



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

October 2025

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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette October 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
Men's Club	Andrew Wasilewski	01494 562770	naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Residents Association	David Frost	01494 564466	
Naphill Neighbours	Jo Keattch	07802 235578	naphillneighbours@gmail.com
Scouts (Naphill)			Groupleader@naphillscouts.org
Naphill Football Club	Rob McMurray-		Naphill FootballClub@gmail.com
Hughenden Street Association	Susan Bickerstaffe	07880 519323	
Tennis Club	Jenny Tench	01494 565406	jttench@gmail.com



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Naphill Village Hall



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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

Hughenden Surgery	See website www.ourpractice.co.uk	01494 562189
Out of surgery hours		111
Breast Unit Wycombe Hospital	Breast lumps self refer	01494 526161
Stroke Support Service	Stroke sufferers, carers & family support	0300 3300 761
Shaw Clinic - Genitourinary Medicine	Genitourinary Medicine	01494 425430
Hearing Clinic Wycombe Hospital	Self refer	01494 526161
Healthy Minds	Anxiety, depression, stress, postnatal wellbeing	01865 901 6000
Bereavement Listening & Support	Bereavement counselling	1296 332600
Wycombe Women's Aid/Also Men	Counselling re domestic violence	01494 461367
		Male 0808 8010 327
Carers Bucks	Help for carers	0300 7772 722
Alzheimer's Society	Dementia information & support	01296 331722



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Copy Date November Gazette 15 October 2025

So here I am back in the office at the start of my 13th year as editor, it is a privilege to be back in the office and to be chatting with you all.

It has been a fabulous, sunny summer break, my computer has sat idle, the conservatory has been refurbished and well used to enjoy the sunshine. I have had time to go out and about in my motorised wheelchair, fondly known as Gladys, and I have enjoyed lots of outings in our specially adapted car.

As always this October Gazette is focused on our upcoming village events, all of which need our support. It is good news that the Fireworks and the Christmas Fayre, both of which raise funds to support the Village Hall, will take place in November. Of course these events need us to attend but they are all organised and run by volunteers. Our village hall council still need volunteers to help them to keep this vital facility running efficiently. Sometimes, perhaps we lose track that everything which makes our villages what they are is run and organised by VOLUNTEERS! These people often do have "busy lives", they do need "me time", they have families and often full time jobs and businesses to run but they "spare a little time" to help. More volunteers are needed please.

This month I have had an unusually tight lead time to get the finished PDF to print which meant that I moved the copy date forward. I do understand that this caused some inconvenience to some regular contributors. I do always publish the copy date in the Gazette and send out notifications to remind people. Even with my deputy and assistant editors help, putting the Gazette together does take time, the copy date does sometimes have to be moved, I would respectfully request that the copy date is please respected.

Most communications come to me via email. I try very hard to acknowledge receipt of every email, if you have sent and not heard back from me within 24hrs please assume that I have not received your message and resend it

As always, my thanks to all our contributors, there is no Gazette without you nor is there a Gazette without somebody to put it together, it is team work, we have to work together. Hopefully TOGETHER we have produced a magazine which is enjoyed by our readers.

Best wishes

Sonia



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

The monthly meeting was held on 7th July and ten committee members attended.

The meeting was quite short but a few items were discussed:

- There were a lot dog hairs in the hall and kitchen following a booking. In the lettings terms and conditions only service dogs are allowed in the hall. Please be aware of this when using the hall.
- I have been told by Naphill residents that there is still a problem with dogwalkers on the Crick who do not clean up after their dogs. This has been an issue for some time. We as a committee have the right to tell people that they cannot use the Crick to walk their dogs. If they continue they will be named and shamed on our Facebook page, so be warned.
- The fireworks will be on the 8th November. This year the committee are spending £9800.00 on fireworks, which is an increase from last year. The gate prices have therefore increased slightly to £12 an adult and £6 a child. I am told this is still the best price in the area and we still hold the claim of the best fireworks in Bucks! Please remember that there is NO PARKING on site and if you know of any one else coming to the fireworks please let them park on your drive or nearby.
- The Christmas fayre will be on 30th November and all the tables have been booked. If you would like to buy original presents for Christmas do come along and join in at the beginning of the Christmas season.

The village hall still needs someone to take up the position of secretary. Another position is available to help oversee the maintenance of the village hall. If you think you could help with these please email chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk.

And lastly, in 2028 the village hall will have its centenary! If you have any ideas how we could celebrate this important event please get in touch with me. Sometimes the smallest idea can lead to something worthwhile.

Clive Lawrence.

Village Hall Chairman



Naphill Village Hall
Service of Remembrance
9th November at 2.30pm



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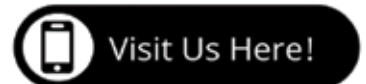
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Hughenden Parish Council Update – Autumn 2025

Following the Co-Options held at the Full Parish Council meeting in July, we're pleased to confirm that Hughenden Parish Council now has a full complement of Councillors. We warmly welcome our newly co-opted members and look forward to working together for the benefit of our community.

New Councillors:

Cllr Richard Kerr – Great Kingshill
Cllr Jason Fletcher – Hughenden Valley
Cllr Brian McCollum – Hughenden Valley
Cllr Lee Anderson – Naphill & Walter's Ash
Cllr Rick Somerset-Williams – Widmer End

A review of the 2025/26 budget is currently underway, as unexpected costs earlier this year—including external audit fees and the repayment of a grant—have impacted our reserves. In response, the Council has authorised adjustments to ensure we maintain a compliant financial position and is reviewing expenditure to identify savings where possible.

As we enter September, Council meetings resume following the summer recess, and work has already begun on preparing the budget for the 2026/27 financial year. We are entering an important transition for the Council's finances. In previous years, delays to planned projects—particularly during the pandemic—led to the build-up of reserves. With those projects now completed, the Council is moving towards a more balanced budget, aiming for a modest surplus to support future initiatives.

Playgrounds Update

Hughenden Parish Council has now completed full renovations of the two playgrounds it owns—on the Common at Great Kingshill and at Templewood in Walter's Ash. The new equipment has been carefully designed to cater for all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers, and includes the parish's first zip wire at Great Kingshill.

We're delighted to see these spaces being so well used by families over the summer holidays. Feedback from parents has been very positive, with many commenting on the improved variety of play equipment and the addition of picnic tables. One parent described it as "a great improvement from the previous playgrounds."

Allotment Update

Allotment rents will be due on 29th September. If you are an existing allotment holder, please look out for your

renewal letter, which will include payment instructions and site-specific information. Payments can be made via bank transfer or in person at the Parish Office.

If you're not currently an allotment holder but are interested in taking one on, we'd love to hear from you. Allotments are a great way to grow your own produce, enjoy time outdoors, and connect with fellow residents. Availability varies by site, and priority is given to parish residents. To check availability or join the waiting list, please contact our Burials and Allotments Officer at baofficer@hughenden-pc.gov.uk.

A full list of upcoming meetings can be found on our website: www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk. If you have ideas for projects the Council might consider, please contact your Ward Councillors or the Parish Office—we welcome your input.

Parish Councillors

Great Kingshill

Cllr Richard Kerr – richard.kerr@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Stan Jones – stan.jones@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Yvonne Wilding – yvonne.wilding@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Hughenden Valley

Cllr Jason Fletcher – jason.fletcher@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Kearey – simon.kearey@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr John Rowe – john.rowe@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Brian McCollum – brian.mccollum@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Naphill & Walter's Ash

Cllr Raheel Khan – raheel.khan@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Usha Prashar – usha.prashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Lee Anderson – lee.anderson@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Wilding – richard.wilding@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Widmer End

Cllr Gareth Cadwallader – gareth.cadwallader@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Rick Somerset-Williams – rick.somersetwilliams@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Sam Thomas – sam.thomas@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Aatif Kayyani – aatif.kayyani@hughenden-pc.gov.uk

Kate Rogers

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In Loving Memory of Judy Whitehouse

Judy loved Naphill Common. Her family, as she requested, have placed this beautiful bench by Lady Horse pond as a quiet place where we are invited to rest, reflect and enjoy the stillness, beauty and calm that surrounds us. A lovely memorial to this special lady who gave so much to our community.

Gordon the Birdman - *The Goshawk*



The Goshawk is a powerful medium sized bird of prey. A furtive and enigmatic ambush predator that has amongst the birders gained almost a legendary status for its ability to manoeuvre through dense woodland at high speed. As with all raptors the female is larger than the male with a wingspan of up to four feet.

Suffering persecution throughout the 19th and most of the 20th century, by the outbreak of the first world war it was considered viably extinct as a British breeding bird. However, the war and the dissolution of many large shooting estates in the years following, allowed it to recover.

Always widespread but scarce historically in Britain, Goshawks have been confined to the more remote wooded areas of the country but in recent years have moved into semi urban areas which many of our local residents can testify. In other European countries, including those with low levels of woodland habitat, for example the Netherlands, Goshawk population levels are several times higher than in the UK. Indeed, this species is well established in many large city centres including Hamburg, Berlin and Prague, whereas, unlike the peregrine Falcon no Goshawks at all have been recorded in London or other major British cities.

These contrasts suggest the species can adapt to human proximity but that limiting factors remain in the UK that must relate to their dispersal characteristics. These include prey densities or mortality in the habitats they frequent and even in these enlightened times, there are many remaining threats, pressures and sensitivities around Goshawks and birds of prey in general, including illegal persecution, changes in land use and prey densities.

Gordon





Just on Our Doorstep!

How lucky we are to have Naphill Common right on our doorstep — a beautiful and historic woodland, owned by the Dashwood Estate but lovingly maintained by a dedicated band of Friends of Naphill Common volunteers. Led by Chris Miller with two work groups managed by Ron Collins and Peter Davis, this group of local residents works tirelessly, and with almost no reliance on power tools, to keep the Common a place we can all enjoy.

In August, I had the privilege of joining them to see some of their work first-hand. The team were keen to showcase one particular project — one which the editor is delighted to have gracing the front cover of this magazine.

Reclaiming a Giant

On a warm Saturday morning, a group led by Ron Collins turned their attention to an old oak tree that had almost disappeared under a tangle of holly and brash. Nine volunteers gave up their morning to carefully cut back the encroaching growth and reveal the tree once again.

In total, around 27 hours of work were put in that morning — and what a difference it has made. The Oak is a magnificent specimen, (Pedunculate Oak) measuring some 18 feet in girth. That makes it roughly 240 years old, dating back to around 1785.

It's fascinating to reflect on what was happening in Britain when this oak was just a sapling. The country was in the early throes of the Industrial Revolution. The power loom was being developed, William Pitt the Younger was grappling with parliamentary reform, and John Adams — the first U.S. Minister to Britain — had just arrived in London, representing a brand-new nation. That same year also saw the very first edition of The Times newspaper roll off the press.

And all the while, on our Common, this oak tree was quietly beginning its journey.

A Tree to Treasure

Today, thanks to the volunteers' efforts, walkers on the Common can once again admire this grand old oak from the path. It is a reminder of the deep history that lives in our landscape and of the hard work of local people who continue to preserve it for future generations.

Could You Help?

The Friends of Naphill Common always welcome new hands — and there is plenty to do! Whether it's trimming back overgrowth, clearing paths, or helping with conservation projects, an extra pair of arms is always appreciated.

If you'd like to get involved, why not get in touch with Ron Collins or Peter Davis? You can find details on their website: www.naphillcommon.org.uk/contactus.html.

Did You Know? Naphill Common at a Glance

- **Size & Status:** At 71.1 hectares (176 Acres), Naphill Common is one of the largest areas of ancient woodland in the Chilterns and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- **Ancient Oaks:** Some of the oak trees are over 400 years old — living witnesses to centuries of local history.
- **Wildlife Haven:** The Common is home to deer, foxes, badgers, and over 30 species of butterfly.
- **Iron Age Roots:** Evidence of an Iron Age settlement and medieval earthworks can still be seen if you know where to look.
- **Community Spirit:** The Friends of Naphill Common meet regularly to clear paths, protect rare species, and keep the woodland accessible for all.

For more fascinating history and volunteering opportunities, visit:

www.naphillcommon.org.uk

Jonathan Hilder

Deputy Editor





Friends of Naphill Common

Save the date!

Our annual Fungus Walk will take place on Monday 13th October at 10:00 starting from the Village Hall. As ever, we'll have experts from the Bucks Fungus Group on hand to identify finds. By the time you read this, our annual Bat Walk will have taken place, unless we have had to postpone because of rain on the day.

I'm sorry to report that our Minibeast Safari, had to be cancelled, as nobody had expressed an interest, despite the offer of a free ice cream, generously supplied by our friends at Beechdean. I did my best to publicise this event through posters, Facebook, email and the Gazette; and we've had some good turnouts in previous years, so I'm not sure what went wrong. Obviously holding events during the summer school holidays means some people will be away, but was it the day of the week (Saturday) or the time (3pm) that was off-putting? Any suggestions for how I can do better next year will be gratefully received!

Common

The annual 'Bradenham Blast' fun run (5k, 10k and half-marathon) took place on Sunday 7th September and, as usual, FoNC provided half a dozen volunteer marshals. This year the half-marathon course began by going up the hill from Bradenham through the Common to a 'feeding station' outside the Le De Spencer pub, which (as those who are familiar with this route will know) is a pretty tough hill start. The runners then had to tackle the even steeper hill parallel to the bottom of Smalldean Lane, so hats off to those who completed the course!

The organiser, Fred Newton of Boondock Events, has made a very generous donation to FoNC funds, boosted further

by the massage team at the finish (Tim & Tash from "Move and Massage" in Chinnor) donating all their proceeds, for a total of £440 – a very helpful boost to our funds.

Although on Downley Common, rather than Naphill, those of you living on or walking along Hunts Hill Lane may well have seen the tree thinning that has been carried out in Oak Wood and (Downley) Common Wood under the auspices of the West Wycombe Estate. This work is now complete, and was carried out partly to mitigate the risk of injury from Ash trees suffering from Sudden Ash Dieback.

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. 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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Kids out and About in Naphill & Walter's Ash

Autumn fun indoors and out



Autumn days in our beautiful Chiltern hills bring lots of scope for fun with little ones. Muddy walks on Naphill Common and Bradenham Woods for starters – we love collecting the most vibrant autumn leaves to arrange in giant tree collages to adorn our kitchen cupboards.

If you're looking for autumn themed activity days close by, Widmer Farm Park and Bucks Goats Centre are both running Halloween or autumn focussed activity sessions at affordable prices, with Widmer offering pumpkin patch sessions (which promise some very cute photo opportunities) on top of regular entry to the farm for £6.50 per adult. Their website says there will be facepainting available at some of the sessions, and the café is definitely worth a visit, irrespective of the pumpkin-based adventure situation! There are also multiple seasonal events to look out for at Hughenden Manor, including a Fantastical Fungi trail throughout September and October, and We're Going on a Ghost Hunt™ which is running from Saturday 11 October - Sunday 2 November. Free to National Trust members.

As a family I must admit we're not the most dedicated of Halloween aficionados, but carving a pumpkin or two is something we always do, even if it is panic bought from Co-op on the 30th October. The tiniest customers can get seriously stuck in with the scooping stage, and everyone can contribute design ideas. It's an essential centrepiece for a spooky-but-not-too-scary Halloween tea, where we challenge ourselves to have as much orange and 'black' food as possible – satsumas and carrot sticks with marmite toast and twiglets anyone?

Harriet Clark - Assistant Editor



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Church News



A warm and sunny bank holiday weekend was the setting for the third St Michael's Flower Festival. The theme was Holidays - or to give the event its full title: 'Happy Bloomin' Holidays'. *(two photos from event above)*

Many visitors - from near and far - came to look at 29 different displays capturing happy holiday memories which ranged from Minehead to a South Sea Island. A poignant one captured the feel of a war time holiday, complete with tiny barbed-wire. Another highlighted the special family holiday in the time between the arranger's diagnosis of, and treatment for, cancer. Many, it has to be noted, included reference to or examples of local wines!

In addition to the arrangements, U3A members had a display of the huge variety of interest groups they engage in - photography, quilting, metal work, embroidery and painting amongst others. The flower arranging group contributed a huge display to the festival.

On Bank Holiday Monday the tower was open to visitors to have a brief introduction to Bell Ringing, and many climbed the spiral stairs to watch some of the ringing team demonstrate their prowess. Hand bells were available at the bottom of the tower for the less intrepid to examine. Interest was so great that additional demos had to be organised. The bells were also used to summon the ringers to the tower for their shift: occasionally a ringer taking a well-earned tea break was seen hastily consuming a last mouthful of cake and scampering back to church to take up their rope, whenever a bell called them.

Which brings us to the teas: mountains of cakes were consumed over the three days, contributed not only by our congregation of bakers, but also by some family members and neighbours. Old favourites

such as lemon drizzle, coffee and walnut, chocolate and some more exotic dishes including strudels and Ukrainian cakes were eagerly consumed.

Donations received over the weekend were approximately £4000: thank you to all who gave so generously.

In the midst of the weekend was a service recognising and celebrating 150 years since the rebuilding of the Church took place. This was substantially paid for by James Searight, the father-in-law of Henry Blagden, the then vicar who had been appointed by Disraeli. The Blagdens, Searights and of course Benjamin Disraeli, are all significantly memorialised in St Michael's. One could hijack the tribute to Wren in St Paul's Cathedral and say of Canon Blagden: If you seek his monument, look around you.

By the time you read this, our Vicar Keith will have left us to go to his new parish in Somerset. More next month: in the meantime, we send him every good wish.

October events

19th October: Lighthouse Live: children's fun games and craft followed by celebration tea 3-4.30 pm at church: see Church website for details



Goodbye to Rev Keith

Thank you Keith for all your kindness and support both for the Gazette and for me personally. Best wishes for your move to Somerset.

Sonia

From Hughenden Church's Associate Minister

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.'

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As I write, the temperature has dropped and much needed rain has turned parched lawns and common land, green once more. The season of Autumn is here with the sweltering summer all but a distant memory. Autumn in the Chilterns is such a treat – a veritable feast for the eyes. The glorious changing colours of the trees running down Cryers Hill never cease to amaze me as I travel from home in Great Kingshill to St. Michael's down in the valley.

If you ask those who have chosen to move away from the UK, what they miss most – the reply is often 'the changing seasons'. Each season with a unique character and necessary for the circle of life and sustainability.

October marks a new season for the congregation at St. Michael's. On 28th September we bid farewell to Keith, vicar for the past 9 years. I am grateful for all Keith has brought to the life of the church, for his kindness and encouragement. I will miss him both as a colleague and friend.

October begins our church season of 'vacancy', as we embark on the process of recruiting a new vicar. It's an exciting time to be embraced. A season to continue moving forward with initiatives already in place, including 'Lighthouse Live', the monthly event for families of primary aged children. It's a season for people in the congregation to step up and try new things. It's a season of expectation and anticipation as we prepare the 'Parish Profile', place the 'Advert', and pray for the person God has in store to join us in due course.

We would be delighted for you to join us in this new season, in person or online on a Sunday morning, or during the week at our various events where you will receive a warm welcome, or quietly for prayer.

For more information about all on offer, please visit our church website:

www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk

Rev. Helen Peters Associate Minister

Bradenham Parish Council

The Parish Council is delighted to announce the co-option of two new members: Sue Hutton and Mark Honeyben. We warmly welcome them to the team and look forward to their contributions.

At our recent meeting, we were joined by PC Caitlin Neal of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. PC Neal gave an insightful introduction to the team's work and emphasised their commitment to supporting community events and maintaining local safety. Unsurprisingly, speeding remains a hot topic—particularly along New Road in Walters Ash, notably the stretch between the RAF No 1 site and Lacey Green, as well as within Bradenham village itself. Be assured the council continues to work closely with the police to address these concerns and keep our roads safe.

We recently met with the manager of the new West Chilterns Community Board and learned about significant changes to the Board's operations this year. We are eager to see how these developments may benefit the parish.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our RAF representative, Squadron Leader Paul Armstrong, who has provided unwavering support to the council during his tenure. Sadly, he will soon be posted elsewhere, and he will be

greatly missed by all. We extend our gratitude for his service.

The council will continue with repairs to local bus shelters and has reviewed their regulations.

A new parish council website was discussed; the clerk was tasked with making more enquiries and provide five-year costings.

Finally, it is with regret that we announce our Clerk has tendered her resignation, with plans to leave at the end of the year. If you are interested in this important role or know someone who might be, please contact the Clerk directly for further details. It is a part time role working from home.

Our next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday, 10th November at Bradenham Cricket Club, starting at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Deirdre Hansen,

clerk to the council.

clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com



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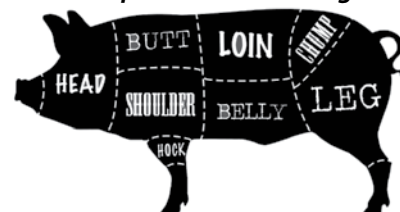
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Growing Your Own



My Summer Crop Report

I had a friend who would take a carrot, fresh from the garden, and eat it soil and all. He was not completely insane. He had a PhD and was one of the UK's experts on soil.

There are about 100 trillion micro-organisms (that is 1 followed by 11 zeros) in the human gut. We are just perambulating ecosystems. Those micro-organisms are essential to our survival. They help to process the food we eat into useful things and waste. In a handful of soil there are about ten billion SPECIES of micro-organism and, here is the important bit, most of them are the same as those found in the human gut. Hence my friend was eating soil to re-charge his store of micro-organisms. But before the inhabitants of Naphill and Walter's Ash rush out into the garden to ingest a handful of soil, may I advise caution since the handful of soil may contain worms, woodlice, earwigs and dog-poo etc. In normal day-to-day life you will replenish your soil micro-organisms from eating salads and other vegetables since our friends are so small and so numerous that it is impossible to wash them all off. Some will remain to join their friends in your gut. Bon appétit!!

What a year! The hot, dry spell finally ended at the end of August, with welcome rain and cooler temperatures.

But we must not forget that the sunny, warm, dry period started here in mid-February, so we had virtually no rain, four heatwaves, and generally warm temperatures for 6 months. Unprecedented. The effects on my fruit and vegetables in the garden were varied, with the odd crop being a disaster and others being the best ever. In the greenhouse the tomatoes were the best ever and so were the cucumbers (with massive fruit). Peppers were a little better than normal. But the star performer in the greenhouse was the grapes (variety Black Hamburg). The berries were about 6 times normal volume and delicious. The only drawback to this variety is that the berries contain seeds, but it is the variety most grown in greenhouses in this country. In the vegetable plot the Poirée (Silver Chard) was simply amazing, with great white stems surrounded by dark green leaves, full of potassium for our health. The climbing French beans were better than usual (variety Fortex – completely stringless). The main disaster was the sweetcorn. Beetroot were better than normal and pumpkins were below average. Elephant Garlic, planted early October, were extremely good because they were grown in the wetter months. On the other hand, maincrop onions (Centurion F1 sets), planted early March, were very poor owing to the drought (despite being watered). Braeburn apples were much, much better than normal and the espalier trees just kept on growing vigorously, requiring frequent pruning which was unusual. Figs were out of this world, and I had my first crop of really good peaches. We grow a cooking apple as a step-over apple (ie a single-tiered espalier), variety Arthur Turner, and it had about twice the crop as in a normal year. My black tayberries, grown against a fence, were in their third year. They gave their first crop and were delicious.

Good gardening.

Mike Mason



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Wycombe Photographic Society

October and November are good months to look for and photograph fungi. We are very lucky to have Naphill Common on our doorstep where over 390 different species have been found, including a few rare species. Get down low to photograph them, with any camera or phone. Go on, give it a go!

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the first 4 Wednesdays of each month at 8pm. We have a new programme for 2025/2026.

- 8th Oct Talk by Steve Brabner
- 15th Oct Themed assignment – Black and white
- 18th & 19th Oct Our Autumn Exhibition in the Small Hall – everyone welcome
- 22nd Oct Members Evening – members show their work
- 5th Nov Group visit from Amersham PiC Group
- 12th Nov Wildlife – talk by Louise Donovan
- 19th Nov Themed assignment – Single subject, multiple views

To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: - www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

Peter Davis - photograph courtesy Peter Davis

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



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Collection from home / work by arrangement



Naphill & Walter's Ash Brownies

In the middle of the long school summer holiday, the Brownies went on a wonderful day out to Merrist Wood, a college in Guildford that offers courses such as animal management, arboriculture, agriculture, wildlife, and conservation. The college is home to all manner of species from different habitats and environments – everything from meerkats to marmosets



16 girls and five leaders set off on their adventure early one Tuesday morning. It is always exciting going on a day trip on a coach without parents! We were greeted by our two wonderful guides for the day, Roo and Beth. After a quick snack, a safety briefing and a handwash, we had our first animal experience with arid landscape animals such as big friendly tortoises, long eared hedgehogs and low flying toucans. Not only did we learn a bit about all these creatures, but we were privileged to be able to help feed them and clean out their living areas. We then took turns to hold the two bearded dragons – a new experience for Brownies and leaders alike.



Next, onto humid jungle climates – frogs, marmosets and brightly coloured birds, and then onwards again to tarantulas, stick insects, snakes and parakeets. And it wasn't even lunchtime yet! Before lunch there was one more really exciting thing for us all to.



We were certainly ready for our lovely packed lunches. The afternoon saw the girls heading to the farm to get 'up close', feeding the pigs, goats, chickens and llamas.

After having a cuddle with some very cute hamsters, and saying hello to the skunk and the meerkats, we headed inside for a bit of calm, indoor time doing animal-related crafts. Quiet time over, the girls went off to explore the rest of the site via some orienteering, finding all sorts of other animals en route, as well as collecting materials for our collective environmental project for the day – a super-duper bug hotel to be left at Merrist Wood.



After a delicious pasta supper, we found a sheltered spot to leave our bug hotel, then tidied up and packed our bags to get back on the coach for the journey home.

This wonderful day trip was only possible because funds raised at the brownie jumble sale paid for the coach. Without this money, the day out would have been far too expensive. So the Brownies would like to thank you all very, very much for supporting us as you do.

The next jumble sale is on Saturday 4th October. We really hope you let us have your unwanted items to sell on. And, of course come and have a rummage for a bargain or two for yourselves

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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Photograph courtesy Paul Goby

Classics on the Crick 2025

£16,380 raised for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance

On Thursday 24th of July we were delighted to hand over another large cheque to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

This year's show raised over £16,000 and brings the fundraising total to £130,000 since we started in 2014.

A big thanks goes out to everybody who helped us this year; our hard working volunteers, Naphill Village Hall, The Horse Trust, Chiltern Vale Scout Group, and Sytner BMW.

Ruth Dunkin, Head of Community and Events was there as usual to receive the money on behalf of TVAA. We were also joined on the Crick by a number of our incredible volunteers, and we all enjoyed a bite to eat and a drink at The Wheel. Thanks to Mark and Claire for hosting us.

We are all very proud to support this amazing organisation. Recent research has shown that a high number of the general public do not realise that Air Ambulance services in the UK are not publicly funded and rely purely on charitable donations.

- In a typical week for Thames Valley Air Ambulance
- The critical care paramedic and doctor crews are called out 60 times to treat the most seriously ill and injured people in the region.
- They treat around four children.
- They attend 23 cardiac arrests.

The charity also has an aftercare team which supports 20 new patients each week, helping them navigate often life-changing events.

Next year's show is scheduled for Sunday 7th of June. So put the date in your diary if you enjoy old cars, bikes and live music, with great food and drinks thrown in.

If you would like to help out at the show, please email classicsonthecrick@gmail.com

See you all next year

The Classics Team



Photograph courtesy Paul Goby



Naphill Neighbours Annual Afternoon Tea August 2025

This month's Naphill Neighbours' meeting, held on 11th August was our annual Afternoon Tea event, attended by 35 members and one guest.

It was a very warm August afternoon, but the Village Hall kept us a little more comfortable whilst we enjoyed the company of fellow members and the delicious afternoon tea provided by Dot Chalmers and her team from The Flying Tearooms. This annual event is one we all look forward to and this year it did not disappoint. There were plenty of finger sandwiches, followed by scones with jam and cream and four different types of cake. We were all amazed at the choice and many took

home a goody bag of the items we couldn't manage to eat, so much was on offer. We were joined by Jonathan Hilder who captured the event on camera.

We also raised some funds for the charity 'Breast Cancer Now'. Lisa Fordham, our Secretary, kindly made and donated a lemon cake with cream cheese frosting to be used for a 'guess the weight of the cake' competition. Everyone had a guess and gave a donation, raising a total of £100. The cake weighed in at 3lb 6½ oz and was correctly guessed by Jo Keattch, our Chairman.

Jan Honey

How it all began

'Naphill Neighbours' is one of the longest established social groups in Naphill. Originally, the group was called 'Naphill Young Neighbours', and its purpose was to inform and entertain the ladies of Naphill and Walters Ash.

At the end of 1963 planning was in place to form a new social group, and the first meeting was held on Monday 13th January 1964 at Naphill Village Hall at 7.30p.m. In November 1964, the AGM for 'Naphill Young Neighbours' was recorded in The Naphill & Walters Ash Gazette. Mrs Harper was Secretary and Mrs Jenkins was Treasurer. Other Committee members were Mrs Syrett, Mrs Butler, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Watkins, Mrs Stallwood, Mrs Hussey and Mrs Elliott. Mrs Barbara Streets was the Chair in 1969. By July 1972, the name had been changed to 'Naphill Neighbours', and Pam Smith was President in October of that year. Money was raised through jumble sales, tombolas at the Xmas Fair and even a fashion show.

Throughout the years Naphill Neighbours have been on coach trips to Highgrove, Buckingham Palace, Highclere, The London Eye, Leeds Castle, Savill Gardens and the seaside. We have our annual tea parties and Christmas meals. We are regularly joined by many interesting and varied speakers. We are also long-time supporters of Naphill Fete with our popular home-made cake stall.

'Naphill Neighbours', is open to everyone over the age of 18, of any gender and also you do not need to live in Naphill or Walters Ash. We have members from Hughenden, Prestwood and Holmer Green.

We have a hardworking Committee, Jo Keatch, Chair, Lisa Fordham, Secretary, Jan Honey, Treasurer, Sue Glanfield, Flo Payne, Wendy Sackett, Sally Osbourn and Shirley Clarke-Pearson. Feel free to speak to any of us if you would like to know more, or come as a guest first if you would like a taster. Get to know your neighbours and future friends from around the local villages. We meet on the 2nd Monday of every month in Naphill Village Hall at 2pm. You will always be welcome.



September Meeting

Roald Dahl's life before the BFG

The Naphill Neighbours meeting in September featured a very informative talk by Graham Laurie about Roald Dahl in the years before he began writing the children's books, which gave us an insight into his character.

Graham told us about his early life & career. Roald Dahl (1916–1990) was born in Wales to Norwegian parents. After school, he joined the oil company Shell Petroleum, which stationed him in Tanzania by the late 1930s. Dahl lived a colonial expatriate life, travelling across Africa on Shell business.

Graham then explained that when World War II broke out, Dahl joined the Royal Air Force in Nairobi, Kenya, and trained and successfully qualified as a fighter pilot, despite his 6ft 53/4" in height. In September 1940, he crash-landed his Gloster Gladiator in the Western Desert (Libya) and suffered severe injuries to his skull and spine. After months of recovery, he returned to flying, but his health problems eventually ended his combat career.

For Dahl's later RAF work, he was posted to Washington, D.C. In 1942 as an air attaché. His role involved intelligence, diplomacy, and unofficial propaganda, reporting on U.S. politics and trying to encourage American support for Britain. In Washington, Dahl was drawn into the work of British Security Coordination (BSC), a covert intelligence network headed by William Stephenson. Dahl's charm, good looks, and society connections made him useful for cultivating influential contacts, including wealthy Americans and politicians. During this period, he also began writing stories. His first published piece, "Shot Down Over Libya" (later renamed A Piece of Cake), appeared in The Saturday Evening Post in 1942, inspired by his air crash.

While working in intelligence circles, Dahl met Ian Fleming, then an assistant to the British director of naval intelligence (later famous as the creator of James Bond). Fleming and Dahl moved in overlapping worlds of espionage, propaganda, and high society in Washington and London. Both were connected with William Stephenson's intelligence operations. They became friends, and Fleming later recruited Dahl to write screenplays: most famously "You Only Live Twice" (1967) and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (1968).

Next month's talk will be held at 2pm on the 13th October and will be a talk entitled 'Blessed are the Cheesemakers' by John Pearson. Guests are welcome.

Jan Honey



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The Great RonFest 2025



The Wheel News

Thank you to all our customers who braved the weather and turned up for RonFest, what an amazing day as always. Mark got some amazing photos that are on our Facebook page, which show how much some of you enjoyed yourselves - I think the quantity of beer and cider helped in some cases! Thank you to the musicians: Steve Ling, Bad Neighbours and These Certain People, and Chris and Dave for the sound system. Thanks to Country Supplies for the stage, Lacey Green Cricket Club for the loan of a fridge, and to anyone who helped with the set-up of the event. A huge special thanks goes out to all the staff who worked the event too. So far we have raised over £1000.00 for Dementia UK, which was this year's chosen charity.

On a more sombre note it is with a very heavy heart that Julia had to make the difficult decision to have Bonnie dog put to sleep. She sadly had a very short battle with cancer, and it was the kindest choice for her. Our beautiful Bonnie Bee or Bon Bon was a fabulous character that was only here for three years. Her happy seal noises, helicopter tail, pawing of people and bruises to match, and food times were always fun. She lived in her own very happy world and will be greatly missed by all of our dogs and humans.

So, what's up next? We have been busy tweaking our food menu and have made a fair amount of changes especially for the lunch time crowd, and we have also been looking at dietary requirements in much more depth. Come in and join us, just remember to book now that the weather has changed.

Bonfire night is the 8th November so make sure it's in the diary and remember to book for food in the evening if you are coming to us, which as always will be two sittings. Christmas is also getting closer and it's time to get organised, we will again be doing our month of Christmas specials.

We have had a fantastic summer this year, that was dry for four whole months! The garden has been packed, we've had so many dogs and families out walking and enjoying the sunshine. Although autumn has suddenly arrived, it brings the prospect of cosy evenings with a roaring fire, good company, great beer, a new menu and comforting homemade winter specials – so it's not all bad really.

We would like to welcome Zeb and Arlo to Team Wheel as we have had a few changes with people off to university. We also sadly said goodbye to Kaytee who has moved to Plymouth and is making a new start with her man Dan. Congratulations to Fred and Finn on their A levels results, I'm pleased to say Fred is off to university and Finn is currently travelling. We wish them both well and I'm sure they will be back with us soon. Aurther, Sky and Macy also got the GCSE results they wanted and are all sorted for their A levels, Aurther is also moving away and doing a hospitality and catering course down in Bournemouth. We are so proud of you all.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and here's to the cosy winter months.

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Meetings and Outings

The glorious weather this summer enabled us to enjoy various outdoor events, including the annual Flower Festival at St Michaels and All Angels.

In August, the 'World We Live In' Group focused on Palestine. The event proved so popular we held a repeat showing in September. Our Science Group has been looking closely into the idea 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' and the impact of discoveries in neuroscience and the emerging field of neuroaesthetics. Intrigued? Come along and find out more about this new science that uses MRI scans to explore what happens inside the brain when we look at objects and advertising!

In September, our Local History Group made a very special private visit to Dorchester Abbey and the adjacent museum where we enjoyed a guided talk. Our guides explained about the history of the Abbey (formerly a cathedral) and its Jesse window. This was followed by a delicious afternoon tea and an organ recital by the son of one of our members.

The Local History Group is continuing with presentations by members on their experiences of living and working in the area. We are visiting St Michaels and all Angels

again in November to hear about its special place in our community. Visits to local churches have been very successful as they are often sources of local history previously unknown to many of us.

We are delighted to report that a record number of new members joined us in September and increasing numbers mean that we can start new Groups. The first meeting of our Chess Group took place in September, and we are actively looking at starting other Groups later in the year. Details of all our Groups can be found on the Groups page of our website: High Wycombe and District u3a.

Our monthly meetings programme (2pm at Lacey Green Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month) remains popular with members. On October 22nd our speaker Tony Earle will present 'A look at the Musicals'. Your first visit is free! Come along to find out more about what we do, where we hold meetings and upcoming events.

Paul Gillam - 01494 562843



The Local History Group very much enjoyed their recent visit To Dorchester Abbey. They have shared some photos with us. Please see the report above.



Hughenden Street Association Social Events

Dates for your diary

The date for the next Street Association lunch at the Spindle and Thread is Wednesday 15 October, 12 noon for 12.30pm. Please contact Susan Bickerstaffe on 07880 519323 to book a place.

The October Social Afternoon will be on Monday 27 October 2 till 4pm in Bon Ami. No need to book for this.

Newcomers welcome at both events.



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PARENT 2025



'Very happy with the school! My child is happy, safe and getting a good education.'

PARENT 2025



'Couldn't be happier with the school and the staff in the support they give to my child and myself. Thank you.'

PARENT 2025

Come and visit us:

October Open Morning - Thursday 16th October - 9.15am

November Open Afternoon - Tuesday 11th November - 1.30pm





The school buildings have undergone many changes since the amalgamation of the First and Middle schools in 1988. Anyone who attended the school in the '80s may remember 'The Museum', sited in an empty classroom, which housed all sorts of local artefacts ranging from farm machinery to various stuffed animals! As numbers on roll grew, other buildings were added, including an extra classroom, known as 'The Studio'.

This Studio has undergone several face-lifts, having served its time as classroom, Forest School 'booting and suiting' room, drum-suite and 'dumping ground' (!) but it has seen perhaps its most exciting change over the summer holidays, thanks to our caretaker, Mr Bonny, and our very talented Mrs Binhammer.

Following an inspirational assembly by the Rocksteady Music School, and the subsequent unprecedented uptake of pupils signing up to form our very own 'School of Rock' style school band (60+ children!), it was decided that the Studio would become a dedicated Music & Arts suite. Mrs Binhammer, who has painted the murals which adorn our corridors as well as the incredible Year 6 backdrops for the annual summer productions, offered to create a mural to inspire and enthuse our budding performers. Mr Bonny used his best magnolia paint to prepare the 'canvas' and Mrs B spent many hours over the holidays, creating a beautiful mural, which has well and truly transformed what was a tired-looking space, desperately in need of some TLC!



A very big thank you to Mrs B for all her hard work. We await the first concert given by our budding rockstars later in the term - who knows, this may be the inspiration for the next Oasis!



As summer comes to an end, I've once again been struck by the strength of community spirit that runs through every part of Mid Buckinghamshire. From local festivals and village fetes to charity fundraisers, I've had the privilege of attending many wonderful events over recent weeks – each one a real tribute to the dedication of volunteers, organisers, and residents who care deeply about their communities.

It was a real pleasure to attend the 150th anniversary of the rebuilding of St Michael & All Angels Church in

Hughenden last month. The service was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the rich history of the church and its place at the heart of the local community for so many generations. I enjoyed speaking with Rev. Keith Johnson, Cllr David Carroll, and many parishioners and residents who came together to mark this very special milestone.

As Parliament returns in September, I'll carry these priorities with me to Westminster while maintaining a busy programme of visits and advice surgeries across the constituency. It has been a packed but rewarding summer, and as we head into autumn, I remain as committed as ever to listening to, supporting, and standing up for Mid Bucks.

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Naphill Bonfire Night is back!

This year, it is bigger and better than ever before! The committee have tirelessly ensured that your local fundraiser is the best in the south of the country! Save the date, Saturday 8th November 2025 on the Crick from 5pm, you don't want to miss out!

By popular demand we have returning band Apollo from Brighton playing for you throughout the evening.

Our famous BBQ will be lit and firing fresh burgers and hotdogs to keep you warm. Warm Mulled wine with fresh fruit will be available all evening. For the kids, there are foam sticks and windmills available to purchase, and for the big kids, there is alcohol to buy provided by the boys at the Men's Club tent! Come and be apart of one of the biggest events of the year!

Tickets will be available to purchase three weeks prior to the event at www.naphillfireworks.co.uk and All local pubs and shops will stock tickets where you can buy them for cash only. Further information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

If you'd like to be apart of this incredible fundraising team and do your bit for the community, please consider volunteering some time either on the Saturday or Sunday. Your time will be rewarded! If this interests you, do contact us via the above website.

A few reminders, As always, unfortunately there is NO PARKING at the event, please use public transport where possible, or walk to the crick. No Sparklers, Dogs or Hi-Vis Jackets please. Refusal to comply to these rules may result in no entry.

Deliveries for clean wood can be made to the crick on the 25th Oct and 1st November by 12pm.

Due to the precedent demand in service at the event, it is advisable to bring some cash with you in the event of technical difficulties!

Just before we light up the village for the biggest event of the year, we'd like to thank our main sponsor Surebuild, Jackson and Co., local businesses, our volunteers, the RAF, the Gazette Team and both The Wheel and The Black Lion for hosting our meetings!

See you all there!

Fireworks Committee



NAPHILL & WALTERS' ASH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
QUIZ NIGHT!

**Friday 17th October
Naphill Village Hall**

Doors Open 7pm Quiz Starts 7:30pm

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Naphill & Walters' Ash Residents Association

The good news this month is that Naphill and Walter's Ash came joint second for the Pushman Cup in the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition. Many thanks to those – you know who you are – who went to considerable trouble to give our public spaces a big spruce up before and during the competition period. Traditionally we have always done well and your efforts have paid off yet again.

By the time you read this the annual quiz night on 17th October will be nearly upon us. It's one of the village's big social events so please sign up if you've not already done so. Contact details with article and on posters around the villages.

Best wishes

David Frost

Vice Chairman



A. ELLIS

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Tree of Light Dedication Ceremony is in the gardens at the corner of New Road and Duke Street, next to the Tesco's roundabout on



Sunday, Nov 23rd at 4:00 pm

Dedication Forms are available from the Princes Risborough Library, the Nightingale Hospice Charity shop in Princes Risborough or download at 

The Tree of Light provides an opportunity to honour, remember and celebrate the life of someone special, and whose name will be displayed adjacent to the Tree. The dedications will be displayed until the end of the year.

The Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has replaced Rennie Grove as the Rotary Club's partner as the reorganisation of hospice services in Buckinghamshire means that Rennie Grove no longer operates in the town.

The Tree of Light is one of our major projects at this time of year, together with our over 75's who live alone Christmas Lunch at the Princes Centre, our Christmas Street Collection in the Town and a party for the Bucks Young Carers. WHY SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS? Well these are some of the many ways that members of the Club can give back to the local community. We provide support to numerous local and wider needs. To enable us to do so we need to raise money for our Charity Account and over the past few years we have raised over £30,000 annually.

The Club is a vibrant organization that meets on Mondays at the Whiteleaf Golf Club for an enjoyable and light-hearted evening, which includes a meal and entertainment in a friendly and fun atmosphere which helps build strong relationships - a crucial part of our Club's identity. If you would like to be part of this and might consider joining us, visit our website and perhaps come to one of our meetings to see if it might interest you. We would love to hear from you. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity Account, or have any other queries please use the contact details below at:



www.rotary-ribi.org/clubshomepagephp?ClubID=561

or David White on 07787 750889 for general Club

enquiries; or for Tree of Light enquiries:

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Naphill Village Hall Service of Remembrance

9th November at 2.30pm



The annual Remembrance Service will be held at the Village Hall, Naphill on Sunday 9th November at 2.30pm. The Service will be taken by Padre Jonathan Stewart, the Station Chaplain at RAF High Wycombe.

I hope that this year that there will be a good attendance and you are all invited to come. There will be a collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal after the service, so please remember to bring along some cash.

Wreaths will be laid at the end of the service on the Remembrance Stone. I should remind all organisations that it is their responsibility to provide their own wreaths.

Pete Dalby



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Local Tale - *Summers past*

In summer days, it's pleasant to sit in the garden with a cup of coffee, a newspaper or a book. But sometimes it seems to trigger a neighbour to start their mower or some other machine, not maliciously, but because they have a job to do.

Like many, when I worked all the week, it didn't seem unreasonable to expect a little leisure time at the weekend. So, as I approached my retirement, I thought that then, I would always mow during the weekdays and in that way I would avoid annoying those in work and still relying on a quiet weekend to relax.

However well intentioned, I hadn't thought this gesture through. When the weekend arrived, the sound of mowing was not eased by my abstaining. I realised that most of the mowing and hedge trimming was being done by those that worked all the week and who only had the weekend to do it!

Although living in a village should give some relief from noise but sometimes it doesn't seem to. This is not to suggest that years ago the village had been blessed by bucolic silence, the daylight hours hardly disturbed by the occasional lowing of cows or the clucking of hens. I have been told of (and vaguely remember myself), the squealing of pigs. Many villagers kept pigs, sometimes collectively. At a time when there were no domestic refrigerators, the likes of milk, meat and many vegetables were difficult to keep fresh or even edible. Pigs were popular and could be fed on kitchen scraps, but of course, they had to be slaughtered. This was often by butchers. They would perform this for a share of the carcass, usually half. The slaughter involved cutting the throat of the pig so that it would bleed to death. This was necessary to ensure white meat that would then be salted and hung in a cool place. The squealing of the pigs as they bled could be heard all over the village.

Present day noise comes from all directions: cars and lorries, aircraft, electronic devices and all sorts of gadgetry. Not so many pigs now but dogs can do their bit. If one barks, seemingly out of boredom, a whole chorus can be set off, from bass to soprano. Certainly, the barking of dogs has, through history, been seen as heralding the arrival of strangers. Perhaps "travellers" or gypsies



that traditionally journeyed around the country according to the seasons, to help in harvesting, fruit picking et cetera. This was necessary and vital work but their arrival in settled communities made many anxious. Arrivals, as we well know, still does. There is an old saying that I believe had a version dating from as early as the 11th century and sadly, could be quoted today. It is full of alarm plus cynicism:

Hark! Hark! the dogs do bark,
The beggars are coming to town,
Some in rags,
And some in tags,
And some in velvet gowns.
Sadly, some things never change.

Philip Hussey.

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Not from the Vicarage



One of the great delights of working abroad for part of the year is joining in with local celebrations and customs. Such is with Gibraltar, which has just celebrated National Day. It's a relatively recent local bank holiday, marking the date of the 1967 referendum in which Gibraltarians overwhelmingly voted to remain British. We have nothing quite like it in the UK, but it is one of those days which no one celebrates alone. Gibraltar ex-pats return to their roots and new-pats enthusiastically embrace the holiday. For weeks now, local shops have been dressing their windows in the national colours of red and white. The streets have been festooned with bunting whilst general goods stores have been selling red and white ribbons, flags, serving dishes, paper plates and anything else that could possibly come in red and white.

The heart of the celebration is in Casemates, the central square. A huge outdoor stage with a sound system to match is at its centre, hosting children's competitions, dance displays, bands and political rallies, ending with a rock concert and late night drone display. It's pretty much a festival, though unlike Glastonbury, sunny weather is almost guaranteed.

Crowds gather from mid morning onwards to enjoy the events and everyone turns out in the national colours of red and white. On entering Casemates, you are greeted by a sea of red and white, reminiscent of the red and white uniforms of the British troops who formed the first garrisons on The Rock. (There were plenty of those too – the local re-enactment society takes its role very seriously).

Initially, it looks like the entire population has donned some form of uniform, but closer inspection reveals wonderful expressions of individuality. Ladies sport red and white combinations of slinky, pleated, ruffled or frilled tops and skirts or trousers, white dresses with red accessories or red dresses with white accessories and occasional blue accents. Many men take the opportunity to wear their favourite football team shirts whilst others don whatever items of red and white they can find. Children wear their best combinations of red and white

and even tiny babies are dressed in the national colours or have their buggies decorated with red and white toys. And if you STILL didn't have enough red and white, the tourist board was giving out red and white baseball caps!

The day was a fun, joyful expression of unity enhanced by the adoption of the national colours signifying solidarity and community, yet within the colour code, people expressed their individual identity. It was like a massive fashion show from a designer who only had red and white fabrics left to work with, having run out of blue early on in the production of their collection.... or perhaps a red and white version of the Ascot Gavotte from 'My Fair Lady'.

Everyone the same, but different. The Bible teaches that we are all made in God's image, each one of us bearing that same image of the divine, each of us is unique, different, yet God knows each of us individually.

May you be blessed in knowing you bear the image of God within you.

Rev Jenny Ellis

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Naphill Christmas Gift Fayre



Sunday 30th November

How does a glass of mulled wine or fizz and a homemade mince pie whilst doing your Christmas shopping sound?

The Christmas Gift Fayre is on a Sunday afternoon once again this year to give even more of you the chance to come along.

Our stallholders are very excited to be bringing you a wide range of beautiful and unique gifts, so join us at The Village Hall for the chance to shop local, meet friends and tick some items off your Christmas list.

You could also win a Christmas Hamper in our raffle!

30 per cent of the stalls are new to us this year so do come along to support not only the Village Hall, but all the local crafters and traders.

For more details of the stalls that will be there, check us out on Facebook page:

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



If you are a local business and would like to donate a festive prize for our raffle, we would love to hear from you!

Cathryn Carter & Moira Harris

CoppaFeel! breast cancer awareness



I'm Crafting for CoppaFeel!
Mandy Dearden is fundraising for
CoppaFeel



Shear Madness

October is Breast Cancer awareness month !

Many of you will be aware that I was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer in 2019. I was a part of a trial to help detect cancer in women under 50 years. Typical me, I thought "oh that'll be a laugh" as I love anything medical. To my shock I had a biopsy and surgery within the month followed by 15 rounds of radiotherapy. It was much tougher on me that I would have admitted at the time! I'm the person who famously says "yeah I'm fine" - sorry to my worried family.

While the after effects have changed my body forever, I'm happy to say that I am six years clear! So I'm going to craft with my epoxy resin every day in October to raise money for Coppafeel! Please feel free to pop down for a chat .

Thanks for taking the time to read and thanks in advance

Love as always

Mandyxx





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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

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The Powerful Benefits of Reiki

Reiki is a Japanese energy-healing therapy - Rei means higher power or God's wisdom, and Ki is life force energy. Life force energy occurs naturally in all living things, but when it is low, we don't feel healthy or robust. Reiki boosts the energy in the body, removes blockages, calms the body and mind, and gives a deep sense of well-being.

A Reiki practitioner uses gentle touch on your body to help guide and release this energy to promote balance and healing.

Reiki introduces a set of 5 principles that form the foundations of a peaceful life:

Just for today, do not worry.

If you're anxious, this will ground you when you find yourself worrying about the future. We can make up negative 'worst-case scenario' futures and they almost become real when they are only imaginary. This principle keeps you in the present.

Just for today, do not anger.

Anger is not always a bad thing. It tells us when someone or something has crossed a boundary or triggered an old wound. It's how we deal with that anger that matters. Anger often makes a situation worse, and we find ourselves overly upset before we have had time to think. This isn't about suppressing emotions but pausing and looking deeper into what lies beneath the anger and taking notice of the triggers.

Anger often masks real pain and, if so, it is worth noticing that pain, and letting yourself lean into it first. The anger then dissipates more quickly, making way for clearer thinking.

Just for today, be humble.

The ego can get out of hand, and we can find ourselves demanding appreciation from others which may not be forthcoming. The ego makes us critical of others. It can be easily dented so if you find yourself too needy for attention, take some time to bow down to a humbler place and love those around you simply for love's sake.

Just for today, be honest.

Being honest can be challenging. We so want to fit in so it's easy to find ourselves putting on a false front or lying to hide the truth about ourselves. This leads to shame and a sense of isolation as no one gets to really know the 'real' us. Peace of mind comes from having compassion for yourself, just as you are.

Just for today, be compassionate towards yourself and others.

This is a reminder to cut yourself and others some slack and give people the benefit of the doubt. Compassion can help to heal judgment, blame, and anger. Everyone around you will thank you for it.

Testimonial

"Alison has given me the support that I needed to get me through a very strange and difficult episode in my life! With the therapy, reiki and deep relaxation, I have managed to deal with these emotions and my mind is calmer and my body is catching up. I am so grateful Alison."

A 50-minute appointment is £70 and is based in my beautiful therapy room in Naphill. A package of 6 sessions is £450. My Reiki treatments are tailored to you in an environment where you can relax and find your balance again.

A Reiki Master Practitioner since 2018, I can integrate Reiki within my therapeutic coaching and hypnotherapy techniques if necessary.



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Bacon or Sausage Brioche / Sandwich £4.50

- Add an egg £5.00

Egg Brioche / Sandwich £4.00

2 slices toast/ 2 crumpets with butter. £3.50

Add jam, marmalade, marmite

Chocolate spread or peanut butter £4.00

Toasted teacake with butter £3.50

- Add jam, marmalade, marmite,

- Chocolate spread or peanut butter £4.00

Pastry / Croissant. £3.00

2 Homemade Scotch Pancakes with butter £3.00

- Add jam, marmalade, marmite,

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Add jam, marmalade, marmite,

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3 Homemade Scotch Pancakes

- With mixed fruit & honey. £5.00

- Add yoghurt. £5.50

- Or 2 slices of bacon & maple syrup. £5.00

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*

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club



Our NEW Tennis Shed

The Club has had an excellent summer of tennis and our 'Tiger Turf' courts have proved a boon in the dry weather as they don't turn brown or need watering!-

A new storage shed, to replace the somewhat dilapidated old one, has now been installed by Adam and his band of volunteers, Martin, Malcolm, Mike and Sarah and looks very smart. The instructions to build it were not the easiest to interpret as 'left' and 'right' appeared to be the wrong way round so many thanks to them for their valuable efforts.

As most of you know, tennis is played all year round at Naphill Club and new members are welcome at any time of the year. It is a great way to stay fit and healthy as the winter months approach. Regular club sessions supplemented by group and private coaching with Mel and Becs, our two excellent coaches, together with matches against other clubs provide something for everyone. Do come and join us!

Jenny Tench

For further information on Naphill Tennis Club please visit our website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/
NaphillLTC or get in touch with our membership secretary at: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com



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Raising Funds in Chiltern Villages - Autumn 2025

We are launching, by popular demand, an Autumn Ladies Lunch on Wednesday 1st October at The Horse Trust, Speen. This follows the very successful Spring Ladies Lunch in May. Tickets are £40 per person for a delicious three-course meal and a complimentary glass of wine. Tickets are selling fast, come and check this out if you have not been before and bring a friend. You can buy your ticket at the SHH website.

After last year's fantastic comedy night in Lacey Green Village Hall, organiser Elliot Wengler has surpassed himself for the 2025 show with a programme featuring five fantastic comedians and rising stars not seen previously in Speen or Lacey Green. Michael Akadiri (as seen on ITV, BBC3 and Comedy Central), and Kathryn Mather from Comedy Central along with Nick Byard, Caitriona Dowden

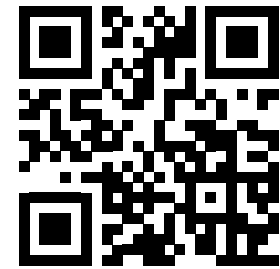
and Phil Alexander will be performing on Saturday 11th October in Lacey Green Village Hall. Tickets are £20 each and available now from the SHH website, one of the few booking sites that does not charge you a booking fee!

Finally, the SHH Annual Christmas Market will be at its usual home at Speen Chapel on Saturday 15th November between 11am and 4pm.

If you are interested in raising money by taking part in an event or want to find out more about becoming part of our fundraising group at SHH, please contact me at events@shh-shop.org or on 07778 803260.

For detailed information about all our events check out our website www.shh-shop.org

Gráinne Suter, Chair SHH



Valley Players

And the Oscar goes to.....

Two members of Valley Players - Andrew Pitman and Willow Randalls - recently won awards from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA). NODA is a National organisation which was founded in 1899. It celebrates, connects and supports theatre groups all across the UK, from village halls to large scale venues. It has over 2,500 member societies, and provides tuition courses, insurance, pantomime scripts and advice. Oh yes they do!

The awards recognize achievements in amateur theatre across the UK. Andrew's award was for "Unsung Hero" and Willow was the district winner for the London region. Huge congratulations and justly deserved. Andrew has been involved with Am Drama for most of his life starting at infant school Nativity plays (shepherd), and Willow since secondary school at 14. It is a lifelong hobby!

Panto '25 - is "Snow White and the Curse of the Ice Queen" by Peter Nuttall. The cast are working their socks off in rehearsal, and tickets are now on sale! See our website for details and purchases. www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk

Andrew Pitman,
Chairman.

contact@valleyplayershughenden.co.uk





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