanks go to all those who fundraise for the village hall and playfields, we hope you will agree it is money well spent. We also thank the village hall trustees for agreeing to the expenditure, Hughenden Parish Council for their 20% grant, and Simon and his team.

There was some sad news recently that Judy Whitehouse has died. Judy was on the village hall committee for many years, firstly as the village school rep and then serving as the Hon. secretary.

Judy was secretary when I became chairman of the committee and we worked together for a number of years before her health problems meant that she needed to resign to prioritise her family. She was a great asset to the village hall committee, which benefitted from the knowledge she gained from her work with children. She kept us up to date with current legislation on these matters and the charity commission. The village hall committee extend their condolences to Judy's son Jacob and her family.

Clive Lawrence.

Village Hall Chairman



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Naphill Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights

Report from Mike Mason- Lights Team Leader

We are extremely grateful to ANTAC Support Services, Main Site Contractor to RAF High Wycombe, Walter's Ash, who kindly supplied a cherry-picker free of charge. We are also extremely grateful to you, the public, who supported the lights with your donations, which were organised by Cathryn Carter.

Mike Leggett was the lead climber again this year, for the 33rd time – a remarkable record. Also on high was Dan Smith who drove the cherry-picker for putting up the lights and Jack Perkins who drove the cherry-picker for taking them down. On each occasion Stephen Fountain of Lacey Green was in the basket on high. Andy Debrou, James Foster and Matt Blamey were up a tall ladder for some time attaching and detaching the lower ends of the garlands from the tree. The team on the ground consisted of Peter Davis, Hamish Pearson, John Harris, John Camp, Ron Collins, Paul Hewitt, Dave Perkins, Neil McMinn, Tom Benjamin, Glenn Gavin, Gary Putnam of Lacey Green and myself.

The lights were on from 30th November to about the 28th December when a fault occurred which we had not experienced before. The circuit-breaker in the Village Hall tripped, indicating a dead short somewhere in the system. Various tests indicated that the fault lay somewhere up the tree, but where? The later testing in the Village Hall revealed a dead short in one of the garlands, which appeared to be undamaged. The investigation of that garland continues, as will testing of all the equipment by our electrician Ross Greenlee.

The team are sorry that the lights were not on from 28th December until 5th January, 12th Night, but at least they were on from 30th November for the vital pre-Christmas period - and for Christmas itself.

Míke Mason

Report from Cathryn Carter - Lights fund raising leader

Our spectacular tree lights never fail to bring joy! They are loved by everyone and widely considered to be the best in the area. Unfortunately this year we had an issue with the lights which meant they had to be switched off early.

The good news is that you were incredibly generous with your donations through our TotalGiving page or in the few collecting boxes and we raised an amazing £1185.40. This means that the necessary checks and repairs can be made before the lights go up again later this year.

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

Thank you again for your generosity and we can safely say that our tree's future remains very bright indeed!

Cathryn Carter



News from RAF High Wycombe

Annual Veteran's Lunch



The annual Veteran's Lunch is a highlight of the RAF High Wycombe calendar where some amazing veterans in our community come together for some lively banter and Christmas cheer!

Before a roast turkey dinner, guests were treated to some great Christmas carols from local school children. Service personnel mingled with our guests and were regaled with stories of past Christmases and wartime memories. The wonderful Dave was superb as our MC and kept everything in order. The RAF band kept the Christmas tunes flowing as many joined in the carols at the close of the lunch.

A special mention to WO Lacey and to Dani and the team for organising such a brilliant event.

Station Commander, Wing Cdr Dennis thanked the brilliant team who served the dinners and kept the good cheer flowing!

Huge thanks to all who attended and helped to create a wonderful Christmas feast.

Laurence Parker

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The Third Year of War in Ukraine: Join Us for a Memorial Service and Reception

As we approach the third year of the war in Ukraine, the Ukraine to Chilterns Charity invites you to a special memorial service to honour those affected by the ongoing conflict.

The event will take place on Sunday, 23rd February 2025, at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, marking three years since the war began on 24th February 2022.

We hope to bring together over 200 local residents and Ukrainian guests to join us in an evening of reflection, solidarity, and hope. The service will commence at 6:00 PM and will be followed by a heartwarming 'bring and share' reception at St Mary's Church Hall.

A Community Coming Together

The evening will begin with a warm welcome from Sue Hughes, Pioneer Curate at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, who will share messages of support from the local community.

Our Ukrainian guests will lead us in an emotional program, including:

- Poignant songs and poetry readings that reflect the strength and resilience of those impacted by the war.
- Personal reminiscences of their experiences, offering a unique and heartfelt perspective on the ongoing challenges faced in Ukraine.
- Prayers and messages of peace and hope, accompanied by the lighting of candles as a symbol of remembrance and solidarity.

A Feast of Hope and Friendship

Following the service, attendees are invited to continue the evening at St Mary's Church Hall, where our Ukrainian guests will share a 'feast of hope and thanks'. This reception will offer a taste of Ukrainian culture and hospitality, fostering friendship and unity among all who attend.

Standing Together in Solidarity

This event is more than a commemoration—it's a chance to strengthen bonds within our community, support our Ukrainian friends, and remind ourselves of the enduring power of hope and solidarity in the face of adversity.

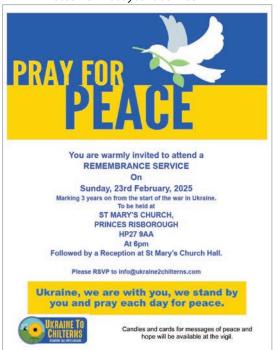
We warmly invite everyone in the local community to join us for this extraordinary evening of reflection, remembrance, and connection.

For more information about the event or how you can get involved, please contact info@ukraine2chilterns.com or visit www.ukraine2chilterns.com

Let us stand together in support of Ukraine and continue to build strong links through friendship and unity. We look forward to welcoming you on **Sunday**, **23rd February**.



Photos from last year's service





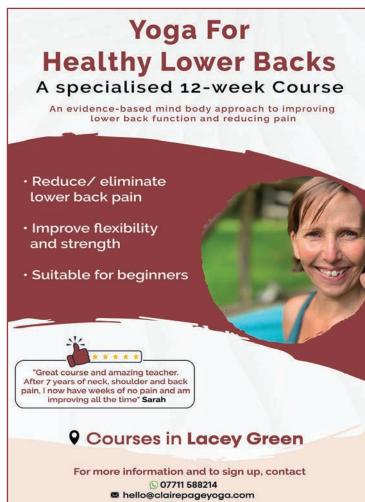
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A Message from Buckinghamshire Councillor, David Carroll

Dear Residents

I should like to thank the residents who have contacted me on various issues, including our efforts to protect our wonderful countryside. I have always considered this to be a matter of special importance, and it is something which I will continue to prioritise.

Recently I had a positive meeting with members of our local Resident's Associations. We discussed our shared concerns regarding local issues including planning, housing and the protection of our environment. I assured them that I will always do my very best for our

residents and that I am continually lobbying the Council on their behalf! I was delighted to be able to thank them personally for their ongoing support, which I very much appreciate.

Regards

David



01494 716967





David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



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SHH - Raising Funds in Chilterns Villages Spring 2025

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SHH held a series of very successful fundraising events in 2024 for the four hospices the group supports.

As we move into 2025 we are once again organising a series of events and wherever possible these are held in different local Chiltern villages. Although the group was established back in 2001 in Speen, we are looking for a lot more input from the local villages like Naphill, Walter's Ash, Hughenden, Lacey Green, Prestwood and surrounding areas.

We would welcome interest from ladies from these areas who might want to get involved and help us to promote events in your locality.

We are also looking for individuals to help with the fundraising. We were most fortunate having the

support of a member of High Wycombe Rotary Club who raised £1,500 in the autumn by a charity abseil down a tower in Portsmouth. You too, might be thinking of taking part in a marathon, half marathon or fun run this year and running on behalf of SHH.

If you would be interested in raising money by taking part in an event or finding out more about becoming part of our fundraising group at SHH, please contact me grainnesuter@googlemail.com or 07778803260.

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Valley Players

"Oh what a Show!" (see photos above)

For all of you who came and supported Valley Players in their "experiment "of a modern Pantomime, "Alice in Cuckoo Land ". Wendy had a great time performing and judging by the comments from sell out audiences they had a great time also.

As we explained in our programme, a traditional Pantomime is one where you know the characters and although there may be a few tweaks to the story, it will follow a familiar path. A modern Pantomime is one where the characters may be familiar but a new story or adventure is constructed for them. Such was "Alice".

The Valley Players did themselves proud and particular note must be made of Willow Randell for being Director, Musical Director and part of the wonderful Technical team. This was the first time she took the helm of our show!

We must also note Sue Dubois for her excellent debut as the Queen of Hearts also Sam Byerley (again a debut) as the Knave of Hearts and our Dame of Dames Ross Greysen. Hurrah!

Now for Spring 25!

We shall presenting two One Act plays and ask the audience to bring their own indoor Picnic to make the evening relaxing and enjoyable.

- " You can't take it with you ", is a Family based comedy dealing with expectations of what is expected from an Uncle's will Or not!
- "A Quiet Life" is a comedy based at a Village Hall committee meeting...... that must ring a bell with some of you!

Dates are 4th and 5th April, Tickets £12 and will be available from the website (www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk) and Ticket Source from 1st March.

Finally anyone who feels that they could get involved with the Players ,in any capacity, contact me.

See you soon,

Andrew Pitman

(contact@valleyplayershughenden.co.uk)

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents' Association

Our final event for 2024 was the Christmas drinks evening which is where we are able to thank those who have helped out during the year. Chief amongst these are the residents who kindly volunteer for litter picking duties in the vicinity of their homes. With the exception of a few litter louts who leave beer cans and other rubbish by the roadside we are a pretty tidy community and that is one of the things that makes these two villages pleasant places to live in. Let's keep it that way please.

Napfest is back this year and NAWARA will be taking a stall. If one of your New Year resolutions was to put a little more into the local community do please volunteer for our committee. The duties are not onerous or overly time consuming.

Best wishes

David Frost

Vice Chairman





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Naphill & Walter's Ash School



Our Media Team Report - New Year Around the World;

Around the World there are many unique celebrations for New Year which we have been looking into.

Did you know that in Denmark it is believed that if you find pieces of smashed plate on your doorstep, it will bring you good fortune for the coming year! If you were Danish, you would smash a plate on a friend's doorstep to bless them with good luck in the year ahead.

In South America, it is a national tradition to go on a walk with an empty suitcase within your community. This is called a 'suitcase walk' and it guarantees the person will have a year of adventures and good travels!

In Johannesburg, in South Africa, people like to start the year without any unwanted items. They do this by throwing old furniture out of the window!

One of our students said that for Chinese New Year, they celebrate by hanging up special Chinese lanterns and dragon lamps. They have massive platters of traditional Chinese food including Chinese hot pot, special rice cakes and spiced meats. Another child said that in Pakistan they share a feast with many friends and family, of mushroom stew and lamb. They also draw special tattoos on each other's hands and arms-called Mehndi.

Here are some of our' New Year's Resolutions: (or as one of our year one children states, "our New Year Relevations"!)

- To write my first book
- To do something for charity
- To argue less with my brother
- To be more resilient
- To read 15 books in a year
- · To spend more time with my parents

Some of us will succeed, some of us won't, but remember...

SMALL STEPS LEAD TO BIG CHANGES!

A Visit to our School with Margaret Hunter

I was privileged to be asked, together with another lady, to answer questions from our memories of WW2 with years 5 and 6. As always at this school, we were made very welcome by the pupils and staff! there were ninety plus children this year due to the years 5 & 6 having been combined! And still they all listened and engaged with all that was going on.

After coffee and cake, we were entertained by rousing singing of the popular songs of that time! especially I loved the Glenn Miller!

We were invited back to the classroom to look at the displays of memorabilia. Here I met a very proud young woman, (Flo) with a table of memorabilia from her Great-Grandad!



Me: Wow! Who used all this equipment?, I asked

Flo: it was my Mums Grandad, his name was Tom Prickett and belonged the Windsor Lodge of the Grenadiers.

Me: what regiment did he serve in?

Flo: he was a guardsman and served with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, he was with motorised infantry and tanks..

Me: do you know when he enlisted?

Flo: yes, April 1940

Me: where did he serve?

Flo: he went to North-West Europe-Holland & Brussels! Me: that's quite a collection of medals you have on display, are they your Great Grandads?

Flo: yes!(very proudly) The Star 1939-1945,The French and The Germany Star The Defence and The War medal 1939-45. I also had a Great Great uncle, my family do not know much about him sadly, except he was a prisoner of war in Japan.

Thank you Flo, and all the other young folk that chatted to me and told me the histories of their memorabilia.

With young people like these we will definitely "Remember Them"

Margaret Hunter



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"This is Manuring on an Industrial Scale!"

I had a few appreciative comments about my article in the December Gazette on the subject of manure, so I thought readers might like more. The picture shows a load of 4.5 tons (yes, 4.5 tons) of farmyard manure carefully dumped onto my good friend Hugh's allotment by my local friendly farmer. My wheelbarrow in front is a full-size builder's wheelbarrow so you can appreciate the monumental size of the pile. My friend Hugh then uttered the unforgettable words "this is manuring on an industrial scale!" and I started to move the 4.5 tons to my allotment.

That 4.5 tons was exceptional and was in the early days of my improving my allotment soil. In later years, after testing and finding that the soil quality was very good, I purchased a "bucket" full of 1.25 tons each year to top up here and there.

My earliest days of manuring involved very ripe pig manure from the local piggery and was free! I tried that for a few years but after a while my nostrils revolted and said to me "no more of that". So I turned to horse manure in the form of spent horse manure from a mushroom farm. I noticed that some mushrooms emerged, so the following year I spread the horse manure about 6 inches deep on a portion of my allotment, then put a cap of soil about an inch deep over the manure. After a couple of weeks there were many eruptions as mushrooms burst through. But not ordinary tiddly mushrooms - these were real man-size mushrooms, and delicious! Some even got to a foot in diameter and we lived on mushrooms for many weeks. An unusual allotment crop. But the fun had to end. I realised that the mushroom farmers added ground chalk to the compost to make the compost more alkaline, and that if I continued putting spent mushroom compost on my

allotment I would make my allotment soil too alkaline. A slightly alkaline soil is preferred by most vegetables, the main exception being potatoes, which prefer an acidic soil. My allotment soil ended up with a pH (hydrogen ion concentration) of 7.4, which is just about the ideal compromise. After my experiment with spent mushroom compost I turned to cow manure and the rest is history.

It is time for a final report on that awful year 2024. The year was marked by almost continuous rain and an almost continually overcast sky which deprived plants of the essential energy from the sun which acts upon chlorophyll in the leaves to enable plants to grow. Some of my vegetables did not germinate, possibly caused by the seed rotting in waterlogged soil. Other vegetables (and fruit) suffered from the lack of sunshine. It was not all a disaster though. The mild weather continued until the end of the year and my Poiree (Silver Chard) kept growing whereas in a normal year it would have been chopped down by frost at the end of October.

Good gardening!

Mike Mason





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Whilst closed over Christmas and New Year we spruced up the Coffee Shop with a bit of painting and cleaning and a good sort out ready for the year ahead.

We will continue serving our homemade warming soups over the colder months and have added a few things to our menu. Please come in and enjoy your favourites or sample something new. As ever we are busy baking and always have a selection of home baked cakes.

The back room is used regularly by local groups for meetings or get togethers and is available to book if you are looking for somewhere warm and quiet to meet and enjoy some great coffee.

We wish you all the best for this coming year and look forward to seeing you soon.

Ruth and Dorothy





News from our local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Happy New Year from all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Young Volunteers, Adult Volunteers and Trustees that make up the Naphill and Hughenden Scout group. I have just been filling out our yearly census and I can confirm that we have 98 Young People within our 5 sections.

We closed the year with a carol service at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Hughenden which over a 100 people attended and was kindly supported by Keith and Ben. We had a version of Santa Claus is coming to town from our youngest group, Cubs did their best to remember all the words from the 12 days of Christmas and our largest group the scouts all read out the story off the Grinch. The charity that we supported was the One Can Trust and on the night, we raised £140.

We have only been back one week after the Christmas break and already our young people have braved the weather with outdoor cooking, showing their mental skills with a quiz, created a new game called Pirate Sinky Shippy, learnt about what it is to be a beaver and starting to look at CPR and bandages for first aid. Lots of things to look forward to and you can find us just behind the main village hall which can be found just behind our new banner.

As always none of this would be possible without our volunteers Alex, Andy, Barry, Beth, Caroline, Christopher, Harry, Lars, Laura, Lynda, Martin, Peter, Rob, Stephen, Tom and Tony.

Be Prepared

John Huddleston

Group Leader Volunteer

www.naphillscouts.org.uk







The Reopening of Templewood Playground

On 10 December 2024, the grand reopening of the Templewood playground in Main Road, Walters Ash was a huge success! Despite the rain, this event attracted a number of local residents as well as Hughenden Parish councillors, the RAF Station Commander, Wing Commander Dennis and the headteacher of Naphill and Walter's Ash School, Miss Gwynn, who brought along a group of children from the school. The children were delighted to perform the opening ceremony and then to test drive the new equipment.

The playground land was originally donated by Ivor Beeks, a local businessman, and he opened the original children's playground on this site in January 2008. Sadly, in recent years, the area had fallen into disrepair and needed to be refurbished,

On behalf of Hughenden Parish Council, Cllr Usha Prashar, a councillor for Naphill & Walters Ash said:

"It has been a long road. A lot of members of the local community and councillors did a lot of work to get it to this stage. The Chair of the HPC Environmental Services Committee, myself and another councillor decided that we were going to get this playground up and running again. On August 6 this year we held a community consultation event where parents were invited to view the proposed plans. These plans were then put it to the parish council who agreed the final plans and the funding. Now we have a playground that hopefully all in the community will enjoy and be proud of."





Hughenden Parish Councillor Usha Prashar was delighted to declare Templewoo Playground OPEN!











Life with young kids in Naphill & Walter's Ash

In praise of our playgrounds!

Life with young kids in N&WA - In praise of our playgrounds!

I am delighted by the opportunity offered to me by the editor to make a regular contribution to this magazine, and as a mum to two underfives, I proposed a corner dedicated to parenting young children. Naphill and Walters Ash are full of children, and it's no wonder – what a lovely place to raise a family. We enjoy all the advantages of a village community paired with having the Chilterns and all that Bucks and Oxfordshire have to offer on our doorstep. To kick off the year, I'm taking a moment to appreciate our playgrounds.

We have recently gained the beautiful new Templewood Playground, which my family have already been enjoying on a regular basis, and we're always pleased to see other families playing whenever we walk past. Considering the two playgrounds on Kilnwood, a further two on Greenwood (including 'Secret Park', whose real name surely remains a mystery to many), and the arrival of a new climbing frame for the playground at the Crick, we truly are spoilt for choice. Whether it's a 10 minute swing session after school or nursery, or a snack-fuelled afternoon with friends, easy access to a playground is one of those simple things that fades into the every-day. I like to remind myself every so often that we are very fortunate to have an array of well-maintained and entertaining places to go and blow off some steam!

Have I missed a playground? Are you a parent in our village with an idea for a topic? Please get in touch!

Harriet Clark - Assistant to the Editor

Naphill & Walters Ash Brownies

Before breaking up for Christmas, we enjoyed a Christmas craft evening with all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. 50 girls spent a very productive evening making cards, Christmas decorations and other crafty bits and bobs

The brownies also fitted in an evening enrolments, badge presentations and Christmas games - Christmas bingo, Christmas pass the parcel etc. We presented lots of lovely badges too. It is always a good end to the term to present these.



Next term we are hoping that one or two of our older brownies may complete the prestigious Brownie Gold Award. As well as having achieved lots of lovely badges over their time as brownies, they will have to help run a brownie session this term.

We are also going to be doing all sorts of things to take care of our wellbeing both physically and mentally. A happy and healthy start to the New Year

If you think your daughter may be interested in brownies, please visit: https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/ to register your interest. There is no fee to register and no obligation to join when a place becomes available.

Ruth Daly











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Naphill Tennis Club



2025 arrived bringing snow and ice but fortunately our courts were not out of action for long. Both our Men's 1st Team and our 2nd Team, The Rally Cats, have already enjoyed some good matches this winter and club sessions continue as usual.

One of our senior tennis players, who plays for our Naphill 1st team, is also a champion hockey player. Arthur Cresswell was selected for the England Over-75 years Hockey Team and, in October 2024, competed in the Hockey World Cup tournament in Cape Town, South Africa beating Australia 3:0 in the final. This was a brilliant achievement both for Arthur and for England and it shows that, provided you keep reasonably fit, you can continue to play sport to a high standard long after many people would have stopped. We congratulate Arthur on his well-deserved achievement and wish him many more years playing hockey and tennis!

We are currently putting together our programme for the forthcoming tennis season which will include coaching sessions for all abilities and ages to enjoy. If you are interested or would like to come along and try out some tennis, please get in touch with our membership secretary for further information: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com

Jenny Tench

Classics on the Crick Sunday 8th of June 2025 10am - 4pm

We are delighted to announce that once again, the Classics on the Crick Charity Car Show will be taking place this June.

The show will continue to raise funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance. With the village's support, in just over 10 years we have now raised over £110,000 for the charity.

All types of classic cars, bikes, commercials or scooters are welcome. Entries will open via the website on Saturday 1st March.

classicsonthecrick.co.uk

Public visitor tickets will be available on the day or in advance via the website in the weeks before the event.



As usual we plan to have some great musical entertainment, food, drinks & many stalls.

Plus a fantastic and varied selection of over 400 classic vehicles.

As the shows grows each year, we are always keen to welcome more volunteers.

If you can spare a few hours on Sunday 8th of June, please email us at classicsonthecrick@gmail.com

We hope to see you in June

The Classics on the Crick Team www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk



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Friends of Naphill Common Report

I hope you enjoyed a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

After many years of loyal service, Peggy Ewart is stepping down from our Committee, leaving a vacancy. We thank her for all her efforts, and this prompts me once more to make an appeal for 'new blood' – though all our members are dedicated, every year we all get 12 months older and it is becoming vital for us to have some younger members.

I think it would be an ideal opportunity for somebody newly retired who is wondering what to do with all their 'spare time' (whatever that is!) Simply being a committee member is not too onerous – we have 3 or 4 meetings a year (in the delightful surroundings of The Wheel, thanks to the good offices of Claire and Mark Christian) and any extra commitments are optional. If you're interested, please contact me or any committee member.

Walks

Our monthly walks – a shorter walk (about an hour) led by Chris Miller at 10:30am on the first Wednesday of each month; and a longer walk (roughly 2 hours) led by Ron Collins at 9:25am on the third Monday – continue to be popular.

FoNC Working Parties

Pictured are some illustrations of the work undertaken by our working parties, At this time of the year (after most amphibians should have left to find a safe spot to over-winter) carry out work on the ponds on the Common, to reduce the encroachment of plants such as floating sweet grass and yellow (flag) iris, which would otherwise take over and 'choke' the pond.

Both last year and this we've noticed large numbers (hundreds) of small newts in the two (different) ponds we've been working on, during late November and early December. I'd always understood that newts lay eggs in spring, which hatch in the summer and then grow to the point where they can safely leave the water in autumn, but it looks to me as though we're seeing a 'second brood'. Sadly, I doubt many of these 'newtlets' will survive, whether out of the pond or in it if it freezes over. I'm contacting some experts to find out whether such a second brood is normal, or perhaps a response to changes in the climate.

If you wish to join in with either of our weekly working parties, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, our web site (where our walking and other activities are also listed) has all the contact details:

http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html

Because both working parties are dependent on the weather, it's always best to check with the organisers before setting off: Tuesdays – Peter Davis (HW 569303); Thursdays – Ron Collins (HW 562240).

Chris Miller
Chairman









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From the Vicarage

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Do you ever find yourself carrying more than you can manage? Literally, or figuratively speaking.

During an early December Christmas present shop in the Eden centre, my arms grew longer and longer as our journey took us from one shop to another. I eventually made base camp in the Muffin Break café with my load, as my indefatigable wife Rachel continued shopping, stopping by from time to time to drop off more gifts.

This episode reminded me that we can only carry so much at once. The same applies to much of life. I never cease to be amazed by just how much we can bear as human beings, created in the image of God. However, that resilience to stress and pressure has limits. We have a responsibility to look after ourselves and each other.

The bible tells us that we should bear one another's burdens. If you have experienced times of challenge, you will probably be aware what a difference a kind word of support and encouragement and offers of practical help from a friend can make.

There are times to keep our heads down and shoulder the load, but there are also times when we would be wise to share that load with others. I have often found that asking for help can be really difficult to do, but can be so empowering when it is well received. Merely sharing a difficulty can help us to feel that we are not alone in our struggles. God puts special people alongside us to share those loads.

The language used in the bible verse at the start of this message is agricultural. I can visualise Jesus speaking to a crowd in a field, pointing to cattle who are yoked to a plough, as the farmer leads them across the field.

Being yoked to Jesus is not as harsh as this. Quite the opposite in fact, being yoked to Christ is liberating.

When you have finished reading this article, why not put the magazine down, close your eyes and turn to God in prayer... hand over to him all the burdens which weigh you down, and invite him to lift their weight from your shoulders.

God bless you

Rev Keith Johnson

News from St Michael's

After all the business and sparkle in the Church over Christmas, the first weeks of the New Year seem quiet in contrast. Adverse weather meant that the (now) traditional New Year's Day Walk had to be postponed until January 19th. (After the 11 o'clock service- bring lunch- wear suitable clothes -all welcome -see website for details)

The snow also brought some temporary - luckily minorelectrical problems to challenge us for the first Sunday of 2025 and our special Epiphany services. The Christmas Tree was still up and glowing but only for one more day, but the crib remains until Candlemas.

Otherwise, the Church is getting back to 'normal routine' with groups starting again: Tiny Tots, Friendship, House Groups, Mothers' Union and the Hughenden Singers have recommenced their weekly song making.

One big change has happened: our new Children and Youth Minister, Chris Coyston, has joined us. He was much in evidence on his first Sunday with his family, on guitar, vocals and puppets!

He has gradually been getting to know us over the last few weeks before formally taking up his new role. We welcome the Coyston family and wish them very well in their ministry.

The new Alpha course starts on Feb 5th: this is the popular weekly course taken by millions of people world wide who are exploring or have questions about Christianity. All details from Church website.

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Naphill Men's Club 2024 AGM

The Men's Club AGM will be held in the Men's Club room at 8pm on Wednesday 5th February 2025. All members are invited and any prospective member is welcome to come and have a chat about what we do.

The Club is open to all men who live in Naphill and Walter's Ash. We have two snooker tables which are available 7 days a week. We run both a snooker and billiards competition each year.

Further information is available from the chairman,

Andrew Wasilewski NaphillMensClub@Yahoo.co.uk

A Message from Greg Smith

MP for Mid Buckinghamshire

Wishing all readers a happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

As we enter another year, Buckinghamshire continues to face significant challenges, particularly the threat of inappropriate development. Protecting our countryside remains my top priority.

The rejection of a local battery storage facility in 2024 was a win for our community, preventing fire risks, landscape damage, and the loss of farmland. However, new proposals for similar facilities and vast solar farms, like the Rosefield project, threaten to destroy farmland, reduce food production, and erase our rural identity. Fighting these plans remains critical to safeguard villages like Naphill and throughout Mid Bucks.

You can organise an appointment to meet during one of my regular Help & Advice Surgeries - email greg.smith. mp@parliament.uk to arrange a meeting. See the list of dates and locations below:

- February 14: Venue in Wendover
- · March 28: Venue in the Claydons
- April 11: Venue in Great Missenden
- May 16: Venue in Haddenham
- June 13: Venue in Stokenchurch
- · July 18: Venue in Waddesdon
- · August 15: Venue in Prestwood
- September 12: Venue in Grendon Underwood
- October 10: Venue in Naphill
- · November 14: Venue in Ashendon
- December 12: Venue in Princes Risborough

Greg Smith



Naphill & Walter's Ash School Governing Board

We are currently seeking two Co-Opted Governors to join the School's Governing Board.

The role of a School Governor is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement.

Co-Opted Governors live or work in the community served by the school. They do not have children at the school. They are appointed to strengthen the Board's experience and to volunteer their professional and specialist skills.

- As a Co-Opted Governor you'll:
- See the impact of your decisions first hand.
- Gain experience of working at a strategic level.
- Improve education for local children.
- Work with people from a wide range of backgrounds.
- · Feel connected to your community.

To find out more and apply to make a difference to young people at our school please email:

paul.riglar.nawas@gmail.com

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Buckinghamshire has around 60 paid Patrollers whose role is to provide a vital community service in helping children and families get to and from school safely every day. Patrollers play a key role in promoting active travel and encouraging families to walk to and from school instead of driving by creating a safer environment to do so.

If you would like more information please contact me:

Corinne Randall

Corinne.randall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 01296 383432



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Shear Madness

And so another year rolls round, what to expect this year ?? New prices this month, it's a February thing (new prices at the bottom) as always it's not gone up much but I do still have increases to cover and I'm sure you all understand.

An exciting May for us as my son gets married, I know I'm FAR too young to have a 30 year old! But that also means dressing up as a lady so if anyone has any suggestions of where to buy a frock it would be very much appreciated. In June we are on holiday for a week to get over the stress of wearing a frock!!

Hopefully the days are getting brighter and maybe we will actually have a summer this year!

Remember to support all of your local businesses as we wouldn't survive without you and we thank you all.

As always stay safe

Mandy x

Not from the Vicarage - All at Sea!

I did it! After much on line and in person training, numerous mentoring and advisory phone conversations plus a mountain of paperwork, I got my first assignment as cruise ship chaplain!

TBH it was A-MA-ZING! It was probably the best whole month of my life. We sailed from Southampton to Canada to experience the wonderful autumn colours of the Canadian countryside, cruising up the St Lawrence River to visit Montreal and Quebec whilst observing wildlife, stargazing and learning about the river's geography at on board lectures. After embarking on various shore expeditions, we relieved our aching bodies in the ship's hot tub, then had a delicious dinner followed by a first class theatre show. It was the life of Riley!

We did hit the tail end of hurricane Kirk whilst crossing the Atlantic. It was rough, very rough, and I found myself mentally rehearsing the evacuation drill. I also couldn't help thinking about Gene Hackman's heroic chaplain in The Poseidon Adventure.....In the end, all that happened was we had an unexpected and very pleasant diversion to Madeira.

Of course, I had to work. Daily services whilst at sea, communion services on Sundays and generally doing what chaplains do. My husband accompanied me (I could take a companion) and was a very helpful deputy chaplain and support techie. We rubbed shoulders with a huge variety of passengers – bankers, engineers, a real-life air crash investigator, teachers and even retired seafarers (military and civilian who just could not bear to be away from the sea). The experience also massively informed and enriched the work we have been doing in Gibraltar with the Mission to Seafarers.

Having been used to working 'below deck' visiting ships as they called into Gib, it was an absolute revelation to be working above deck amongst the passengers. We saw wonderful crew members keeping an eye on vulnerable passengers and informing me if they thought talking with a chaplain might be helpful. There were cabin stewards for whom nothing was too much trouble, waiters who ensured your meal was perfect, security personnel who gently but firmly kept us safe and musicians who played the most beautiful music on request. All was undertaken with grace, kindness, good humour and a massive amount of hard work.

Which provided absolutely no excuse for the way a tiny handful of passengers treated the staff.

'You boy! Can you count to three? I want three scoops of ice cream' I heard one man demand. I felt upset and powerless – as chaplain, I couldn't remonstrate with the man, but his behaviour and sense of entitlement sickened me. I spoke with the 'boy' after and apologised for the man's rudeness; his response shocked me further 'It's alright, I'm used to people like that'. This wasn't the only incident I witnessed......

The Bible speaks of humanity being made in the image of God and the rude man would have done well to have acknowledged God's image in the person who was serving him. In some Jewish traditions there is a belief that 12,000 angels go before every human being proclaiming 'Make way, make way for the image of God'. How would we treat each other if we saw the image of God in those around us? How would you see yourself.......?

Every blessing,

Rev Jenny Ellis

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Local Tales - Birdnesting

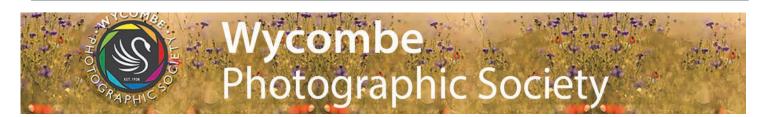
Almost eighty years ago, when I was a boy, one of my favourite activities each spring was to go birdnesting with some of my chums. We all collected the eggs of wild birds. I am not proud of what we did but it was a very popular hobby. My older brothers had egg collections, as did most boys I knew. I don't recall any girls who went birdnesting: perhaps they had more sense. I found real pleasure in searching bushes, climbing trees, wading about in rivers and ponds, plus the thrill of finding the nest of a species I had not found before.

We were vaguely aware that what we were doing was morally dubious. We were damaging our wild bird populations and impairing the labours of innocent birds. The negative effects increased as we proceeded because although we started with common species such as blackbirds, song thrushes, and hedge sparrows, we rapidly moved on to rarer species such as tree creepers, willow warblers and sparrowhawks. In our defence, I can say that we formulated some rules. For example, we allowed an egg to be taken only if there were at least three eggs in the nest, and two eggs could be taken if there were five or more. Of course, if we were with a group of boys we knew that some disappointed lads might return to the nest and take more.

Each egg had to be "blown". We would use a pin or a prickle to make a tiny hole at opposite ends of the egg and then gently blow out the contents. This was difficult task as the shells of the smaller eggs were so thin and delicate. Of course, another hazard was if the baby bird has begun to develop. Many breakages occurred. If the nest was high in a tree the egg would be carried down in one's mouth. The rookery down at Hughenden was a particular source of temptation. Some boys became very skilled at climbing. I remember one lad we called 'Sos', who was fearless and able to climb almost any tree. On one occasion he fell from considerable height. He came crashing down through the branches to land with a loud thump on his back. We stood round him in horror, but after a few seconds he stood up and smiled.

Iregret what we did and will not make any attempt to justify it. It gave me a detailed knowledge of a wide range of nests and eggs but at too great a cost to the birds. Perhaps we were contributing to the serious decline in the bird life of the area, although we were far less damaging than the agricultural practices, the pesticides and destruction of hedges and woodland that have done the most devastating damage.

Trevor Hussey.



Now, with the milder weather, is a good time to look out for early Spring flowers and buds. Get down low to take your photograph. Avoid bright sunlight. Overcast is best. Always look at the background for distractions before taking the photograph.

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the first 4 Wednesdays of each month at 8pm.

5th Feb Members Evening – members show their work

12th Feb Master Photographers - Koudelka (Magnum Photographer)

19th Feb Themed Assignment: Series of Work - Prints & DPI's
 26th Feb Digital Workshop - Photoshop & Lightroom Techniques

5th Mar You Want to Shoot Film- Shoot, Develop & Print

12th Mar The PiC Group visits WPS - Visiting Photographers

Programme of events subject to change. To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: -

www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

Peter Davis
Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society





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Last food orders are 15 minutes before the advertised closing times.

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Wheel News

Happy New Year to you all, we hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. December was an amazing month here at The Wheel it really felt like you were all out making the most of the festive season. I'd like to thank Julia, Kaytee and Bella who worked so hard, and to the rest of our fantastic team (university students included) well done.

So, what's instore for 2025?

February

Thank you to Jon Cooper Handyman Services (aka Bolton) for the maintenance and refurb of our kitchen that was in great need of some extra love. Thank you for all the hard work in very cold conditions, it looks great.

First up is the 6 Nations starting on the 1st of February as always, all games will be shown and we are also doing the sweepstake alongside Princess Risborough Rugby Club. Come up and enjoy the fun.

February 14th is Valentine's Day, and we will have our romantic specials for you to treat the special person in your life throughout the week not just on the Friday.

March

- Pie Week 3rd 9th March
- St Patricks Day 17th March we will be celebrating over the weekend of the 14/15th and 16th as it's a Monday
- Mother's Day March 30th

April - June

- Easter April 18th 21st
- May Bank Holidays 5th and 26th
- 8th June Classics on the Crick
- 13th June 15th June NapFest
 - 13th June we will be closed in the evening for a private 50th Birthday
 - Sunday 15th June Father's Day

So that gives you all a 6 month idea of what's happening. But the most important date for your diary is RONFEST which is has moved to 30th August (fingers crossed for better weather)!

See you all soon.

Mark & Claire.

Gordon the Birdman - Rat invasions and the damage they cause

The world has over 175,000 small islands that make up only 5% of the world's land area but are home to over 20% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Some of the world's most amazing bird species are found on islands. Ornithologists have long been amazed by this diversity of bird forms and functions on islands, inspiring many works such as Darwin's "Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection". On most islands land mammals are naturally absent, never having been able to colonise. So, birds have evolved over millenniums to fill gaps left in form and function. Pigeons became DoDos and Finches have become Honeycreepers and Sunbirds. However, with this island evolution, traits such as flight and nest defence that protected birds from mammal predation have been lost.

Where humans go other species have followed, either purposefully or accidentally, and species on islands are more vulnerable to the impact of invasive species by virtue of their evolution in isolation. For birds, one of the most impactful group of introductions has been mammals, with native populations of birds being devastated by introduced rodents and the cats that people introduced to control them.

Since the age of European exploration starting around 1500ad, 90% of bird extinctions have been on islands. Today, over half of red listed endangered species are found on islands and for 75% of these, invasive species are the major threat. The arrival of humans and the rats, mice, cats and dogs that travelled with them to the Pacific islands led to the extinction of over 20% of endemic island birds. New Zealand has lost over 42% of it's native birds and these extinctions are still happening today.

One of the defining moments in New Zealand conservation was when Black Rats made it to the South Cape Islands off a stranded fishing boat in 1967. This is one of the most remote southern islands in the country and at just over 10 square kilometres was the last stronghold for three endemic birds, yet within the space of a few years these species were wiped from the face of the Earth. The link between rodent arrival and bird extinction was clear.

Wildlife rangers returned north to tiny one hectare Maria Island where rats had also just arrived and were eliminating a White Faced Storm Petrel colony but with the help of a local school group they hand spread rat poison across the whole island and by the following year the rats had gone. New Zealand had just completed it's first rat eradication.

Fast forward to 1990 and the invention of commercial GPS meant agricultural helicopter pilots were now able to spread rat poison much faster and on a much larger scale than on any ground-based operation could hope to achieve. Islands of thousands of hectares from which

rodent eradication was once only a dream were now targets. Today nearly 50% of the New Zealand mainland has some form of predator management taking place, with nearly 60% of New Zealand's 345 off shore islands predator free.

To date there have been over 1,500 mammal eradication attempts across the world. Over half of these have targeted the three species of invasive rats (Black, Brown and Pacific) that have colonised over 80% of the world's archipelagos. The success rate of these eradications is over 85% with the largest island cleared of rodents yet being South Georgia Island, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic during 2011 to 2015.

It takes just one ship for rats or mice to colonise or recolonise an island and extinguish endangered bird species and with the popularity of cruises visiting ever more remote islands, make sure both you and your fellow passengers are aware of biosecurity, action taken to prevent species invasion before they occur and incur massive costs in damage and management.

Windswept Christmas Lights

We started to take down the Christmas lights at Windswept on 6th January, following the brief bout of snow. A huge thank you to everyone for the contributions to our designated charity BURPS; we had an exceptionally good year with an amazing grand total of £413.56, including Gift Aid. Fortunately there weren't too many casualties this year, the weather was kind to us this time. There were a few new additions to the display, hopefully the regular visitors spotted these. We had quite a few people wander down the drive for a closer look; its so nice to see the young children enjoying the display. We hope the display brought a little joy to everyone and we are extremely grateful for all the donations made; thank you. We never know where our visitors come from as we post on Naphill and Hughenden Facebook sites but hopefully residents outside of Naphill are able see this report. The total donation this year is by far the highest we have ever received. I know the charity will be pleased with this money and they will put it to good use. Further information on BURPS can be found here:

https://www.burpscharity.org/

Thank you again for your kind donations and we wish you all a Happy New Year; looking forward to seeing you again at Christmas 2025.

Trevor & Jan May

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- OCD and neuro-diversity
- Health and pain issues

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increased confidence.



About me: I have a Diploma and Master Practitioner qualification in QCH Therapy combining CBT, Gestalt Therapy, Positive Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology, Parts Therapy, NLP and EFT. I gained my Master Reiki qualification Second Degree in 2018.

Alison Scott

Contact me for a free initial consultation: 07989535527

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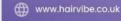


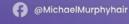
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Happy New Year?

This time of year is a time for new starts, already broken resolutions and maybe even regret as we reflect on another year gone by and the fresh challenges that lie ahead. It's useful to take some time to do a review of 2024 before making too many plans for 2025.

Reflection

- * How did I nurture my most important relationships? Connection and friendship are the absolute bedrock of well-being.
- * How did I take care of myself? What worked and what didn't? This includes social life, diet, fitness, time out, and time spent in a 'flow' state where we lose ourselves in a task or pastime.
- * What did I learn about myself and others?
- * What am I most grateful for? This can often be events that did not happen as well as what did, and this can highlight where we might be taking things or people for granted.
- * What was my biggest block to success and how could I approach that block differently or from a different perspective?

Joy

* What brings me most joy and what are the issues that prevent me having more of it? We often have to create the joy in our lives and not expect it to happen out of nowhere.

Growth

* What can I do to step out of my comfort zone and embrace growth? A growth mindset is the opposite to being in protection mode when we choose to make 'safe' decisions which can keep us stuck in unhelpful routines or situations. Pushing ourselves out of our comfort zone builds confidence.

Change

* How can I encourage change in my life rather than fearing it? Embracing change and being flexible are essential characteristics for a successful life.

Giving Back

* What have I given to people, friends, family this year? Feeling useful and helping others has such a powerful part to play in having agency in life, enabling us to feel more fulfilled.

Letting Go

* What beliefs, people, resentments or situations do I need to let go of? This can be a challenging area to reflect on though the rewards are immense as when we clear away 'excess' baggage, the more room is left for fresh thought and action.

The Year Ahead

- * What might I be able to achieve this year if I did not feel any fear?
- * Who can I reach out to for help to help alleviate my difficulties?
- * Which habits are moving me forward and or holding me back? Habits include procrastination, over-working, overthinking and self-isolating. Don't forget the positive habits too.
- * What would I like to learn that will be fun, useful and engaging?

Most importantly, this is a time to be gentle with ourselves...mid-winter is not an easy time of year.

If you need some help kick-starting the year with some therapeutic coaching and creating some focus for the year ahead, contact me – **07989 535527.**

Client Testimonial

"My sessions with Alison were massively effective. I feel generally much less anxious, the voice in my head is much kinder and I've really been able to put some trauma behind me. I also love my word weave and think I'll listen to it forever! I am so grateful for her help and support and feel like I'm back to being me!"



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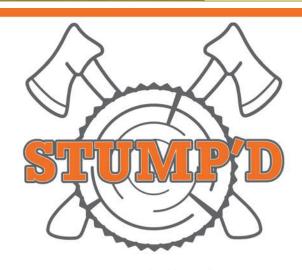


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Naphill Neighbours

Forty members enjoyed a lovely christmas lunch at hazelmere golf club in december. The traditional fare was beautifully cooked and all served piping hot. Lovely.

OUR FIRST TALK OF 2025 was an illustrated one about PINEWOOD STUDIOS, given by a knowledgeable enthusiast. The large house in which it began was purchased in 1934 by Charles Best. It was in 160 acres of grounds and is still in use today. The house and grounds are still in use today for filming. The interior was upgraded with the addition of wooden panelling from the SS MAURETANIA.

Over the years the facilities have been extended to include adaptable sets for a wide variety of films. The Bond films have nearly all been made there, as have all the 'Carry on' films. A large tank serves as a river and an ocean. Pinewood is popular with HOLLYWOOD STARS such as John Wayne. Who would would have thought it?

'BRIEF ENCOUNTER' was made there. The studios were in financial trouble several times but were rescued by big money from J. Arthur Rank, and from unexpectedly successful films such as 'Pygmalion' which G.B. SHAW disliked but liked it better when it did so well . The sets have expanded over the years and the very elaborate sets of Bond films can be accommodated. It is a facility of which we can be proud.

Our next meeting will be on MONDAY FEBRUARY 10th given by Bill Hamilton and entitled'Good news, Bad news. '1.45 for a 2pm start. New Members welcome.

Peggy Ewart

565969



Edna Lilian Chamberlen - 18th March 1927 - 10th November 2024 Remembered by her daughter Carol

My mother Edna was the youngest of two children born to Alice Emily Lilian Fleet and Arthur Thomas Stevens. Her brother Ron was seven years older than her and they had three 1st cousins - Barry, Arthur and Yvonne. She was brought up on Coombe Farm (formerly known as Fleets Farm).

During the 2nd World War, Mum worked at Chiltern House on Stocking Lane for the Cooperative Permanent Building Society (which later became Nationwide). She started as a filing clerk in April 1941 just after her 16th birthday, earning 10 shillings per week. After the war, the Society moved back to London and Edna followed. She was known at work for her very quick arithmetical brain.

Edna met her husband Derek on the train from High Wycombe to Marylebone. He found out she lived at Coombe Farm, Naphill, and came to visit. The rest is history as they say, and they married in March 1958, so celebrated 62 years together. They lived in Perks Lane (just a short distance from the Harrow Pub) and then Dad started working for the Ministry of Defence and was posted to Windsor. Edna and Derek moved to Slough for a while,



where I was born. Soon after, Derek was posted to Germany, and Edna had to make the trip by public transport on her own with a case and a carry cot. One of Derek's brothers, Russell took her to Harwich to catch a ferry to the Hook of Holland and then train to Dusseldorf. We stayed in Germany for two years, returning to Stonefield Road in Walters Ash.

Mum was a lifelong member of the Women's Institute and Naphill Neighbours, and was involved in the fete, helping with the floats that went down the street from Forge Road to the Crick. She loved flower arranging and crafts such as cross stich, and was skilled in

making beautiful greeting cards with pressed flowers. She was very good at cooking and baking - the whole family had a sweet tooth so loved her desserts! She also read historical novels, loved scrabble, her Women's Weekly and was an avid follower of the soaps

Edna's funeral was held at Hughenden Church and her ashes were buried with Derek. The wake was held at the Harrow Pub on Warrendene Lane.

Edited from notes by Harriet Clark-Assistant to the editor



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THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES RISBOROUGH

As your local Club we are always looking out for needy causes in our area that might benefit from our help, either financial and/or with manpower. Recently, we have provided financial and physical support to a number of local schools, primary and upper, the Princes Risborough (PR) Youth Club, the PR Scout Group, the Buck's Young Carers, Wycombe Homeless, the Community Bus, the Youth Enquiry Service...the list goes on. In the past 6 months we have supported over 35 local organisations. For this, over the past 8 years we have raised and donated over £250,000. To achieve this does require hard work; for example, our Christmas Collection in Town last December, involved 130 manhours fulfilled by 42 Club members, which raised well over £5,500 - the weather was not good; however the generosity of the Town's people, as always, was amazing - thank you.

That all might sound a mite arduous, but it is just part of the activities of what is a fun and active Club. We meet every Monday evening, excluding the first one of the Month, at the Whiteleaf Golf Clubhouse for a meal and some form of entertainment. We do have a slightly irreverant approach to our activities, which makes the Meetings more enjoyable. We also have a casual, once a month breakfast get together, a curry group, a cycle group and a walking group and we organise numerous visits to a wide range of local facilities. If you would like to join a fun group which offers friendship, contacts and opportunities to "give back" – look no further!

If you would like to consider joining us and help contribute locally and nationally, visit our website and/ or come to one of our meetings to see if it might be of interest. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity Account, please use the contact details below.

You can contact us at: rcpr.org.uk or call David White on 07787 750889, or email: david@dhwhite.plus.com



High Wycombe and District High Wycombe & District U3A: Home (u3asites.org.uk)

Access more information using the QR code, Facebook or this link to our website.

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Helping to keep us all fit in the New Year – and already in action- is our programme of local walks, normally starting from Naphill Village Hall.

Following on from the successful Christmas Coffee Morning in Naphill Village Hall, over 80 members came to the first General Meeting of 2025. Our guest speaker talked on 'protecting the family nest egg.' The January General Meeting attracted an audience of 80 people. We are expecting our February General Meeting speaker to be equally popular. This is being held on February 26th at 2pm in Lacey Green and Loosley Row Village Hall, when the Mayor of High Wycombe (Paul Turner) will be discussing his role as Mayor.

Newcomers to the area have welcomed the attention we have been giving to the role of local people in our area, as well as the places they and we live. We are already planning several excursions to local places of interest. These include a talk in May on (and visit in August to) an archaeological dig in Cookham. This will be our second visit to the site and scheduled to coincide with the last week of the dig. Do not miss this if you are interested in discovering more about the area we live in and the artefacts 'dug up.'

Our Local History, Geology, Photography, Science, Psychology and World We Live In Groups all meet in

Hazlemere Memorial Hall. We have also reintroduced our Genealogy Group in Hazlemere Library where Ancestry is available free. You will find Art, as well as the Antiques and Collectables Group at Hughenden Valley Village Hall. Following on from their talk on Christmases Past there is a fascinating talk on the history of Penguin Books taking place in February. Bring a Penguin along if you have one!

Computing, Geology, Discovering Art, a monthly Quiz, Rummikub, Local Walks and Computing are also firm favourites in Naphill, and our Music Group has been active in introducing a wide range of music genres to an eager audience.

Email gilliamph@aol.com for further details of over 30 Groups, if you are interested in coming along to one of these Groups. One of our major objectives in 2025 is addressing issues of loneliness. We are always interested in following up ideas from our local community which help achieve this objective.

You can find out more on what we do on Facebook (20+) Facebook as well as from our web site High Wycombe and District.

Paul Gilliam

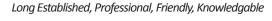
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