



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

April 2021

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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette April 2021



EDITOR: Sonia Goby - Tel: 569428 email: editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

ADVERTISING: Sonia Goby - Tel: 569428 email: editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

TREASURER: Judy Whitehouse email: treasurer@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR: Ian Hall email: distribution@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

SECRETARY & PHOTOGRAPHIC COORDINATOR: Paul Goby email: photo@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

WEBMASTER: Peter Davis - email: webmaster@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

GAZETTE FACEBOOK COMMUNITY COORDINATOR - Andria Benjamin

GAZETTE FACEBOOK BUSINESS COORDINATOR - Karen Davis

PRINTING: PKinprint - 01753 887450

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Our Local Clubs and Organisation Contacts

Beavers	Barry Reading	01494 447121	
Brownies (Naphill)	Ruth Daly	01494 565571	ruth.daly3@btinternet.com
Bridge Club	Margaret Stagg	01494 530736	
Cubs - Hughenden			handnhcubs@hotmail.com
Naphill	Martin Beddows		naphillcubscouts@outlook.com
Football Club - Junior	Andy Sinclair		mailto:naphillfc_cwo@yahoo.com
Senior	Harry Salter	07403 249208	
Friends of Naphill Common	Chris Miller	01494 563707	chairman@naphillcommon.org.uk
Good Companions	Pat Furness	01494 565501	
Guides (Naphill)			
Men's Club	Andrew Wasilewski	01494 562770	naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Residents Association	Gloria LeFlaive	01494 563634	glorialeflaive@msn.com
Naphill Evening W.I.	Sarah Bacon	01494 563479.	Sarah.bacon39@googemail.com.
Naphill Neighbours	Janet Judge	01494 563186	
Scouts (Naphill)	John Huddleston		naphillscouts@aol.com
Seniors Lunch Club	Jan Gaunt	01494 562282	
Tennis Club	Jenny Tench	01494 565406	jttench@gmail.com



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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	Melinda Woof	01494 715296	clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Chris Waterton	07968 268067	chris.waterton@hughendenpc.org.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Peggy Ewart		peggy.ewart@hughendenpc.org.uk
Hughenden Parish Councillor	Peter Williams		peter.williams@hughenden.org.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	Steve.Broadbentt@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Clive Harris	07768 876568	Clive.Harris@buckinghamshiregov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Graham Peart	07785 98677	Graham.Peart@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

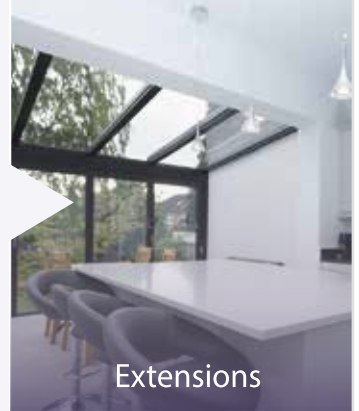
Helpful Contact Numbers

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
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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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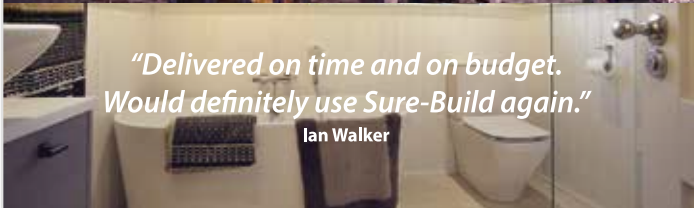


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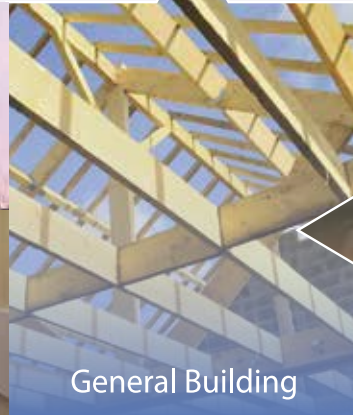
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Copy Date for May Gazette 15 April 2021

Today the sun is streaming in through my office window! SUNSHINE always brightens my day and helps me write to you all again! I am hoping that the roadmap out of LOCKDOWN will not be altered so that this Easter edition will be printed and lan and the distribution team will be able to pop a copy through your door and of course, that you will all enjoy reading it!

It is just over a year ago that the we were plunged into the first LOCKDOWN, an experience which none of us would have chosen but one we have been forced to adapt to along with so many other things which change and impact upon our lives. It also has given some of us an opportunity to reflect upon the things which are most import to us in our lives as well as the changing world we live in.

For me, one of the most important things in life are PEOPLE, not just my family but the community and the world beyond. Do we actually remember that keeping not just ourselves safe but others too, is important?

Some years ago I attended Pam Smith's wonderful "Past Times" exhibition in the village hall, a plethora of archived material about our villages well over the past century and beyond! So few houses, roads and hardly a car in sight! How times have changed, our beautiful country lanes were devoid of traffic and were safe to stroll along.

Last month I published an article which stressed the need to retain the oak tree in Clappin's Lane and also stressed the need for a continuous footpath. The new development, however unpopular, will bring more traffic and more

residents who will have to use Clappin's Lane. The article this month, on this subject, suggests that this pathway is no longer necessary and that pedestrians can walk around the oak tree safely, therefore it should be preserved. As the editor, I draw your attention to this anomaly and leave you to make your own decisions. I have published the SAVE THE OAK article in this edition. I will not be publishing any further comment on this topic as it has now been well publised and I closed further comments on these plans some months ago.

Privacy is something we all value so I will no longer publish anything which contains an individual household address without the consent of the home owner. To this end, in line with other local magazines and newsletters, planning permissions will not be published in the Gazette. They will be available on our website, www.naphillandwaltersash.org.uk, please see the dropdown menu, PLANNING.

My thanks to Peter Davis, our webmaster, for publishing the last two editions of the Gazette online and for his ongoing work keeping the website updated My thanks too to our treasurer, Judy Whitehouse for another excellent financial Gazette report. Personally, I am delighted to see that the Gazette once again has a healthy reserve fund, my thanks to all who have helped achieve this!

Thanks too to Himself for this month's cover photograph and to all our contributors for their contributions. A Happy Easter to you all! Stay safe and best wishes to you all.

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 members.



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Naphill Gazette Treasurer's Report

The Gazette has never been run for profit and it is essential that it remains that way. It is a vast, voluntary community effort that deserves everyone's respect. It is neither political nor judgemental and must remain impartial. It seeks to celebrate village life and to bring the community together.

This report covers the financial year from 1st February 2020 to 31st January 2021.

INCOME	31-Jan-20	31-Jan-21	EXPENDITURE	31-Jan-20	31-Jan-21
Adverts*	£1,582	£16,171	Printing	£15,574	£14,703
Subscriptions	£2,739	£2,743	Delivery costs		£34
Donations	£529	£500	Web Site		£66
Interest	£4	£2	Donations	£3,000	£0
			Collecting tins		£134
			Software subs.		£499
			Postage		£32
TOTALS	£4,854	£19,416		£18,574	£15,468

*** Change in accounting method resulted in a lower than actual number in this column last year**
Year End Balances

Reserve account	£6,389	(contingency fund)
Current account	£14,577	(includes £11,440 paid in advance for current year)
Petty Cash	£92.98	

Sadly we were unable to print two editions of the Gazette due to the pandemic but we have put the money saved into our reserve fund which was severely depleted at the end of the previous financial year. It is always sensible to have contingency money and it is a relief to have that fund back to a sensible level.

Last year we announced that subscriptions will rise to £5 this year, however in the current circumstances, with two more editions that did not go to print in February and March, we are able to hold off this increase for another year so subscriptions will remain at £3 and will be collected when it deemed safe to do so.

Our grateful thanks as always to our advertisers on whom the Gazette depends – please show them appreciation by supporting them whenever you can. Thanks also to the distributors who deliver the gazettes and collect all the subscriptions and to our contributors who make the magazine an enjoyable and informative read.

Lastly, thanks to Sonia who voluntarily works tirelessly for many, many hours on your behalf each month to bring the Gazette to your doors.

If anyone would like further information about any aspect of the gazette finances then I can be contacted using the details below.

Judy Whitehouse – Treasurer
judy@judyq.demon.co.uk
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Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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A zoom meeting of the committee was held on the 1st. March and 18 members of the committee took part.

The committee was told that a working party had met to discuss the proposed leases for the Tennis Club, Scouts and Guides and the Men's Club. A solicitor would be contacted and instructions would be given to them to draw up the leases. It was recommended that the leases would be for a substantial number of years.

Linda Cole outlined the plans for Napfest and confirmed the date as the August bank holiday for this event. The Fireworks are arranged to take place on Saturday 6th. November, and the Christmas Fayre will be held on the 3rd. December. These events are all subject to the current Government rules and restrictions being lifted.

We have a quote for cutting back the ash tree on the border with Vincents Way and are awaiting another 2 quotes before the work can be done. On the subject of quotes the renewal of the boiler is still ongoing as quotes have not yet been received.

As the village hall is still closed there is less to report this month. The AGM will have taken place on the 29th. March via a zoom meeting. Hopefully the village hall will start to reopen in April and many of the activities will pick up again, and by mid June the hall will be fully open.

I hope you are all safe and well.

Clive Lawrence
Village Hall Chairman

Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights

We left the lights on during the month of January, to cheer people up during that horrible month of lockdown. The team took the lights down on 27th February after three weekends of inclement weather. On 27th February the weather was brilliant and the team took down the lights in record time. Kevin Oxnard rejoined the team after being unable to assist with putting the lights up since he had to shield a family member. Thanks once more to Upward Powered Access for supplying the cherry-picker.

The contributions from you, the public, were quite remarkable. Including the generous contribution from Nadeem of the Post Office, who paid for the insurance, the total raised by Cathryn Carter was £1,712.34. That was an enormous amount, so thank-you to you, the public. We have since checked and tested the garlands and bulbs and put them into storage for the winter. We shall order a couple of garlands and a couple of boxes of bulbs – thank-you to Hughenden Parish Council who have volunteered to pay for damaged equipment.

We left the lights on this time until the end of January, so the question now is, when should we switch them

off next winter? Previously we have always switched them off on 12th Night, ie 5th January. There was lots of discussion this time about turning lights off on Candlemas, 2nd February. So, which would you, the public, prefer? Please send an email stating your preference of 5th January or 2nd February to the editor on gazetteeditor@btinternet.com. I'm sure Sonia would love to count the replies! Please respond before copy date, 15th April 2021.

Kind regards,

Mike Mason



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Hughenden Parish Council Elections 6 May 2021 (combined with Buckinghamshire Council & Police and Crime Commissioner elections).

Deadline to submit candidate nomination papers 4pm on Thursday 8 April 2021.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is calling on people to stand for election to form parish councils for the period May 2021 – April 2025.

About Hughenden Parish Council

Our Council consists of 15 elected members representing 4 wards within Hughenden Parish. These wards are:

- Hughenden Valley Ward (including Bryants Bottom & lower North Dean) x 4 councillors
- Naphill & Walters Ash Ward x 4 councillors
- Widmer End Ward x 4 councillors
- Great Kingshill Ward (including Cryers Hill & Four Ashes) x 3 councillors

There are approximately 3,500 households and 9,000 people in Hughenden Parish

The term of office of current councillors ends before the election the 6 May 2021 elections.

The last uncontested election was held in 2015, the last contested election was held in 2011.

What do councillors do?

Councillors invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. They represent the local community and collaborate with county councillors. They deliver services to meet local needs, improve quality of life and work to enhance the environment and increase biodiversity. Council work including attending meetings, engaging with residents, local groups and representing the council on local bodies and organisations. A NALC survey found that councillors spend on average three hours per week on council work.

What do councils do?

Councils lead on community services such as allotments; leisure facilities; bus shelters; litter bins; car parks; local illuminations; community centres; local youth projects; community safety schemes; parks and open spaces; community transport schemes; planning; public lavatories; crime reduction measures; street cleaning; street lighting; cycle paths; tourism activities; festivals and celebrations; traffic calming measures; and much more.

Who can stand for election?

- You need to be a British citizen, or citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union
- You must be 18 years of age or older
- You must live in an area that is served by the council

How do I stand for election?

Full information about election and nomination papers at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england>

Information about becoming a local councillor at <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections>

Information about Hughenden Parish Council at <http://www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Contact Hughenden Parish Council at clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk

Q&A session for prospective candidates organised by Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils

Wednesday 17 March 2021 - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82302966446?pwd=QUwwQXBtNWxhTy95Yjc2RWozd0VNZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 0296 6446

Passcode: 639201

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LOCAL ELECTIONS
6 May 2021
Hughenden Parish Council

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Improve quality of life in your local area
Enhance environment and biodiversity

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Your community needs people aged over 18 years to stand for election to form a parish council of 15 elected members for the period May 2021 – April 2025

Deadline to submit candidate nomination papers
4pm Thursday 8 April 2021

Full information and nomination papers at:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-england>
Further information from clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk



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Bradenham parish council held its last meeting of this council on the 1st March. The continued flooding of Rectory lane was a main concern.

On the 6th May we will see elections for Town and Parish councils combined with the Buckinghamshire Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. If you would like to be a member of this tierform of local government you will need to submit a nomination form which can be found at <https://www.electoralcommision.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-england> select 2a or 2b and click on the +icon to reveal nomination papers.

For Parishes within the Wycombe area, nomination papers should be hand delivered to a Deputy Returning Officer at Council Office, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe HP14 1BB. The deadline for submissions of the nomination papers is 4pm on Thursday 8th April. The earliest that nominations can be formally submitted is Monday 22nd March, when the notice of election will be published.

We are due to have some vacancies. You can get more information from existing councillors and the clerk.

We meet 6 times a year and meetings don't last more than 2 hours, usually a lot shorter. We are one of the smallest parishes in the area, wholly in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we have sections that are green belt and Bradenham village is a conservation area.

The first meeting of the new Council after the election will be 17th May. We have been meeting on Zoom this last year. Outside Covid times we meet in Bradenham Cricket club, meetings start at 7pm. We don't know yet where or how we will be meeting in May.

We very much look forward to welcoming new members to our parish council.

Deirdre Hansen,

Clerk. clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com



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Because of Covid restrictions, none of our regular FoNC activities are taking place at present. If the current government timetable is adhered to, we will be able to recommence guided walks from May 17th, so watch this space. Meanwhile, we can still enjoy the attractions of our Common, whether walking, cycling or riding.

If you haven't yet paid, or even if you're thinking about becoming a member – your subs are still at the low, low price of £5 per person (£2 for under-18s) – our account details (now with Metro Bank) are: Friends of Naphill Common, sort code 23-05-80, account no 40231064. Please don't forget to include your full name in the Reference, so we know who's paid and who hasn't!

At the time of writing, a spell of dry weather is just ending, but it has been enough to make a substantial improvement to the footpaths and bridleways, which had become even more muddy than is usual during wintertime. The Naphill terrain – mainly clay over chalk – means that rainwater stays near the surface, giving rise to very muddy conditions that soon improve when the rain stops, particularly with a drying wind. I can't recall seeing so many frogs mating in the ponds, and hearing them – all the individual calls building to a noise resembling a small car idling.



As part three of a short series on the problems caused in the Chilterns by invasive species, we will move on to consider three invasive plants. First, Himalayan Balsam – a relative of the "Busy Lizzie", which it resembles, it's the largest annual plant in

Britain, growing up to 2.5m (8 feet) high from seed in a single season. Introduced in 1839 and first cultivated as a greenhouse annual by gardeners, it spreads quickly, as it can project its seeds up to four metres from its spring-loaded seed pods, popping of which is almost irresistible to children. It typically grows on riverbanks and wet woodlands. The best treatment is to pull the plant up (it is quite shallow rooted), before it sets seed.

We may not think of Rhododendron as an invasive species, as it was introduced (via Gibraltar, though originating in China) as long ago as 1763. It's the largest member of the Heath family (Ericaceae) of plants, which includes the blueberry as well as our heather, growing up to 8m (25 feet) tall. It can spread to fill the space available to it, outcompeting and displacing all other vegetation and local fauna. Toxins in its leaves have been known to poison sheep, cattle, goats and dogs, and its nectar is poisonous to bees. Fortunately, we do not have any on our Common, but it has spread through neighbouring National Trust woods at Hughenden, and eradication is costly – the cost of clearing Snowdonia National Park has been estimated at over £30 million.

Finally, and most notoriously, comes Japanese Knotweed, listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's worst invasive species, as its root system and strong growth can damage concrete foundations, roads and retaining walls, as well as ecological damage by crowding out other plants. Introduced from its native Japan to Leiden in the Netherlands, by 1850 a specimen from this plant was donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – all European plants are clones of this female specimen, and so it rarely sets seed, but spreads rapidly through its rhizomes (creeping, underground stems) and can readily sprout from very small pieces of plant. An affected area was discovered on the Common a few years ago, near the end of Downley Road, and is being treated with applications of approved herbicide, by the Estate and by FoNC, but these will need to be continued over several years to achieve complete eradication.

Chris Miller
Chairman

www.naphillcommon.org.uk



Photograph courtesy Dave Talbot

Wild about Naphill

First the depressing bit. Everyone must be aware of the appalling decline in the quality of our natural environment. Official studies show that almost all wild species of both flora and fauna have declined in number and variety over the last few decades. Some declines have been dramatic: we have lost 97% of our wildflower meadows and, along with them, pollinating insects such as butterflies (down 76%) and moths (88%) together with many beetle and bee species. Our mammals, reptiles and amphibians have all suffered and both farmland and woodland birds have plummeted dramatically. According to the Common Bird Census between 1970 and 1999 tree sparrows declined by 95%, corn buntings by 88%; spotted flycatchers 77%; starlings 71%; turtle dove 71%; song thrush 56%; bullfinch 53 %; skylark 52% and the cuckoo by 33% - just a few examples. But many do not need official surveys to tell them of the tragic changes. When did you last hear a skylark or a song thrush singing near our village, let alone a nightingale? Familiar species such as yellowhammers, chiffchaffs and even the humble greenfinch have become an unusual sight. When did you last see a hedgehog, wild violets, or a grey partridge?

The causes of this catastrophe are generally well known. Chief among them are the excessive use of insecticides and "weed" killers, which kill and poison the foundation of all life that rests upon them. Then habitat loss: whether the grubbing out of hedges, the felling of woodland or the growing of houses. Other

factors such as climate change, new agricultural practices such as the autumn sowing of corn crops, increased disturbance by people and their pets etc., are of increasing significance.

What can be done about it? Despair at the failure of small-scale measures has fostered an interest in "rewilding": the process of returning an area, as near as possible to its original ecology. This involves creating the earlier vegetation and re-introducing lost species of animal, from mice and shrews to large herbivores and their predators. In America and on the continent of Europe this can involve huge areas of land, wild cattle, horses, pigs and deer, together with bears, lynx and even wolves. In these islands our projects have to be more modest and amount to "wilding" rather rewilding: that is trying to return to a natural system as wild as is compatible with the pressures of our human population. There are several projects underway, including on the Knepp Castle Estate in West Sussex. (See 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree.)

What can we do around Naphill? Wilding enthusiasts claim that three Cs are essential: cores, corridors and carnivores. There needs to be a core area which is large and as rich in species as possible. This must be connected by corridors of relatively clear land to allow animals and plants to migrate and spread to other suitable habitats nearby, thus ensuring gene flow. The carnivores are needed to control the numbers of large herbivores and stop them reducing the vegetation to monotonous grassland.

For Naphill the obvious core area would be the Common – already a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), but it has its drawbacks. It is not a very varied habitat, being almost entirely woodland. More significant is its popularity. Of course, it is a real asset and visitors are to be welcomed, but they have a severe impact on the wildlife. This is especially so with dog walkers which ensure that the Common could never support a variety of deer, cattle or horses, let alone wild boar, while host to so many dogs. This also applies to the ponds: if dogs that have been dusted for fleas go in the ponds, they do serious damage to the daphnia and other minute organisms at the base of the food chain for such things as newts, frogs and fish. Another problem with the Common is that there is a constant danger that it will lose its corridors connecting it to the surrounding countryside, as has happened with the development in Clappins Lane. If the Council and developers pick on Great and Little Mosely Farms or the meadows behind the Wheel pub, the village will constitute an impenetrable barrier to the movement of species.

So what practically can be done? On the Common we could conserve the ancient pollards and encourage the spread of undergrowth: the brambles, juniper and gorse so necessary for birds to nest and mammals to shelter. We could see the line of woodland and meadows on the other side of the village, from Cours Wood, Stocking lane Woods, across to Chalkpit Wood and Coombe Lane as a second core area and encourage a richer, more varied pattern of environments, from chalk meadows to scrub and woodland. We might even see “wild” cattle, horses and pigs. Above all we must defend the few remaining connecting corridors against spreading suburbia.

Perhaps these are just dreams, but why not set some targets? Imagine: it is possible within a decade that we could stand on the Common in the evening and hear a nightingale sing.

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Growing Your Own

A few years ago I read that we had about 30 man-made chemicals in our bodies. That revelation inspired me to extol the virtues of growing-your-own as a way of avoiding some of the man-made chemicals. I have now learned of something far more frightening, which might induce more readers to grow their own.

Every child born today is “precontaminated” with hundreds of chemicals. Not 30, but hundreds this time. Many of the chemicals interfere with brain development. Some, including mixtures to which we are all exposed, lead to IQ loss and other neurocognitive and behavioural disabilities. Chemical contamination of amniotic fluid is affecting the brain development of future generations. These horrible developments are not yet fully taken on board by regulators and policymakers dealing with chemical regulation.

This man-made chemical pollution reaches us from a variety of sources. Some is airborne. I have mentioned before how my leeks capture the fallout of black dust from the atmosphere (in pockets where the leaves meet the stem). That is dust which has been washed into the leeks by rain. We are fortunate here in Naphill and Walter’s Ash in being to the north-west of London and the prevailing wind is from the south-west. We rarely have a south-easterly wind so we are spared most of the polluted air from London. But even so my leeks capture a lot. Some chemicals are in tap water,

especially chlorine which is added to kill bacteria. But some pollution is ingested with our food, and that is something we can do something about by carefully choosing what we eat – and growing our own fruit and vegetables which, hopefully, will be free of man-made chemicals.

I have written before about genetically-modified (GM) fruit and vegetables. Our farmers are prohibited from growing GM crops and so are farmers in the EU (apart from “bt maize” which is grown in Spain and a few other countries). But that does not mean that our food is GM-free. Many GM varieties are in food imported from areas of the world where the growing of GM crops is permitted. I am not flatly against GM crops. I am keeping an open mind, especially as people in the USA do not seem to be suffering, despite having eaten GM for years. But I think GM food in the UK should be labelled as such, so that the consumer can make an informed choice. The regulations do not require such labelling, so if you want to avoid GM crops you should avoid sauces, cooking oils, margarine, butter, prepared meals, cheeses and milk to name a few. Over 40% of our food is imported, so we have little control of what we eat in the absence of comprehensive food labelling. So, grow your own - and demand comprehensive food labelling!

Bon appetit!

Mike Mason

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Could you be our new **Community Governor?**

Naphill and Walters Ash School is a school that values its' links to the community it serves. A vacancy has arisen on the Governing Body and we are looking for a Community Governor to fill the post.

Being a Governor is a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to our community and to positively affect the lives of the children at school. Community Governors are appointed by the Governing Body to represent community interests and broaden community links. They live or work in the community served by the school and have a keen interest in the school's success.

Governing Bodies are schools' strategic leaders. We meet formally twice a term and include parents, staff at the school, and community representatives. The Head Teacher is accountable to the Governing Body. Our role is to set the aims & objectives of the school (together with the Head Teacher) in line with national guidelines and to monitor progress.



We are looking for someone who has:

- An interest in our children's future
- Time, energy and enthusiasm
- A desire to make a difference
- Readiness to accept responsibility
- An ability to work as a team
- The ability to ask questions, listen and learn

If you are interested in becoming a Community Governor at Naphill then a written application of no more than 150 words, detailing why you want the position and what skills, attributes and experiences you have that will make you a success, should be submitted to **Governors@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk**

naphillandwaltersashschool.co.uk



A Message from Bradenham Vicarage - *This Resurrection*



This time last year we had just entered lockdown #1. I had naive thoughts of 5 weeks of everyone not going out and this thing will end because it can't spread, can it?

A year on and we are still not 'out of the woods'. I am reminded of that old conundrum of how far can you walk into the woods? – Halfway because after that you are walking out of the woods. It seems like every time we have reached halfway with the promise of finally heading out of the woods, another batch of woodland is planted by an evil genie and the halfway marker changes – again. It now looks like the hope of a 'normal' Easter will be curtailed for the second year running.

But what is a 'normal' Easter? The whole celebration centres around the most abnormal event ever. Jesus, a popular but radical preacher and healer from a region called Galilee is arrested then put to death on trumped up charges – nothing unusual in that. But three days later Jesus is raised back to life by the power of God. Sceptics often claim Jesus was not really dead but unconscious and revived in the cool and quiet of the rock tomb he was laid in. Eyewitnesses of the time attest to him being very dead from unsurvivable injuries. This 'Resurrection' is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus is alive and still lives in our hearts, in our actions and in the realm of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Easter is a time of new life. We celebrate the new life of Jesus, raised from the dead. In the Northern Hemisphere we have the visual aid of the earth's resurrection from the decay of winter. Our gardens teem with new life – flowers, insects and birds all bring renewed life into the everyday.

This year there is a further 'resurrection' as we see the slow rebuilding of lives and livelihoods from the decay of Covid. Jesus resurrected body was not quite like his unresurrected body. It had more power, was more glorious, could even pass through locked doors and walls. But he was no ghost – ghosts don't eat, which is exactly what Jesus does in one of the first Resurrection

appearances, asking the amazed disciples if they had any grub and subsequently tucking in to broiled fish.

Just as Jesus was different after the Resurrection, maybe we too can be different after this 'resurrection' from the pandemic. We have learned lessons about how we treat the world God has entrusted us with and how we treat each other. We have learned lessons about what is truly important and other lessons about what is actually needful.

Jesus Resurrection was the seed from which the mighty power of God was released in a new way throughout the world. The resurrection of the earth from winter begins the cycle of growth and fruitfulness on which our very existence depends. May this resurrection from Covid19 be the start of a movement that will grow to see a fairer, more just society that lives in reverence of each other, our planet and our Creator.

May you know the true meaning of the Resurrection this Easter.

Rev Jenny Ellis

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Sheila Veysey

August 1930 - March 2021

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Sheila. She has been the much-loved wife of John for nearly 70 years and an adored Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma. The family, the many friends and all who knew this special, selfless, community spirited lady will miss her love, kindness and support beyond any words I can write here!

Sheila had the most amazing faith and was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church so "Safe in the arms of her Saviour". My love and condolences to the Veysey family and all those, who like me, are mourning the loss of this special lady whilst celebrating her great life. A race so well-run R.I.P. good friend and neighbour.

Sonia

A Message from Padre Lacey

OK, so indulge me if you will, it is Easter after all...I'm going to get explicit with the whole God stuff! As a Padre in the RAF my faith underpins and is the foundation on which I build all that I say and do, but it's not often that, outside of the church, that I talk so openly about faith (unless of course I am asked). But as we are in this Easter season there is something which I can't help but write about in this edition of the gazette. As with everything, it's a take it or leave it, I'm simply sharing a glimpse into the Christian faith with no intention to impose or force on anyone...in fact those who don't want to hear it have probably stopped reading this article by now.

All through this lockdown I have been struck by how we have been restricted (for good reason and to keep us and others safe)...but living with these restrictions isn't how we were designed to, and would like to, live. Over the past year, we have not been able to live life to the full. The guidelines and restrictions have been essential to keep us, and others, safe from the virus around us, but, when the virus is not a threat to us anymore, then we can live in the freedom which we so long for. Connecting with one another again, going where we please and being able to live life in all the fullness we seek after.

I have been struck by how we have been living helps to understand the basics of the Christian faith. I believe we live in a world which isn't as God fully intended because of evil...kind of like the virus that is around. God has given us guidelines and some hard and fast commands to keep

us safe and give us the best possible chance of survival in the time while this evil is around. I choose to keep to these guidelines and commands because I believe they are given with the ultimate intention of enabling us to live better with one another, with God and...within ourselves.

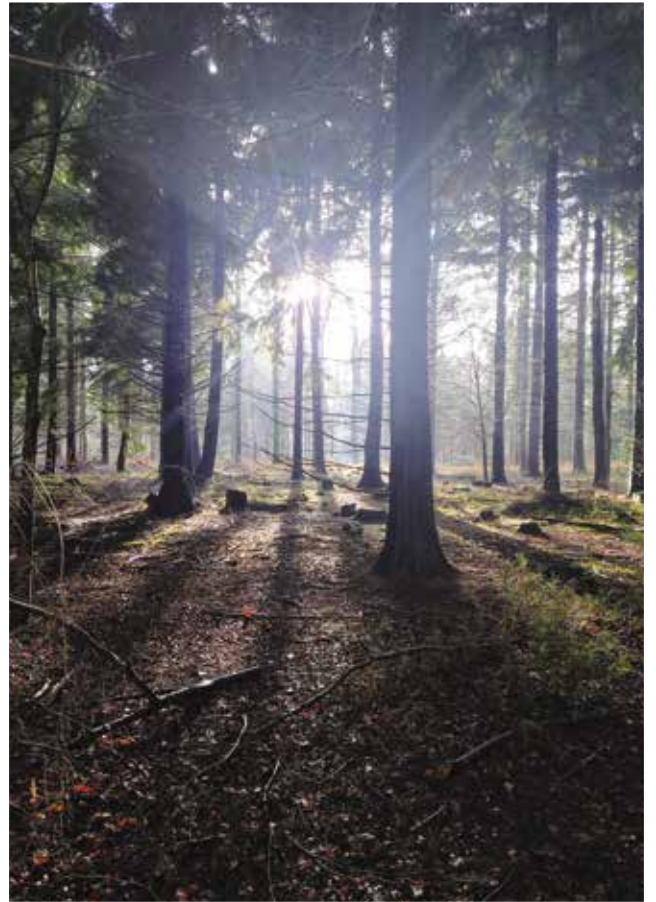
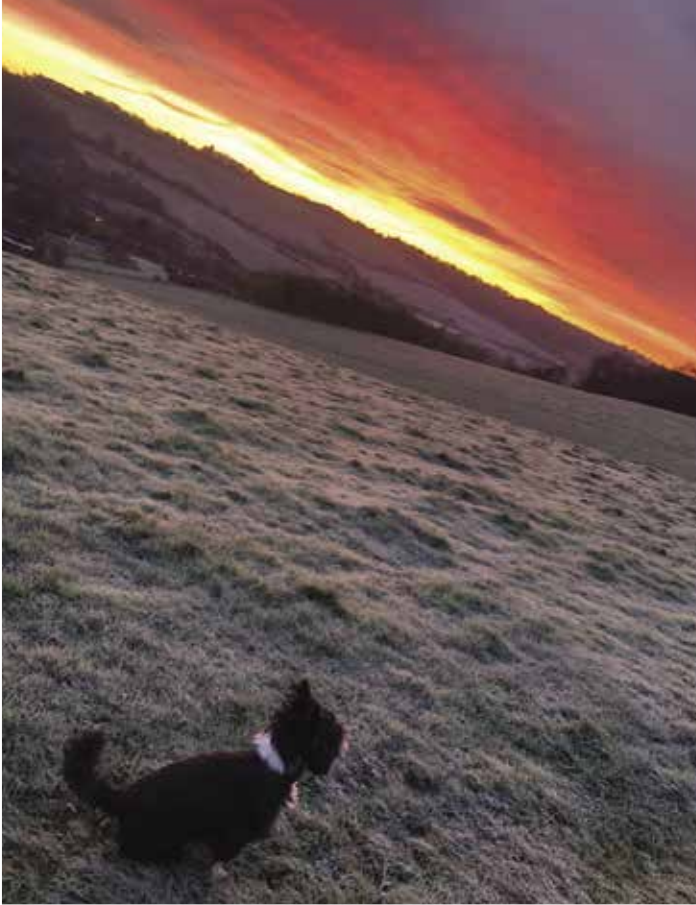
And, at Easter, Christians celebrate the ultimate freedom from living in an environment where evil prowls. Jesus isn't just a vaccination, He is the eliminator of the captivity, fear, anxiety, loneliness and separation from each other and from God. When Jesus died on the cross it was like he sucked up all the evil (if only we could have a COVID sucking vacuum cleaner!), all the punishments and fines for breaking the guidelines and restrictions...everything not good was borne by Jesus as he died on the cross.

But on Easter Sunday (although it wasn't called Easter Sunday then, it was just 'Sunday') when I believe Jesus rose back to life...it was life, but not life as we know it! It was a life which blurted out that in the end we have this hope that there will be no more evil, there will be no more guidelines or restrictions because we will be free of it. Just as we live in hope of the end of lockdowns, face coverings and social distancing, to be able to live free again. I live in the hope of freedom from more than a virus...intrigued, get in touch if you want to challenge or explore this more!

Padre Chrissie Lacey

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*The Prize Winners
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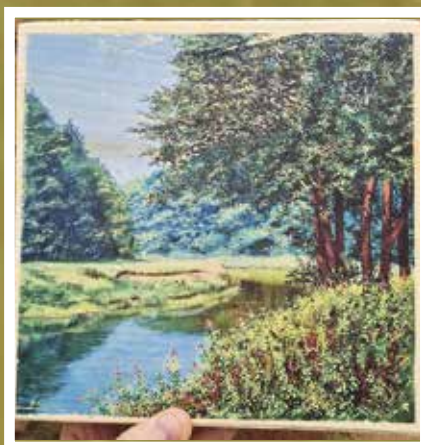
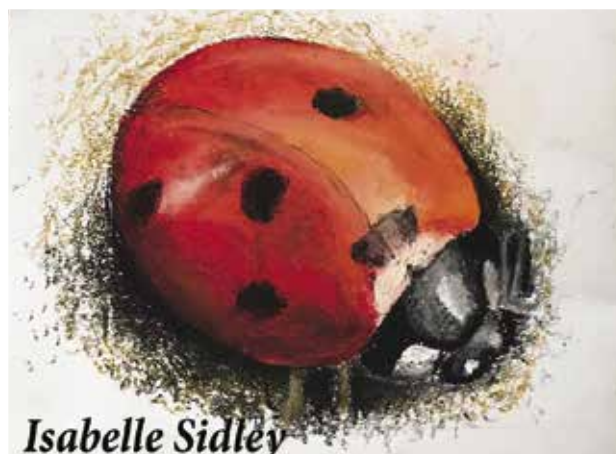


Top Left - ***Dawn Delight***
Over 18 - Sandra Spicer

Right - ***Hunting for Geocaches***
10 -18 yrs - Beatrice Wiles

Bottom Left- ***A Sunset Walk with Mummy***
Under 10yrs - Ethan Chan

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette Facebook - Printed in Wood Competition



The beauty of having the Gazette both in printed form and on our Facebook page, is that we can run competitions at short notice, which is exactly what was needed to cheer us all up in the darkest days of lockdown.

We were absolutely blown away with the number of people who got involved in this competition but also the amazing standard of artwork. Our Gazette voters commented on just how difficult it was to choose three winners.

We want to thank all the entrants for their beautiful pieces and also our readers who took time out to vote.

Our adult winner was Bill Mckinzie, the winner in the 11-17 category was Isabelle Sidley and Lloyd Phillips was the winner in the 10 and under category. Each winner received an absolutely stunning piece made by Elissabeth Brookes from Printed In Wood. www.printedinwood.com



Hughenden & Chequers Surgery COVID-19 2nd Vaccination Update



Great news: 2nd Covid19 vaccinations will be available from Tuesday 23rd March! In the meantime the **Practise Manager, Scott Ridley** has highlighted some frequently asked questions (FAQs):

Should I call the surgery?

No, we will contact you by text or telephone. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages

I have not had my first vaccination yet, why are you inviting patients for their second?

The NHSE guidance at the moment is for patients to have their 2nd vaccination on or around the 12 weeks mark.

Have you stopped giving the 1st vaccination?

At the moment we are still continuing to do 1st vaccinations.

I have not been invited for any COVID-19 vaccination but normally I receive a Flu jab I must be in the wrong group should I write or call you to ask you to check

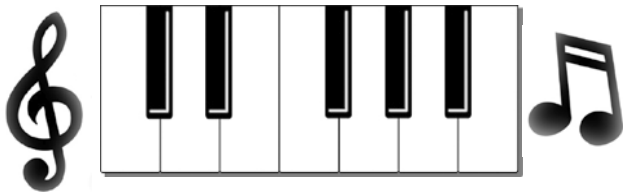
my group? We are unable to change your group NHSE and our software providers setup the group lists and can not change them so please do not contact us to make a change.

I have been sent a text to ask to book but it must be wrong as I am fit and healthy, I do not want to take someone else's vaccination should I contact the surgery to cancel?

We all need a vaccination at some point. No, please do not contact the surgery as this will take up valuable care navigation or clinical time that could be used to help other patients with other non COVID-19 problems.

Facebook: [Hughenden Valley & Chequers Drive Surgeries Website](#): <https://www.ourpractice.co.uk/>

Becoming bored by COVID -19?



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Naphill Tennis Club

'Red Letter Day' is Monday 29 March when tennis – doubles and singles - starts again! As you can imagine, we are all really looking forward to being back on the courts. Our Head Coach, Mel Burn, has put together a coaching programme to benefit everyone from beginner to the more experienced player.

BEGINNERS ADULT COACHING	Mondays 9 – 10 am starting 29 March	Cost: £10 per person. Open to non-members.
IMPROVERS ADULT COACHING	Mondays 10 – 11 am starting 29 March	Cost: £10 per person. Open to non-members.
CHILDREN'S EASTER TENNIS CAMPS	CHILDREN'S EASTER TENNIS CAMPS	CHILDREN'S EASTER TENNIS CAMPS
ADULT TENNIS CLINIC	Monday 5 April Other dates to follow	10 am – 1 pm Warm up, drills, improve your strokes and strategy
JUNIOR COACHING	School Summer Term starting Friday 23 April for 10 weeks excl 4 June	4.30 – 7.15 pm 3 groups of 45 mins/1 hour. Places limited due to COVID.
UNDER-7s CLUB	School Summer Term starting Saturday 24 April for 10 weeks excl 4 Jun	9 am - 9.45 am.

For further details on the above or to book your place, please contact our Head Coach, Mel Burn, (email melebbles@hotmail.com or 07949 128195).

For details of membership, please contact our Membership Secretary (01494 563706 or email naphilltennis-membership@gmail.com).

Jenny Tench



Princes Risborough Rotary Club - www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=561

We are hoping to raise the visibility of our Rotary Club by explaining a little about ourselves and what we do with regard to fundraising for local charities. We also wish to find where there is local need and how we can assist, and thirdly encourage individuals who might think of joining us.

The Princes Risborough Rotary Club has over 50 members who over the last 12 months have raised over £35,000, of which £33,500 has so far been donated, mostly to local organisations, schools, food banks and other needy causes as far afield as Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, and including Saunderton, Naphill, Walters Ash, Hughenden Valley, Lacey Green and Loosely Row.

The Club was formed 30 years ago and is one of the biggest in the area. It is one of over 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide. At the heart of Rotary are its members - people who share a passion for community service and friendship. Our Mission Statement is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. The Club also has a very social side, which in normal circumstances includes regular evening meetings, with a

meal, at the Whiteleaf Golf Club. Currently we meet 3 times a month on Zoom. You may well have seen some of us at local events including our Christmas Collections in Princes Risborough, running the Town's firework display, providing stewards for the Kop Hill Climb Team and assisting at the Farmers' Markets.

We continue to look for new ways to raise funds so that we can help to meet local needs and worthy causes, and we welcome information on ways that we can help those in need. We are keen to recruit new members and look forward to receiving enquiries from both men and women. If you would like to find out more, you can contact David White, in Naphill, on 07787 750889 or go to the following website and select "Contact":

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=561>

If you would like to make a donation to the Club Charity Fund, you can do so by going to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotaryclubofprincesrisborough>



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With LOCKDOWN slowly easing and with longer, brighter days, here in the kitchen, we are planning new menus and events to share with you all.

When we are able to hold family and group events again, why not book an afternoon tea for ten or more to celebrate being together again! We are also planning new barbecue menus and of course, our weekly regular menu with lots of new delights every week.

Please see the Facebook page, Rays Kitchen Naphill and join my subscribers list to receive regular updates and weekly menus via email.

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Ray & Nathalie

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www.lindengate.org.uk

Spring has arrived at Lindengate

At Lindengate, we have been busy planting wildflowers, kitchen garden vegetable seeds, digging the beds and enjoying the return of our resident ducks back to our 5 acre therapeutic gardens and wildlife haven. Come and see for yourself, taking in the sights and sounds of Spring, sitting in one of our many sheltered areas and take a moment for yourself.

From the end of March, our opening times will change, giving you the opportunity to enjoy the longer evenings and if you are bringing children, why not take part in our nature trail, connecting with nature and the Five Ways to Wellbeing.

- Be Active
- Give to others
- Take Notice
- Keep Learning,
- Connect with Nature



If you are unable to visit during this time, why not take a look at Lindengate@Home for activities that can be enjoyed at home, to maintain health and wellbeing.



Gordon the Bird Man

The birding year of 2020 started rather unspectacularly with modest numbers of Waxwing, Redwing and Brambling. But as our first summer visitors were heading our way, so was the Coronavirus. The pandemic caused significant changes in our daily lives. With most birders only able to report from their local parks or gardens, reporting started to show some unusual patterns. House Sparrow, Blackbird, Collared Dove and Wren numbers shot up. However, with people not travelling all marine and wetland birds were absent from most lists.

So, to 2021. No matter where you live, there is one thing we can all experience even in lockdown and that is the Dawn Chorus. As spring unfolds and birds start to get ready for the breeding season, song plays

an important part in establishing a territory, attracting a mate and warding off rivals. Some species such as Robin, Blackbird and Thrush begin to sing before sunrise, then as morning progresses more species join in. Then as spring progresses our residents are joined by summer migrants. So why not spend some time just standing in your garden and listening to the sounds of spring.



Gordon Hickmott
562407



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Bon Ami

We are back!

Hello to everyone! We are delighted to announce that we will be reopening for outside only service and takeaways on Friday 15th April! This will be in accordance with the government guidelines and therefore this will be weather dependent. We plan to open from 10am – 2pm. It will be necessary for us to review this continually to assess the viability of fully reopening.

In addition we will continue to offer our much loved, pre-ordered, take away Afternoon Teas.

We very much look forward to catching up with all of our old and new customers very soon.

Take care and stay safe.

Amanda & Ruth.

Hughenden Church News

As for so many organisations, it is difficult for the Church to say precisely what will be 'on' next month, or to be exact, to say in what form the events will be 'on'. However current plans are set out below, to be changed only if Government or Diocesan advice alters.

During Holy Week there will be a short daily service transmitted online, and a prayer walk to be undertaken in family groups/bubbles or in twos on Good Friday.

On Easter Sunday (April 5th) we will welcome back our congregations, for Easter Day services of Holy Communion at both 9am and 11am. Booking will be required, and numbers will be limited to comply with social distancing requirements. (Book at office@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk)

We are committed to continuing with an online service each Sunday even when services fully resume with congregations: we are aware that many may not be able or wish to attend in person for quite some time. Up to date news and further details continue to be available

on our website, (www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk) where details of how to join online services can also be found.

Our monthly Tiny Tots service, including story and craft activity continues online, available also on demand. We are looking forward to being able to meet in 'real life' with CAKE, in the summer! No doubt our tiny tots won't be so tiny now!

So many of our groups are unable to meet at the moment, though contact, support and meetings continue on Zoom where possible. Very popular is the Zoom coffee after the streamed church service on Sunday. It is not known how many of the participants have only got dressed as far down as the waist....

Jane Tyrer





A Message from Hughenden Vicarage

On 23 March 2021, it was one year since the first UK lockdown. Since then, millions of people have been bereaved, both as a result of Covid-19 and due to other causes. The restrictions we've all been living under have meant that many people have had to grieve without the comfort of having friends and family around them.

Marie Curie, a charity which supports people around the event of a terminal diagnosis, organised a National Day of Reflection to acknowledge grief and loss over the last year. The national Church of England is one of several organisations supported this important initiative.

As we bid farewell to the final few days of March, we will all welcome April, with fresh hope and optimism. Children returned to school several weeks ago, and slowly the promise of the easing of restrictions gives us things to look forward to – a haircut, meeting with a couple of friends outside, and in time a small social gathering in a pub garden.

Tentatively we begin to make plans for the rest of this year and beyond. Postponed weddings and birthday are rescheduled, and we can look forward to meeting friends and family again in the flesh, and not just through a phone or computer screen.

As we begin to adjust to this new norm, we will no

doubt experience a wide range of emotions. Some can't wait to pick up their social lives, or to make that journey across the country to visit an elderly family member, and hoping that they won't have to wait too long. For others, the thought of mixing with others raises concerns about health and well-being. We are complicated beings, and it is important to acknowledge that we are likely to react to the easing of lockdown in different ways.

The beginning of April also brings with it Holy Week – the week during which we remember the last few days of our Lord on earth, during which he shared a final meal with his friends, was arrested, and sentenced to death and died on a cross on the day we call Good Friday, before triumphantly rising from the grave on the third day.

As a Christian I find Good Friday an important day for sober reflection. By recalling Christ's sacrificial death on a cross, I am able to give God all my burdens, weaknesses and pain in prayer, and through his death and resurrection, I am given a fresh start, the slate is wiped clean, and I can live in the light of his love and forgiveness.

I do hope that you too will experience hope this year.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Rev Keith Johnson

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Will 2021 be the year we can meet up again in Halls and Houses? We all hope so. It seems an age since our High Wycombe u3a held its Christmas Coffee Morning 'online' last December. We usually hold it in Naphill Village Hall and meet our friends and see what their Group has been 'up to' over the past year. Many of us were more optimistic that 2021 would bring us an early opportunity of meeting our friends again in Halls or Homes. But it was not to be and although the vaccination programme is well underway it seems likely that the current lockdown will continue through the Spring and into the Summer as far as indoor Group meetings are concerned. Some reports suggest social distancing will remain in place for the rest of the year! This is, of course, the last thing we would want to happen. For our Groups it means that we will continue, even redouble, our efforts to retain not only our own individual Interest Groups but also inform our friends and neighbours in our communities of the benefits of membership. We are very much 'open for business' through emails, phone calls and Zoom meetings.

In many ways it is becoming more difficult for our Interest Groups - given the increasing awareness and technical ability - of the public to access a rich variety of output streaming on television and the internet. The u3a itself, of course, through its Thames Valley Network, for example, is offering a rich variety of additional programmes to our own. These are proving very popular as they offer additional guest speakers covering a wide range of interests. Our own Monthly General Meetings also bring you guest speakers presenting on a wide range of subjects and we've a programme right through to the end of the year.

Our web site gives the full programme of our Interest Groups, including dates and times, where you can explore subjects such as Photography, Science, Art, Local History even Reading for Pleasure. There are around 40 Interest groups to choose from. Groups meet monthly in homes or village halls, although currently they are meeting virtually, on Zoom. And we've a new Film Club where our own local 'experts' introduce you to 'classics' from various genres of film.

We've enjoyed Hitchcock and heard from Agatha Christie herself and her great, great grandson, sourced from The British Library.

In a strange way the pandemic is causing us to rethink the ways in which we are all living our lives. One of our Groups is keeping an eye on the research which monitors consumer behaviour and the response of manufacturers and service providers to a changing scene. Apparently, we've been treating ourselves to luxuries, such as chocolates and more expensive cheeses! What will happen to our High Streets, given the 'pandemic' of shopping online? Will 'cash' become even more redundant as we go increasingly tap our cards - now up to £100. What long term changes will need to be made in the provision of social services including design of housing, cities and transport as society adjusts to a world of home working, more 'staycations', an increasingly diverse population - not forgetting the global challenges of climate change - and topically vaccination of 7 billion+ people, potentially on an annual basis?

Paul Gillam

Shear Madness

Hopefully Boris doesn't change his mind and we are back to it 12th April. Blimey, I think it's going to half kill me I'm so out of condition but hey, third time lucky, let's hope this was the last lockdown. By now many of us have had at least one vaccination so let's be positive about the future. We are still appointment only and I think it will probably stay that way as I'm finding it is much easier to deal with and it's slightly more personal. Sometimes people are shy to talk in a crowded shop so it's nice although my "naughty" ones have got a bit cheekier!

I was so devastated to hear of the passing of Ron,

taken way too young. He was one of the first to come and say "Hi" on our opening day and he always gave us a salute when he rode by the shop. I think we even threatened him with a free haircut to chop his ponytail off, bless him he will missed by many.

So I shall make the most of my few weeks of retirement before I'm back to see you all again, I've missed you all so much even the grumpy ones.

Take care, stay safe, keep washing those hands.

Love as always

Mandy x

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Lifecycles

As the days start to warm and brighten the children have been busy spotting all of the changes in the world around them whilst out on our welly walks. They have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the daffodils and are still keeping a keen eye open for the first few bluebells.

Last year, our beautiful Nursery community were all saying good-bye, and heading in to our first lockdown just as Spring arrived. Here at the Nursery, we handed out sunflower seeds to the children so that we could all keep in contact with a shared project at home. I also filmed the lifecycle of a butterfly, and we shared the journey on our Facebook page. This year, we are so pleased to be able to come together and watch our sunflowers grow both at home and in our Nursery garden. The children also have 5 caterpillars that they are watching grow. The caterpillars are yet to form their signature 'J' shape before creating their own chrysalis. The children all feel that they are so big they are almost ready to start their metamorphosis. Today, they have all made predictions as to how many days there are remaining before the first caterpillar spins their chrysalis. Our excited children have guessed from 1 day all the way up to 10 more days! We can't wait to see who has guessed correctly.

It is important for the children to be given the new vocabulary to support these new experiences. Language is such a beautiful tool to add colour and greater depth to a child's early years journey.

We are introducing a new song this Spring to help the children learn to count backwards:

(sung to the tune of Five little ducks)

Five flowers tall in the flower shop (hold up 5 fingers)

Blooming brightly, with their petals on the top.

Along came (child's name) with a penny one day.

Bought a (child names a colour) flower and took it away (put one finger down).

We are still offering socially distanced tours, and now we have a short video of our Nursery on our website www.toddleingroup.co.uk/Naphill for families to take a look at. If you would like to book a visit please call Kim on 01494957196 or email enquiries@toddleingroup.co.uk.

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HUGHENDEN

What happens as life slowly reopens as vaccination levels increase and lockdown restrictions ease is something Hughenden Street Association (HSA) is keen to explore with its community partners and residents. Across Hughenden Parish many people don't want to return to the 'old ways' where perhaps we were not as community-focussed as we have become during adversity. Covid19 showed the community at its best and we need to build on this if we are to continue to meet the needs of our neighbours and indeed ourselves to retain a 'sense' of community in the widest meaning.

As the HSA Mission states:

For community life in Hughenden Parish to become better connected, supportive/supported, stronger and friendlier so that all residents are involved in it to the level they desire. This means working to create safer and connected communities encouraging residents to identify the needs of their neighbours to help them engage in the community. The Association has a key role to play in helping develop links to existing facilities whilst also working to support community groups to reach out to as many residents as possible.

Technology has certainly come to the rescue during the Covid19 pandemic in so many ways: enabling our children to continue their education, face-to-face meeting being replaced by Zoom, Microsoft Teams, FaceTime and WhatsApp, online shopping with home delivery and so the list goes on. It certainly helped the HSA Steering Group continue to function effectively. We must not forget, however, that there are many people -particularly older residents – who may have had limited or no technology to get them through this period. Helping them to feel safe to venture out and socialise is something that HSA is keen to promote. Naphill & Walter's Ash is fortunate to have an active community – just look at the fantastic work of the NAWA Gazette Facebook group together with its Covid19 team! The recent Freecycle weekend is only one example of a community coming together. No doubt the Bon Ami Café will be open when it is safe to do so and continue its role as an important community meeting place.

Some of the groups created in response to the pandemic may no longer be active, however, some group members may wish to continue to play a part in keeping the community spirit going. We must accept that as people return to their jobs and resume their lives some may feel that they do not have time to get involved. That is fine, and we know that if they were called upon again, they would rise to the challenge. However, there will be some who not only enjoyed getting involved but also found it gave them a new purpose. They may be part of the older community however there will also be younger people – from teenagers upwards – who want to remain involved. Many friendships will have been made and for some being involved was good for their own well-being. Again, that is fine. What is important is that we all do what we can. After all, without us there is no community!

So here is the challenge: what can you do to maintain the community spirit as 2021 moves forward? Here is one thing you can do if you have not done so already: become a Hughenden Street Association member. What does this involve? Signing up means that from time to time you will receive information to share with your neighbours such as how to spot scams and protect yourself from cold callers. You will have useful information about the many support services in the county available to help residents remain active and where to go for helpful advice on a whole range of topics including cultural events and healthy living ideas. If you also register for our weekly newsletter you will receive a summary of key issues and suggestions across a wide range of community issues from events taking place in Hughenden to webinars on a variety of relevant topics – most recently there was a webinar offering advice to older drivers and their families on staying safe on the road. Our younger residents also feature in the newsletter. So, what are you waiting for? Join our network by emailing hughendensa@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you!

Hilda Stearn

Communications Co-ordinator
Hughenden Street Association
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Naphill Brownies

February 22nd is World Thinking Day. It is celebrated each year by Scouts and Guides in 216 countries all over the world. In fact there are only 6 countries in the world which do not have Scouting/ Guiding. It is a day of international friendship. This is something truly special and important to remember in these isolated times. Although we couldn't travel or meet up as we would like, the local brownies (Naphill, Hughenden, Walters Ash) chose to join together online to recognise the occasion

Everyone hunted around their homes for items from other countries. Then we looked on the map and found that, in almost every case, the items came from a country in which girls, like us, were part of Girlguiding. It is amazing to think that they would all be celebrating Thinking Day too.

Anzac biscuits were traditionally made in to send to the Australian and New Zealand Troops in WWI. As part of our Thinking Day celebrations, we thought it appropriate to make something that was sent in kindness around the world. The brownies made their biscuits together, but in their own homes. It was wonderful to see how capable they all were. I must say, the biscuits were delicious too.



Brown Owl

Ruth Daly 565571

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

From Our Wye Correspondent

Firstly my apologies for missing a number of issues but we have been extremely busy trying to get housing sales across the line before the old Stamp Duty Relief deadline in March. The pressure is off now as the deadline has been extended. The additional 3 months has created quite a ripple in the housing market again but perhaps less so up here in Naphill and Walters Ash. I suspect that all the villagers who were thinking of moving have done so over the last 12 months. Our Prestwood and High Wycombe offices are very busy.

If you are thinking of moving then you should really think about doing it now so that your purchaser and you can benefit from the Stamp Duty Relief. I do not see it being extended again and suspect that the market may well stagnate for a while after this date.

The more observant amongst you will notice that the office in Naphill has had a bit of a makeover and a slight rebranding. Nothing sinister just the two Wye Branches (Country & Residential) coming together under one umbrella or Partnership. The good thing or not some of you may say, is that nothing has changed internally. You have still got me!!

For those of you who were following the story of Teddy the 16 year old dog that my daughter fostered, I have some sad news. Poor old Teddy passed just before his 17th birthday having developed a blockage in his intestine. From his sad beginning (abandoned in a dustbin) he had a great time with his lifelong owner and the two families that were a small part of his life in his later years. RIP Teddy.

On a happier note it has been wonderful to meet a whole new tranche of dog owners as the weather has improved although I must say the dogs seem to be getting a little fussy over the quality of my treats. They definitely prefer the Pedigree branded gravy bones to Pets at Home own brand!!

As a person who studies (and studied) statistics it is very pleasing to see our parish (and many of the surrounding ones) in white on the Government Covid Map which means our rate is below three per 100,000 residents, in essence the lowest bracket. I had my injection last week and was actually quite poorly for a few days however to my mind a very small price to pay. My wife had very little sympathy for me and kept making references to "Man Flu". She has her injection this coming week so let's really, really, hope that she does not suffer any ill effects.

Stay safe and hope to see more of you out and about.



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Wycombe Photographic Society

March and going into April sees the end of our internal competitions for the competition year which winds up at the end of May.... but.... there are still activities and events happening throughout April: guest speakers – The Power of Sport and The Northern Lights plus a couple of internal competitions, so plenty still happening.

April has been the month of our biggest event in the year – our Annual Exhibition which over the past couple of years has been held in the Eden Centre in High Wycombe.

However, due to Covid we have had to postpone the Exhibition again this year.

In place of the Annual Exhibition we will be holding our new Annual Competition, unfortunately without any printed images.

Members will be getting together their best projected images for the Annual Competition which will be held on line at the start of June.

Yes, it is a couple of months away but some of us have a lot of images to sort through to make sure we enter them in the Annual Competition. The images entered will be those that have done well in the internal competitions held during 2020-2021.

April's highlights will be the two guest speakers – The Power of Sport – 8th April and The Northern Lights – 29th April.

For full details of what is going on at Wycombe Photographic Society please look at our website – www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk

Come along to one of our on line meetings where you will be made very welcome and as I always say in these articles..... every member started off as a “club newbie” at one point in time so do not think that your photographic skills may not be that good.

We all learn something each meeting which helps our photography.

This month's tip..... take a large black plastic bag with you when you go out photographing. The Bluebells will be in full bloom and the best way to photograph them is to get down and personal with them and the ground will be damp where you want to kneel to get the shot of the best bluebell you have ever seen.

David Greenwood

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



photograph courtesy Paul Goby

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 - Cajun Chicken (BBQ base) 10.50
- Chips 3.00

The Wheel

Hopefully, the wait is almost over, and we should be allowed to open this month. It has been an extremely long winter and we can't wait to start again, although this is not a simple task!

As I sit writing this article there are still so many questions to be answered, which we currently do not have the answers to. We are working on it and will ensure that all aspects are covered for a 'Covid Safe' return for you all. If the Great British weather behaves this will be an easier task, but if not, we need to work out if it will be financially viable to open with just our covered areas.

Many rules will be the same – must stay seated (even in the gardens), wearing a mask, table service and of course the Test and Trace. Thankfully no 'substantial meal' and no curfew! We will have a menu up and running although this will be limited for a while, also the alcohol options may be limited until suppliers get up to speed.

We would like to thank everyone for their amazing support whilst we have been doing the Takeaways and The Pit Stop and promise to keep you all updated on our Facebook page.

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01494 562210 with any questions you may have.

Personally, we would also like to say how supportive everyone has been after the death of Ron Williams. Ron was not just a customer, but a best friend who will be greatly missed by us and everyone who had the pleasure to meet him. We can't wait to have you all back so we can raise a glass and share all our memories of a great man.

Rest in Peace Ron!

Claire and Mark and The Wheel Family

Ron Williams - 18th Feb 1965 - 23rd Feb 2021



It is with great sadness that Ron lost a very short battle with lung cancer that took him way too early, but thankfully quickly. The news has shocked not just this village but has been felt all over the world. Ron was one of a kind and was loved by everyone he met as he could just turn on the charm with the ladies and talk utter poppycock with the blokes. He was part of the fixtures and fittings at The Wheel, but also made sure that he tried as many different hostelrys as possible throughout the UK and the Isle of Man.

There have been so many kind words and great memories shared but one I think sums him up.

'There will be a Ron shaped hole in many people's lives.'

Ride safe Ron, we are gonna miss you so much that words cannot describe. We promise that when we can, we will all celebrate your life in style with a 'Ron Fest' (and ice cream of course)! Good night sweet-heart and Ride in Peace.

Claire and Mark



A FANTASTIC IDEA!

Readers of the village Facebook page will be aware of the two major projects affecting our village and I thought the April Gazette would be an ideal opportunity to make more people aware of latest developments.

The first project was announced:-

"Now that it has started raining again I am announcing my new business venture, the Stocking Lane Flood Crossing Company. I'll start by renting wellies to walkers. The profits will buy a ball of string and a couple of lilos to be replaced later by a couple of pedalos. The final step was intended to be the purchase of a retiring cross channel ferry, floating it in on a spring tide and parking it so that we can drive or walk through it. However, Boris's Burrow has given me a better idea. When HS2 is finished they will be taking the tunnel boring machine up to Stranraer so let's slip the lorry driver a tenner and we'll borrow it for the weekend....."

I am finishing this on the day that Tfb is draining the flood. That may give a feeling that this project is dead in the water, so to speak, but actually it is just an undercover operation carrying out enabling works for the tunnel.

There have been some difficulties along the way.

I received a shock visit from the Local Lying-on-a-Lilo

Licensing Authority. They tied me up for quite some time insisting that I had to ensure that each Lilo was fitted with a life raft and that there has to be a proper evacuation drill carried out before each sailing.

However, I then realised that this was a ploy by a business rival who has acquired an ex-army pontoon bridge and is seeking to steal my business, He should now be tied up with red tape for ages having dibbed him in to the Gambling Commission, expressing concerns about a local pontoon school charging excess fees.

But two problems still remain that I seek help for.

1. With social distancing it is difficult to slip someone a tenner and experiments show it is hard to make a viable paper dart with the new plastic notes.
2. Spoil disposal. We don't want to get mired in a planning application as you will understand a bit later. So we are planning to bore the tunnel under the radar. I am seeking volunteers to dispose of the spoil from pockets sewn in their trousers while out walking their dogs.

Of course, the tunnel will have to see the light of day at some point and I suggest we adopt the "Oh that old thing, that's been there for ages" approach. I'm sure that will work.

Turning now to the latest developments on the other project which was announced:-

"We need to plan ahead. If it doesn't stop raining soon we will be living on a lovely wooded promontory sticking out into what will be the Wycombe Sea. The Hughenden Valley side of us should make a nice deep-water harbour for cruise ships and marina. We need to decide about the opposite shore line overlooking the deep water Saunderton passage between the Aylesbury & Wycombe seas. I suggest Naphill Common should become some beautifully wooded sand dunes leading down to a natural beach and we develop the RAF camp as a Benidorm style hotel complex to maximise local revenue. Should I invest my savings in the Stocking Lane marina or buy some beach huts?"

I am pleased to report that the Stocking Lane Marina is now taking reservations and suitable locations are being considered for the Harbour Master's office and for the Lifeboat station.

I thought it would be sensible to start considering where to set up farms for oysters, mussels and for salmon and thought that Bradenham Village green

would be a good spot to set these up on before the water level rises.

So, I enquired about planning permission. The planners seemed quite surprised but one did have a pleasant chat with me while the other made a telephone call. Some experts were called in. They must be some scientific chappies from MAFF because they had lovely white coats. But they left after a while muttering and shaking their heads. No help at all.

So, there is no point trying to get official approval for our tunnel for the other project. Officialdom just does not understand.

But now we have a new sign of spring's arrival. The first beach towel has been found laid out to bag a spot on the common following a pre-breakfast sortie from across the English Channel. Won't it be lovely to have another sign of spring that we can look for to put alongside the enjoyment of hearing the first cuckoo and woodpecker.

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NAWARA, along with many others have tried to persuade Bucks Council to safeguard this ecologically important 100-Year Oak from the Developer's chainsaws. To destroy this beautiful tree for 9.5 metres of flat, black tarmac footway for newcomers to the proposed estate in Clappins field, would amount to an ecological crime. The newcomers will be no different from the many thousands who, without a problem during the last 100 years, have moved back and forth past the Oak in Clappins Lane, walking, wheeling their babies, exercising dogs, running, cycling, and leading guided walks.

Our Clappins English Oak has supported more life forms than any other native tree species in the area. 326 species are completely dependent on Oaks. They are host to hundreds of insect species, an important food source for birds. The endangered Purple Hairstreak butterfly relies entirely on the Oak to survive. The Oak has perfect nesting spots for the Pied Flycatcher and Marsh Tit. The rich mould formed from the soft fallen leaves support invertebrates like the Stag Beetle, and fungi such as Oakbug Milkcap. Bats roost in Oaks and feed on their rich supply of insects. Mammals such as squirrels, badgers and deer feed on the acorns.

The Oak absorbs up to 100 gallons of water a day. Its wanton destruction will result in more surface water problems.

However, the Bucks Director of Planning and Enforcement, Mr S. Bambrick, makes it clear that Bucks Planning Authority has no intention of safeguarding our ecologically important OAK, even to the point of supporting the failure of the Planning Committee in Nov. 2020 to follow its own ruling in deciding 19/08031/FUL, for 63 dwellings on Clappins field and destruction of our OAK. They failed to take account of the number of brownfield sites which had become available for re-development during the pandemic.

"All planning decisions, whether made by officers or by the Committee, are bound by the same legal requirements to make decisions in accordance with current planning legislation and the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

"In my opinion, it appears that Bucks Planning Authority is bent on supporting Dandara's (the developers) application no matter what the consequences or current material considerations. We, therefore have no choice but to immediately impress on Bucks Council and MP Rob Butler, through sheer numbers, that N&WA people demand that our environmentally important 100-Year Clappins Lane OAK be wholly protected from wanton destruction through appn.19/08031/FUL, or for any other reason. Even a single sentence of strong objection will do."

Please URGENTLY [email rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk). Cllr. Warren.Whyte@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Officers. Ian.Thompson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Steve.Bambrick@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Matthew.Hardy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Alastair.Cunningham@buckinghamshire.gov.uk [Cc, Rachel.Shimmin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cc,Rachel.Shimmin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) (Chief Executive) Cc Cllr. (Bucks Council Leader)

COOMBE LANE ROAD DAMAGE

Following the enquiries NAWARA received about Coombe Lane's damaged road surface and in particular, danger to cyclists and motor-cyclists, we contacted Highways and Parish Council.

Please quote 40158888 if you need to contact Bucks Highways council about this report.

Their phone numbers are: 01296 382416 (09:00 – 17:30 Mon-Thurs, 09:00 – 17:00 Friday) or 01296 486630 (out of hours and weekends)

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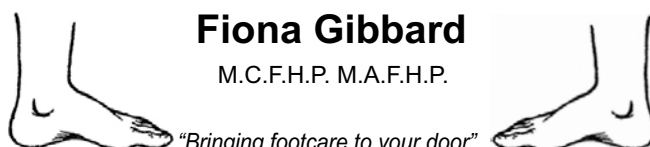
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