

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette



December 2022/January 2023

Photograph courtesy Jonathan Hilder

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Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

December 2022/January 2023



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Come and Join Us!

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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	
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Residents Association	Gloria LeFlaive	01494 563634	glorialeflaive@msn.com
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Tennis Club	Jenny Tench	01494 562282	jttench@gmail.com
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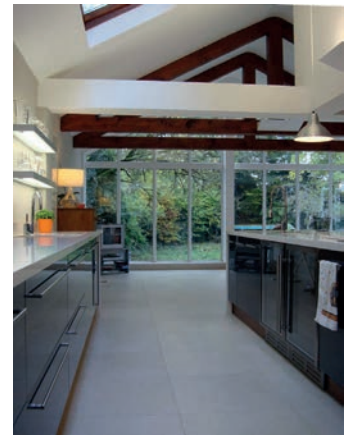
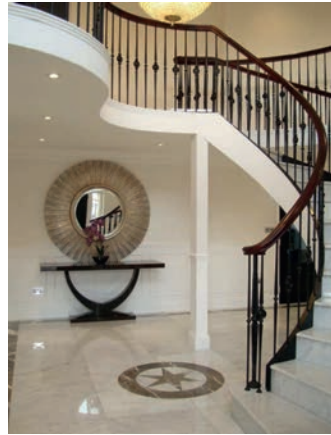
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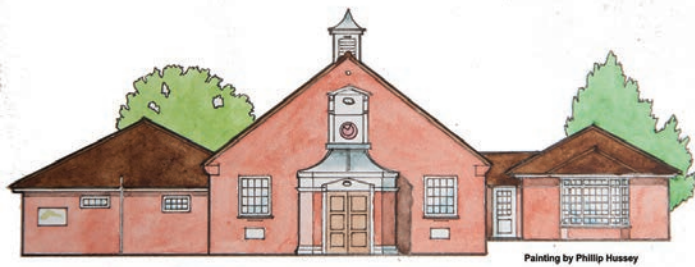
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Naphill Village Hall



Chairman - Clive Lawrence

Email: chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings - Tanya Stevens

Email: hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Tel: 07851 169275

www.naphillvillagehall.org.uk

Local Council Contact Information

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Buckinghamshire Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Clive Harriss	07768 876568	Clive.Harris@buckinghamshiregov.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
Specsavers Hearing (NHS hearing tests)	Self refer	01494 520304
Healthy Minds	Anxiety, depression, stress, postnatal wellbeing	01865 901 6000
Bereavement Listening & Support	Bereavement counselling	1296 332600
Wycombe Women's Aid/Also Men	Counselling re domestic violence	01494 461367
		Male 0808 8010 327
Carers Bucks	Help for carers	0300 7772 722
Alzheimer's Society	Dementia information & support	01296 331722



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Copy Date January/February Gazette 15 January 2023

On a grey November afternoon, I am just completing my TENTH Christmas edition of the Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette. What a privilege it is to again be sat in the editorial chair completing this special edition of our village magazine. It will be winging its way to our printers and our stalwart delivery team will be dropping the copies out to you and as always, I hope you will enjoy!

My thanks to Ian Hall, our retiring distribution manager, for all his work and support and all the systems and organisation he has implemented. Ian has been working with Paul & Joanne Hewitt who have kindly agreed to take on this role and I welcome them to the Gazette team. An opportunity too to thank the delivery team for their work. In all weathers these lovely people pop the copy through your letter box and collect the subscriptions. You are vital members of the Gazette team and my thanks to you all!

Congratulations to the fireworks Committee on another fabulous fireworks display, the work and training which goes into this event is amazing and the funds raised are vital for our village hall! Pete Dalby is retiring as the chairman of this committee and I personally thank him. Pete you have been a joy to work with, your good humor, all your articles, your advertisements produced and sized

as required to meet my print specification and always, your respect for me as the editor, I am truly grateful!

As I mentioned last month, in these difficult times when budgets are stretched for so many of us, the Gazette team our proud not to be increasing our charges to our advertisers or subscribers for the coming year. Judy, our treasurer, has confirmed our advertising charges for the forthcoming year on page 9.

Our cover this month was born from a young lady's comment on the village Facebook page and Jonathan Hilder's photographic talent. A beautiful young lady, a chair and a harp on the Common, who would have thought it? An unusual and brilliant photo shoot! Thank you Jonathan and Ciaria. A big thank you to all of the contributors who have put so much effort into helping me put this edition together, your support is very much appreciated.

By the time you read this our glorious Christmas tree will be illuminated, the "star" on the front of our village hall will be beaming, the Christmas Fayre will have been another triumph and Christmas 2022 will be underway! The Gazette team join me in extending our very best wishes to you all for a merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful 2023.

Sonia

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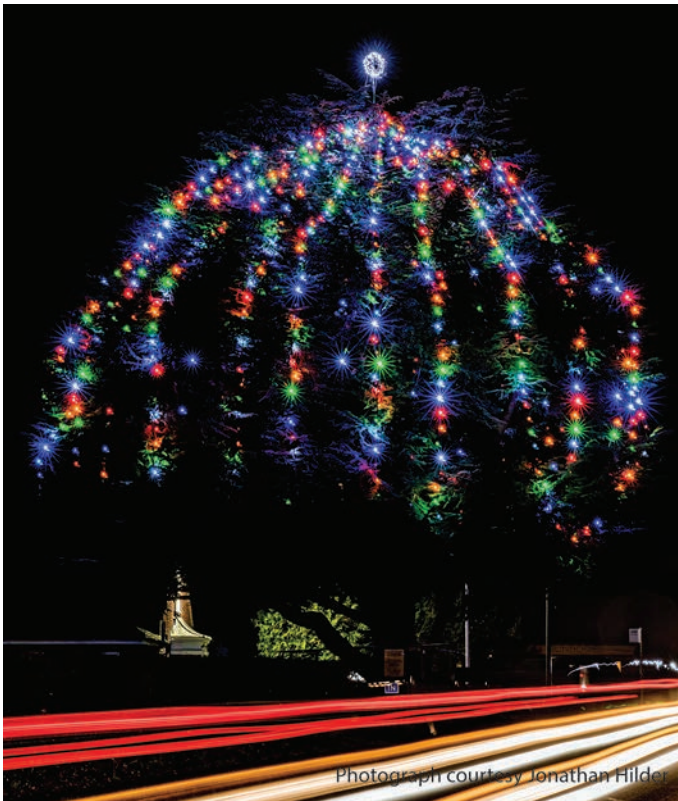
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Village Hall Christmas Tree Lights 2022



Photograph courtesy Jonathan Hilder

By the time you read this, the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall should be lit up, brightening the dark winter evenings and bringing the usual festive cheer to the whole village at the end of what has been another trying year. They will stay lit until January 5th, Twelfth Night as this marks the end of the Festive Season.

We all feel the stresses of the day fade away when we see the tree looking so wonderful on our way home, some even change their route just to admire the tree!

Our Christmas tree has brought joy to the community for generations. The lights are put up and taken down each year by a team of intrepid volunteers, led by Mike Mason, who have managed, once again, to ensure that the lights were put up in a Covid-secure way.

Insurance and running costs for the lights are usually around £600 per year, but of course this year this may increase! Any repairs required can add significantly to these costs.

If you would like to make a donation to show your appreciation and to keep our tree alight, you can do so in several ways:

- Scan the QR code below
- By going direct to our Total Giving Appeal Page: <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/naphilltreelights2022>
- By visiting the Naphill Village Hall website (naphillvillagehall.org.uk) and following the link

If every household in the village gave just £1 our costs would be covered, so please give what you can. Any donation, big or small, will be very welcome.

Enjoy the lights and have a very Happy Christmas!

Cathryn Carter

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!
Enjoy the Christmas Tree Lights and please make a donation.*



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette Advertising News for 2022

The Gazette Committee met last month to discuss next year's rates. We unanimously agreed that due to the increasing financial pressures faced by our local businesses and readers that there would be no increase in either advertising rates or subscriptions. Advertising rates for 2023 are therefore:

Full page colour	£675
Half page colour	£360
Quarter page colour	£190
One eighth page colour	£100
Small ads (text only)	£40

We will also honour the same rates as this year for existing black and white adverts but are no longer able to accept new adverts in black and white as the gazette is a full colour production and we need to cover as many costs as possible.

Invoices will be sent out very early in the new year.

Subscriptions will remain at £5 for the year.

Our financial year ends on 31st January and a full Treasurer's report will be included in the March or April editions.

Judy Whitehouse – Treasurer
judy.demon@btinternet.com



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Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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The two new boilers have been installed in the village hall. There was a bit of disruption during the process but all seems to be working well after an initial couple of weeks to become acquainted to the new system. This was a major undertaking for the committee and the cost is about £30,000. The new system will be far more efficient than the 1970's boiler it replaces. It appears, that because we have funds, it is nearly impossible to get grants for this expenditure and you cannot apply for a grant after the work has started. The two benches by the children's play area have been replaced. The new benches are made of recycled plastic and have cost £1590.

The committee met on the 7th. November and discussed the new boiler system and agreed the Health and Safety document and Fire Risk assessment that will shortly be put on the website. This work was undertaken by Bartha Pitman who is also Residents' Association Chairman and we thank Bartha for doing this.

The committee was told that the lease for Bon Ami was still with the solicitors and negotiations were still ongoing with the tennis club.

The fund raising activities were discussed and the fireworks were a great success. The number of tickets were restricted due to the safety of the crowd that came

and enjoyed the event, so remember next year to buy your tickets early! There was a whole army of volunteers to whom the committee is very grateful as the event could not be run without them! Pete Dalby is stepping down as Fireworks Chairman and so there is a vacancy for someone to step up and make sure this event continues and is not only a great fundraiser for the village hall but a fantastic evening for the whole village community.

The Christmas fayre was held on Friday 2nd. December, Hopefully you all went along, purchased your Christmas gifts and enjoyed a glass of mulled wine along with a mince pie! Thank you Cathryn Carter and Moira Harris for organizing this event.

The fund raising committees would like to have more volunteers for the activities, if you could help, even if for a short time it would be much appreciated, just contact us via the website, naphillvillagehall.org.uk .

The committee and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Clive Lawrence

Chairman Naphill Village Hall .



It has been another busy month at Bon Ami following on from our successful MacMillan coffee morning. We donated over £200 to this worthwhile charity as a result of our raffle and donating 50p from every hot drink that we sold throughout the day.

Now that the clocks have gone back and we feel more wintery our nutritious, warming homemade soups are back on our menu. "Two soups" is a regular request!

Also as it is getting colder please remember that the back room is now available for Bon Ami customers. This provides a warm comfortable space for larger groups.

Christmas is fast approaching and we hope that your preparations are going well. Here at Bon Ami the

Christmas cakes are baked and are being drizzled with alcohol ready for you to enjoy, along with our freshly baked mince pies, during Advent.

Our last working day will be Christmas Eve, 10am-2pm, and we will re open on Wednesday 4th January 2023. This will allow Dorothy and Ruth a short break to spend time with their families during the festive period.

Happy Christmas and 2023 to you all!

Ruth & Dorothy.



Bradenham Parish News

Bradenham Parish Council

Cllr. Carl Etholen was present for part of the meeting of the Parish Council held on November 7th 2022. He informed the meeting that the Bledlow Recycling centre is expected to be open by the end of the year. The contractor and stakeholder for the Molins site will attend the North West Community Board meeting on the 6th December 2022; residents can attend and ask questions.

The Parish Council is having repair work carried out on the war memorial which is the Lychgate by St. Botolph's Church. This is the responsibility of the parish, not the church.

The Council discussed the preliminary budget for the next financial year. Decisions about this will be taken at the January meeting. The Parish finances are in good order at present.

The Council wishes to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III; this takes place on May 6th. There will be a bank holiday on Monday May 8th. The Council meeting planned for that day has been moved to May 15th. Details in due course.

The new Revenue and Benefits system is up and running on the Buckinghamshire Council website. www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk. There is new grant funding for sustainable warmth: details are on the above website. The Helping Hands initiative (County) has a team which can refer residents to food banks, free school meals, etc. See website address above.

The Parish Council wishes residents a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Cricket Club on January 9th at 7pm. All are welcome.

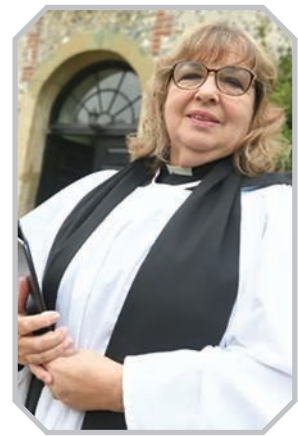
Deidre Hansen
clerk to the council

*Bradenham Parish Council
extend their very best
wishes to the community
for a happy Christmas and
a good New Year.*



St. Botolph's

The congregation said farewell to Revd. Jenny Ellis at the service on October 23rd. The Benefice presented Jenny with 2 olive trees in pots (her request) that she intends to place in her garden at her new home on the south coast. The congregation expressed its gratitude to Jenny for her nearly 14 years of service in the Benefice and to St. Botolph's in particular. She is not retiring fully just yet as she and her husband will be living in Gibraltar for much of the next year working with the Mission for Seaman.



The Benefice has not, as yet, appointed a new Rector. The post has been advertised and we await developments. In the meantime, we will continue to encourage the use of the church for activities such as the book club, for occasional concerts, etc. We hope to increase the number of services we are able to hold with the help of retired clergy and others available.

Our Christmas services will be a little different this year. Details will be circulated in December. There will definitely be a time for singing carols, and for enjoying mulled wine and mince pies afterwards! It will be pleasant to gather together socially as a community.

*We wish you all every blessing for
Christmas and the New Year.*



Peggy Ewart



Out with the old and in with the new!

As I sit to write, the rain is sheeting down in Biblical proportions whilst the wind howls around almost apocalyptically. It's hard to even think about Christmas; even harder this year as I moved house two weeks ago. After 33 years, my husband has retired from full time ordained ministry. This has meant us moving from the beloved, spacious Vicarage that was our home for over 10 years to a modest semi with just about enough room to swing a cat (though the cats are not so keen on that idea!).

Christmas will be very different for us this year. Gone is the two storey tree that sat in the spiral staircase giving the Vicarage hallway an air of country house welcome – the only Christmas tree in our new hallway will be on a Christmas card! Gone is the riotous gathering of family and friends sat around our huge dining table, everyone having slept in their own room over the holiday. Gone is the delight of the 'how was it for you darling?' conversations my husband and I used to have on coming back from celebrating midnight mass at our respective churches. We have been blessed with living in an amazing place, now this era has ended.

But when one thing ends, something new begins. This will be our first ever Christmas actually living in our own home. The huge downsizing we had to undergo has been freeing, letting go of masses of accumulated 'stuff' that in some ways formed a security blanket for us since we had no real roots anywhere. For the first time I have a log burning stove – and quickly discovered you can cook on it! (Check it out on line if you didn't already know this). To date, I have boiled potatoes and heated numerous kettles of water. The griddled pork belly was only partially successful – the wood burner is best used for slow cooking, but it's an adventure experimenting with this new source of heat and there is something very earthy about cooking over a wood fire.

November is not the ideal time of year to be moving, especially with the weather we have been experiencing, but it does come at a time of change

in the Church's year. The old Church year ends in November and a new one begins with the first Sunday of Advent, heralding the countdown to Christmas. As one year ends, a new one begins. As one era ends, a new era begins. In the book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, the narrative is of an old era ending and things being made new. This making new is vital for our wellbeing and is a key part of our reflections at this time as 2022 ends and 2023 begins. Out with the old and in with the new we will soon be proclaiming; 'Behold I make all things new' Jesus proclaims in Revelation 21:5.

May you have a blessed Christmas and renewing New Year.



Rev Jenny Ellis



Raising Money for BURPS

The Christmas lights at Windswept at the top of Coombe Hill will be shining bright this year in the hope we bring a little joy to the village. Fortunately we are on a fixed price energy contract so we shouldn't be affected by the cost increases. As usual, every year we will be raising money for BURPS (Baby Unit's Relatives & Parents Support) at Stoke Mandeville hospital.

The group and the hospital were very supportive when our first granddaughter was born prematurely 10 years ago. She is now a thriving, beautiful girl.

If you are able to make a donation for the charity I know they will be very grateful. Unfortunately, the charity is not registered on websites like JustGiving.com so we will be taking donations through a box on the gate of our drive. There are a few extra decorations from last year which the eagle eyed of you might spot.

We look forward to seeing you and please feel free to walk down the drive to get a better look. Please drive safely as our house is on a bend near Hunts Hill Lane. We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Jan & Trevor May



The Youens Family Raising Money for Children with Cancer UK

The Childrens Cancer Charity Day was a huge success ! Matt and Lucy would like to pass on their immense gratitude to everyone who participated whether it was with donations or buying raffle tickets, teas and delicious cakes. They are very happy to announce that the total so far is £6,756.03 ! Absolutely amazing.

Updates on how Jacob is doing are on hold for now but I can confirm that he is still a gorgeous happy boy. He definitely enjoyed being the centre of attention happily pick out the raffle tickets.

On behalf of the Youens family ,

Thank you!

Mandy x

If you would like to make a donation to the GoFund me page:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/an-amazing-charity-supporting-jacobs-journey?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp%20share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR22HxziUfovmo89VAbpML3CCPPN-I3QIBME91whhRhBcFuSOyCqhqQmkQ





Photograph courtesy Jonathan Hilder

**Meet Ciara Erin,
our local, talented harpist.**

Recently Sonia suggested I might like to make contact with a musical talent in the village. Her name is Ciara Erin, who plays the harp and is studying at the Royal College of Music. We arranged a shoot in the woods which was delayed due to the weather and then a window in the woods allowed us to get the pictures we wanted. What was fun, was Ciara wish to shoot on an armchair in the woods and for her to be in her jeans. We surprised a few walkers who did not expect to find a harpist in the woods in her armchair. I hope you enjoy the pictures and Ciara answers to some of my questions.

How long have you been playing the harp?

For around 10 years now.

What other instruments do you play?

I played many instruments growing up, the accordion, tin whistle, cello, flute and piano. However, I never really took to any other instrument quite like the harp, I completely fell in love with it. As I knew from quite a young age I wanted to study the harp at a conservatoire, I decided to put all my attention onto the harp and unfortunately no longer practise the other instruments.

How much longer do you have at the Royal College of Music?

Around 1 year

What are your musical ambitions?

At this stage in my life I generally avoid fixating too much on specific goals but instead want to take one step at a time and embrace all the opportunities that come my way. Generally, I hope that the future will bring interesting collaborations with all kinds of artists, particularly with folk or non-western musicians. I would also love to travel with my music and play at different festivals internationally. My greatest ambition will always be to share the harp as much as possible, I feel so fortunate to play this beautiful instrument.

What is your favourite band?

Dire Straits

When can we hear you play?

As this time of year is very busy for many people, I hope to share some of my latest work with you early in the New Year.

Do you have a talent that the village needs to know about? If so, please get in contact with Jonathan Hilder at jonathan@piersphoto.com so we can discuss how we may feature you in future publications.

Jonathan Hilder



Photograph courtesy Jonathan Hilder

Christmas is not far away!

Why not capture your children or pets at Christmas. My name is Jonathan Hilder a professional Photographer with a studio in Coombe Lane. I am offering half hour sessions in my studio to capture your family/pets in the scene shown in the photo.

The charge will be £65.00 with £25.00 of this being donated to the charity Children Living with Cancer, which helps support the Youens family in the village.

You will get a gallery on line from which you may choose 5 to be edited and then sent to you as full-sized digital images ready for Christmas. Please email me on jonathan@piersphoto.com to book your slot.



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Photograph courtesy Chris Miller

Friends of Naphill Common



AGM Notice

*Our AGM will be held at the **Village Hall at 7:30pm on Friday 27th January 2023.***

Following a (short) presentation from me on the events of 2022, we will have a talk from Keith Spencer of the Wycombe Museum on "Chairmaking in the Chilterns". As ever, the evening is free and open to all, but we will be collecting £5 annual subscriptions on the day.

As I write, the Common and our Chiltern woodlands are ablaze with autumn colour, which has been the best for many years, the result of drought stress and high sugar content associated with the summer's exceptional warmth and dryness. At this time of year, deciduous trees produce a plant hormone which signals the leaves to break down and return their chlorophyll (which, of course, gives them their normal green colour) so it can be stored for reuse in next year's foliage. Once their chlorophyll has gone, the leaves drop off.

But, if you look closely at the yellow and brown leaves carpeting the floor of the woods, you will spot some that still have a green segment. This is the result of tiny insects called 'leaf miners' – constituting around 1,000 different species of moths, beetles, flies, and

sawflies – which lay their eggs on a leaf, providing both a source of food and protection for the growing larvae. In order to keep eating for longer, the leaf miners block the plant hormone, so their section of the leaf remains green.

Leaf miners can be a serious garden pest (and there's a leaf miner moth currently attacking many of our horse chestnut trees, leaving their leaves curled and brown, even in summer), but the results are only cosmetic, with no threat to the plant.



A fallen leaf with a leaf miner inside

Meanwhile, our working parties continue in full swing and take place on most Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Because they are dependent on the weather, it's best to check our web site for details (where our walking and other activities are also listed): <http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html>



Chris Miller
Chairman



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Local Tales: Pits and Dips.

Anyone walking through local woodland can't fail to notice the number of pits. Not just the small ones about the size that might hold an unwanted dining table but pits large enough to hold a house or two. The small ones were often dug so that a felled tree could be dragged across to be sawn into manageable lengths to be loaded onto a cart. Larger and deeper ones would allow sawyers to reduce logs to boards or fence posts on the spot. However, the really large pits can be, for me, quite humbling. They must have been excavated over many years by many men - and what for? Some for flints to build houses and walls or to lay for tracks and roads. Others for gravel to help bind the flints on the roads. Pits for sand or stone, chalk or clay. All dug by pick and shovel.

What is clear is that many of the woods we now stroll through for peace and quiet were once industrial areas. The dips and ridges, banks and pathways all record human activity and a purpose now largely forgotten. You may notice the way many tracks and paths follow the contours of our hills to keep a level or incline that a laden horse could manage. You can also see that the tracks often run along the side of a slope so that pits can be excavated into the hillside. This allowed the materials to be loaded into carts in the pit itself and pulled out on the level, onto the track to be taken away. When, what was sought, could only be found on flatter ground materials had to be lifted out of the excavation by bucket or by a crane made from tree branches.

These workings can be found all around us including on the Common. But of course, our main industrial area was Walters Ash where the best clay for making bricks was found. It is not known for certain when the industry first started. The Romans made bricks, but when they left, brickmaking is not mentioned by writers until the fifteenth century. Rex Leaver in his

book: *Naphill & Walters Ash: Looking Back at Village Life*, says much about the industries beginnings here, but when I was a boy in the forties, Brown Brothers and Bristow Brothers were the two brickmakers. Some of my family including one brother were involved and I remember being persuaded to undertake perhaps the dirtiest job of all - throwing coke at a sieve to extract dust to mix with the clay and water (a process called 'pugging'). A skilled maker would take the pugged clay and might make 1,000 bricks in a day.

At that time, like many others in the village, I enjoyed playing around and on the brickfield pond. The pond was there as a source of water for the pugging but when the puggers were away we could play, even learn to swim. My elder brothers and cousin had built a raft with planks tied to empty oil drums and on it we could paddle out to sea. This was more dangerous than we realized. The pond had first been dug to extract the clay and was deep, with steep sides which meant falling in was a lot easier than climbing out. I discovered this one day when Robbie Holland, my next-door neighbour in Stocking Lane, managed to fall in. The water came up to his shoulders. With a struggle he pulled himself out. He looked at me and said that he would have to go home. We set off running through the lines of skintled bricks drying in the sun, out of the yard and on across the fields now built over by the RAF camp, on past Knox's wood, down the fields and across Clappins Lane, up the 'sledging' field, past the Plantation, across more fields when we at last reached the field bordering Stocking Lane and we could see our houses. There, to my surprise, Robbie stopped, turned to me and said - "d'you know what? - I'm completely dry!" So, we turned round and ran back to the brickfields.

Philip Hussey.

With apologies to Robbie. If he reads this, I hope he remembers it as I do.

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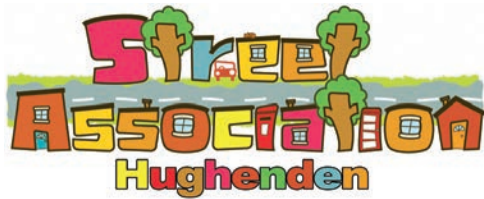
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Reading my article from last November reminds me of the positive progress Hughenden Street Association continues to make across the parish. Its success is very much down to our team of local volunteers. In Naphill & Walter's Ash Susan Bickerstaffe has really helped to deliver our priorities particularly around reducing social isolation with the monthly Pub Lunch at the Black Lion. The Gazette continues to be a stalwart supporter of the Association, and we are grateful for this.

Buckinghamshire Council has provided much-needed funding for some marketing materials that we will be using in 2023 and I would like to thank Jackie Binning, North West Chilterns Community Board Co-ordinator for her support which has been incredible.

2022 has been a challenging year and it looks as though 2023 will be even more so. The Cost-of-Living Crisis will define 2023 and we will all be affected in some way. We cannot help but be moved by the plight of people living day to day worrying about putting food on the table and whether they can turn on the heating. The Association has repeatedly asked residents to support local food banks including One Can Trust. According to the Trussell Trust, an established national poverty campaigning organisation, it has delivered 1.3 million food parcels across the UK in the six months to September 2022 with half a million of these parcels being delivered to children. The data collected since 2017 makes for depressing reading. In 2017, 1,228 adults and 623 children in Buckinghamshire received food parcels from the Trust. By September 2022, the numbers have risen to 5,975 adults and 3,481 children.

The Trust comments: 'Hunger in the UK is not about food. It is about a lack of income, leaving people without enough money to afford the essentials. This could be due to problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy, and deductions), challenging life experiences or ill health, or lack of informal or formal support' The Trust has over 1,300 food banks and there are more than 1,100 independent food banks as well as those run by the Salvation Army, schools, and hospitals. In addition, there are also food aid providers including soup kitchens and social supermarkets. At the G20 Summit in November 2022 the Prime Minister said that it is a 'tragedy that food banks are needed' however he is grateful that they are there. For the increasing number of individuals and families food banks are a lifeline however the fundamental issues need to be addressed if the doors are ever to close.

The Trussell Trust is a campaigning and advocacy organisation. To find out more visit www.trusselltrust.org

In 2023 Hughenden Street Association will be exploring what it might do to help address the underlying issues. What do YOU think we might do? Email: hughendensa@gmail.com with your suggestions.

However you celebrate the festive season may it be joyous and surrounded by those you love. If you are alone at this time, there are many local organisations including Hughenden Street Association keen to support you. Do check the Buckinghamshire Directory for contact details: <https://bit.ly/3lvrsqw>.

Season's greetings from the Hughenden Street Association. Wishing you all a restful festive season.



Hilda Stearn
Communications Co-ordinator
07808 229476
hughendensa@gmail.com
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Remembrance 2022

The annual Remembrance Service was held in the village hall on Sunday 13th November and was officiated by Padre Andi Chapman, the RAF Station Padre. The hall was full and it was nice to see so many children in attendance. Also in the congregation were the Station Commander RAF High Wycombe and many other service personnel.

After the service everybody gathered around the Stone and wreaths were laid by many village organisations.

A collection was taken and £250.00 was raised for the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to all who helped on the day and hope to see you in 2023.



Reg Horne



Carols at Naphill Village Hall



Sunday 18th December 3pm





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Naphill Neighbours

At yesterday's meeting, Karen Elliott, our local, talented, freelance florist, encouraged nearly 40 participants to enter the Christmas spirit by demonstrating how to construct a wreath to grace our front doors. Look out for many examples in the village in the coming season!

Karen used a 12 inch metal frame as a base and filled the outside with damp moss from Ireland. Several of us thought we had enough moss in our lawns that we could use! The moss was anchored to the frame with twine and then the exciting part began. What looked like a huge amount of evergreen (from Karen's garden) was cut into hand sized pieces and gradually stuck in to the moss so we had a circle of mixed evergreen tightly packed around the frame. The effect was beautiful and the pile of evergreen much diminished. A large red bow was added, as were circles of dried orange, pine cones, berries and other natural embellishments. The effect of all this was very attractive and had taken our expert visitor about an hour to construct. Members were inspired to have a go at home but were likely to have needed more time than that, methinks!

Our first AGM for three years followed. The committee was re-elected, the treasurer presented the accounts and time was allowed for comments. The club is solvent but has not had any income for three years due to covid disruption. It has been decided to increase the annual subscription to 20 pounds from January. Very good value for monthly meetings and the opportunity to join in outside visits.

Our next meeting will be the Christmas lunch in December at the Black Lion. In January we will meet on the second Monday in the village hall as usual.

Peggy Ewart.
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Growing Your Own

I walked into the police station. A hatch opened and a uniformed police officer appeared. "I am looking for a twelve-foot worm" I said. His eyes glazed a little and he had the kind of look as if to say "another one has walked out of that place down the road". But I persevered. "The guide book says that somewhere near here is a tourist venue where giant worms are on display, some up to twelve-feet long and some with a diameter of over six inches". At that he began to recall something. He used to patrol up and down the coast road from Melbourne going east, and he recalled that there used to be a display of giant worms near the village of Bass, but he believed that it was now a second-hand shop or something. (1)

So I was frustrated, unable to see the giant worms found in the area of South-West Gippsland, near Melbourne, Australia. I would have welcomed the opportunity of having my photograph taken with a giant worm, to give this article credibility, and to jest "you should have seen the size of the blackbird which carried this one off". However, my plans came to nothing so you will just have to take my word for it – giant worms up to twelve feet long do exist in that part of Australia. They are called "megascolides australis" and are the World's largest earthworms.

I am fascinated by worms because they do the digging for me. I spread a three-inch layer of well-rotted farmyard (ie cow) manure or compost on a third of my soil every year and grow crops in it. Over three years the worms pull the manure or compost down into the soil until it is completely mixed and I can then sow small seeds such as carrots. (In year 2 the second third of my allotment receives the manure, and so on.) The worms create vertical holes, allowing oxygen from the air to enter and be available to the bacteria etc in the soil. I therefore do not have to dig to achieve aeration of the soil. In nature nothing digs. Leaves fall, grasses die and the worms drag the debris down into the soil, thus aerating it. There is no need to dig or plough. It is wasted effort, and counterproductive because of damage to the soil ecosystem.

A very important benefit of having lots of worms is their worm-casts. The worms bring up all sorts of nutrients from deep in the soil and leave them in worm-casts which considerably enrich the top layer of soil. The no-dig method leaves the worm-cast-enriched layer on the surface of the soil rather than mixing it with much deeper soil. My top layer, a mixture of soil, compost or farmyard manure and worm-casts, is a fantastic growing medium for vegetables and fruit. It is full of trace elements.

Note. (1) True story.
Good gardening!

Mike Mason



Editorial Note: Mike challenged the editor to produce an illustration for his article, so a little Christmas smile with Mike included!

Camomile PT

A wealth of Health and Wellness options in our villages

It's always nice when the Gazette drops through the letter box as it is such a great source of information about what's going on in our villages. It is also really useful to find out about local companies when we need things fixing, or for home or garden improvements, or to take care of ourselves.

Of particular interest to me, not surprisingly, is health and wellness, and looking through the last couple of editions I noticed at least 15 adverts for companies and individuals offering a broad range of services related to this sector.

It got me thinking about whether there would be interest in a health and wellness event, where businesses could come together and showcase what they do, and for the community to come along and experience first-hand, the range of services, treatments and fitness options we have locally.

I would be happy to organise such an event in the New Year if there were interest from businesses and community alike, and it would provide new opportunities for all of us to indulge in some self-care. If you are interested or have some feedback, please could you submit the contact form by scanning the QR code or using the contact details below.

This feels like a good opportunity to also say thanks to Sonia for all your hard work in making the Gazette such a useful and interesting read.

Hilary

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Church News

December is, of course, the season of advent in the Christian Calendar, when we prepare, not just for Christmas in the sense of presents and food, but in preparation in our hearts for the birth of the Christ Child. This year, perhaps more than any other, we are conscious of those across the world and in our own community who will struggle to have enough to eat, let alone to overindulge, those who are far from loved ones, perhaps in another land and in danger from war, and all those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness rather than jollity.

Each year at St Michael and All Angels we give the collections from all services over the Christmas period to support charities. Those chosen this year support work both in the local area and overseas. The charities are Wycombe Homeless Connection, Wycombe Women's Aid, Ukraine to Chilterns, Christian Aid Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, and The Ebenezer Project. The eye-catching display currently at the back of the church gives a vivid snapshot of each one in words and pictures, as well as providing QR codes to link with the charities for further information.

In the advent period we offer a range of services for young and old, and the Hughenden Singers (Community Choir), supported by the Wycombe Concert Band invite all to a

Sing-along for Christmas on 9th December at 7.30 pm. All are welcome: no charge but donations to charity.

Groups within the church will be having their Christmas events, including Tiny Tots, where the children will be once again entranced by Helen's KNITivity. Scouts and Brownies will visit us for their carol service on the 8th and Christmas Unwrapped will take place with Great Kingshill School on 8th December.

Mothers' Union will be having an advent service on 6th December at 2pm, where all are welcome, with refreshments afterwards in Church House. Donations are welcomed to be given to the Women's Refuge (Wycombe) - either toiletries, chocolates, biscuits, tea or coffee.

Look out for the leaflet dropping through your door with details of all our Christmas Services. You will be welcome, whether to the Christingle or crib services especially for the young, or 9 lessons and carols or Midnight service on Christmas Eve for those who prefer tradition. You will also be able to find details of all services along with information on all other church activities, on our website. www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk



Jane Tyrer

Christmas
at Hughenden Church

Christmas Eve

Carols by Candlelight
4.30 pm
Midnight Communion
11.15 pm

Christmas Day

Choral Communion
9.00am
Family Communion
11.00am

Christingle Service
Sunday 11th December 3.00pm.
Carols at Naphill
Sunday 18th December 3.00pm.
Nine lessons and Carols:
Sunday 18th December: 6.00pm



Christmas Blessings

Not from the Vicarage

As I write, there are 38 sleeps until Christmas morning. The Christmas TV ads are out, lights are being switched on in towns and cities across the country. Christmas is coming!

The Christmas run-up is sometimes referred to as the 'silly season' because of our tendency to be ridiculously busy. As well as 'the usual' there can be lots of extras to fill our diaries: school activities, lunches, parties, get togethers, carols, card writing, cooking & baking, decorating, present organising.

In the business it is easy to forget the 'why?' of Christmas:

In the Bible we see how from the very beginning God promised a Messiah to rescue and save the people. The people expected someone mighty and powerful to overthrow the Roman enemy, establish a new Government and take their position as King.

God had a different plan, choosing to visit earth himself in human form. God trusted an unmarried couple to be earthly parents and chose to be born in a basic (probably damp) borrowed room. As a toddler Jesus and his parents fled from Herod to Egypt, where they lived as refugees. Returning to their homeland, Jesus grew up alongside ordinary people, experiencing the struggles of ordinary life. He lived, and died in order to demonstrate God's love, with a particular compassion for those who were suffering in any way. As poet Christina Rossetti says 'Love came down at Christmas'.

Not everyone can look forward to Christmas, many will struggle this year. In the busyness of our preparations, I encourage you to look out for family members and neighbours. Those who have recently lost a loved one, those without close family, or whose families are divided, those who may be struggling financially or emotionally. May love come from us this Christmas.

Christmas retelling of 1 Corinthians 13:

If I decorate my house perfectly with tartan bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my friends, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all I have to charity, but do not show love to my family it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and home-made snowflakes, attend a myriad of Christmas parties and sing in the church choir, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband, Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love does not envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in the giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Anon

As a church family we will be praying for you this Christmas season. If you'd like a visit from someone, please do get in touch. If you feel brave enough to join us for one of our many Christmas services, we would love to see you.

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.



Reverend Helen Peters.

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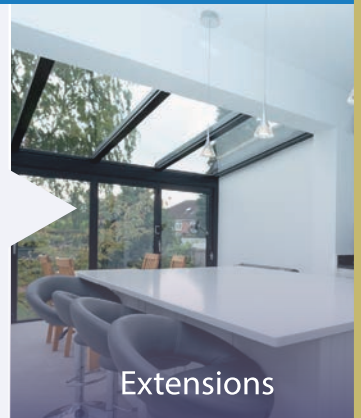


Jonathan Filder
PIERS PHOTO

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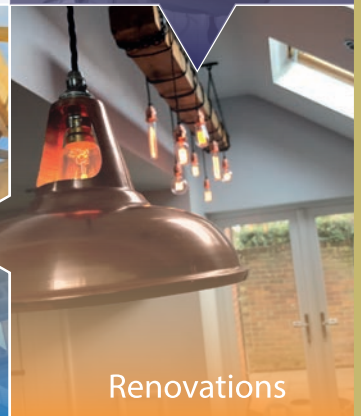


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Thank you Pete and all your team!

Thank you to the legend that is Pete Dalby, without him and his army of stewards, cooks, bar staff, fire marshals, first aiders, pyrotechnic engineers, fire builders, fire fighters, entrance staff and everyone else I don't know about, we would not have had a sell out fireworks night.

Communities are built on people like you, thank you to you and your men and woman for the joy you have given and the money raised. A great evening in spite of the rain.

So come on why not volunteer next year? Are you aware that the chairman of fireworks is standing down? If we cannot replace him and add more volunteers this much needed fund raiser and joy bringer will cease.

So please think about it! Would you like to step up and run the fireworks night or do you know someone who could? If you do, please step forward so we can all support you.

Thank you!



Jonathan P Hilder





Chairman's Wrap Report 2022

Five, four, three, two, ONE... local West End star Florence, who plays Lily Potter in the Harry Potter stage show, hits our Big Red Button and BOOM! An array of fireworks light up the Naphill sky. For 22 minutes thousands of people's faces glow as they gaze up at another fantastic display, put together by our super talented firing team. 22 minutes seems like a long time in 2022.

There is a certain irony in that as we all came together on the Crick for Bonfire Night and a fireworks spectacular on Saturday 5th November, the date of the annual commemoration of the infamous plot by Guy Fawkes to blow up The Houses of Parliament, that there has been such turmoil in the UK Parliament this year. Our planning for this year event, which began a little later than usual, still saw three different Prime Ministers and two Monarchs!

This year's event seemed to run so smoothly, there was an air of calm all evening and this was testament to a hugely talented committee who do such a fantastic job and the volunteers that came forward, including a number of new faces, which was incredible and made such a difference. We are already planning our annual Volunteer Thank You Evening of free drinks, which is our way of saying thank you for all of their help! Even though the weather forecast was grim, all of our tickets sold out again this year for the second event in a row, which is fantastic. Selling tickets online in advance allows us to mitigate the risk of visitors making last minute decisions on whether to brave the elements or not and gives us greater control on visitor numbers.

We've developed a fantastic working relationship with the RAF for this event over the years and we of course thank them for all their continued efforts and support. We were grateful that the Station Commander, Jenny Dennis with the help of a very special family, continued the tradition and helped us light our bonfire this year.

We will find out how much revenue we've raised in total in due course, but hopefully it's another decent amount that can go towards the upkeep and maintenance of our village, such as the brand-new heating system that was recently fitted in the Village Hall.

Not all heroes wear capes. There are a number of people who do an awful lot for this village and selflessly give up their time or their company resources for free or sponsor our event, all for the benefit of our local community. There are too many to name here but you know who you are, and we are very grateful for all that you do, thank you! We still desperately need more volunteers to come forward though and if we can't redress this balance, it's inevitable that we will lose these traditional events from the local calendar and the Village Hall will struggle to survive. As a community we'll then have to figure out how we can fill a £20,000 to £30,000 deficit in our Village Hall budget, answers on a postcard/DM please.

I have realised over these past 5 years that you cannot please everyone but for every complaint or disparaging comment on social media, we have received so many positive comments from the vast majority of people who have enjoyed the firework displays! During the Sunday morning clean up this year, we had our most positive feedback yet! A little boy, who had inspiringly dragged his dad out to help us pick up debris on the Crick, told us that Naphill Fireworks 2022 was the best night of his life! It makes it all so worthwhile and reminds us why we do it, we are creating positive memories for the next generation of children.

It is time for me for me to sign out now, my time as chairman has run its course. It has been a real honour to play my small part in such a fantastic local event. Whoever takes over, I would personally like to wish them the very best of luck and they can count on my full support along with the backing of an amazing committee and group of local volunteers.

The countdown to find the next chairperson and a few other roles besides, has well and truly started! If no one steps forward, if we cannot fill these roles, we are going to need more than Harry Potter magic, we very sadly, may just have seen our last ever Naphill Fireworks Spectacular.

Pete Dalby

Naphill Fireworks Committee

petedalby@outlook.com





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Wycombe Photographic Society

December means Christmas and the chance to take lots of photos of Christmas festivities including festive lights and of course our village Tree Lights. A chance to try out the new camera or tripod you received for Christmas.

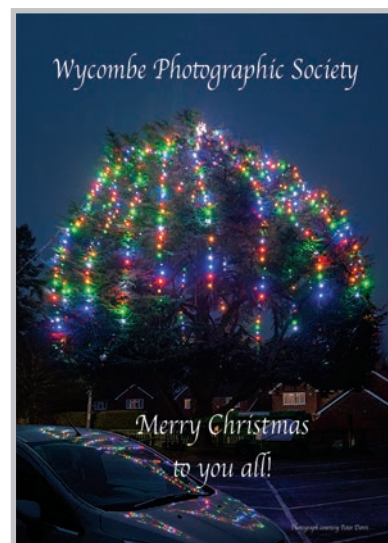
I know that the Gazette Editor will be more than pleased if you submit your photos of the Village Tree in all its glory.

Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm.

7th Dec	Infrared Photography
14th Dec	Christmas Social – Wine and Nibbles
28th Dec	Members images & critique
4th Jan	Workshop Night with Chrissi Ratcliffe
11th Jan	Talk by Chris Palmer
25th Jan	Themed Assignment – Series of images

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

Peter Davis
Membership Secretary
Wycombe Photographic Society



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

The Club is being increasingly active, especially as Christmas approaches. Six new members have recently joined so, as our numbers swell, we are even better prepared for the upcoming "festivities".

The 26th of November is the date of the Princes Risborough Christmas Lights "switch-on", at which the Club provides individuals to help with the Town's road closures and a Stall offering Mulled Wine and Mince pies in exchange for donations to our Charity account. The 27th of November is the date for the Dedication of the Tree of Light in the Town Centre. This offers those who wish to remember family and friends who have passed away the opportunity to have their names displayed on boards alongside the Princes Risborough Christmas Tree. Donations that are received are shared with the Club's charity account and that of the Rennie Grove Hospice.

On the 4th of December a Christmas party will be held for the Bucks Young Carers. The Club has asked Father Christmas to attend (and he has accepted), it has also contributed over £500 towards the event. In addition, we are heavily involved in the organisation and funding of a Christmas lunch for the "over 75s", on the 10th of December at the Princes Centre (a facility which the Club helped purchase, and now supports, including the provision of 5 of the Centre's Trustees). Still on the theme of Christmas, if

you are shopping in the Town during the weekend of the 17th and 18th of December, or on Christmas eve, you will have the opportunity to donate to the Club, representatives of which will be looking forward to greeting you outside the M&S and Tesco stores. We won't be actively trying to recruit new members, but you are very welcome to ask about the Club.

The money we collect goes to numerous, primarily local, charities. Amongst which most recently we have given over £2500 to the Ukraine2Chilterns Charity (based in Loosley Row/Lacey Green) which is looking after over 120 Ukrainian refugees; £500 to the St Michaels and all Angels Hughenden Church, towards the cost of a motorised wheelchair and over £400 towards some more equipment for our Sensory Garden at the Princes Risborough Primary School. In the past 5 years we have been able to donate over £160,000.

If you wish to donate to the Club, or think you might be interested in joining, the following will be of help:

You can contact us here: rcpr.org.uk
or contact the Club President,
David White on 07787 750889
or email: david@dhwhite.plus.com.





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The Wheel

Congratulations to the Naphill Fireworks Committee and everyone else who helped for an yet another amazing display, and wow it was fantastic. The turnout was impressive even with the weather, we also had a very busy evening here in the pub and raised £454.15 and **1 Euro** from our donation buckets.

Chef's curry night was a great success and another date for your diary is Burns night on Wed 25th January which will be one sitting so please book early.

Everyone at The Wheel wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a wonderful festive season and I'm sure we'll see lots of you during the festive period. This year we have some Christmas present ideas for you, we now have Wheel Bobble Hats, Polo Shirts and Fleece Jackets to order from us.

During December as always, we have various bookings for Christmas parties, so please call to ensure we can accommodate you. Our festive opening hours are listed on this page but just a reminder that Boxing Day we will be closed all day (so we get to see our families too). New Year's Eve will be a brilliant evening with some live music and some party music later. This year's theme is nice and easy and is Black And White.



Festive Opening Hours

Christmas Eve	12pm – 12am (Food 12-2.45pm and 6-8.45pm)
Christmas Day	12pm-2.30pm (Drinks Only)
Boxing Day	Closed
Dec 27th – 30th	Normal Hours
New Year's Eve	12pm – 1.30am (Food 12-2.45pm and 6-8pm)
New Year's Day	4.30pm – 10.30pm (No Food)
Mon. 2nd Jan	Closed
Tues. 3rd onwards	Back to normal hours



Merry Christmas!



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Naphill Brownies

I do so love this time of year as we head through autumn towards Christmas. The brownies are having a very busy time.

We have been working on our first aid badge. We can now recognise different levels of consciousness, put our casualty into the recovery position and call 999. Our bandaging skills range from sprained ankles to Halloween mummies.



In preparation for Remembrance Day we made poppy lanterns at brownies.

It is always an honour to be part of the village Remembrance Service. We were incredibly proud of the brownies, who represented us brilliantly.

To support Children in Need, this week we have a bring-a-friend Scottish Country dancing night. Our thanks to James Fairbairn who will be guiding us through the dances. Good luck James!!

There is so much to look forward to before the end of term. Our District Christmas Craft Event will allow us to get in the festive spirit with our Guiding buddies of all ages from around the Hughenden District.

Hopefully we will also manage to fit in our Torchlit Night walk, which we had to postpone (due to wet weather) earlier in the term

If you know a girl aged 7-10 years old who would like to get involved in Brownies, do get in touch. You can either register interest via the Girlguiding website, or email me directly. We look forward to hearing from you.



Brown Owl

Ruth Daly

ruth.daly3@btinternet.com

Rob Butler MP

The end of the year is always a time for reflection; as autumn turns to winter and the festive season draws near, one thing we can all agree on is that we have seen much change since I last wrote for the Gazette. Our new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has pledged to bring stability back to the government after a tumultuous period, and I feel sure that we would all welcome a period of calm.

As a country we face many serious challenges, not least with the rise in the cost of living – much of it caused by Russia's illegal and inhumane invasion of Ukraine. The government has made a significant contribution to assist people through these difficult times, including a £400 grant and an energy price guarantee. There are other national and local schemes to help people who are struggling to cope, and I am always happy to signpost people to sources of assistance.

It's vitally important for me to hear the opinions of my constituents, and on my website I have a residents' survey

that I would encourage you to complete. As ever, if you want to express your views or require any assistance, please contact my office at rob.butler.mp@parliament.uk.

As a Member of Parliament, much of my time is necessarily spent dealing with national and international policies, but it has also been a busy time in the constituency. I was deeply honoured to lay a wreath at the War Memorial in Aylesbury on Remembrance Sunday. It is vitally important for us all to commemorate the sacrifice of those servicemen and women who fought for our right to be free from tyranny. This is all the more pertinent when we see what is happening in Ukraine and how it is absolutely imperative to ensure evil cannot triumph.

As this is the final edition of the Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette for 2022, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.



Rob Butler MP

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Shear Madness



I must admit it feels a bit strange writing this in November as the sunshine is streaming through the window but here goes.

Many of you will be on a tight budget this year with the cost of living hike. Christmas isn't about spending huge amounts on presents, my sister in law usually gives me some homemade chutney which I always look forward to. Think back to when you were a child, Christmas was about family not particularly the presents, although I loved my six million dollar man doll. If you have an elderly neighbour or someone living on their own, invite them over even if it is for a cup of tea and a chat, most of you will know that I give an extra long appointment time for those who want a chat as I might be the only person they see all week. Enjoy your little ones, I know that they will drive you crazy but that's half the fun, you will look back on those days with great fondness they really do grow up so quickly. I'm also sending huge love to those who will be missing someone special as we've lost a few this year.

Have a very happy Christmas and New Year !



Love as always

Mandy x



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Household budgets for many people are severely under strain due to the increasing cost of living. We are seeing the cost of everyday essentials rise faster than average incomes - leaving people with tough decisions about how to cover their bills.

Whilst the cost of living increase could lead to an increase in crime, equally worrying is the impact crime has on the victim when finances are already tighter than usual. Victims of crime can find themselves anything from a few pounds to tens of thousands of pounds out-of-pocket.

Taking simple measures, such as locking your windows, leaving indoor lights on a timer, double or deadlocking your doors, and having exterior lights on sensors, can significantly reduce your chances of being burgled.

During the winter months we tend to see an increase in burglaries; this is due to a number of factors such as the hours of darkness being used as a cover for intruders to carry out thefts; homes and businesses being stocked up with higher value items and gifts for the festive season and people travelling and socialising leaving their homes vacant.

As we rapidly approach Christmas and the subsequent sales, it's important to remain vigilant to scammers who unfortunately look to exploit the goodwill and festive spirit at this time of year.

LATEST SCAM: A number of recent cases have been reported to us of recorded phone messages being received that purport to be from banks, One such call came from Switzerland and another one was from Spain!

They refer to sizeable suspicious transactions that are to be debited to your account that same day. The messages invite you to press '1' if you approve of these transactions, or to press '2' if you don't approve them. It goes on to say that someone will speak to you if you press '2'. These messages are very similar to genuine messages from banks.

So, do take care if you encounter them and do feel free to phone your bank to ensure that you are dealing with genuine messages.

The New Year is a time to set new goals and positive lifestyle changes; what about starting 2023 by joining our Neighbourhood Watch community?

We send you all our Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a happy, safe, and healthy Christmas & New Year, from the Committee of Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association.



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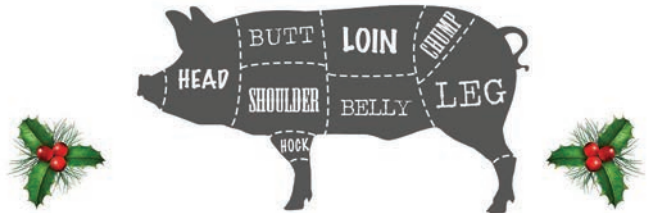
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The Black Lion

How time flies when you're having fun... We can't believe it's almost Christmas already! We've got some really exciting things coming up in December including our delicious Christmas Menu which is running through until New Years Eve! Thank you to everyone who has already enjoyed our special festive menu, we hope you've had a good meal and Christmas Party with us! Tables are still available to book on a pre order basis. We have no minimum size tables so whether you've got a date night for 2 or family gathering of 20 - you're welcome to enjoy our Christmas Menu!

Also, why not book a table for our Christmas Music Bingo on Saturday 17th December? Enjoy a great night with Christmas Sing-a-longs, dancing and fancy dress (Optional but definitely essential in our opinion!!). Tickets are £10 per entry which includes one Bingo Card and Festive Nibbles! Come along for 7.30pm for an 8pm start on the Bingo! Huge prizes to be won, the more people that enter, the bigger the prizes will be!

For the little ones, we have got Breakfast with Santa on 23rd December. The Big Man will be coming to join us from 10am and grabbing a bite to eat with us the day before heading off on his world wide tour! Not before

giving the little boys and girls an early Christmas Present of course! This event is available by booking only so please ensure you book to avoid missing out! To book you can either call us or head to the website and fill in the online form. At the time of writing, we already have quite a few booked in and spaces are limited!

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at the Black Lion. We thank you for your support in 2022 and we are looking forward to exciting things to come in 2023!

Thank you for taking the time to read,

Tanya, Jon and The Team at the Black Lion



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Naphill & Walter's Ash School



Meet Our School Media Team

Jessica

Hi, my name is Jess and I wanted to be on the Media Team because I enjoy writing and I thought it would be an interesting experience. I love to read and I like horses. I have my own horse named Jazz, who is a flea bitten grey, and is very cute and can smile!



photography courtesy Jonathan Hilder

Jack

My name is Jack and I am 10, nearly 11. I applied to be on the Media Team because I like and know a lot about the internet. I like football and gaming.

As a whole school, we have been making poppy work including: poetry, art and any types of crafts to display in our school hall, ready for Remembrance Day. (see below)

Vivi

My name is Vivi and I am 11 years old. I wanted to be on the Media Team because I like to write and find it fun. I like cats and I have my own one named Buddy. I also like art and I enjoy the lessons at school.

A happy Christmas and New Year to you all from us, and we will write some more in 2023!



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RAF High Wycombe Nepalese Heritage Centre

This year RAF High Wycombe officially opened The Nepalese Heritage Centre in a blaze of colour and joy. As a meeting place for contemplation and prayer, it reflects the high regard that the RAF base hold their Nepalese community. Traditional arts and crafts were made and donated by the Nepalese families as well as other contributors to give thanks. But before the Centre could be used for prayer and meditation, a Purification Ceremony for the gifts was required.

In this traditional ceremony, a Hindu Pandit Guru or 'Pujari' (priest) is called upon to perform a cleansing of the shrine and gifts through prayer and song. The Guru, Shivachandra Niraula, from the Queens Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment (QOGLR) in Aldershot is a fourth generation Guru who

can date his family's service back to 1890. During the ceremony candles are lit on the shrine to signify bringing light into your life, and milk, rice and sauces are sprinkled over effigies of Buddhist & Hindu gods to offer thanks. The congregation pray for the three powers of physical health, wealth, and knowledge. At the close of the ceremony the shrine, which points west, was offered flowers and grasses as a final act of thanks and gratitude. With purification complete, meditation and prayer can now commence.

The invited guests were warmly welcomed by the Guru and members of the Nepalese community on base in traditional dress, before being offered sumptuous Nepalese food and lively conversation.

A Christmas Message from Padre Andi

At this time of year, I have always had a slight frustration with the telling of the Christmas Story. Ever since being a young child I was told that the Shepherds and the Wise Men came to the manger side to worship the newly born King, Jesus Christ. Even in the 1970's movie 'Life of Brian' we see the Kings being present, initially at the wrong manger, yet soon found their way to the correct stable.

In the Bible, the story is quite different. We find the Shepherds are informed about the birth of Jesus by that most astonishing being from all creation, an Angel, not just any old angel, but the Archangel Gabriel (Luke 2). These were men who were simple folk, doing an underpaid job in difficult circumstances. The Wise men arrive, after the birth of Jesus while the Holy Family were in a house (Matthew 2); they had to study many books and interpret the stars to come and see Jesus. I have often thought about the great contrast between these two groups of people and how they came to meet Jesus. As someone who is a believer in these stories, I take great peace from them. Sometimes it is in the living of a simple life that we can draw close

to the divine nature. Sometimes we can overly complicate our lives with material concerns which no longer allow us to draw close to that which is important.

It has always been my hope that I may have the simple faith of the Shepherds, to simply follow the command of the angels, rather than be the one who is caught up in study. Yet, I suspect the world with which I inhabit draws me to become more like that of the wise men; with the media input, emails and WhatsApp messages. It is my hope that this Christmas, with all the hustle and bustle of the world, that I may seek some simplicity to stop and observe the world around me, and perhaps be like the Shepherds, simply watching and being, so that in those moments I may see something miraculous. I hope this is something that you may also have time to do during this festive period.

Peace and every blessing this Christmas,



Rev'd. Andi Chapman

Stn Chaplain, RAF High Wycombe.



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Naphill Tennis Club

The mild November weather ensured lots of play on the courts last month. The low afternoon sun meant sunglasses were de rigueur to cut out the dazzle so it felt more like summer than autumn. Long may it continue!

Our AGM took place on 14th NOVEMBER at The Black Lion in Naphill. We had a lower turnout than usual which made us wonder if members had headed for The Black Horse in Lacey Green instead of The Black Lion. All these black animals can be very confusing!



On **SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER**, we will be holding our 'Festive Tennis' with mulled wine and mince pies from 11 am. Everyone is most welcome but make sure you wear some Christmas 'bling'. We particularly hope our newer members will join us for some light-hearted tennis.

As usual, you can follow us on our website: www.naphilltennisclub.org.uk or on our Naphill Tennis Club Facebook page. For details of membership, email: naphilltennismembership@gmail.com or phone 07905 226203.



Jenny Tench



We wish you a Merry Christmas!

On behalf of the Tennis Club, I should like to wish everyone, especially our editorial team, a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

Jenny

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents' Association - Speed Watch

One of the activities undertaken by NAWARA is coordinating the Community Speed Watch Volunteers.

Why volunteer for Speed Watch (SW)?

There is a misconception that if you live in a rural area, you are safer on the roads than in an urban area. However, fatalities are four times more likely to happen in a rural area than in an urban area. The vast majority of homes in Naphill and Walters Ash straddle the straight Main Road. Excessive speed of the passing traffic is not just a matter of road safety but also a quality of life of issue. It causes increased vibration, noise and a feeling of being unsafe when using the road recreationally.

However, let's be honest, when some of us see SW volunteers doing a session our reaction is "Wannabe police officers" or "Policing on the cheap". Can we stop you there. SW is exclusively an education scheme. Statistics based on years of collated SW data show that an educational approach to changing drivers' behaviour works in the vast majority of cases. Hands up all those who went on a speed awareness course and actually learnt something that changed their driving behaviour (I hope that's all of you!).

Community volunteers are trained to use equipment to detect traffic through the villages not complying with the legal speed limit. The data collected is transferred to TVP who communicate directly with the vehicle

owners to remind them of the speed limits. There is a visual separation between the community volunteers and the police to protect the volunteers' integrity. The automatically generated data helps police to identify persistent offenders who would in the first instance be offered a speed awareness course but those beyond educational reach who would be a target for law enforcement. CSW online also collates DVLA data automatically about Vehicle Tax, MOT and SORN status allowing police to target those road users who do not pay their fair share for road use.

If after reading this you would like to get involved with Speed Watch and can spare an hour a month, please contact John Russell on 01494 563015. Training will be given, you will need to pass a very simple TVP test and ex speed offenders welcome!

Next Meeting:

The committee would like to wish all the residents' of Naphill and Walter's Ash a very Happy Christmas.

The date of our next meeting at Naphill Village Hall is 12th December 2022 at 7.30pm. All residents' welcome.



Bartha Pitman

NAWARA Chair
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Gordon the Bird Man

What do Little Owls, Canada Geese, Gadwall and Ring Necked Parakeets all have in common? Well, they were all introduced to the U.K. and are therefore non-native species. Over the years, together with a variety of other introduced species including Egyptian Goose and Pheasant they have become part of the established fauna we might expect to see while birdwatching. The motives behind these historical introductions include releases for sport in the cases of Pheasant and Red Legged Partridge, or for more ornamental reasons such as Mandarin Duck or Canada Goose. Many historical introductions occurred at a time when the full impact of such initiatives was little understood. These days, introductions have to be conducted under license. Not all historical introductions were successful and over the years a variety of species such as Chukar and Bobwhite have failed to become established. Escapes from private collections account for some non-natives that have become more numerous recently, such as the Eagle Owl.

The British Ornithologists Union is responsible for maintaining the British List (the official list of wild birds recorded in Great Britain) and assigns non-natives to category "E", species that have been recorded as introductions, transporters or escapees from captivity and whose British breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. This category now contains almost 300 species and these species that have occurred here in an unnatural state do not count towards the official British list.

Whilst some of these introduced species sit alongside our native species without causing any apparent issues, some do invariably have a negative impact. This ranges from competition for food and nest sites to interbreeding.

The official British List, as of August 2021, stands at 627 species. These are made up of 609 species in category "A", eight species in category "B" and 10 species in category "C".

Category A includes species recorded in a natural state at least once since January 1st 1950.

Category B includes species recorded in a natural state at least once between January 1st 1800 and December 31st 1949 but not subsequently.

Category "C" includes species that though introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations (species that have occurred only as a result of introduction and species successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite).

Category "D" is for species where there is reasonable doubt that the species occurred in a natural state.

Category "E" is for species that have been recorded as introductions, human assisted transportees or escapees from captivity whose populations are not self-sustaining.



Gordon.

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Lindengate Mental Health Charity is home to two Gold Award Winning Exhibits from RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Located across a stunning six acre wildlife garden in Wendover, Buckinghamshire, Lindengate promotes better health and wellbeing for all through nature. Providing nature based seasonal activities for schools, young people, anyone needing support with low to moderate mental health, as well as those living with dementia and memory loss and their carers.

With a dedicated team and over 200 volunteers, the six acre site is home to a Heritage Orchard, Nature Reserve, Kitchen Gardens and 2 RHS Chelsea Gold Award Winning Exhibits and is open to all to come and experience the sights and sounds of nature.

Taking pride of place in The Clare Foundation Nature Reserve, is a recently completed project, the donated Chelsea Gold Award winning, A Rewilding Britain Landscape garden designed by Urquhart & Hunt in support of Rewilding. This incredible donation has enabled Lindengate to create a new conservation pond and landscape with a purpose built hide, which is now ready for everyone to come and admire.

In addition, there is a second Chelsea Gold Award winning exhibit to be found at Lindengate. Nature – A Fragile Beauty was part of an award winning floral installation which won Gold at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021 by the brilliantly talented, In Water Flowers' florist company based in London.

Lindengate were delighted to be awarded two prestigious awards in 2022, the first being the Queens Award for Voluntary Services. Equivalent to an MBE, this award is the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK and is awarded for life.

Following on from this success, Lindengate were also awarded the much-coveted Green Flag Community Award, in recognition of the hard work and dedication of the team that make the green space a great space that everyone can enjoy.

Come and see for yourself – we are open:

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Whilst entry is free, we ask that you consider a suggested donation of £5 per person, to help us to continue to support our community and environment.

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New Groups, Exciting Monthly Meetings and Outings



New Geology Group -rock solid attendance

On Monday 7th November our u3a launched a new Geology Group. Over 20 members attending, including several people new to the u3a. Appropriately, Rock Cakes and Rocky Road were served as one of the refreshment options.

Our convenors adopted for our first meeting the advice of Julie Andrews that "We should start at the very beginning", some 4.6 billion years ago. They also introduced their programme for December and 2023. We promised you do not need any prior knowledge in the area, just an interest in how our earth and human beings developed from an amazing past.

New Local History Group visited Haddenham Museum in late November.



We all enjoyed an interesting talk on the museum and history of Haddenham.

The museum's focus is on domestic, industrial and rural life. If you missed our visit, the museum is well worth a visit! Plus, normally on a Tuesday morning (see Haddenham Museum's web site for opening hours), the refreshments served in the adjacent church are excellent.

We've more visits planned for 2023 to exciting new 'local' places. Why not come along?

Find out more about our u3a's Local History Group. We're confident you'll make some new friends.

On 17th November you may have spotted our u3a stand at the 'Turning on of the High Wycombe Christmas Lights' ceremony. Well done if you won a prize in our tombola.



If you would like to see and meet Jay Blades (from the Repair Shop), Jay will be planting a tree to celebrate u3a's 40th Anniversary.

When? Friday 9th December, at approximately 2pm.

Where? In the grounds of the Wycombe Chair Museum, Priory Avenue, HP13 6PX.

Paul Gilliam

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New Years Eve Traditions

As this is the end of year edition of the Gazette I thought it would be fun to look at some of the peculiar seasonal traditions for welcoming in the New Year from around various parts of the world.

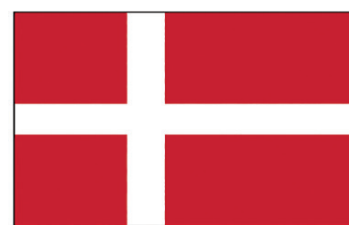


Here in the UK the evening will most likely be spent in the pub with friends and neighbours, counting down to midnight, and singing Auld Lang Syne..... Either that or sat at home watching Jools Hollands' "Hootenanny" while knocking back a few Baileys on ice.

It was always common to bring a lump of coal indoors, to signify keeping the fire burning and the house warm. A tradition that goes back to the times of the Druids when fires were deemed sacred.



The Spanish eat twelve grapes, which symbolize each strike of the clock at midnight. Called las doce uvas de la suerte, it's a ritual started in the 19th century that is believed to ward off evil and ensure a prosperous new year. But you have to be quick. All the grapes must be eaten before the clock strikes midnight.



The Danes have a rather odd tradition of smashing plates. The plates are stacked up on the front porch during the year. They are then thrown at the front doors of friends and family. They believe that the more smashed crockery you have on your doorstep, the more luck and good fortune will fall upon you during the ensuing year.



For Greeks it's all about onions. After going to the church service on New Years Day they will hang an onion on the front door. It represents fertility and growth due to the vegetables ability to sprout on its own accord.

There are quite a few traditions that definitely look towards the philosophy of 'out with the old'.



In India they burn an effigy of an old man at midnight. This symbolizes the passing of grievances from the old year and allows a clear path for the new year to be born. In Ecuador they have a similar tradition using a paper filled scarecrow. Argentines shred all old documentation from the year and throw it out of their windows, like confetti. Italians take it a step further and throw out any soft furnishings, cushions, blankets, and anything that no longer brings them joy.



In Colombia they observe the tradition of aguero. Three potatoes are placed under each family members bed. One is peeled, one unpeeled, and one only partially peeled. At midnight everyone reaches for a potato with their eyes closed. Depending of which one you retrieve you can expect a year of good fortune, financial difficulties, or a mixture of both. You can probably also expect chips for dinner on New Years Day. No bad thing, as I have always found a big bowl of salty chips the cornerstone of a robust hangover cure.

2023!

*I am sure there will be a few of those about come New Years Day.
Enjoy your NYE celebrations..... however you spend them.*

happy new year

Mike Beckley
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