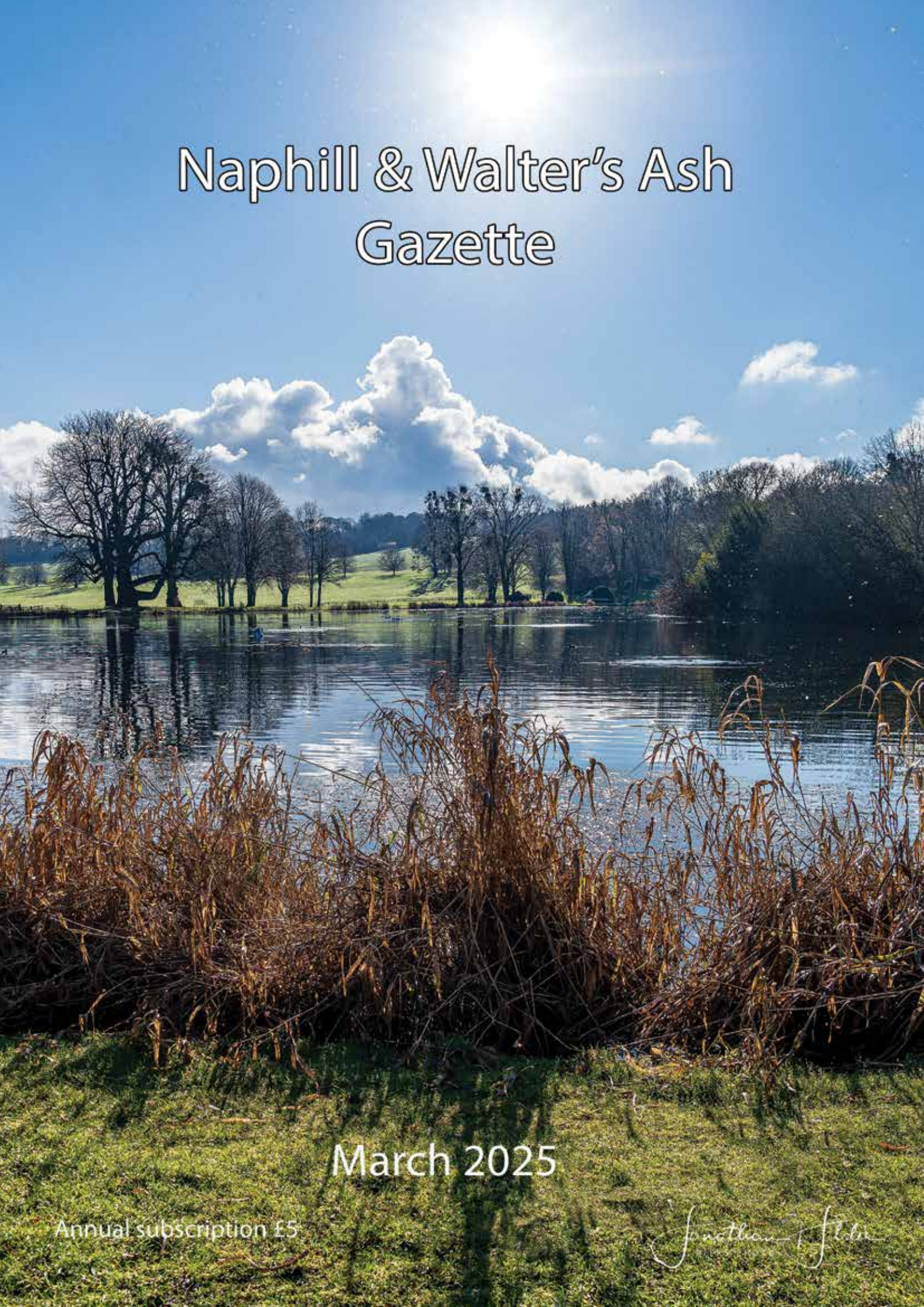


A scenic landscape photograph of a lake. In the foreground, there are tall, dry, brown reeds. The lake is calm, reflecting the sky and the trees on the opposite bank. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The sun is visible in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

March 2025

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Our Local Clubs and Organisation Contacts

Beavers		01494 447121	Groupleader@naphillscouts.org.uk
Brownies Naphill & W.A	Caroline Purdom		wabrownies@gmail.com
Bridge Club	Margaret Stagg	01494 530736	
Cubs - Naphill			Groupleader@naphillscouts.org.uk
Friends of Naphill Common	Chris Miller	01494 563707	chairman@naphillcommon.org.uk
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Scouts (Naphill)			Groupleader@naphillscouts.org
Naphill Football Club	Chris Keats		napillfc@btinternet.com.uk
Hughenden Street Association	Susan Bickerstaffe	07880 519323	smbickerstaffe54@gmail.com
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Naphill Village Hall



Chairman - Clive Lawrence

Email: chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings - Tanya Stevens

Email: hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Tel: 07851 169275

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Local Council Contact Information

Bradenham Parish Council Clerk	Deirdre Hanson	01494 562254	clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com
Hughenden Parish Council	Clerk Vacant	01494 715296	clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Usha Prashar	07778 141920	usha.prashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Richard Wilding		richard.wilding@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillor	Vacancy		
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Clive Harriss	07768 876568	Clive.Harriss@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Helpful Contact Numbers

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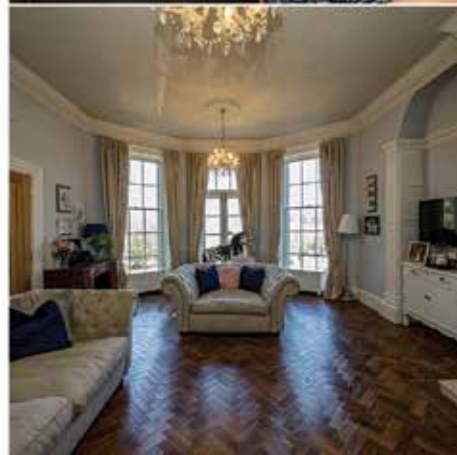
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Gazette Editor Wanted

For more details please contact
the editor, Sonia Goby,
gazetteeditor@btinternet.com

Copy Date for April 2025 Gazette 15 March 2025

January and February are especially busy months for our treasurer, all the advertising accounts must be settled. Thank you to Hilary for all your hard work and to our advertisers for their ongoing support. We do have a few spare advertising spaces, please do get in touch if we can help you to promote your business. Please, everybody, look through our adverts and support our advertisers whenever you can.

On page 29, in this edition of the Gazette we have a charming article from Philip Hussey titled, "Things Change" and this is certainly very true in the wonderful world of the Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette! If you visit our website, www.naphillandwaltersash.org.uk, and head to back copies, you will find the very first edition of the Gazette dated February 1935. How this was produced is very different from today's version!

Whilst on the subject of change, the Gazette needs a new editor. I have very much enjoyed my time as Gazette editor and there have certainly been lots of changes and developments whilst I have occupied this chair, but it is finally time for me to retire and hand the baton on and ask somebody else to head this great team.

In my time as editor technology has moved on apace and from the start of this journey, as an "old girl", it has been a

steep learning curve. I certainly could not have done this job without the TEAM! Our website has been developed by Peter and our Facebook page is up and running thanks to Karen and Andria. Our finances are safe and secure in Hilary's hands. Paul and Jo, plus all the delivery team, make sure that I never have to worry as to how the Gazette reaches you all. I am fortunate to have Jonathan as my deputy, a great photographer, article finder and shoulder when needed, and Harriet who has recently joined us as my editorial assistant. AN AMAZING TEAM, all ready to work with the next Gazette editor.

If you are interested in becoming the next editor, please do get in touch with me, via email: gazetteeditor@btinternet.com

My thanks to all our contributors for all the articles and photographs and special thanks to Jonathan for the cover photograph.

With Mothers' Day before the April Gazette drops on to your door mat and signs that Spring has sprung appearing, we have much to look forward to. I wish you all a lovely Mother's Day and as we look forward to Easter in April this year.

Sonia

gazetteeditor@btinternet.com



Editorial Disclaimer: Although the editor has made every effort to ensure that the information in this magazine was correct at press time, the editor does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, regardless of the cause. The content of any article is the responsibility of the contributor, if the text is edited/substantially altered, the editor will inform the contributor before publication. Any opinions expressed in articles herein do not express the personal opinion of the editor. Comments or queries on individual articles will be forwarded to the author/contributor to substantiate. The editor retains the right to refuse any contribution. No group or individual can demand that their contribution will be published or dictate how or where their contribution is placed or displayed. The editor will close comments on any subject if this is agreed by the Gazette committee member.



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Chairman's Report

A committee meeting of the village hall was held on the 3rd February. There were 10 trustees present. At the start of the meeting a minute's silence was held in memory of Judy Whitehouse.

A new floor polisher has been bought at a cost of £800. The previous one had lasted over 25 years. The cooker also needs replacing and that will be a similar price.

The committee are having problems with HMRC due to the paperwork involved in claiming gift aid. Phone calls have helped to clarify the position but it could be an ongoing process!

The committee have decided that the broadband provider will be changed to Gigaclear, this will be a two year contract and hopefully it will help solve the problems that we have with the village hall's wi-fi system.

With a Bank holiday declared for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the village hall will be running "Celebrations on the Crick" on the 5th May from 12 until 4, with 40's style music and hopefully dressing up in 40's style. Weather permitting

it will be held on the Crick. In the event of inclement weather it will be held in the hall. We hope that the village will join in by putting up red, white and blue bunting and union flags all around the village. At this stage of organising the event we hope to have children's entertainment and family competitions. Please see the Gazette and other media for more information as it becomes available.

The preparations for Napfest are well under way. It will be a 3 day event over the weekend of the 13 to 15 June. Many entertainments have been booked including bands, go karts and traditional children's games.

This year the Fireworks event will be held on the 8th November.

The village hall committee still has a vacancy for a secretary, if you have some spare time and are interested in being part of the village hall, please e mail me at -chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Clive Lawrence

Village Hall Chairman

**VE Day 80yrs
Celebrations on The Crick
5th May 12-4pm**

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Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents' Association

I'm delighted to report that my regular appeals for new blood have not gone in vain, and that following the departure of Peggy Ewart, after many years of dedicated service, we have welcomed Veronica Adsetts to our committee. There remains a vacancy, and our 'door' is always open to anyone interested in joining us – just speak to any member of the committee to express an interest.

AGM

Those who braved the somewhat inclement weather were rewarded with a fascinating presentation by Susie and Andrew Howard of Beech Dean Ice Cream, explaining the highs and lows of building their business from selling ices at the farm door to a multi-million pound enterprise. We are doubly grateful to Beech Dean both for their entertaining and informative talk and for a generous donation to our funds.

Common

As I write, Valentine's Day is fast approaching, when birds traditionally start nesting. There are (despite the cold, damp weather) plenty of signs of spring to be seen and heard. As well as snowdrops and crocuses in gardens, aconites and their small yellow flowers are coming out in the woods. Song Thrushes are calling, usually from the top of the tallest tree, and Great Tits have begun making their territorial call of TEACH-er TEACH-er. Spotted woodpeckers are drumming in the trees – the Great Spotted Woodpecker usually drums for no more than a second, so if you hear drumming going on for several seconds it may be the increasingly rare Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Both these species have similar markings (mainly black and white with

red patches), but the Great is as big as a blackbird-size, whereas the Lesser is sparrow-sized.

Although it's just outside the boundary of the Common, you may have noticed that Vincent's Meadow and Pond (also known as Pickup's Pond) have been receiving attention from the Chiltern Rangers and volunteers, both local and from further afield. The work is at the behest of the Parish Council as part of their management plan for the several open spaces that they own within the parish.

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

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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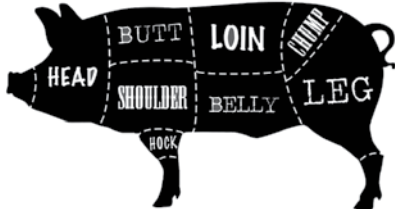
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Bradenham Parish Council

The parish council set its budget for 2025/26 at its last meeting and the corresponding request for precept from Buckinghamshire Council. Rising costs have meant budget increases. We have several asset maintenance jobs that need to be done in the next 18 months, and we need to keep our reserves at an appropriate level.

We have found a new contractor for grass cutting in the 30mph zone of the parish, who will start at the end of March.

The empty National Trust properties in Bradenham village are a concern and we are now awaiting a reply from the Housing and Planning Minister, Matthew Pennycook MP, to the letter our MP Greg Smith wrote to him on our behalf expressing our concerns.

The track to the cricket club in Bradenham is in a terrible state and our Chairman has written to the National Trust this time urging them to do some repairs as soon as possible.

Elections for the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council will be held on Thursday 1st May. If you are interested in standing for a place on Bradenham Parish Council, please contact one of the councillors or the clerk.

Our next meeting will be Monday 3rd March at 7pm in Bradenham Cricket Club.

Deirdre Hansen, clerk to the Council.

clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com

www.e-voice.org.uk/bradenham-parish-council



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Charity Number 248607



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- (1) the relief of persons resident in the Hughenden Parish Council area who are in need, hardship or distress.
- (2) the trustees may relieve persons in need by:
 - (a) making grants of money to them; or
 - (b) providing or paying for goods, services or facilities for them; or
 - (c) making grants of money to other persons or bodies who provide goods, services or facilities to those in need

We are in a position to offer small grants to residents in the area outlined in Pink below, Hughenden Parish, who may need a little help, e.g. those who cannot afford school trips, club subs, special equipment, respite care, etc., particularly, in these difficult times. Grants to be

awarded to those in need of financial support who cannot otherwise afford such items.

If you run a local club or are involved with a local school and are aware of any residents who may like our support please do feel free to contact us and you may be able to apply on their behalf.

Application forms for grants can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary by email to lyn.marchant@btinternet.com or to the Hon. Secretary, "Brambles", Grange Road, Widmer End, Buckinghamshire, HP15 6AD





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Gordon the Birdman - *Bird Watch*

What an awful start to the year it has been. Cold, wet and continuous grey skies, the only thing getting me out of bed are the dogs (making me) and the birds. It has been a good few years since so many have been recorded in the garden with twenty-three species seen during the RSPB birdwatch, with three of special note: Regular visitors but not seen during the permitted hour, male Bullfinch, a pair of overwintering Blackcaps and two male Greenfinches, these being the first recorded since October 2021. Locally there are regular sightings of Little Egret and Common Snipe by the pumping station beyond Hughenden Village Hall, a Great White Egret near Funges Meadow and a Black Necked Grebe amongst four Little Grebes on The Dyke.



Species seen during the Garden Birdwatch:-

Robin	Crow	Blue Tit	Chaffinch
Wren	Jackdaw	Great Tit	Goldfinch
Dunnock	Jay	Marsh Tit	
Starling	Magpie	Coal Tit	
Blackbird	Wood Pigeon	Long Tailed Tit	
Song Thrush	Feral Pigeon	G.S. Woodpecker	
Red Kite	Collared Dove	Nuthatch	

It is at this time of year that raptors start pair bonding for the coming breeding season. Knowing preferred habitat of different species will narrow down options for which raptors are most likely to be seen, with the size of woodland varying between species. Goshawk and Honey Buzzard prefer large unbroken woodland, whereas Kite and Buzzard are more comfortable in mixed habitat, while Sparrow Hawk will nest in smaller areas of wood or even in suburban areas. In contrast Harriers are birds of open habitat with Marsh Harriers preferring large areas of reed bed and Hen Harrier open moorland, though they have been seen at Otmoor.

Goshawk, Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk and Red Kite are most active late February through to April, with Harriers April to early May. Raptors show a variety of flight behaviour involving more active, unusual flying patterns, rather than the soaring, gliding flight that many raptors use to conserve energy when hunting. Most raptors share several similarities, circling on high before going into a stoop then a fast ascent, but where Goshawks and Sparrow Hawks both fluff out their undertail coverts, Red Kites, Buzzards and Harriers will roll and loop with close passes between birds with talons locking, where birds will tumble for considerable distances before letting go. Harriers also perform food passes as part of their courtship.

Gordon

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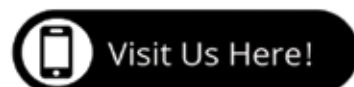
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January has come and gone - and it was certainly a busy one. In Westminster, I have been leading for the Opposition on the Employment Rights Bill Committee, scrutinising this far-reaching legislation line by line.

The Government's figures show that this Bill will cost businesses over £5 billion a year. I am concerned that this bill is failing to back businesses and drive real economic growth.

Closer to home, the closure of Hampden Row's Outreach Post Office is a deeply disappointing decision that will leave many residents without a vital local service. The Post Office claims "lack of customers" as the reason, but this fails to acknowledge the essential role it plays for those who rely on it - particularly older residents and those without easy access to alternative services.

I refuse to accept this closure without challenge. I will be raising this issue directly with the Post Office, urging them to reconsider and explore ways to keep this service running. Rural communities should not be left behind, and I will do everything in my power to fight for the services our villages deserve.

As always, you can reach me over email: greg.smith.mp@parliament.uk and visit my website: gregsmith.co.uk to see future surgery dates.

With best wishes,

Greg Smith



Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents' Association

2025 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of NAWARA in its present form but more of that in the summer when the actual anniversary arrives.

In the meantime we continue to keep an eye on planning matters:

- In one case this amounts to querying the apparent incorporation of agricultural land in a garden
- another where the decisions of a planning inspector are apparently being circumvented, to the detriment of the Green Belt.
- A more bizarre case we're pursuing is the approval given for the construction of a building which appears totally unsuited to the purpose claimed.

With Angela Rayner's plans for building in the Green Belt we may have more work on our hands in the coming years.

Developments large and small have taken place in the two villages in recent years but despite the consequent rise in the population several organisations, including us, have difficulty in finding the volunteers we need to keep village activities going. Being on the NAWARA committee is not onerous but it is worthwhile so why not join us?

David Frost

Vice Chairman





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Growing Your Own



The photo is an attention-getter as a reminder that it is March and it is time to get going in your garden or on your allotment. So I wanted to emphasise, right from the start, that there is no need to dig. Simply go for a "prowl with a trowel" and take out any deep-rooted weeds such as dandelions and docks. Then a little light hoeing, a raking off of the weeds and it is done, ready for seed sowing or planting out small plants. If you are taking over an overgrown allotment or have decided to turn part of your garden into a productive plot, then purchase a large sheet of black plastic, cover the plot, then put bricks or soil round the edges and wait for 9 months when all weeds will be dead. Then rake off the dead vegetation and start sowing and planting-out.

But why should we avoid digging? The reason is to preserve the soil structure. There are billions of soil micro-organisms which help the crops and we do not want to disturb them - in particular mycorrhizal fungi which bring water and nutrients to the roots of the plants in exchange for surplus carbohydrates. If we dig we chop up the mycorrhizal fungi - and since their rate of growth is only about 6 inches per year it can take a long time for soil health to be restored.

According to official statistics, two-thirds of England's land is agricultural, with 38 % being arable land and 29% grassland. That 38% of arable land enables us to produce 18% of our fruit and 50% of our vegetables. Including

meat production, we produce only about half our food, so it is important that we do not take farmland out of production. Yet, that is what we are doing already with rewilding and other attempts to produce environmental and climate benefits. For the latter, the government have just said that by 2050 we need to take out of production another 9% of farmland. Yet our population is increasing rapidly - another 5 million in the next 7 years is the current estimate. The only way of feeding them is to import more and more of our food - and leaving ourselves more and more vulnerable to food price shocks and actual shortages. I should point out an inconsistency in the logic of "the powers that be". If we take an acre of carrots out of food production for rewilding then that acre of carrots will have to be grown in foreign lands where an acre of wild land will have to be ploughed up to grow carrots. Thus, the net effect on reducing carbon emissions will be zero - one will cancel out the other. Also, the 5 million new people mentioned above will need houses and all the associated infrastructure such as roads, railways, hospitals, schools, shops etc, leading to more loss of farmland. Chaos!! Therefore, keep your head down and grow your own!

Good gardening!

Mike Mason



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Our Media Team Report - *Extreme Weather in School!*

We often hear on the news that the World's climate is changing, and this is definitely something we are noticing at school. Here are some examples of how the changing temperatures are affecting us.



We have not had a snow day since 2018, so no year group currently in the school have ever experienced the joy of a snow day! We were very close to one a couple years ago, but sadly the school didn't actually close. Children adore the snow and love to create snowmen, and snowballs but its rare nowadays.



In the summer it is becoming hotter and hotter both inside and outside the classrooms. Sometimes when we line up, our teachers spray water on our faces; it feels very refreshing! When we are on the field we try to play under the trees, in order to keep as cool as possible. One day the year before last, the temperature in school reached 40 degrees!



A few years ago, we did have a 'Wind Day', which had never happened before. It was so windy that the shed blew down and the wooden remnants of the shed were found at the back of the field months later! Recently it has again been very windy, and the weather has been very unpredictable. A few weeks ago, it hailed so much, and so heavily, that it came over our shoes and we had lots of wet shoes and socks steaming on the radiators! The children in Year R couldn't believe their eyes, calling the hail 'Snow Rocks'!

Olivia, Olivia, Tristan and Magnus (School Media Team)



It has been a gloomy start to the New Year, very cold and far too much rain so we are very grateful for all the brave souls who have ventured out to join us on these miserable days.

Not surprisingly our warming homemade soup has proved very popular and we will continue serving that while the cold weather lasts. We also offer paninis, toasties and sandwiches with various fillings and our ever popular bacon and egg baps. We always have a selection of homemade cakes and, of course, our delicious coffee from local roaster, James Hastie.

Our opening hours

Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

(Kitchen closes 2.30pm)

Saturday 10am - 2pm

(Kitchen closes 1.30pm)

We are closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays

We hope to see you soon

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PLAYTIME '25

Valley Players present
TWO One Act Plays

"You Just Never Know"
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(Anniversary celebrations? You just never know)

"You Can't Take It With you"
By Cheryl Barrett
(Looking forward to a Legacy – really!)

4th/ 5th April 2025, Hughenden Village Hall at 8.00pm

"Bring your own Indoor Picnic"

Tickets £12 From 1st March (website or Ticket Source)

Details: - www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk

Valley Players would like to invite you to "Playtime '25", our Spring production, which is our "Indoor picnic and play!"

This is the second time we have presented two one act plays and this can cause logistics issues as to which cast are using the stage for rehearsal at what time, plus the issue of double props and lighting but we usually get there in the end! The two plays are very different but they are both set in ordinary domestic settings with a twist!

"You just Never Know" by Lz Dobson - When Mo decides to arrange a surprise Wedding Anniversary celebration for her Husband, little did she know that she would be this one left speechless and horrified, but the story doesn't end there. No one could have predicted what happens because as they say "You Just Never Know!"

"You Can't Take it With You" by Cheryl Barrett - Two highly competitive Sisters and their cousin meet at their deceased Uncle's house for the reading of his Will. However nothing is as they expected. Surely "You Can't Take It With You"?

Come and enjoy seeing how this all turns out!

Andrew Pitman (Chairman, Valley Players)

contact@valleyplayershughenden.co.uk



THE ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES RISBOROUGH



Rotary was founded in 1905 and is now a worldwide organisation with 1.4 million members. One of its many major projects is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative which so far has reduced polio cases in the world by 99.9 percent over the past 36 years. Rotary members have contributed more than £1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Apart from this, clubs like ours also focus on national and more importantly, local needs. For example, we currently have 11 major projects which include such issues as the Environment, the Princes Centre, Saunderton Lodge and the Town Festival. We also have 8 projects aimed at supporting local youth, including the Bucks Young Carers, over 10 local schools, children's art and chess competitions and the Risborough Youth Club.

Additionally, we are a very sociable, fun group of over 65 members which meets on Monday evenings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club for a meal and some form of entertainment. In March, for example we have speakers

covering issues such as the Amersham Museum and Solar energy and battery storage.

We are a lively, fun-loving group of men and women focussed on giving back to the community whilst having a good time. Apart from our regular meetings we have several additional activity groups including cycling, walking, curry outings, a breakfast gathering, ten pin bowling, snooker, quiz and film nights and regular "away day visits". If you would like to think about joining us and helping us contribute locally and internationally, visit our website and consider coming to one of our meetings to see if it might interest you. 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, we'd love to hear from you.

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



Church News

Our new Children and Families Minister, Chris Coyston, is now fully installed and completed the family move to Princes Risborough at the end of January, just in time to throw himself into leading his first Family Service on 2nd February (Candlemas).

The usual St Michael's Family Service celebration of birthdays for young and old was adhered to, and the worship band was extended with Chris's guitar and singing from the Coyston family as well as longer serving members of the band. Chris is also taking part in the weekly Tiny Tots sessions and is organising a Pancake Party on 4th March from 4.30-6pm at Church House. (£1 per child, further details from Church Website). Pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) is of course the last day before Lent, when rich foods were generally used up before the days of fasting up until Easter, of which more next month.

With the vacating of Church House on the retirement of our verger, Arthur Johnson, discussions are taking place as to the best use of the facilities and resources that have now become available. This may mean a reorganising of space for use by our younger members: such as the Pancake Party.

With the improving weather (at least I think it is improving) we can see the churchyard springing back to life. As I write, the snowdrops are blooming and of course they spread a little further each year in their bid to cover the churchyard. The Eco group has worked hard to make 'God's Acre' even more welcoming to wildlife and there is a record of sightings inside the church for visitors to add their observations. We have many wild flowers as well as the planted species, trees young and old – and very old, but we also have a variety of insects and visitors from bigger species: birds in great variety (encouraged by our new bird boxes) and as morning and evening visitors may observe, rabbit families.

Churchyards throughout the UK cover an immense acreage of largely undisturbed and uncultivated land. Whether tended or rewilded they provide a haven for rare lichens, fungi and often part of a churchyard (not, I think, ours) can hold the last remnant of a local wildflower meadow.

Churchyards are a true haven for old trees, particularly the oldest trees in Britain, the ancient and veteran yews. Individual yew trees may predate Christianity, with some trees believed to be several thousand years old. (We do have an ancient yew, which can be observed to of the path

up to Church House, (see photograph below) There are about 800 ancient and veteran yews in the churchyards of England and Wales, which make up three-quarters of the British population. No other country has such a magnificent collection of these trees.



Jane Tyrer

From the Vicarage



On Shrove Tuesday 4th March, our new Children & Families Minister, Chris, is organising a pancake party at Hughenden Church. Families with young children are invited to come along from 4.30-6pm, for lots of fun and games, a short celebration, followed by loads of pancakes with your favourite toppings!

Christians have marked the last day before Lent for centuries, seeing it as an opportunity for one final feast, before entering the solemn season of Lent. Traditionally families gather up all their most indulgent food and eat it with pancakes. In many countries Mardi Gras [meaning fat Tuesday] is carnival time.

The festivities are often accompanied by a time of

penitence in church, the ringing of Church bells, and the burning of last year's palm crosses, in preparation for the next day – Ash Wednesday, when we hold our first Holy Communion service of Lent, which is accompanied by ashing.

With the welcoming of that following dawn, comes the first day of Lent, which has been observed by Christians for centuries – a time for confession and inner self-examination.

In Matthew chapter four, we read:

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights.

Lent has its origins in this time of personal reflection which Jesus spent in the desert. He ate no food during that remarkable retreat, spending extended periods in prayer and reflection.

Despite being tempted by the devil to give into his hunger pangs, put God to the test by throwing himself off the

highest point of the temple, and worshipping the devil, he fought back with scripture, the devil fled, and Jesus emerged out of the desert triumphant, full of faith and determination, ready to begin that journey which would lead from fishermen and tax collectors, to Pharisees and Roman Governors, as he fulfilled his mission on earth, to become the one perfect sacrifice, for the sins of the whole world.

I wonder, do you have any specific plans how you might mark Lent this year? In writing these words, I am conscious that I don't yet myself! Perhaps I will make a deliberate effort to find some quiet places to commune with our heavenly father, being sure to turn off my mobile for a while, open my bible, and listen to the wonderful sounds of nature which we enjoy in our parish.

May God bless you this Lent!

Rev Keith



Remembering Ann Turner

Valerie and I first met Ann and Don (her late husband) in 1962 at Mosely Lodge Farm, where Muriel Piercy sought to introduce newcomers into Naphill society. It was a convivial group which didn't break up until our host had to retire to bed for an early rise to milk the cows.

It was the start of a long friendship which lasted till the present day. Ann was very proud of the fact that she came from Lancashire having been born in Bolton in somewhat poor circumstances, a fact she never forgot. She had a grammar school education and would have progressed to University but was severely handicapped by poor eyesight, a problem she had for her entire adult life. She learnt Braille early in her life as blindness from a detached retina was always a real threat.

Nevertheless, Ann led a full life entering into Naphill's very full social life. Much to her surprise and delight she found herself pregnant and to save her sight was advised to have an abortion, advice which she chose to ignore. The birth of Adam was achieved without the onset of blindness but the risk of a second child was too great a threat and the decision to adopt was taken, soon afterwards Jamie was added to the family.

Valerie who had founded the playgroup with the late Sally Harvey, enrolled Ann when Adam was three, and she became a helper. Ann joined several village organisations including the Women's Institute Drama Group and was a very successful actress, taking part in several plays. She was also a successful hostess and had many dinner parties, usually limited to two or three guests because of the limitations of size of the dining table.

In 1974, husband Don who was a Meteorologist working at air command, was posted to Cyprus and being an accompanied three year appointment, the family were very excited at the prospect and a farewell party was given at the Village Hall. Unfortunately at this time Cyprus was suffering from a political upheaval and Don's accompanied posting was cancelled. Ann who had made many preparations for leaving, had to cancel them. Don served two years away and Ann and family stayed in Redcot.

Richard Pushman

Funeral:

Wednesday 5th March at 10.15am.
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Not from the Vicarage

Shippy-Mc Shipface and friends

My husband and I have been enjoying our semi nomadic lives in Gibraltar for nearly three years now. Consequently, we have got to know many seafarers and their vessels. These vessels, which regularly come and go, all have unique identities and I have come to regard them almost as friends.

For example, there's regular visitor 'Henneke Rambow', a huge German container ship. The first time I 'met' her, I had gone to the kitchen to make a cup of tea and my entire field of view was filled with her bow. I watched the cargo handling teams load her with containers and the precision, care and co-ordination with which they worked lent the teams an almost balletic quality; it was beautiful to watch. Now, whenever she moors up alongside our kitchen window, it feels like a friend has come to call.

Recently, 'Deep Blue' arrived at the major repair yard. She is a pipe layer and something to behold. Over 200 metres in length, her highly specialist superstructure makes her look more like a floating fairground than a ship. There is a huge wheel for carrying pipes, that looks exactly like a Ferris wheel. Next to it stands something like a helter skelter and below that something resembling the paddle of a Mississippi steamer. I can't help but wonder at the physics that must have gone into her design, keeping her stable with all the superstructure that enables her to do the job she was made for.

Today, I was vaguely aware of the sound of bow-thrusters thrumming through our flat and there is a new 'friend' at my kitchen window. 'Che' is a charter super-yacht; when she was made, she was the second largest of her class in the world. This is an unusual vessel to see on our 'patch' as the super-yachts tend to moor in their own designated area or across the harbour from us to refuel. I'll be keeping an eye out for her from now on.

Watching the vessels come and go, I am aware how each is unique and has been specifically designed for a task. Our resident vessels 'Dragon Fish' and 'Oil Fish' are miniature tankers designed to take fuel oil out to vessels moored offshore (an operation known as bunkering). Their sister vessels 'Fly Fish' and 'Lion Fish' are designed to ferry crew and cargo to and from offshore vessels, along with 'Blythe Panther', 'Strider' and 'Phillippa Anne'. Each is designed for a specific task, which cannot be successfully accomplished by any other vessel.

In his letters, St Paul often reminds his readers how everyone has been created by God and is unique. He stresses how each person has their own place and tasks that cannot be filled or done by anyone else. Using the analogy of the human body, he makes a point – if the body were all nose, how could it eat? As I watch our ships, I celebrate and delight in their diversity and uniqueness. God created each of us unique, and the Creator celebrates and delights in the diversity and uniqueness that is within each of us too.

Wishing you God's blessings,

Rev Jenny Ellis



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Local Tales - *Things change*

The way that we amuse ourselves changes rapidly. Being of an age I watch Television, read a book or a newspaper, check for emails on my computer, talk to friends and family on the telephone. What else should you do? Well, I become aware that I'm showing my age. Two of my younger family are teachers and they describe how some children, given a book, will talk to it and stroke a page to turn it, as they would a mobile phone. Perhaps they are right and the book is becoming obsolete. All will be on our mobile phone.

It is a shock to realise just how recent literacy is for the mass of the population. It is within the lifetime of the oldest of us. Are we heading for generations that will admire books in museums but not libraries? Will everyone grow to feel that the whole world is where they are? Even now if you visit a café you find that many, if not most, of the customers are elsewhere on their phones. We are citizens of the world in our hand. This, of course, is very new.

My great-great grandparents started a school at Loosely Row in the late eighteen hundreds and taught boys their letters and girls lace making. They record that very few villagers could read or write. People, if they received correspondence, would bring it to them to be read and ask them to reply. During the first world war, this often meant informing of the death of loved ones.

Until the end of the first world war, village communities were self-contained in many ways. Most found work locally. Around Naphill, the work may have been seasonal, men might fell timber in the winter and do farmwork in the summer. Others might dig clay in the winter and make bricks when frost had passed. As the furniture industry developed in High Wycombe, some, like the bodgers might make parts and cart them to the town. This was the beginning of change.

I remember my father, a Naphill man, reminiscing about when he met my mother and was asked, was she local. No, he replied, she was from Speen. In the age of the choice for the many of walking or cycling then Speen was a good step away. Most rural communities centred around the school, the village shop, the church and the pub if there was one. Local fairs and fetes brought the communities together and made many matches. Although those times seemed very parochial, my father suggested that people were not so narrow-minded as might be thought. It was not unusual for couples to set up together and even start a family before they married. They had to find a cottage and these were often tied to a job. Men had to find a farmer or landowner who needed a workman and if a vacancy became available the couple gained a home – just as long as the job lasted. This might mean moving from home to distant places. Girls could get farming jobs like tending chickens and many experienced domestic service from their early teens that took them to foreign parts. My mother was taken by a family to Stoke Poges. The world was widening and the signs were that outlooks were changing.

My grandfather recalled as a boy working for an old man doing carting work – using a horse and cart to carry goods. One day he said to my grandfather, "we've got a job to do boy, fetch the horse!". The man had two horses, Gramp asked which one. "the old one of course – wear out the old one first!" was the reply. "Well you fetch it!" my grandfather replied. He didn't mention the reaction.

Philip Hussey.

Illustration by Philip Hussey



Jackson & Co Walter's Ash

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A conversation with Daniel Jackson of Jacksons Eye Care

I often wonder what our advertisers do who are taking pages in the Gazette so I went to meet Daniel Jackson from Jacksons Eye Care. In the new year with an eye test required I took the long trip to Main road Naphill!!

What a fascinating visit and how lucky are we to have such a well-equipped optician in the village. I had the pleasure of meeting not only Daniel but his resident optician Judith and then had what I regard as probably the most advanced eye test I have ever had. They have all the usual equipment and some really interesting new ones as well. Here are some of the fun ones:

OCT and retina imaging



The OCT scan provides the Optometrist with a high resolution, cross-sectional image of the ocular tissues at the back of the eye. This information enables them to evaluate the eye to make management and treatment decisions.

The scanning technique uses light waves to achieve high resolution pictures which the ophthalmologist can review at a later date, and they keep on file for you.

OCT imaging can be particularly useful in detecting and monitoring multiple macula conditions such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic macular oedema. This technology allows them to explore treatment options more efficiently and effectively.

Slit Lamp camera



Not usually seen outside a hospital setting, this allows them to capture a high-resolution image of the front of the eye, lids and lashes as seen through the microscope lens.

This incredible device is very rare in any setting in the UK, so they love to shout about it. The MYAH allows them to measure, diagnose and monitor dry eye conditions very accurately. To diagnose the root cause of a condition, and there can be a few, means that they are also able to effectively treat it. There are eight of these in the UK and they have FOUR!!

With all of this and their staff, they are truly able to take a preventative approach to eye care. I also tried some of their more advanced ways to help keep your eyes healthy.

NuLids Treatment

This is an advanced treatment designed to improve lid and lash hygiene. It's non-invasive and uses a gentle oscillating motion to remove bacteria, debris, and oil from the eyelids and lashes, promoting healthy growth and function. It feels weird but not painful and my eyes have felt better for it.

In talking to Daniel it becomes apparent he has a real passion to help his communities to understand the need for modern eye care and how we can look after our eyes and help prevent future problems, and I know, as a photographer, I value my eyes.

I found the use of the latest equipment and their skilled opticians to be a step above other practices that I have been to, and everything was very well explained and easy to understand, which always helps in eyecare. Worth a visit, I think even just to meet them and talk through what they can do.

I asked Daniel to tell me about his career and aims for the future and below is what he had to say.

Jonathan Hilder

Daniel Jackson – A Little bit about me

My career currently spans a mind-boggling 25 years and most would describe it as fairly unique. I come from less than nothing, and as a youngster could easily have taken the wrong path. I worked hard to earn my degree as a Dispensing Optician while learning my craft under the watchful eye of the Queen's optician. Things like that do not really happen to people like me. I went on to manage some of the most prestigious practices in London, (among which was one of the oldest opticians in the world, and another where I designed glasses for the rich and famous). In my free time I volunteered at St Thomas hospital where I assisted patients with severe health conditions and very poor or no vision.

A little over 4 years ago, I purchased my first practice in Kent. The day after lock-down was lifted we opened our

doors to a flood of those in need. I had been planning the event for many years, daydreaming about what it would be like to steer my own destiny. With the help of my fantastic team, together we aimed to provide preventative health care delivered by specialists in a comfortable and friendly environment. Above all else, we wanted to make our services affordable and accessible to as many people as possible. Proudly, we made an impression on the local community with our approach, setting me and the company on a course from which there is no turning back.

The practice at Walters Ash was my second. We purchased it in August 2022 almost exactly 2 years after the first. It has taken some time to get things where I want them to be. We have refitted and made the place feel homely – we still have a bit to do to finish off but happy with the progress. Building on the foundations, we have taken our time to update the equipment in the two consulting rooms, ultimately ensuring we offer the best of everything we can. In the middle of 2024, we opened a dedicated dry eye suite, the most advanced in the area. And this year we will be introducing AI technology which, after a couple of visits, actually starts predicting changes to various eye health conditions. I am aiming high - there will not be a more advanced clinic in all of Buckinghamshire.

Daniel Jackson



Hughenden Street Association Social Events

Hughenden Street Association is there to help prevent social isolation and foster community and friendships in the 4 wards of Hughenden Parish. We also strive to keep residents safer by keeping them informed of scams and linking with other local agencies such as the police, the fire service and Neighbourhood Watch.

The monthly lunches currently run successfully in 3 of the 4 wards by fostering friendships amongst the attendees. The monthly Social Afternoon in Naphill is an extension of this, where people enjoy the company of others over a cuppa and table games.

The Naphill & Walter's Ash lunches take place on the 3rd Wednesday each month at the Spindle & Thread (next to Morrison's in High Wycombe). We meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm. Our next lunch is 19 March.

The Social Afternoons are on the 4th Monday each month 2-4pm at Bon Ami Café in the back room. The next Social Afternoon is 24 March. Why not come a bit earlier and grab a bite to eat for lunch and then stay for the afternoon?

We welcome all newcomers. Please contact Susan Bickerstaffe on 07880 519323 to book a lunch place, or for more information about either event.

Susan Bickerstaffe



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shear Madness

Wow! 14 years of being in the village, 14 years of seeing all the kids grow, 14 years of putting up with me!

It was a fantastic day. Lots of people came to say hello for fizz and cake. The first people we spoke to were best mates from Burdette Drive, Eric and Viv, both now sadly gone.

We honestly didn't have a long-term plan so we've just been winging it ever since. I just wanted to thank each and every one of you who have supported us for so long. "I have friends who are customers and I have customers who are now very dear friends."

So just thank you for being part of my hairy family with my journey in village life, may it continue for a few more years, I'm not ready to hang up my scissors just yet.

Love as always

Mandyx

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Bring on Spring - 20 March 2025

Alison Scott

This year Thursday **20th March** marks the spring equinox when the sun crosses the equator, and the hours of daylight and dark are of equal length.

For thousands of years, we have celebrated this as a time of balance, growth and new beginnings, as nature bursts with new energy. This is great news if you need to make some changes as you'll have the immense support of nature on your side.

The Spring Equinox is a wonderful time of energetic opportunity. As the extra light begins to positively affect our brains, we get a lighter 'spring' in our step, become more alert with increased feelings of optimism.

Until the eighteenth century, this was also the time of the new astrological year, when people would perform rituals to cleanse themselves and their homes. Spring cleaning is nothing new!

Astrologically, March also welcomes in Aries. The ram rules with the head, leaning forwards with speed and focus. Energetic and full of childish wonder - we can all use a bit of that energy to forge ahead with anything new.

Spring into Action

The changes we make now can massively determine the success of our year. As we welcome in fresh perspectives, we figuratively spring clean, throwing off wintry sluggishness.

Out with the old, in with the new

This is one of the best periods to focus on new projects and the perfect time to get rid of anything that does not serve us - whether that be jobs, relationships or just sorting out that stuff from under the bed.

Don't Go Changing?

Not many of us find change easy. But even small changes bring about much bigger changes - it's called the 'butterfly effect'. Get up 10 minutes earlier and do some stretches once, nothing changes. Do that every day and the benefits will soon be clear.

Hypnotherapy is about CHANGE.

Hypnotherapy can be a brilliant way to find out which limiting beliefs to let go of and focus on what you really want. It can help lift depression, reduce anxiety, boost confidence, and help with ailments, painful memories, and fears. It's like being a spring clean for your unconscious.

Alison Scott – Cognitive Hypnotherapist in Naphill and Online

Why not make this Spring Equinox really count for you? Call me on 07989 535527 for a free consultation or find out more at www.alisonscottcognitivehypnotherapy.co.uk

Client Testimonial

"The biggest takeaway was how much my childhood has impacted my life. I would never have believed this could be the case. I use Ali's 'wordweave' daily and find it great. I didn't know what to expect but felt at ease almost straight away and was able to go with the flow. Ali was very welcoming and I was able to relax and be open about my issues straight away. It made me realise I wasn't being 'stupid' which gave me confidence to focus on the things that needed addressing."

Alison Scott

COGNITIVE HYPNOTHERAPY



Do you feel that you are not living your best life, no matter how hard you try?
I practice hypnotherapy, reiki, and therapeutic coaching in Naphill as well as online.

*Hypnotherapy can help with such a wide range of issues.
Our unconscious mind is often in charge of how we think.
We don't know why we repeat the same negative patterns.
Making the unconscious conscious can bring about powerful changes in the way we perceive ourselves and others.*

"LIFE-CHANGING!"

What does hypnotherapy help with?

Most clients come to me for help with the following:

- Stress and anxiety
- Low mood
- Lack of confidence
- Big life changes (pregnancy, relationship breakdown and grief)
- Young people struggling with exams, school or relationships
- OCD and neuro-diversity
- Health and pain issues

When changes take place at this deeper level, the challenges of daily life can be alleviated, leading to a healthier outlook, positive habits, and increased confidence.

Alison Scott



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.

Contact me for a free initial consultation:

07989 535527

ali@alisonscotthypnotherapy.co.uk

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Opening Hours

Drinks

Tuesday - Saturday:
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Sunday:
12pm - 10:30pm

(Bank Holiday Mondays)
12pm - 8pm

Food

Tuesday - Saturday
12pm - 2:30pm then 6pm - 9pm

Sunday
12pm - 3:30pm

(Bank Holiday Mondays)
12pm - 3:30pm

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

The Wheel, Main Road, Naphill, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4QA Email: contact@thewheelnaphill.com Tel: 01494 562 210

The Wheel News

Thank you to the team who ran the pub during January / February whilst Mark and I had a little bit of time off. First to Ely and then to Edinburgh for the Rugby at Murrayfield.

Feb is always a strange month, as we start to get our hopes up for better weather, longer days, and spring flowers. Although as I write this it's still dark, cold, and miserable out there! Hopefully there will be a change soon, as us dog walkers are really feeling it now. Valentines' week was a great success, and I didn't realise we have so many romantics in the village.

March will be here before we know it, and we have some exciting events happening. It is national Pie week - Bella (Chef), and I will be ensuring that we have numerous varieties over the week. Please also remember to book for Mother's Day as we are always fully booked before the day. The 6 Nations rugby continues through the month and I'm sure we will find out who's doing well in the sweepstake.

We have a fantastic opportunity for you all to come and see the launch of a competitive Sidecar that will be racing at the Isle of Man TT. You will be able to meet the team and get a great understanding of how these

amazing machines work. They are here on Sat 29th March from 3pm till late, there will be raffle prizes too.

- Pie Week - 3rd - 9th March
- St Patricks Day (we will be celebrating over the weekend 14th-16th March)
- The 3 Wheels day - Sat 29th March
- Mother's Day - Sun 30th March - Please book

Thank you for your continued support for us as a small business. All businesses within our community are going to find the next few months very tough with all the budget changes coming into force from April. Please use us all as WE NEED YOU!

See you all soon.

Claire and Mark



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- **Widmer Cafe** is open to the public, come and enjoy a coffee and cake
- We're even selling **Christmas Trees** this year with local delivery available

Have you visited us recently?

Pink Road Lacey Green, HP27 0PG 01844 344765

Naphill & Walters Ash Brownies

We are all encouraged these days to look after ourselves both mentally and physically. With this in mind the brownies have been doing all sorts of health-related activities. Everything from food and drink to day and night-time routines, knowing about our bodies, exercise and relaxation.



No food and drink theme would be complete without some creative brownie cooking. In this case pizzas. An activity organised and led by one of our older brownies. The brownies have all decorated water bottles,

marking them off to monitor their water intake and then concocting super healthy fruity infusions.

Our brownie evening of sleep-related activities had everything from planning a good sleep routine to playing 'Sleeping Lions' and making beautiful dream catchers

We have even looked at artificial intelligence and also the need to stay safe and kind on-line.



To cap it off, over half of our brownies will be enjoying a Spa Party afternoon during half term

It is time for our annual subs payments to Girlguiding once again. It seems to come around so quickly. This can be pretty expensive, so we will be hoping to raise some money at our next Brownie Jumble Sale on 1st March. In this way Girlguiding remains affordable for all.


Brownie Jumble Sale
Naphill Village Hall
1st March 1.30pm

We will be collecting items for the sale around the village on the morning of the sale and we would also welcome any items you wish to bring to the village hall on the sale day.
NO ELECTRICAL GOODS PLEASE

Hopefully, you are all saving some jumble for us to sell. Doors open at 1:30pm. Do let your friends and family know about the sale and then come along and see what treasures you can find.

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



High Wycombe and District <https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk>

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

Everyone is welcome! Registered Charity: 28807



March will be a busy month for our u3a. In addition to the regular monthly meetings at Naphill Village Hall and other local halls, we are looking forward to our monthly talk from Katarina VanGouw's on 26th March entitled "Art, Science and the Unfeathered Bird". This meeting from 2pm is at Lacey Green and Walters Ash Village Hall. (The 300 bus stops outside). Visitors are welcome to come free of charge to their first meeting. We have over 30 Groups operating in the area.

To help you find out more about our u3a, we also have a New Members Meeting on Monday 31st March from 2pm at Bon Ami Coffee Shop (Naphill Village Hall). Regular meetings in Naphill Village Hall include Rummikub, Whist, a Quiz, Computer and Discovering Art. At Hazlemere

Memorial Hall we have Psychology, Science, Local History, The World We Live In and Photography.

The Walking Group's regular walks have carried on over the winter although one was cancelled due to the torrential rain that day which explains why Bon Ami was rather busy that morning!

Visit our website for details of all our Groups and future events. www.highwycombe.u3asite.uk

There is lots to look forward to as the weather improves.

Paul Gilliam

gilliamph@aol.com

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NAPHILL TENNIS CLUB

In spite of grey skies and cold weather, we have had good turnouts at tennis over the last couple of months as members have enjoyed some fresh air and exercise to keep the circulation going! Our new season's coaching programme, with something for everyone, is as follows:

JUNIOR COACHING – SUMMER TERM 2025

Friday 25th April – Friday 4th July

Age Group: 5 – 8 yrs 4 – 4.45 pm
10 weeks £65 per junior member

Age Group: 8 – 11 yrs (beginners) 4.45 – 5.30 pm
10 weeks £65 per junior member

Age Group: 11 yrs – 17 yrs (improvers and above) 5.30 – 7 pm 10 weeks £110 per junior member

NB. All payments should be received prior to attending the first session, payable to M. Burn. Non-members welcome. Please contact Mel 07949 128195 for non-member fees.

Easter Camps – Junior Camps – details nearer the time

Summer Camps – Junior Camps – details nearer the time

ADULT GROUP SESSIONS

DAYTIME COURSES

Commencing Monday 28th April

Monday 9.15 – 10.15 am (adult beginners)

Monday 10.15 – 11.15 am (adult improvers)
£10 per session/per person. Pay and Play.

EVENING COURSES

Commencing Monday 28th April 6 week course

Monday evenings 6 pm – 7 pm (adult coaching)

For more details please contact Mel 07949128195.
£10 per person/per session

Commencing Wednesday 30th April - 6 week course

Wednesday evenings 7.30 – 8.30 pm - (adult coaching incorporating doubles tactics and positioning)

For more details please contact Mel.
£10 per person/per session

For more information on Naphill Tennis Club, please visit our website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/NaphillLTC or contact our Membership Secretary at: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com

Jenny Tench

A Message from Buckinghamshire Councillor, David Carroll

Dear Residents

I have many residents contact me about concerns on various issues in life particularly the media news at the moment.

Everyone has challenges and listening to people's problems always helps. In my experience and living in a kind and supportive community is good.

The local plan for Buckinghamshire is still being devised taking into account the extra housing now proposed by the government over future years. I will give an update when things become clearer.

I have always lobbied the Council on my residents behalf and considered myself a community councillor over many years trying my very best to support my residents in any way possible and protect and enhance our environment .

I absolutely value the support that I have received.

Regards

David



01494 716967



David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



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Wycombe Photographic Society

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the first 4 Wednesdays each month at 8pm. We have a new programme of events, wider range of Guest speakers and lots more.

5th March	Members show their work
12th March	Shooting film
19th March	Themed Assignment – Movement
26th March	Presentation - Street Photography
2nd April	New Members Evening – all welcome. Come and see what we do.
9th April	Talk by Mark Seymour
16th April	Themed Assignment – Street Photography

To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: -

www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

Peter Davis

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



Photograph courtesy Peter Davis



Classics on the Crick

Sunday 8th of June 2025

10am - 4pm



Entries are now open for all types of Classic cars, bikes, commercials and scooters.

Go to www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk for an entry form.

We accept all classic car and commercials up to 2005, plus bikes of all ages. However we will accept more modern vehicles if they are particularly rare or interesting. See our website for entry criteria.

We have kept the entry fee the same as last year and this includes access to the show for driver and passenger.

As usual all profits from the show go straight to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out during the day. This can be for a few hours or the whole day. All volunteers receive free Classics on the Crick merchandise, plus snacks and drinks.

No experience is required, so why not spend an enjoyable day with some interesting old cars and bikes whilst helping to raise money for an essential charity.

Visit our website, www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk to register your interest.

We hope to see you in June,

The Classics on the Crick Team

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Chardonnay – the world’s greatest white grape that is grown the world over and offers something wonderful whether you want to spend a tenner or a ton.

However, as with many things that are ubiquitous and loved by many, Chardonnay is a grape that many enjoy having a pop at. This is for one of two reasons. Firstly, they like to be a little left of centre and make sure everyone knows they’re too cool to go along with the mainstream – the wine equivalents of those who mock all ‘Swifties’ whilst wearing their t-shirts of the latest hip indie band, yet secretly hum ‘Karma’ all day! Secondly, they actually just don’t like it. My better half is very much in the latter camp; it doesn’t matter how many different styles I try to trick her with, as soon as a drop comes within a centimetre of her mouth she senses what it is and displays both sounds and facial expressions that make clear her displeasure!

If you’re one of those who thinks they don’t like Chardonnay, I would strongly urge you to reconsider. There are so many different styles of Chardonnay out there, which makes it the most varied grape you could find. Not liking Chardonnay is like saying you don’t like music. Sure, there are some who actually just don’t, but most just dislike certain styles. If you Classical is your thing, then maybe a refined Burgundy from the Côte de Beaune, with impeccable balance and depth that brings everything together in a beautiful symphony. Prefer something a little crisper and more minimalist, yet still classical of undeniable artistic merit, like the string quartet who played so beautifully at whatshisname’s wedding last year? Try a Chablis. If you’re more into unashamed pop bangers who embrace their cheesiness, find a mid-priced option from Australia or California. An Indie hipster who has never been as happy as when first hearing Bloc Party’s ‘Silent Alarm’ album? Get yourself something from Marlborough or Hawkes Bay in NZ or the Limari Valley in Chile.

There are many things that affect what a Chardonnay actually tastes like. Without getting too technical (partly to avoid boring you, and partly to avoid overreaching the extent of my ‘expertise’!), there are two areas that impact what the wine is like; geography and winemaking. The former includes

the terroir and the climate – grapes from warm climates will be heavier, higher in alcohol and more of a tropical fruit bomb, those from cooler climates will be higher in acidity and more down the apple and citrus fruit line.

Winemaking also has a huge impact depending on the use of OML – Oak, Malolactic Fermentation (MLF) and Lees:

- **Oak Aging:** Infuses Chardonnay with flavours like vanilla, caramel, toasted coconut, or spices such as cinnamon and clove. Also effects the texture, adding a rounder, fuller body to Chardonnay, giving it a luscious, velvety mouthfeel. It’s like upgrading from skim milk to cream.

- **MLF:** Despite sounding like a science experiment gone awry, it’s a very common and intentional winemaking process. During MLF, sharp malic acid (think green apples) is converted into softer lactic acid (think milk or cream). The result? A smoother, creamier texture and softer acidity in the wine. In Chardonnay, MLF often adds buttery, creamy flavours that people either love or loathe. It’s what gives some Chardonnays that rich, velvety mouthfeel, and notes of buttered popcorn or custard. But not all Chardonnays go through MLF—cooler styles like Chablis often skip it, keeping the wine bright, zesty, and taut.

- **Lees aging** is the winemaking equivalent of slow cooking—it adds depth, texture, and complexity to Chardonnay by letting the wine rest on its spent yeast cells, or “lees,” after fermentation. The lees are essentially the dead yeast cells and other particles that settle to the bottom of the tank or barrel during fermentation. Instead of immediately filtering them out, winemakers can choose to let the wine hang out with these lees for weeks, months, or even longer. This adds texture, body and savoury flavours like brioche, toast or almonds.

I’m not sure your life coach would agree, but I would recommend your New Years’ Resolution be to try more Chardonnay, unless you really, actually don’t like music...

Adam Sergeant



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Life with young kids in Naphill & Walter's Ash

Library Days

One of my favourite free things to do is go to the library in Princes Risborough. We do a weekly music class at the Baptist church, and most weeks we make it a point to toddle across the road afterwards to visit the library. Quite apart from choosing a wonderful array of fresh reading material, my kids love doing the jigsaws, and selecting some colouring sheets from a bursting red folder, which the kind and accommodating staff patiently help them flick through to choose their favourites.

There is a large children's area in the library, and we always find books that are new to us, and go home well equipped for the next few bedtimes. We seem to have books piling up in every corner of the house but having fresh ones every week is still good news for story time! Occasionally, we discover new favourites, which have had to be sourced online to buy and keep.

There is a vast array of brilliant classes and activities available to toddlers and preschoolers, but I'm also a big believer in the simple, free activities that can form part of a weekly routine. With most libraries feeling the economic challenges of recent years, it's also something I like to support and enjoy as much as we can.

Harriet Clark - Assistant to the Editor

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