

A cluster of white snowdrops with green leaves and stems, growing in a forest floor. The ground is covered with brown, fallen leaves and patches of green moss. The background shows more moss and some green plants. The overall scene is a close-up of the snowdrops in their natural habitat.

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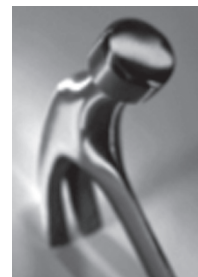
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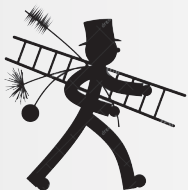
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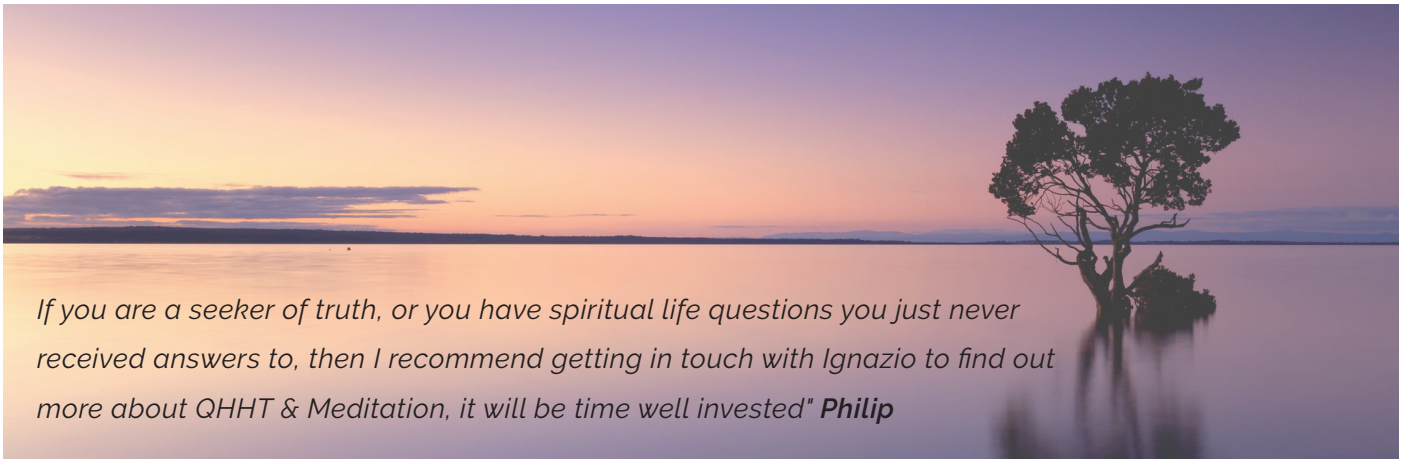
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# Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

## February 2019

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**Copy Deadline for the March edition is 15 February 2019**

### Contacts Directory

|                                       |  |                                      |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bradenham Parish Council              | Deirdre Hansen   | 562254                               | (Parish Clerk) <a href="mailto:clerk@bradenham.org.uk">clerk@bradenham.org.uk</a>              |
| County Councillor                     | David Carroll  | 716967                               | <a href="mailto:david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk">david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk</a>                 |
| District Councillor                   | David Carroll  | 716967                               | <a href="mailto:david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk">david_carroll@wycombe.gov.uk</a>                 |
| District Councillor                   | Steve Broadbent  | 07471-14418                          | <a href="mailto:steve_broadbent@wycombe.gov.uk">steve_broadbent@wycombe.gov.uk</a>             |
| District Councillor                   | Audrey Jones   | 563425                               | <a href="mailto:audrey_jones@wycombe.gov.uk">audrey_jones@wycombe.gov.uk</a>                   |
| Hughenden Parish Clerk                | Shona Hadwen   | 715296                               | <a href="mailto:clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk">clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>                         |
| Hughenden Parish Councillor           | Chris Waterton   | 07968 268067                         | <a href="mailto:chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk">chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>       |
| Hughenden Parish Councillor           | Anita Boekee   | 07931 795464                         | <a href="mailto:anita.boekee@hughendenpc.org.uk">anita.boekee@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>           |
| Hughenden Parish Council              | Vacancy  |                                      |  |
| Hughenden Parish Councillor           | Cllr. Paul Hardinge  | 07810 038198                         | <a href="mailto:paul.hardinge@hughendenpc.org.uk">paul.hardinge@hughendenpc.org.uk</a>         |
| Naphill & Walter's Ash School         | Kerenza Gwyn   | 562813                               | <a href="mailto:office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk">office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk</a>                 |
| Pharmacy<br>Hughenden Valley Surgery  | Enquiries  | 565458                               | 8.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-6.15pm   |
| Prescription Collection               | Penny Leggett<br>Ginny Ratcliffe<br>Celia Duncan<br>Nancy Hussey | 562866<br>563650<br>564230<br>563767 | <a href="mailto:dbartonratcliffe@googlemail.com">dbartonratcliffe@googlemail.com</a>           |
| Thames Valley Police<br>NON EMERGENCY |  | 101<br>PRNPT                         |  |
| Village Hall Bookings                 | Tanya Stevens  | 563053                               | <a href="mailto:naphillvillagehallbk@gmail.com">naphillvillagehallbk@gmail.com</a> 07851169275 |

## Naphill and Walter's Ash Clubs and Organisations

| Club or Organisation                                      | Meeting Day   | Location   | Contact   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Beavers   | Tuesdays 5.30-6.45pm  | Scout and Guide Hut Naphill                                  | Barry Reading 447121  |
| Bridge Club   | Thursdays 7.15pm  | Naphill Village Hall   | Margaret Stagg 530736<br>Rene Ashby 482933  |
| Brownies (Naphill)  | Thursdays 5.45 -7.00pm  | Scout and Guide Hut Naphill                                  | Ruth Daly 565571<br>ruth.daly3@btinternet.com   |
| Cubs- Hughenden Naphill                                   | Mondays 6.45-8.15pm<br>Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm   | Scout & Guide Hut Naphill<br>Scout & Guide Hut Naphill       | handnhcubs@hotmail.com<br>naphillcubscouts@outlook.com  |
| Football Club<br>Naphill Junior Boys<br>Training Sessions | U6, 7, 8, 9 Saturdays 9.30-11am   | NWA School   | John Hamill<br>naphillfcjuniors@hotmail.co.uk   |
|   | U10, 11, 12 Saturdays 9.30-11am   | RAF Sports Field   | Bob Hathaway 563332   |
|   | U13, 14, 16 Saturdays 9.30-11am   | RAF Walter's Ash   |   |
| Friends of Naphill Common (FONC)                          | Various   | Various  | Trevor Hussey 563767  |
| Good Companions   | First Thursday every month  | Hughenden Village Hall                                       | Pat Furness 565501  |
| Guides (Naphill)  | Wednesdays 7-8.45pm   | Scout and Guide Hut Naphill                                  | Toni Green 562089   |
| Men's Club  | Monday to Friday 7.30pm   | Naphill Village Hall   | Andrew Wasilewski 562770<br>naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk   |
| Mobile Library  | Wednesday<br>10.55-11.30am<br>11.35 -11.55am<br>12.05 -12..20pm                                   | Naphill Village Hall<br>Forge Road<br>Eastlands, Lacey Green |   |
| Naphill Neighbours  | Second Monday of the month 7.45 for 8pm   | Naphill Village Hall   | Sheila Rolfe 562888<br>Hazel Vickery 563977   |
| Residents Association                                     | Third Thursday in the month 8pm   | Naphill Village Hall   | Gloria Leflaive 563634<br>glorialeflaive@msn.com  |
| Scouts (Naphill)  | Thursdays 7.30 -9.15pm  | Scout and Guide Hut Naphill                                  | naphillscouts@aol.com   |
| Seniors Luncheon Club                                     | Second Wednesday in the month 12.45 for 1   | Naphill Village Hall   | Jan Gaunt 562282  |
| Tennis Club - Senior                                      | Sundays 1.30pm<br>Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am<br>Wednesdays 11am<br>Thursdays (April-Sept) 6.00pm | Naphill Tennis Club  | Sarah Dengel 563706<br>sarah.dengel1@gmail.com<br>Jenny Tench 565406<br>jttench@gmail.com<br>Terry Crooks 562539 ter-rycrooks2001@aol.com |
| Tennis Club - Junior Coaching                             | Fridays 4.00-7.15pm<br>Saturday 9-9.45am under 7s   |  |   |
| Village Hall Council                                      | First Monday in the month 8.00-10.00pm  | Naphill Village Hall   | Clive Lawrece<br>chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk   |
| Help with filling in online forms                         | Judy Whitehouse 562742 or Sheila Draper 563670  |  |   |
| Naphill Evening WI  | 3rd Thursday in month 7.45pm  | Naphill Village Hall   | Juliet Shortall 565018  |

**If you have a NON business club or activity group which meets regularly in Naphill or Walter's Ash and which you would like to see included on this page, please contact me via email: [edor@haphillandwaltersash.org.uk](mailto:edor@haphillandwaltersash.org.uk)**





# Welcome to Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette 2019

## Editorial

A very happy, healthy new year to you all!

Possibly along with some of you, I have to admit that January is not my all-time favourite month! The Christmas tree is packed away, the house needs tidying, the oven definitely needs cleaning, the bathroom scales do not make good reading but the short days and cold still make me want to indulge in comfort eating. So, what is there to cheer me up? Well of course the February Gazette! I know that by the time our magazine reaches you the days WILL be getting longer, the house WILL be restored to as normal as it ever gets and I WILL have given up worrying too much about the sad tale of the bathroom scales and adjusted to an eating plan minus sticky ginger cake.

It is great to be back in the editorial chair and to be kept busy collecting all the news and starting to set out the feature advertisements for the new Gazette year which commences next month. I need to get these finalised by 15 February so if you want your advertisement updated please let me know before this date. My thanks to Mike Pool, our treasurer who is still trying to get all the advertising accounts settled and our end of year accounts finalised. As always, our advertising space is in HUGE demand and I do not anticipate that I will have many, if any, spaces. If you are interested in advertising with us or no longer require your advertising space, please contact me via email: [editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk](mailto:editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk).

Of course, this is also a great time to start looking forward and to appreciate just how lucky we are to live in this great community. I am delighted to be publishing good news from Peggy Ewart who is steering the project to restore the children's play area on the Crick and hopefully there will be more

great news that there will be another NapFest to look forward to in June.

In my efforts to look on the bright side, I have chosen a snowdrop cover for this edition. I am reliably informed by Himself, the photographer, that this photograph was taken locally at much this time of year. It does sometimes come in handy to have a photographer sat at the next desk and I am grateful to Paul Goby for this picture.

Time now to stop my chatter and set to work!

*Sonia*

01494 569428

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[www.naphillandwaltersash.org.uk](http://www.naphillandwaltersash.org.uk)

## Naphill Village Hall and Playing Fields Council Registered charity number 300309

### Chairman's Report

I should like this month to try to explain to all the people in the village the situation of the Village Hall finances. The treasurer, Paul, has made a projected budget for 2019. The income, that is the amount of money the village hall raises, should be £25564. This is made up by £19500 from letting the Hall out to various groups, plus the private hire fees. Bon Ami, the Men's Club and the Tennis Club pay a combined rent of £5164 and the Football Clubs and Classics on the Crick also pay a combined rent of £900, the total income is £25564. Now, this is what we have to spend just to keep the hall running. We spend £19750 on cleaning and maintenance, including grass and hedge cutting. The gas, water, electric, phone and internet plus insurances add up to £12000. Administration and licences cost another £920 and sundry items are £900. This all adds up to £33570. Consequently,

if you take away the cost of running the hall from the income, we end up with a loss of £8006 for the year! It then becomes apparent that if we did not have the fundraising events, the Village Hall would not be able to survive!

For 2019 we have agreed to spend our maintenance budget on cutting the trees backing on to Downley road and new front doors for Bon Ami, due to locking failures in the current, ageing doors. They are the original doors (about 26 years old) and all the mechanisms are obsolete. We also agreed to renew the fascia boards and guttering around the Scout Hut and Men's Club as they are in a poor state of repair and making good and redecorating the corridor in Bon Ami when the roof leak has been fixed. Just these four jobs will take up all of our maintenance budget for 2019.

As a Registered Charity we have certain duties, one of these is to be financially prudent and the Village Hall Committee has kept a reserve of £15000 to make sure there will be funds available, should any unexpected problems occur. This reserve has been in place for the last decade. The money left after this year's budget income and the reserve available is £14000. This money will be used, as needed, to fund other general maintenance as required. As you may imagine we have a long list of intended jobs that include new flooring for the small hall, redecoration of the small hall, redesigning the kitchen, including new cupboards and bar area, replacing the tower on the roof as it is in a poor state. The major items that we hope will last for at least another year, are the boiler, working since 1976, the main hall floor, (this is the original from 1928 and has been sanded and repaired many times) - and to do this would probably cost in the region of £80000. Hopefully, we will be able to manage the budget and have no extra major expenditure in 2019.

The major projects the Village Hall has undertaken in the last few years are as follows. In 2018 we initiated installation of the toddlers' playground equipment, helped to fund the table tennis table and replaced the flat roof above Bon Ami. In 2017 the floor in the main hall by the stage was repaired and made good and a new kitchen was bought and fitted in the Scout and Guides' hut. In 2015 the ball wall was purchased and installed. The funds that the village hall used for these improvements totalled £43200. Now I know it seems that the Village Hall Committee are always asking for donations and as village residents you have been generous, but this year the donations for the Christmas tree lights did not cover the costs, comprising of the insurance, replacement of the damaged clusters and the cost of electricity.

I hope that you as residents will continue to support the Village Hall, as it is your village hall!

The volunteer response for the bonfire and fireworks last year was amazing: 83 people offered to help. The fundraising events this year are Napfest, bonfire and fireworks and the Christmas Fayre, plus any others that we can arrange. I hope sincerely that I can count on your support.

*Clive Lawrence.*

Village Hall Committee Chairman.

## **Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association**

### **Planning:**

The following are local planning applications received by Wycombe District Council (WDC) between 15th November 2018 and 15th January 2019. Any responses by NAWARA appear in full on the WDC website.

**18/08004/FUL Anns Cottage, Naphill Common, Naphill HP14 4SU.** Demolition of existing 2 storey detached dwelling and redevelopment of site to form 2 x 2 storey detached 4 bed dwellings, access road plus parking and landscaping. (NAWARA strong objection as vehicle access through WA allotments & over-development). Received 19.11.18 Determination Date: 14.01.2019. Officer: Heather Smith.

**18/08010/FUL. Moseley Hill Farm, 210 Main Road Naphill HP14 4RX**

Householder application for conversion of existing swimming pool building incorporating removal of existing swimming pool facility and plant, construction of entrance porch and fenestrations alterations to create annex building ancillary to main dwelling. Received 03.12.18 Determination Date: 28.01.2019. Officer : Heather Smith.

(NAWARA comment. Development from pool building to new 2-bedroom bungalow in Green Belt.) **18/08088/FUL Land North Of Corporals Club RAF High Wycombe Main Road Walters Ash.** Construction of BBQ Shelter, toilet block and associated works. Received on 14.12.18. Determination: 08.02.2019

**18/08337/FUL . 29 Battingswood Gardens Naphill. HP14 4SR**

HA for first floor side and single storey rear extensions. Received on 14.12.18 Determination Date: 08.02.2019. Officer: Matthew Jackson (NAWARA concern with possible overlooking)

### **Permitted.**

**18/07326/FUL Modena, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill.**  
**18/07345/FUL 253 Main Road Walters Ash**

**18/07444/FUL 62 Main Road, Naphill. 18/07811/FUL. Drumlin, Louches Lane. 18/07895/FUL. Pine Trees, Downley Rd., Naphill.**

### **Detailed Refusal**

**18/08004/FUL Anns Cottage, Naphill Common, Naphill HP14 4SU.** See above.

**Donations.** Nawara has donated to both Children in Need and the Village Hall Fund for new children's playground equipment from profit made at the Quiz in October.

**The Nawara Agm** in November hosted a far larger audience than usual, attracted by Guest Speaker, Historian David Brown, who related the "History of Bomber Harris and RAF High Wycombe". David invited people to ring him on 01494 493019 if they wish to visit the RAF Heritage room or the Bomber Harris Office and tunnels on 1 Site.

**30 Mph Bin Stickers.** If you would like a 30mph sticker for a green or blue, and black bin please ring 01494 563634. If no answer leave a message with your address, name and phone number, and I will drop them round to you.

**Date of next NAWARA meeting.** Monday 11.02.2019. 8pm Naphill Village Hall. As always, NAWARA meetings are open to the public.

*Gloria Leflaive 563634*

## A Note of Thanks

I live in Russel Court and would like to thank the young man who very kindly helped me, just before Christmas, when I fell outside and broke my wrist. It was raining and cold and I couldn't get up. Several days later this kind person posted a card and a block of chocolate through my door with good wishes for the New Year. I don't know who he is; I hope he reads this, as I would very much like to thank him.

*Terry Devine*



## Everybody needs good neighbours

How well do you know your neighbours?

A depressing survey a few years ago revealed that one in three Britons could not name any of their neighbours. Most of us live surrounded by other people and yet loneliness is reaching epidemic proportions and will only get worse as families become more fractured and geographically separated.

The Street Association is trying to reverse that trend. Residents who have an active Street Association locally now know their neighbours, nod to them to say 'hello' or stop to chat.

The initiative looks to residents to connect with neighbours, to know they are safe and well and recognize the most vulnerable.

Any resident can run a Street Association after receiving a start-up member pack from the County Council. Packs include letters to let your neighbours know you're a contact in their area, a directory of useful local organisations which can be contacted if needed, community safety and scams information, and tips on how to promote good neighbour relations.

If you are interested in starting a Street Association where you live, please request a member pack from [communities@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:communities@buckscc.gov.uk) or call 01296 382345 to leave a message.

*Helen Carvill*

## Bon Ami

Happy New Year to you all; we hope everyone had a very happy time. We are now back in full swing and by the time you read this Bon Ami will have enjoyed their first book club meeting of 2019! We look forward to new members anytime.

We are delighted to have been chosen by "High Wycombe and Marlow Mental Health Mates" to be the venue for their next "Walk & Talk" meeting. Please see the poster for all of the details.

February is Valentines' month so we will be baking special treats for customers to celebrate with their loved ones.

Our Monday Mingle continues to be popular with new faces already visiting us this year. If you would like to meet your neighbours and start a conversation do join us every Monday from 2pm.

We look forward to welcoming you all, as always.

*Amanda & Ruth.*

**HIGH WYCOMBE & MARLOW**  
**Mental Health Mates**

---

**WALK & TALK**

**JOIN OUR NEXT MEET UP ON**  
**SATURDAY**  
**2ND FEBRUARY**

**MEET AT 10.30AM AT**  
**BON AMI COFFEE SHOP, THE PAVILLION,**  
**VILLAGE HALL, NAPHILL HP14 4SX**

**ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL**  
**[mhmbucks@gmail.com](mailto:mhmbucks@gmail.com)**

**[WWW.MENTALHEALTHMATES.CO.UK](http://WWW.MENTALHEALTHMATES.CO.UK)**  
**#FINDYOURWE**



## Play Area Update

### GOOD NEWS !!!

The replacement toddler unit is to be installed in the play area early in March. The deposit has been paid by Hughenden Parish Council so the work can begin. The balance will be paid from Village Hall funds when the unit is installed, and subsequently when we are satisfied with it. The Village Hall Council is very grateful to individuals and village organisations who have sent donations, among them Naphill Neighbours, the WI, Bon Ami, and NAWARA. The profit from the Tack Sale and the Christmas Fayre, plus some from the fireworks and Napfest, have all helped. Nevertheless we have not quite reached our target so, if the money you have been saving for this worthwhile cause has not been donated yet, please keep it safe and pass it on !

The unit will have two slides, an inclined ramp, a tunnel, steps, a small climbing slope, etc. There is a picture of the unit on the noticeboard by the village hall. The intention is to promote activity through play, and to provide opportunities for climbing, sliding, going through, under and over, etc. All these activities are recommended in the school curriculum for children's early years.

The next stage of the redevelopment of the play area will be to install an activity trail, and also to replace the missing seats, and the springers. This has not been properly costed yet because we need ideas/requests from older children (up to 12 years old). A survey will be undertaken shortly to ascertain what residents favour. We shall be applying for grants and will need to do more fundraising.

Let us hope that, when the work is finished, we shall have something our children will enjoy and of which we can be proud.

*Peggy Ewart*



## Naphill Neighbours

On Monday 14th January, Neighbours began a new phase in their long life! The meeting took place in the afternoon for the first time, at 1.30pm. Members had voted for this change from evenings so that everyone could arrive and depart in daylight all the year round. On the evidence of this first afternoon meeting, this change is a success. Attendance was high and there were 9 new potential members.

Our first afternoon talk was about 'Mercy Ships', by Ken and June Brazier who had worked on board one of them as a 'holiday'. The talk was extremely interesting, very well delivered and illustrated. This charity was founded in 1978 by Don Stephens, an American who managed to raise funds for the renovation and fitting out of a ship that was going for scrap. Since the first mission in 1982, Mercy Ships has delivered more than 89,000 operations, treated more than 163,000 dental patients, and trained and mentored more than 40,000 local professionals in their area of expertise. All the workers on the Mercy Ship are volunteers, except for the professional Captain. There have been four vessels over the years, visiting more than 55 developing countries. The latest ship is the Africa Mercy, based off the coast of Guinea in 2018. Volunteer surgeons deal mainly with cataracts, cleft palates, and orthopaedics, plus burns and childbirth injuries. Mercy Ships is supported by Rotarians, voluntary donations, and partnerships with companies. The website [mercyships.org.uk](http://mercyships.org.uk) provides further information.

Our Christmas celebrations this year took the form of a party rather than a full Christmas meal. It was an enjoyable occasion with members able to sit around tables, chat, sip sherry and have mince pies and nibbles. Our entertainer sang songs from the thirties and forties, and played a variety of instruments to accompany himself. It was an unusual and fun performance which helped to create and promote a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere. Aided by the sherry!?

Our next meeting, on Monday 11th February, at 1.15pm for a 1.30 start, will be a return visit by Tom Way. He is a renowned wildlife photographer who will give an illustrated talk. Maybe spring will be in the air! Trips planned for 2019 include the theatre at Milton Keynes, tea at Parmour House, and a day at Polesden Lacey.

Do join us. New members, and/or guests, are very welcome.

*Peggy Ewart*

## Friends of Naphill Common

We hope that you will come to our AGM on Friday 15th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (doors open at 7pm for a prompt start) – it's also an opportunity to renew your membership (still a bargain at £5 each). Business will be as brief as possible and our guest speaker, Michael Kushner, should be very interesting. He is a guide and lecturer at Bletchley Park, and can tell us about Alfred Dillwyn Knox who, apart from being a classics scholar and papyrologist at King's College, Cambridge, was deeply involved in the code breaking work carried out in Bletchley Park during WW2. Before that he helped to decrypt the Zimmermann telegram which brought the USA into WW1. "Dilly" lived in Courns Wood, Clappins Lane, and he donated the now very large Atlas Cedar at the front of the Village Hall car park, which has recently looked so glorious with Christmas lights.

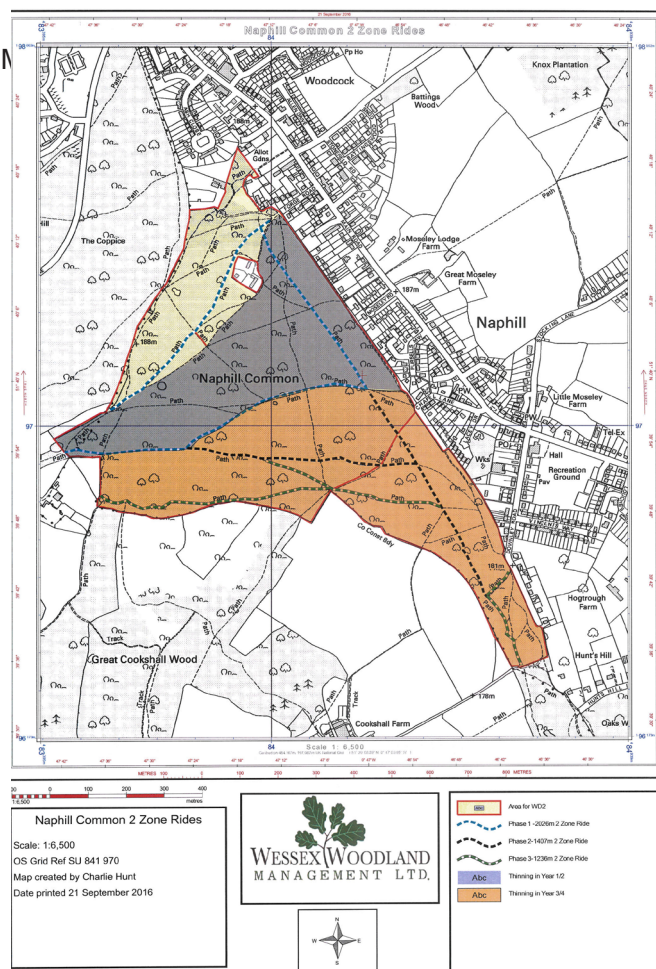
Although we have not yet seen any real winter weather the visiting birds have been feasting on the Common. Only a few weeks ago there was an abundance of berries on the holly bushes, but by the time it came to collect a bunch for Christmas decorations it was hard to find any. Like junipers, holly bushes are either male or female, never both; while most of our common deciduous trees such as beech, oak, hornbeam and hazel have flowers of both sexes on one tree. However, ash trees defy all rules: some trees are male, some female, some male with a female branch, some female with a male branch: it takes all sorts!

While walking on the far side of the Common it was disconcerting to find new notices screwed to several trees asking people to keep to the footpaths and keep their dogs on leads. Although the Common is owned by West Wycombe Estate it is designated as open access land, so we can wander anywhere unless there are special reasons for not doing so. Calling the Estate Office, we were told that the notices were put up in error by their tenant. They were intended to apply to the footpaths leaving the Common and going on to Estate land where game birds are being bred for shooting. We can safely ignore the notices as far as they apply to the Common, until they are taken down.

It is possible that Wessex Woodland Management will start their third phase of felling in the coming autumn. This thinning will only take a small proportion of trees. The area concerned is roughly all to the south of bridleway BW85/path H2 and H21 (see the map). If confirmed, we will have to start marking the trees we want to retain. We do this with a temporary green spray. We generally choose veteran trees and those with special associations or features such as carved initials. If you have any favourites or trees with connections that are special to you, please let us know. The area also includes the mysterious earthwork behind Dew Pond, and this will need special protection. This, roughly rectangular, bank and ditch has never been properly surveyed or excavated, and so the claim that it is an Iron Age farmstead is speculative. One side of the enclosure is already hard to trace and if heavy machinery is used, the rest could be seriously damaged.

If you want to shed some of the effects of the festive season, you might like to join one, or both, of our monthly walks. The short walks are led by Chris Miller and generally involve the Common and they are between 2-3 miles, starting at 10.30am from the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. The longer walks are led by Ron Collins and are about 5 miles, generally some distance from Naphill. Join Ron on the third Monday of each month; meeting at the Village Hall at 9.25am for a prompt start at 9:30am. Members and non-members are equally welcome. These are the usual arrangements, but as there is sometimes a need to make changes it would be wise to consult our website, posters or the two leaders to confirm the details.

You are also welcome to join our weekly working parties, to help attend to ponds or clear footpaths and open areas from holly and other obstructions. Sunday morning parties will be led by Peter Davis (for dates and times, consult our web site at <http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html>).



## Friends of Naphill Common AGM

Friday 15 February 2019 - 7:30pm  
Naphill Village Hall

Guest Speaker - Michael Kushner

## Christmas Lights for BURPS



The tacky lights at the top of Coombe Lane were once again shining bright this year. They were put up a little earlier this year and my two elderly elves, Gary Rush and Peter Saunders, were around to assist yet again. It's always good to have support for this as it can be a lonely task.

The lights were bolstered this year with an 8 foot Tigger, kindly donated by Ronnie Smith. Apparently he was asked to give it away and thought of me; can't think why...

We had a casualty this year; Father Christmas in his hot air balloon faded away and despite hospitalising him he didn't appear again. He was replaced with Father Christmas being chased up a tree by a small dog.

We've had quite a number of visitors again this year and as ever they have been very generous in support of the BURPS charity. Cars have stopped in the road to look and we've had people walking down the drive. Our now 6 year old granddaughter, who was born prematurely and inspired us to raise money for the hospital charity, was always on the lookout for visitors and rushed to open the door and say "don't forget to put some money in the donation box"!

I don't get to see who puts money in the box so it's hard to thank people individually but the two people I am aware of are Mandy from Shear Madness who regularly contributes and this year we had a lady come to the door with a large bag of coins she had been collecting all year. However, I must thank all of you for donating and also to the many people who made supportive comments on my Facebook post. One comment has just arrived from Angela Townsend which will make me do it again this Christmas:

"On behalf of all the nurses, doctors, babies and parents, can I say "massive congratulations, Trevor!" Without the generosity of the public donating via Burps to our neonatal unit our jobs would be so much more challenging! Thank you, thank you ! Xx"

It's been another good year for donations and we've raised £100.40 to add to the previous years contributions of around £800. Hopefully we can reach £1000 next year!

If you want more information on BURPS please visit them at: <http://burps-smh.btck.co.uk/>



Thank you all once again,

*Janet, Trevor and Charlotte May and Jaimie May-White*

## Shear Madness

February - what to write about when nothing happens this month! I struggle most months with what to write, I'm stuck unless it's the weather or our school children. Bless our long suffering editor Sonia. Every month she sends me words of encouragement or just says "go and pour a stiff drink and you'll think of something!"

So what to write? Well, it's not too late to wish you all a happy new year! Do I dare mention new year resolutions because if you are anything like me they have gone out the window weeks ago! Mike Mason suggested I talk about snow. Well let's hope we don't get any of that!

So the only thing I can think of is happy Valentine's Day.

*Mandy*

## Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights

The team hope everyone enjoyed the lights. We try to improve the spectacle every year. We made a few minor changes this year which seem to have worked out well. The team this time consisted of Mike Leggett who was climbing the tree for the 28th time (Mike and I have been doing the lights for 43 years), Mark Blamey of Saunderton who brought his friend James Disson to drive the cherry-picker for putting up the lights, another friend Daniel Smith who drove the cherry-picker for taking down the lights, Stephen Fountain of Lacey Green who accompanied James and Daniel on high in the cherry-picker, Neil McMinn and Kevin Oxnard who were up a tall ladder for some time, Gary Putnam of Lacey Green, Peter Davis, Ron Collins, Ross Greenlee, Glenn Gavin, John Harris and myself.



Photograph courtesy Peter Davis

This was the 10th time we were using our “new” LED lights. Don’t the years pass! When we had to change from the old filament bulbs in 2009 we had to change all the equipment in one go, the cost was £2,963.67 and the call went out for fundraising. The WI, under the leadership of Juliet Shortall, organised an auction in the village hall, Beryl Gossage of the Lamphouse Singers put on a concert in the village hall and, together with individual contributions from the public, the money was raised. Thank you everyone for your support, and we hope that the past 10 years of the lights have given you value for your money.

We must give thanks to Paul Johnson of Louches Lane who arranged for his company Upward Powered Access of Oxford and Slough to lend us the cherry-picker at no charge. The money raised in the boxes in local shops was £297.13 (nearly

half of that was raised in “The Wheel”) and the My Donate part of the website raised £100.00. Thank you everyone for your generosity and a special thank you to Cathryn Carter who organised both collections to support the cost of the lights – replacement items, insurance and electricity. Thanks to Claire Christian of “The Wheel” who provided very welcome sandwiches at half-time, and to Marlene Mason who provided the essential fresh hot mince pies, coffee and tea for the team at the end of operations. Just before we took down the lights Peter Davis, the team’s cameraman, went up on high in the cherry-picker to take an action shot of Mike Leggett in his “nest” of wires at the top of the tree. .



Photograph courtesy Peter Davis

*Mike Mason*

## Lunch Club

After a successful year we rounded 2018 off with a delicious Christmas dinner, including crackers and wine. Much to everyone’s surprise Father Christmas visited with a small gift for everyone which he distributed whilst carols were played.

We are looking forward to 2019 so if you are reading this, over 70 and live locally why not join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 1300. We would be delighted to see you. For more details call Jan Gaunt on 562282



*The Lunch Club Team*

## From our Wye Correspondent



I really hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and I would like to wish all the readers of the NAWG best wishes for a healthy 2019.

We had a quiet Christmas entertaining close family and the usual after dinner

games. I can remember in years gone by debating which Christmas specials we were going to tape on the VCR but now I can record four different programmes I can honestly say there was very little we deemed worthy of recording and we only had four channels in those days!!

We decided last minute to go to Harrogate for the New Year and rented an apartment overlooking Valley Gardens. For those of you new to Harrogate, Valley Gardens are English Heritage Grade II listed gardens with 36 different springs that used to feed the original spa baths via the Royal Pump Room situated adjacent. Valley Gardens reminded me of the park opposite 17 Cherry Tree Lane, the Banks' residence in Mary Poppins, complete with band stand and sun terrace cafe. Not too sure about the skateboard park though, a relatively new addition no doubt!! Just beyond the Valley Gardens are the old Winter Gardens where the affluent residents would relax after their dip and listen to music surrounded by palm trees. It is reminiscent of a glass house at Kew Gardens but has now been converted in to a spectacular "Spoons". As Wetherspoon's go I have to say it was a pleasure to relax with a drink in these historic surroundings.

As you can no doubt imagine, my good lady had to avail herself of the Debenhams 70% off everything sale and on one of my many trips back through Valley Gardens loaded down with shopping bags I met a young couple with the most gorgeous Cavapoo puppy. As the puppy sniffed my shopping I commented "She is absolutely gorgeous" to which, quick as a flash the man said "The dog is quite good looking too". Yorkshire humour!

I have not been to the cinema for probably ten or more years being unable to bear the small seats, constant munching of popcorn and light from those unable to resist the lure of their mobile phone. However during my stay my wife persuaded me to go to the Everyman Cinema in Harrogate to ironically see "Mary Poppins Returns". We had a two seat sofa with pillows, side table and waiter service for drinks and I could have ordered a burger. Amazing! Beats the Empire hands down. I must admit to nodding off and waking just in time to see Dick Van Dyke doing a jig in the bank.

My featured dog this month is Molly who often comes to see me on a Friday afternoon with her mum. I have met some new friends this month but still have lots of treats to share.

Oh, and as for the housing market, things have picked up since the New Year and we are getting more enquiries, but I do not think things will settle down until Brexit is resolved one way or another and we are clearer as to what the future holds. If you are thinking of moving I would be delighted to give you a market valuation, so please bear us in mind.

*Alan Draper*

## Black Lion

Happy New Year! Thank you for all your custom during December, we cooked a lot of Christmas meals!

A few dates for your diary. Mothers Day is Sunday 31st March, we will be serving food 12-6pm and are taking bookings now. Come and enjoy a delicious roast dinner of Rib of Beef, Leg of Lamb or Pork plus a vegan nut roast.

Our Beer and Gin Festival starts on Good Friday and Easter Saturday 19-20th April. We look forward to seeing you then, fingers crossed for the sunshine. We will have a wide range of beer and gin together with live bands, music and food. Join us from 3pm on Good Friday up to 11pm on Saturday.

We will be serving Roast Dinners on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday 12-6pm.

Thanks for all your support.

*Jack, Sian and the team.*



## Fly Tipping

Sadly there have been incidents of fly tipping locally which have upset us all!

I am hoping that next month the Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association will be able to include information on where our local tips are located along with advice on recycling and disposing of rubbish responsibly. Hopefully they will also give details as to how to report any further incidents of fly tipping to the local council who will investigate and clear the mess!



# Naphill & Walter's Ash Napfest 2019



**Music 7 June, Fete 8 June, Classics 9 June**

NAPFEST 2019 is here (well nearly), book the dates in your diaries. This year the theme is 'Circus' so come on down to the Naphill Crick for a weekend of family fun and entertainment.

*Firstly, before we mention NAPFEST 2019 will the NAPFEST Committee please send their thoughts to Ted Chapman's family conveying their thanks and gratitude for all his hard work and support over many years organising and assisting with NAPFEST/Fete.*

Starting Friday evening 7 June 2019 at 6pm, we have the Live Music on the Crick, the music is suitable for all ages, from toddler to grandmother, so come along and strut your funky stuff. Don't forget that there will be a bar and food stalls. Tickets can be purchased online or through local businesses.

Saturday 8 June 2019, brings the Annual Village Fete starting with the procession from the Scout hut at 1200hrs, where our Fete Prince and Princess will officially open the proceedings. Please contact us ASAP if you wish to be included in the procession. All afternoon the Arena will host various entertainments, of course there will be the Dog Show and don't forget the amazing stalls and rides.



If you would like to hold a stall at the Fete, no matter how big or small, or if you have any form of entertainment that you would like to showcase in the arena please email the Fete Committee on [nwafete@hotmail.com](mailto:nwafete@hotmail.com) for further information.

*Linda Clarke*

Chair of the NapFest Committee

[nwafete@hotmail.com](mailto:nwafete@hotmail.com)

## Our Very Special, Local Practice, Award Winning Nurse Carole!



Photo as submitted

Carole Knight works as a Community-Nurse here at Hughenden Valley and Chequers Surgeries. She runs our VALIANT service which gives care and support in excess of that provided by the NHS to our Vulnerable Adults. The "Vulnerable Adults Living Independently Advanced Nursing Team", or VALIANT was devised to assist our particular demographic. We have very many frail, elderly and vulnerable individuals managing or just about managing in their own homes and very often their wellbeing and even their independence hangs delicately in the balance. If they tip over and become unwell or injured then the whole of the NHS is there to pick them up, but before that, if we want to help keep them safe, maintain their independence and avoid the catastrophe completely.... that's where Carole comes in.

Carole brings five decades of professional experience and a vast depth of knowledge right into the homes of our most at-risk patients to keep them safe, independent and in good health. While practically every other service that exists is bound by 'remits' or 'budget boundaries', Carole oversees and spans the lot of them. She coordinates literally hundreds of separate services which are provided by local and national government, charities and the health service and social services to develop personalised "care systems" which are as individual as every one of her patients. She helps fill the gaps that exist between Social Care and Healthcare, between Families and Carers and between nearly-coping and actually-coping so that patients don't fall through.

Literally hundreds of admissions to hospital have been

avoided by arranging the support that our patients need right there in their homes, sometimes just in time. For many, the mountain of paperwork that is necessary to navigate just one of these services in order to gain support is just too considerable and we often find those who are struggling most are simply not getting the support that they need or are entitled to, perhaps because they did not know about it or perhaps because they could just not arrange it alone. The Attendance Allowance claim-form which allows "people with disabilities so severe that they need someone to help" get support, is itself no less than 47 pages long for example. For those people, many of whom are reluctant to 'be a burden', or bother family or the emergency services, there is Carole.

She brings a gently different, pragmatic, utterly practical and easy to understand approach to some of the greatest and most complex health and social care conundrums that we see. Nothing is too much trouble and yet every problem has a solution. It's old-school nursing for the modern age.

This year we were thrilled to discover that Carole had been shortlisted as one of only five community nurses throughout the whole of the British Isles to be finalists for the prestigious title of "Community Nurse of the Year". We were invited to a thrilling star-studded Award Ceremony described as the "Oscars of the Health Profession" which took place in the glitzy surroundings of the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel in Central London. The awards were presented by stars of Film and Television. With music pounding and stage-lights flashing, Alan Dedicote, the voice behind the National Lottery and Strictly Come Dancing announced the very first winner of the evening and as the crowds roared with approval, Carole Knight, our very own unassuming, don't makes a fuss, 'just get on and make it better' Super-Nurse was awarded this most prestigious of titles!

We all know how amazing she is, her patients know how amazing she is and now she has the award to prove that she is in a class of her own.

Well done Carole!

*Dr Anthony Gallagher*

**A Personal Comment:** This time not from the editor, I've taken the hat off, but from me, a tetraplegic patient who is not ashamed to admit just what a lifeline Nurse Carole is! Oh day to day life is fine, Himself, our girls, Penny, my fabulous family and friends are GREAT but we all know, the NHS and our doctors are s-t-r-e t-c-h-e-d! I often wonder how Nurse Carole manages to do it, BUT whenever a little bit of TLC is needed, when the panic sets in she is there.

**MY MOTTO:** *If you fall or feel poorly, give CAROLE a call!*

Thank you to a very special lady, I cannot think of a more deserving person for this award!

*Sonia*

## Naphill & Walter's Ash School

**CHRISTMAS FAIR 2018** - This year's Christmas Fair was guaranteed to be one of the best yet! There were 7 amazing stalls including a Year 6 craft stall, Karaoke and a 'Throw the Snowballs into Olaf's Mouth' game. The Head Boy, Benedict, summed up the Christmas Fair in 3 words – 'Busy, Christmassy and entertaining!' The event was a great success and the hamper winners were definitely in for a treat, with their amazing prizes made up from the generous contributions brought in by the children from each class.

**KEY STAGE ONE** - Key Stage Two had the extremely fortunate chance to see Key Stage One's dress rehearsal for the Nativity, 'The Inn-Spectors', which they had been practising for over half a term. They have been learning some fantastic songs such as 'We're Going Home', 'Can This Be True' and 'When You're A Star'.

**YEAR THREE** - Year 3 have been extremely lively since our last report. For example, they have been swimming and learned all about Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics! They even had a highly enjoyable (and colourful) day when they dressed up as Egyptians or mythical creatures from Egypt. Year 3 made their own range of jewellery inspired by the Egyptologist who taught them all about Egyptian times. The children also had a 'Toilet Mummy' competition when they wrapped another child in toilet paper. Also, Year 3 had performed in their Nursery Rhyme Assembly to celebrate World Nursery Rhyme Day.

**YEAR FOUR** - Recently Year Four have been making very tasty looking donut art inspired by the great artist Eric Joyner. The Iron Man by Ted Hughes has now been read and the year group performed an assembly about robots in space (which was really amusing to watch). In Maths, they have been learning about Roman Numerals and in Science they had a fascinating week where they studied different types of sounds made by various things, and made soundproof boxes.

In summary, Year 4 have had a great half term so far and we are sure that they will keep loving it until it has ended.

**YEAR FIVE** - Currently in Year 5, they have been preparing for their 'Camelot Day' where they will be making shields for the Great Hall, trying Arthurian food, singing songs about King Arthur, dressing up as the people of Camelot and even getting a visit from the great Merlin himself! They are very excited about this and are already looking forward to their next event – The Planetarium. In English, Year 5 have been writing their own paragraphs, using expanded noun phrases, about the Lady of Shallot. Well done Year 5 and Merry Christmas!

**YEAR SIX** - In Year 6, we have been creating art work inspired by The Northern Lights to go into the hall for the Winter Display Theme. To create this masterpiece, we used pastels and a sweeping effect with our fingers. In English, Year 6 have been writing balanced arguments based on the book 'Friend or Foe' where two characters

are trying to decide whether to help their enemies – the Germans. Well done for completing another half term Year 6!

**CHILDREN IN NEED** - This year, to raise money for Children in Need, NAWAS decided to wear something yellow into school and take part in a fun activity created by the Junior Leadership Team. This year's game was 'Pin the Spots to Pudsey's Bandana' where each class had to try to pin 3 spots to the bandana whilst being blindfolded. In total, we managed to raise £408.08 for Children in Need; well done Naphill and Walters Ash School!

## The Wheel

We would like to wish everyone in the Village a very Happy New Year and hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2019. Also thank you to the Christmas Tree lights team, they were amazing as always. I would also like to thank Emily (10yrs) for helping The Wheel raise £126 in the collection pots on Christmas Day. December as always is a very long month for all those who work in the hospitality industry as we just don't stop, so thanks to all the staff for all their hard work over the festive period. New Year's Eve was a brilliant night with so many of our locals celebrating and dancing lots. Mark and I would like to thank Shaun for being our DJ on the night and helping to entertain everyone, in more ways than one! It was a cracking night and trying to get rid of you all this year seemed to take for ever. (Possibly due to the booze)!

This month it is all about Rugby and The Six Nations, as always Chloe and I are rather excited and ready to cheer on England. We will be taking part in the Risborough Rugby Club Sweepstake and the more people who join in, the better the prize. All games will be shown so you'll know scores and how well you've done. We also need to win the Pub challenge this year. (We will win, please).

I think most people have got their heads around the change in the toilets, our wrong toilet charity fine pot is not doing so well this month, although some of you are contributing more than others. After all the changes and improvements in 2018 I'm hoping 2019 will be a little less chaotic, although hopefully you'll all be out to keep us busy and running about.

We would like to welcome Siobhán (known as Shaun to us) to the team who has joined us from 'Oop North' at the beginning of December. Also, a quick update on Molly, she is doing a lot better now its quietened down during January and is now playing, running and shredding toilet rolls!

Once again thank you to everyone who supports us and to all our wonderful staff. We hope the staff enjoy their well-deserved time off last month and this month. I know we will enjoy our break in Solva with the dogs.

Thanks, and see you soon,

*Mark and Claire*

## Naphill Brownies

Happy New Year!

Naphill Brownies are starting 2019 by showing us all that girls really can do anything.

We are trying our hand a range of engineering activities prompted by a new engineering badge designed for Girlguiding by the construction and infrastructure support company Amey We will be designing, creating, building, testing and evaluating all sorts of projects – everything from towers to ‘rocky road’

Hopefully the spring cleaning bug is keeping you all busy in Naphill. Our Spring jumble sale will soon be upon us, so please put all your bags of jumble aside ready for the 2nd March. We look forward to seeing you all there

We are welcoming 4 new brownies this term. We hope they love brownies as much as the rest of us.

If anyone has a skill or interest that you would like to share with us, do get in touch – we are always interested in trying something new

*Brown Owl*

Ruth Daly 565571. ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

1st Naphill Brownies

Thursdays 5:45-7pm



**Guide  
& Brownie  
Jumble Sale**

**2nd March  
Naphill Village Hall  
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!**

## Our Local Lace Making Group

If you have found yourself in the vicinity of Naphill Village Hall between 9.30 and 10 am on a Saturday in early November you may have wondered at the bevy of animated ladies, each balancing armfuls of bags and bundles, making a bee-line for the hall. They are lace-makers and descend on the hall at this time each year for their annual Naphill Lace Craft and Natter Day. They come from all over Buckinghamshire and the neighbouring Counties to enjoy each other's company, to see what projects others have in hand, compare notes, share their expertise and, of course, catch up with each other's news.



Lace-making was a thriving cottage industry in this area in pre-industrial Britain, virtually every address was home to a lace-maker. Some think lace-making has died out locally but actually it is still practised in Naphill, Walter's Ash and the surrounding areas although it is no longer a means of earning a living, now it is an absorbing hobby. Lace-makers often belong to local self-help groups who meet weekly during term time, as the Downley (Thursdays early afternoon) and Chinnor (Wednesday mornings) groups do (Tuesday afternoons), or monthly as the Risborough group (whole 2nd Saturday and 4th Wednesday evening) and Bourne End groups ( a Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon) do. Several self-help groups also organise an annual Lace Day which all lace-makers are welcome to attend. Admission is by ticket, usually being sold in the afternoon of each Lace Day for the following year .... they sell like hot-cakes!



We usually congregate with others from our respective self-help group and bag a table, it can be quite noisy at this stage; friends meet, greetings and news exchanged, and work in progress shared as pillows are set up ....by which time everyone is ready for coffee and biscuits. Often this is when work starts, the first pin is put in place, and the general hub-bub subsides.

All sorts of lace projects appear at Lace Days, At Naphill this year I saw bookmarks, mats, wedding garters, yards of a tablecloth edging, a horseshoe, Christmas tree ornaments and serviette rings being made in a wide range of lace styles including Torchon, Bucks, Bedfordshire and Honiton.

As the name suggest, lace isn't the only craft to be seen at Naphill Lace Craft and Natter Day. Hands were busily beading, working cross stitch, tapestry embroidery, tatting and knitting too. A lady from Berkshire sets up a 'must visit' stall on one table as well, full of second hand books, craft bits and pieces, kits, etc and donates the proceeds to the charity being supported by the Lace Day.

Work pauses at 12.30 for lunch. Most of us take a packed lunch and continue to natter as we munch, while some take advantage of 'The Wheel' being just across the road and step out to enjoy a hot meal and a change of scenery there. Lace-makers laugh a lot ( quite a lot of 'backward' lacing is involved, thus a sense of humour is essential ) so the babble rises a notch or two at lunchtime.

Although lace-making is an absorbing pastime it is advisable to take frequent short breaks. At Naphill there are usually several optional activities to fill these breaks. This year there was a pictorial quiz sheet and another of anagram puzzles on each table, and a box of chocolates was presented to the highest scoring table at the end of the day. There is always a Tombola too, with every ticket winning a prize and a raffle for delicious edibles and items associated with our favourite crafts and pastimes, a sale of second hand lace-making equipment] and a book stall for the avid readers among us. This year there was also a craft stall featuring beautifully handcrafted greetings cards and beaded jewellery. All the profits were donated to the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association and this year amounted to £750.00.

Also this year we were delighted to be joined by a local lady for part of the afternoon; she had put out feelers for local lace-makers through Facebook during the summer, dropped in to Risboro' Lacemakers' Open Day in September, liked what she saw and hoped to pick up some basic second hand equipment at Naphill's Lace Day. She took home a pillow, a couple of bobbin cases with contents (carefully paired by her children as we nattered about lace-making) and sufficient cover cloths to make a start that evening .... and she hopes to pass on what she learns to her children as well!

As the afternoon drew to a close tickets were sold for the following year, orders taken for commemorative lace-makers' bobbins (each Naphill Lace Craft and Natter Day has been marked in this way), the raffle tickets drawn and well earned tea and cakes served. I am thrilled to say our newbie also bought a ticket for next year and ordered her first commemorative bobbin .... so fitting it is one from our local Lace Day. 2018's Naphill Lace Craft and Natter Day at the Village Hall was the sixth organised by Mrs. Shirley Lomas with support from the 'Downley Lacemakers' group members and lace-making friends (this event has evolved from the former Downley Lace Day).

*Alex Adkins,*

A Walter's Ash resident Lace-maker

## Thoughts from a Vicarage.

### *Mud, pearls and hope.*

The cheery days of Christmas are but a fading memory, the harsh reality of January has come and gone, and now we are into February. The second month of the year sees days significantly lengthening and signs of spring approaching. Historically, February owes its name to Februus, the Roman God of Purification; indeed, 'februus' literally means 'purifier'. Februus is possibly named after the more ancient Februa (also Februalia and Februatio), the spring festival of washing and purification. Februus' holy month was Februarius (literally 'of Februa'), hence English February. Many Roman festivals and religious observances reflect the agrarian way of life in their early history. The agricultural writer Columella (writing around the time of Christ) says that meadows and grain fields are "purged", both in the practical sense of clearing away old debris and by means of ritual.

Whilst our calendar owes much to the ancient Roman occupation of our land, the reality of the English February cannot be avoided. Post Roman names for February include the Old English terms Solmonath (mud month – say no more!) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage – probably all they had to eat). Somewhat charmingly (and rather randomly, but it's interesting) in Finnish, the month is called helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl" - when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice.

The theme of purification is picked up by the Christian church – February 2nd sees the Feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, aka Candlemas. This marks the point at which Jesus' mother Mary presented him to God at the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional 40-day period of purification of mothers following the birth of a boy. The New Testament tells how a man named Simeon held the baby Jesus in his arms and said that he would be a light for the Gentiles (Luke 2:32). So this event is called Candlemas since for many centuries the only light available was the candle. Candlemas is also known as the "Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple" in many eastern churches. By the way, it is also Groundhog Day in the United States and Canada and according to folklore, the badger comes out to test the weather in the United Kingdom.

February also sees the first spring flowers blooming – typically the snowdrop. Snowdrops (*galanthus nivalis*) are also known as Candlemas Bells because they bloom early in the year, sometimes even before Candlemas. According to legend, an angel helped these Candlemas bells to bloom as a sign of hope to Eve, who wept in repentance over the sin that had entered the world. Ancient superstition held that these flowers should not be brought into the house prior to Candlemas, however, in more recent times it was also believed that these flowers purify a home (there's that theme again- purifying). Christians see the flower as a symbol of Jesus Christ being the hope for our world. The ancient stories and folklore that surround February

speaking of purification, hope and light. As the cycle of the seasons continues, they provide us with opportunities for reflection. Winter morphs into spring; the cold and dark transform into warmth and light. The ancients looked to this time as one of clearing away the dross and making space for new things. Like the ancients, the gardeners amongst us will be clearing away the debris of the winter; many of us will be mirroring this in our homes, spring cleaning and having a 'good clear out', getting rid of what is no longer useful or needed. We do this in our homes, gardens and even workplaces, but how about our souls? Soon the church will turn to the season of Lent – a time in which Christians have a spiritual 'clear out'. How will you use this season of February to purify your life?

May you know God's blessing in your life and always,

*Rev Jenny Ellis*

PS: The beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which is on 6 March.

## Services at St. Botolph's

|           |           |      |                  |
|-----------|-----------|------|------------------|
| Feb. 3rd  | Eucharist | 11am | The Rector       |
| Feb. 10th | Eucharist | 11am | Rev. Jenny Ellis |
| Feb. 17th | Eucharist | 11am | Rev. V. Beaumont |
| Feb. 24th | Matins    | 11am | The Rector       |

## Naphill Tennis Club

2019 has got off to a good start on the tennis front at Naphill (though sadly not in the bigger tennis world for Andy Murray).

Our small friendly club situated on The Crick next to the Children's Play Park enjoys tennis all the year round thanks to a good turnout by an enthusiastic group of members. Our brilliant 'Tiger Turf' courts allow us to play in all weathers – though a snowfall might delay proceedings for a short while!

Naphill Club offers a variety of activities for anyone interested in tennis or thinking of returning to tennis after a gap:

### Tennis Clinics

- Junior Coaching (school summer term/summer holidays)
- Improvers' Coaching
- Regular club sessions
- Private lessons
- Fun tournaments
- Social events
- Team play in local leagues

Something for everyone you might say!

Members and non-members have already taken part in two tennis clinics this year and a third is planned for 2nd March. These have proved to be great fun and very popular.

We are currently putting together our programme for 2019/20 so, if you have any suggestions, please

let us know. As usual, details are on the website: [www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk](http://www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk) or you can contact our Membership Secretary, Sarah Dengel ([sarah.dengel1@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.dengel1@gmail.com)) for further information.

*Jenny Tench*

## Naphill Evening WI

We had an excellent Christmas Party. The Hall looked lovely as we all came in, with beautifully decorated tables. The catering was up to its usual high standard too. Thanks go to our Committee for all the organisation and preparation that made it such a success.

December also saw some of us going to The Mill at Sonning to see the 'Rat Pack'. I for one wasn't sure whether I would enjoy it, being a big fan of Frank Sinatra, but I needn't have worried; it was a great evening of entertainment preceded by an excellent meal. Thanks to Marion for organising the trip.

Now it is 2019 and we have a diverse and interesting programme to look forward to. Our January speaker will have been Virginia Burges on Simple Ways to Obtain Optimal Health. February brings John Tyler with 'The Seasons' and the competition is a pretty vase.

The Food Group started the year with lunch at The Golden Cross in Saunderton and will be lunching again on 28 February at The Squirrel in Booker.

The Sew and Chat group will meet in February and we will be trying to finish a pennant that will fly along with pennants from other WIs to celebrate 100 years of Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs in 2020.

*Carol Gilliam*

## Growing Your Own

The news that 60% of children in this country are having less contact with nature, ie less time spent outdoors, is particularly worrying. I remember my primary school which had an "allotment" plot far away from the school buildings at the bottom of the playing field. There I was introduced to the mysteries of potato planting. I remember putting the seed potatoes in a trench and applying a handful of "growmore" fertiliser. That kindled my interest, and from age about 6 to 8 I had a small plot in our back garden next to the "Anderson Shelter" (into which we ran when the sirens sounded warning of an air raid). I grew potatoes and peas. My curiosity commenced there; I wondered if I could cross a potato with a pea and develop a hitherto unknown vegetable. So I cut small holes into a few potatoes, popped a pea into each one, and planted out the potatoes in a trench, all unbeknown to my mother who was growing a few crops to supplement our wartime rations. Well, both potatoes and peas germinated and I could see pea plants among the rapidly growing potato haulms. However, the potato haulms soon swamped the pea plants which were killed off by lack of light. End of project to create the world's first pea/potato hybrid! No doubt, nowadays, the gene splicers could do a better job than I could when I was aged 6 to 8. Nevertheless, my curiosity continues to this day and I am trying out new vegetables and fruit, and new varieties of existing

fruit and vegetables, all the time. Every now and then I find a real winner which grows well in our excellent soil here in Naphill and Walter's Ash.

In the August/September and October issues of the Gazette, I recounted my tales of woe over the difficulties of growing crops in 2018. We had no rain in Naphill for three months, the warmest summer on record and 30 percent more sunshine than normal. I had many crop failures in those desert-like conditions. Now, what have been the results for the winter crops?

The beetroot have done amazingly well and the carrots have been good. I chose to keep the many small potatoes so my potato crop has been reduced but not too bad. The brassicas have done very well. As for tomatoes, from a similar number of plants the outdoor plants produced over four times the crop compared with the greenhouse plants (it was probably too hot for the latter). I never watered the outdoor tomatoes. Only a couple of fennel plants, celeriac, turnips and kohlrabi survived. My onions were smaller than normal. Elephant garlic were very good. Dwarf French beans were brilliant whereas climbing French beans and runner beans were awful. There was just no rhyme nor reason to it.

Good gardening in 2019!

Mike Mason

**Plots Available at Louches Lane Allotment Garden**

-  **Grow healthy food**
-  **Fresh air & exercise**
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## Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

### Seasonal Notes

Spring will soon be upon us.... no honestly, it really will..... although it may not quite feel like it just yet. Within the next few weeks the snowdrops and daffodils will be shooting up, and by the end of February sunset will roll right back to 5.37pm, giving us a massive 10 hours and 48 minutes of daylight. If that isn't good news I don't know what is!

So, as gardeners, what should we be busying ourselves with at this time of year?

It's a great time of year to prune back any hedges or climbers like Bougainvillea and Wisteria. The birds will not have started nesting yet, so no chance of disturbing eggs or young chicks. Also fruit trees will still be in their 'dormant' winter state, so little chance of bleeding caused by rising sap.

If you want to re-site an established tree, now is the ideal time, provided the ground is not frozen or waterlogged. Given the lack of rain we have had over

the last two months, the latter is highly unlikely, and I am not wishing for the former.

Young plants transplant fairly well. Established trees and shrubs should be only moved if necessary, as even with the best care, the tree or shrub may fail to thrive, or even die.

As a rule-of-thumb, plants that have been growing in position for more than five years are much less likely to survive transplanting than younger specimens. However, a couple of years ago we adopted a "freecycle" apple tree with a much reduced rootball. It had been unceremoniously ripped from the ground and dumped into a soggy plastic trug. It was at least 8ft tall, and was bearing fruit at the time. After a 'touch and go' season, and gratuitous watering, it appears to have survived and now achieves a good show of leaves in the summer.

Wherever possible try to prepare a mature tree a year in advance. During the dormant period (November – February) dig a trench about a foot wide at the distance of the outer branches from the trunk. Fill the trench with sharp sand, this will encourage root growth and will help the tree to "re-establish" itself on re planting. Lightly prune any dead wood. When you lift the tree, take as much of the existing rootball as is possible, but don't be afraid to cut away some of the smaller roots at the extremities. This should not cause any problems.

Always get your tree back in the ground at the earliest opportunity. Once replanted, make sure your tree has adequate water. A covering of bark or mulch around the base of the tree will assist in retaining sufficient moisture in the soil and help it to re-establish itself.

Mike Beckley

Chiltern Hills Arboriculture

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## Hughenden and Chequers Surgery News

There have been changes to the appointment system at the Hughenden and Chequers surgeries. Patients can no longer queue outside either surgery at 8am for an appointment that day

They can telephone the surgery for an appointment from 8am. The call will be taken by the newly installed telephone system and recently trained Signpost Receptionists. They will point the patient to the correct healthcare professional:-

- A – The GP.
- B – The practice nurse.
- C – The physiotherapist appointed and employed *for two days per week to review musculo - skeletal problems who will then send the patient to the appropriate service.*
- D – The dispensary.

40% of appointments will now be available on the day, previously it was 20%.

Patients will still be able to make appointments with the Surgery receptionist but from 9am onwards.

Patients will still be able to make appointments on line.

*Elizabeth Carless*

## From Hughenden Vicarage

As I sit and type these words, the country is holding its collective breath, as we are hours away from the key Brexit vote in the House of Commons. I know that I am far from alone in being deeply saddened by the division within our nation and our parliament on this issue above all others in recent memory. Except for a wonderful break over Christmas and New Year, our media has been feeding us a seemingly endless Brexit related diet for months, and the side effects of political indigestion are widespread.

Did you know that the following prayer is said in the House of Commons every time they meet...?

“Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals, but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind, so may your kingdom and your name be hallowed. Amen.”

Bishop Steven of Oxford wrote an open letter to parliament just before Christmas, which was very much in step with the sentiment of this prayer.

*“At this moment I want to urge you, if I may, to beware of four particular temptations and dangers in this debate which have been apparent in recent months for politicians on all sides of the argument.*

*The first is to allow your course to be shaped by self-interest and personal ambition... The second is to allow yourself to be swayed by narrow party*

*interest and the pursuit (or retention) of power in the short term... The third temptation is to nostalgia, a romantic attachment to the past: to imagine that we can reverse one referendum by another; or go back to a time before the Brexit debates when all was well; or go back still further to a different age of independence and imagined glory. We cannot. We must deal with the world as it is, not as we would like it to be and steer our course accordingly.*

*The fourth temptation is to idealism: in a world of difficult choices and necessary compromise to hold onto an ideal which is no longer tenable (whether of a particular kind of leaving or remaining).”*

No one can be sure what is in store for us as a nation in the next few months and years, especially with regard to our relationship with the rest of Europe. Whether or not you voted to leave the EU, our nation needs our prayers during this troubled time.

No matter what the outcome is for 31 March 2019 and beyond, we should continue to hold tightly to the virtues which have ensured that our country has been known as a Christian nation for centuries – love, compassion, especially for those in need, respect for others and loyalty.

Please join me in praying that unity might be regained, as those we have elected to positions of responsibility, locally and nationally, strive to work for the common good.

*Rev Keith Johnson*

## Points of View

With the news dominated by the endless Brexit debate, hopefully by the time you read this we will have finally initiated the referendum result to leave Europe. There is an equally important implementation of the County Council's decision to adopt the creation of a county wide new Unitary Authority. Hopefully, after the setting up costs, the new authority should save the county tax payers between 10 and 20 million pounds over the next five years, a not inconsiderable amount of money. I rather suspect that this money will be absorbed within the ever-increasing demands of the social services budget. There are tremendous pressures from adult social care with an aging population and from children's services, where more children are taken into care than ever before.

Arrangements for the creation of the new unitary are well advanced as the county had a detailed plan when the idea was first planned some 10 years or so ago, the most significant effect will be on planning, most of the other important services were already applied countywide by the county council. One contentious recommendation from central government is the number of councillors for the new authority, the county considered that a doubling of the existing membership, that is two members per division, would suffice but the government's recommendation is for three making the unwieldy total 150, which in my opinion is too many.

Wycombe has always been an innovative district council and its efficient property development has



produced several advanced schemes such as the redevelopment at Handy Cross. Shopping in the town centre has suffered and there is much work to be done to restore life in this area. It is to be hoped that the new unitary council will continue the district's work in improving the town's environment and making it a desirable destination for residents and visitors. I was pleased to read that Chris Williams, the previous BCC chief executive, is to be made a Deputy Lieutenant of the county in recognition of his service to the council, a fitting acknowledgment of the work he has done. We certainly live in interesting times and 2019 will be a most memorable year.

*Richard Pushman*

## Wycombe Photographic Society

New Year, New Opportunities to get out there and start taking those photographs.

So what is going to happen in February 2019 at Wycombe Photographic Society?

You are spoilt for choice with two exceptional speakers on two fascinating subjects.

**Thursday 7th February** there is a talk on "Forgotten Heritage" by Matt Emmett.

Matt Emmett has been taking pictures of hidden locations across northern Europe for the last three years. His particular fascination in industrial remnants and ex-military installations has led him to 'Forgotten Heritage', a series which captures abandoned spaces and places, often with fascinating histories connected to them.

Everything from vast power stations, cooling towers, steel works, mines, bunkers, tunnels, schools, engine sheds, hotels and castles are documented through Matt's lens, seeming more like alien landscapes than places once alive with sound and movement.

**Thursday 28th** February talk by Simon Weir "Beyond Visible Light"

What do Snakes, Frogs, The Times Newspaper (1930), Jimi Hendrix Frank Zappa and The Grateful Dead all have in common?

Snakes & frogs use it to see to feed themselves, The Times of 1930 published a photo using it, Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa and The Grateful Dead used it on their album Covers.

What is it?..... It is Infrared !!

Simon Weir's fascinating and inspiring talk looks at the history of infrared photography over the last 100 years. It covers the discovery of "invisible light", the invention of IR films and their many civilian and military uses, the move to digital camera conversion and even a moment of space exploration! Along the way he showcases the work of IR photographers from around the world as well as his own portfolio of IR images taken over 15 years.

Using specially modified cameras he captures scenes entirely composed of invisible infrared light, producing an alternative view of reality

You have all seen what looks like a Black & White photograph but with white grass and trees and jet black skies. This is Infrared Photography.

Due to the fact that these two speakers are at a peak in their field and both have written numerous books and articles in their area of expertise there will be a contribution of £10 each session for non-members, however, if you decide to join Wycombe Photographic Society then there will be a £5 reduction on your first full year Membership.

We would love to see more members from Naphill and Walters Ash so please come along to at least one of these talks.

As always for full details of what is going on at Wycombe Photographic Society please look at our website – [www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk)

*David Greenwood* - Membership Secretary  
Wycombe Photographic Society

## Last Word

I have tried to include all the last Christmas news and thanks in this edition. The school report was sent in as the children broke up for their Christmas holiday. This is the final report from this group of children as a new media team has been appointed for this term and I look forward to hearing from them in our March edition.

This month I welcome Elizabeth Carless to our contributors, Elizabeth is a retired nurse who produces the local doctors' surgery news letter. She has kindly agreed to write for us too.

My thanks to all our contributors. I still have not managed to include everything in this edition so I am carrying some less topical articles over until next month.

Copy date for March is 15 February and I look forward to receiving all your articles on or before this date please.

*Sonia*

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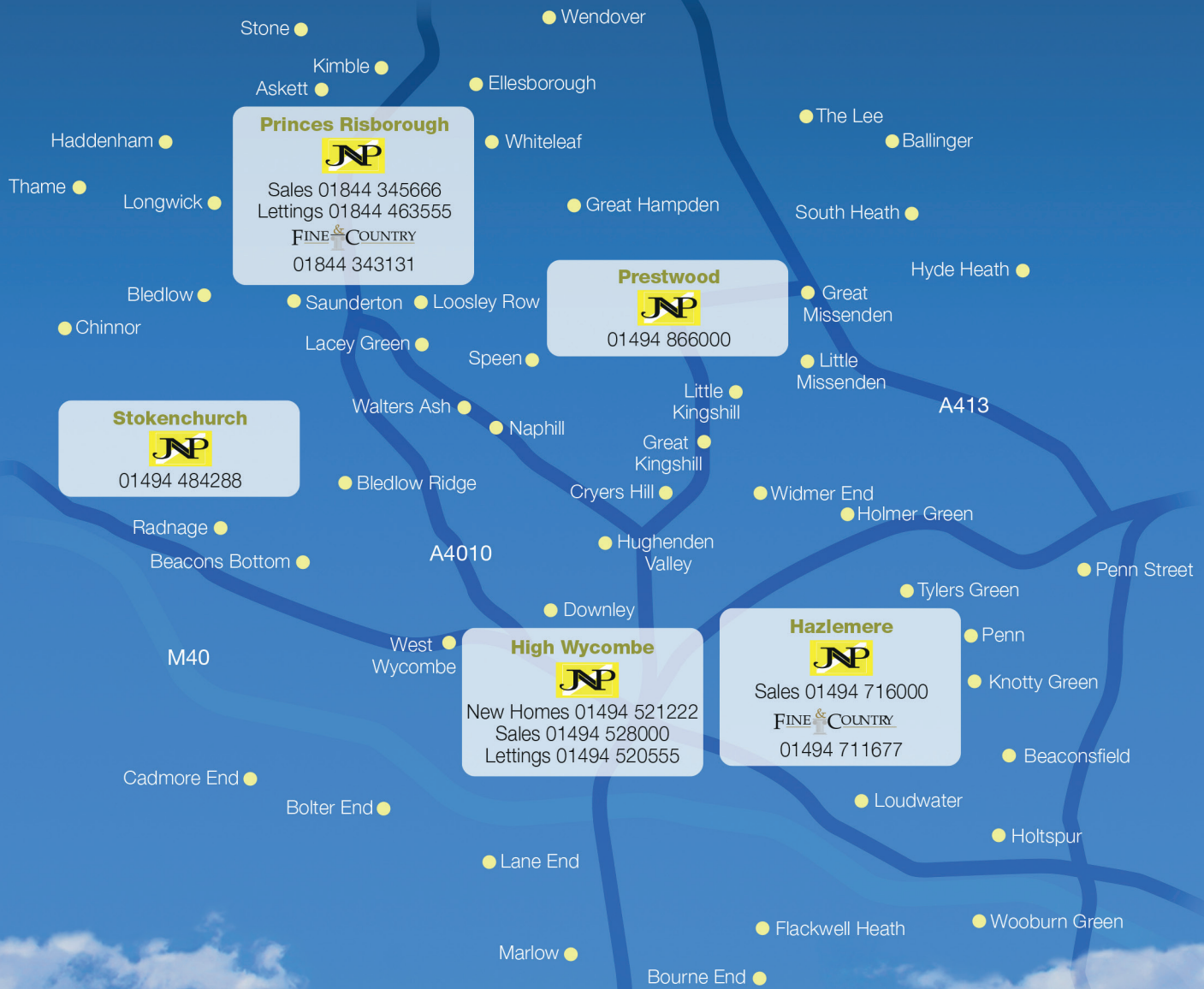
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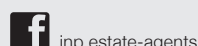
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