



# Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

May 2023

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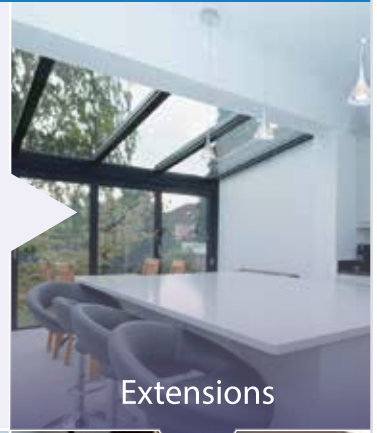
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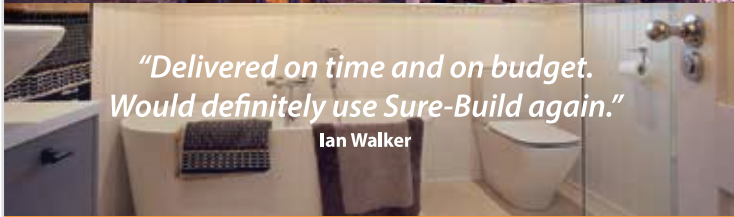


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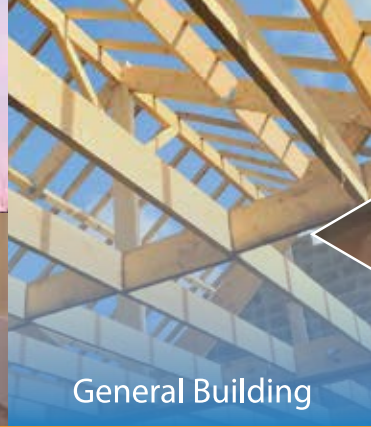
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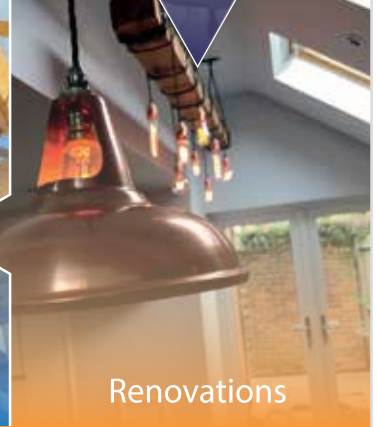


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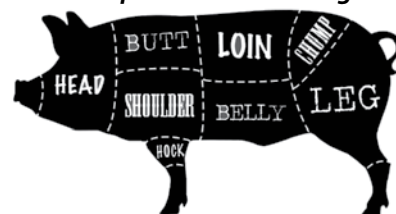
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# Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette May 2023



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

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Jonathan Hilder email: assistant.editor@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

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

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

**DISTRIBUTION COORDINATORS:** Paul & Joanne Hewitt email: distribution@naphillandwaltersash.org.uk

**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:** Turville Printing Services -01494 520322

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### *Our Local Clubs and Organisation Contacts*

Beavers	Tony Bobbin	01494 447121	naphillbeaverscouts@gmail.com
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
Men's Club	Andrew Wasilewski	01494 562770	naphillmensclub@yahoo.co.uk
Residents Association	Gloria LeFlaive	01494 563634	glorialeflaive@msn.com
Naphill Neighbours	Janet Judge	01494 563186	
Scouts (Naphill)	Adrian Curtis		naphill@chilternvalescouts.org.uk
Tennis Club	Jenny Tench	01494 562282	jttench@gmail.com
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# Naphill Village Hall



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Email: [chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chairman@naphillvillagehall.org.uk)

**Bookings** - Tanya Stevens

Email: [hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@naphillvillagehall.org.uk)

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## Local Council Contact Information

Bradenham Parish Council Clerk	Deirdre Hanson	01494 562254	<a href="mailto:clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com">clerkbradenhampc@gmail.com</a>
Hughenden Parish Council	Clerk Vacant	01494 715296	<a href="mailto:clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk">clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk</a>
Hughenden Parish Councillors	Usha Prashar	07778 141920	<a href="mailto:usha.prashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk">usha.prashar@hughenden-pc.gov.uk</a>
Hughenden Parish Councillors			
Hughenden Parish Councillor	Chris Janes		<a href="mailto:chris.janes@hughenden-pc.gov.uk">chris.janes@hughenden-pc.gov.uk</a>
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Steve Broadbent	07471 144181	<a href="mailto:Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">Steve.Broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Buckinghamshire Councillor	David Carroll	01494 716967	<a href="mailto:David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">David.Carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>
Buckinghamshire Councillor	Clive Harris	07768 876568	<a href="mailto:Clive.Harris@buckinghamshiregov.uk">Clive.Harris@buckinghamshiregov.uk</a>

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Shaw Clinic - Genitourinary Medicine	Genitourinary Medicine	01494 425430
Hearing Clinic Wycombe Hospital	Self refer	01494 526161
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### Copy Date June Gazette 15 May 2023

**Editorial:** MAY! The old saying says, "Time flies when you are having fun". I am not too sure about the fun element, but this week of "putting the Gazette together" has certainly flown by! The big hope is that you, our readers, will enjoy!

May 6th is Coronation day! Being OLD I have fondest memories of the last coronation over 70 years ago. The world is now a very different place, modern televisions, digital technology and reporting will certainly make it much easier for us all to view and so appreciate the ceremony and celebrations. I hope that many lovely memories will be created for everybody over the coronation weekend!

There are no big coronation community celebrations planned on the crick or at our village hall, sadly there were no volunteers to organise any events. BUT! As they have so often done before, our local pubs are doing their very best to "fill the gaps", just what would we do without them! Please support their efforts!

**The Wheel:** CoRONation Fest - 6 May,  
please see page 31 for details.

**The Black Lion:** Coronation Day BRUNCH - 6 May  
Family Day - Coronation Bank Holiday Monday  
please see page 33 for details.

**Hughenden Church** invites us to join in their events, please see page 24. I am sure there will be street parties and other local events, please send reports and photos for inclusion in the June Gazette.

**VOLUNTEERS!** This is an ongoing request! You see I do remember the busy life, working full time whilst juggling family life, I certainly couldn't have managed to do the Gazette. I did manage to help at charity events, just for a few hours, once in a while. We have NapFest coming up and all our events need volunteers, if it is just an hour or two on the day, please help!

Recently there have again been reports regarding feeding the red kites and pointing out the dangers this practice poses to all of us who enjoy eating in our garden and also to our pets. I refer you to the Chiltern Conservation Board advice and respectfully ask anybody still feeding the kites to refrain from doing so!

*'Red kites can survive well in the Chilterns without artificial feeding, so it is not necessary to supplement their diet. It is feared that providing too much additional food can prevent the population from spreading naturally and cause the birds to cluster in large numbers where food is offered. The Chilterns Conservation Board urges the public not to feed red kites. We believe they should be left to feed naturally in the wider countryside, thus enabling them to find a naturally sustainable level.'*  
<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/about-chilterns/red-kites/red-kite-faqs.html#Q9>

My thanks to all our contributors and to Jonathan for so many photos. Enjoy the coronation and I look forward to speaking to you all again in the June Gazette.

Sonia

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# Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council Chairman's Report

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On 3rd April the village hall committee met for a short meeting prior to the AGM and the following items were discussed/reported:

Heating System - This is not working efficiently in either hall. Following consultation with 2 different plumbers it was agreed that the best way forward is to have the main and small hall repiped over the summer so that the 1940's gravity fed system, will be replaced with a modern sealed pressure system. We are awaiting quotes.

Roof Repairs - There was a small leak to the the Mens' Club roof caused by damage to the apex roofing tiles on bay window all of which has all been fixed.

Playground Equipment - It was decided that the swings should be repaired at a cost of over £2000 and we hope that will prolong their life for a few years. It was noted that most of the equipment was coming to an end of its expected life and money would have to be spent each year to keep it open. We would like to have a grant from Hughenden Parish but with the council's problems it has not been possible to achieve this to date.

Storage Concerns - Storage is needed for the fete, music night and fireworks equipment. It has been suggested that a container is sited at the other side of the tennis courts. The committee will get more details in due course.

Trees on the Crick - The 2 trees that were condemned have been felled and we will be looking to plant replacements. The fundraising events are going ahead but we could do with more volunteers to help.

Fundraising Events - We are looking forward to the Music Night on 9th June a village Fete day will held on Saturday 10th June and Classics on the 11th June.

## Chairman's AGM Report

At the AGM I reported that following the COVID restrictions, 2022 had seen the village hall returning to "normal working" as follows:

Hall Lettings - Initially the village hall bookings were slow but most of the regular lettings have returned. There has been some problems with one off lettings where there have been last minute cancellations, we are considering charging deposits for these lettings.

Running and Maintenance - This has been working smoothly. The largest outlay has been for the two new boilers. These cost £29,400.00 including VAT. Further work on the hall has included repairing leaks to the

hall roof and making good the damage caused. This involved replacing ceiling tiles, and fixing/repainting the cleaners' cupboard.

Playground Area - This has had £1000 worth of bark chippings added and raked. After the regular safety inspection, the swings were condemned because the timber was rotting. We are getting quotes to undertake this work but it is likely that they will need to be replaced. The benches in the playground area were replaced with new stainless steel ones and it appears there is more work to be done in this area.

Car Park - The section outside the Scout and Guides building was resurfaced.

The Crick - A tree survey was carried out and two trees were condemned and will be removed.

Leases - The committee have been discussing the tennis club lease and also Bon Ami lease. The Bon Ami lease was passed to a solicitor to draw up and the draft lease is now in our possession, once we have evaluated the lease it will be put in place. The tennis club is slightly different and discussions have been held between the committee and the tennis club and it appears that a way forward has been found without resorting to a solicitor.

Village Hall Committee - During 2022 a trial of a smaller committee was held but after 6 months it was decided that we should revert back to the original format. During 2022 the village hall policies have been reviewed and revised where applicable, these include safeguarding, health and safety, data protection, equality and diversity.

Fund Raising Events - During 2022 there was the fete, the fireworks, the Christmas fayre plus donations for the tree lights. Unfortunately the music event was cancelled in respect to the Royal family for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A total of £32,825 was raised from these events. This fantastic amount that means that the hall and crick can be kept in a good order. I should like to express my personal thanks and that of the village hall committee, to the various committee groups that have organised these events and to all the volunteers who have given time and effort to make these fundraising events so successful! Without this funding the village hall would not be the asset that it is for our villages.

*Clive Lawrence*



Chairman Naphill Village Hall

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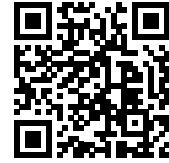
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*Jonathan Hilder*  
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The Parish Council has been active in a number of practical areas that we hope will be of benefit to our residents.

After many years of uncertainty regarding the ownership and ongoing responsibilities for streetlights in Widmer End, the Council voted to adopt the streetlights and has subsequently started on repair work where needed. The Council would like to thank those residents who have served on the Working Group that has got to grips with these long-standing issues.

The Parish owns about 20 plots of land; meadows, woodland, sports fields, allotments etc and we wish to manage these in a more environmentally sensitive way. As a first step we have awarded a one-year Grounds Maintenance contract to Spruced Up, a local company well-known to many residents. We will use this year to develop longer term management plans for each of our locations, in consultation with local residents, ready for the next round of contracting.

The local environment was the central topic for our Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on 25th April at Great Kingshill Village Hall. Parishioners were invited to join us for presentations and discussions about roads, traffic and the local ecology.

In collaboration with local residents, the Council has started an experiment with mini-allotments at Primrose Hill in Widmer End. We wish to make allotments more attractive to those who struggle to maintain a full-sized plot, especially schoolchildren. We are making the mini-allotments available for just £15 a year, and we hope this will bring joy, colour and fresh, home-grown food to more of our parishioners.

There remain a few issues that are hangovers from the lockdowns and the disruption in the Council's operation a year or so ago. One of these issues was the paperwork we undertake in support of burials at our Garden of Rest. Although burials themselves were carried out as they should, the Council had fallen behind on some of its record-keeping. We know that on a few occasions this caused relatives of the deceased some upset, and we are very sorry for that. With the help of a very experienced burials clerk, Emma Marsden, we have now brought our records up to date, and we'd like to thank Emma for her assistance.

The Parish Council has responded to Buckinghamshire Council's first steps towards a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for the North-West Chilterns. In principle, Hughenden Parish Council is in favour of encouraging people to take more exercise by walking, horse riding and cycling. We have emphasised that proposed infrastructure development must balance the benefit of new cycleways with the use of the footpaths and bridleways by other users and with the impact it has on the environment. ***Our main reservation is the suggested "Greenway" which cuts through the AONB on National Trust land around Hughenden Manor. The Greenway runs alongside the rare chalk stream and could cause it long term damage. There will also be safety considerations around grazing and lambing sheep and dog walkers.***

We welcome a new Councillor for Widmer End Ward, Sam Thomas, who joined the Council in March. We do have one vacancy for Councillors in each Ward.

Currently, we have an experienced temporary Assistant Clerk, Liz Howard, in the office 5 days a week, and very experienced part-time Clerk, Louise Steele 2 days a week. Louise and Liz are holding the fort until our new permanent Clerk, Alice Fisher, takes over in May. For those parishioners who sometimes join us at Council Meetings, please bear in mind that from May 16th, Council Meetings will be taking place on the third Tuesday of each month.

*Gareth Cadwallader*

Chair Hughenden Parish Council

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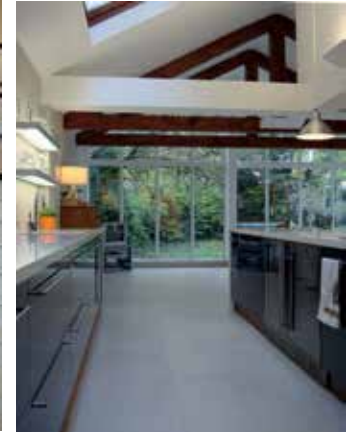
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## Friends of Naphill Common

I'm writing this at Easter, and spring has definitely arrived. Chiffchaffs – one of those birds that, like the Cuckoo, sings its own name: “chiff, chaff; chiff, chaff” – have returned from Africa. The males, an unassuming greyish bird about the size of a Great Tit, announce their territories from the tops of trees, where they are easily visible before the leaves come out. Great Tits have a similarly repetitive territorial call: “TEACH-er; TEACH-er”, but the two notes are not given equal emphasis and have a purer tone – a flute to the Chiffchaff’s oboe.

The butterflies – those that over-winter as adults, rather than eggs or pupas – have also started to emerge from their winter shelters, starting with the Brimstones, whose males have bright yellow wings (hence their name), while those of the females are off-white (the undersides of both are pale green, giving them good camouflage amid the emerging leaves). The adults need to mate so that, after the caterpillars have grown fat on buckthorn plants, the new brood of adults can emerge in August, prior to seeking shelter for another seven months of hibernation, their life-cycle making them one of our longest-lived butterflies. The other common early butterflies are the Red Admiral and the Small Tortoiseshell.

The Tuesday morning FoNC working party has finished working on Daisy, Lady Horse and Willow Ponds for the winter period, as amphibians have returned. We are now focusing our attention on Shipwash Pond (believed to have been originally called Sheep Wash Pond but mis-recorded at some point in the distant past). This pond was very overgrown, and in March 2015 – with the help of students from the Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA)

at Burchett’s Green, who came with a chain saw, saws and loppers and lots of muscle power – we were able to clear the area.

Since then, everything has regrown, and the pond is at a stage whereby, if we did nothing, it might soon become past restoring. To this end we will be working most of the summer on clearing the shrubs, saplings, brambles and clearing out some of the many extraction pits that make up this pond. We have been very fortunate in that the National Trust have loaned us, on a short loan, a ‘Tree-Popper’ which is a piece of kit that can more easily remove saplings without having to dig them out. In the past we have cut them down only for them to regrow.

The Thursday morning working party has almost finished clearing holly from the section of woodland running from the Downley Road footpath to a point just beyond Chapel Lane. Mowing will soon recommence, now the grass is growing again. West Wycombe Estate have felled a couple of dead trees that we thought were dangerous, as they were immediately adjacent to the bridle path.

If you wish to join either of these regular working parties, our web site (where our walking and other activities are also listed) has all the contact details:

<http://www.naphillcommon.org.uk/activities.html>

Because both working parties are dependent on the weather, it’s always best to check with the organisers before heading off!

*Chris Miller*

Chairman





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## Creating a stronger community

Hughenden Street Association has been nominated for a Proud of Bucks Award. Naturally, the team is delighted and honoured to have been shortlisted to join a group of voluntary organisations across the County whose contributions are acknowledged by this Award. It is timely to provide an insight into why we volunteer. For Association volunteers it is about creating and sustaining better connected, supportive/supported, stronger and friendlier communities across the Parish. This is multi-faceted: it is about being friendly towards each other, being there if needed without intruding, being mindful of the needs of others as well as feeling that we are making a positive difference to daily life in our communities.

Hughenden Parish is one of the largest in Buckinghamshire covering five distinct community hubs: Bryants Bottom, Great Kingshill, Hughenden Valley, Naphill & Walters Ash, and Widmer End. Each hub's make-up is unique ranging from (definitely) rural to semi-urban. We share a fabulous location nestling in the Chilterns in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are fortunate to have many activities going on across the Parish most of which depend upon volunteers. You can find out more using the Bucks Online Directory: <https://bit.ly/3lvrsqw>

An important way in which Hughenden Street Association measures its success is the extent to which we engage with and support other community groups.

These include Great Kingshill Village Hub, Hughenden Valley Climate Group and the NAWA Gazette. With strong links with St Michael's & All Angels Church the Association is keen to promote all the various events going on across the Parish during the year. Through our weekly newsletter we also share key information from Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch and national groups including Hedgehog Street and the Great Get Together Campaign set up in memory of the murdered MP Jo Cox. Our team will be attending community events across the Parish (including Napfest!) so why not come over and say hello? Our volunteers are a friendly bunch and would be happy to chat.

Looking forward to meeting you!

*The next Pub Lunch is on Wednesday 17th May, at the Black Lion, Naphill, starting at 12.30pm. It is essential that you book your place(s) with Susan in advance. tel: 07880 519323*

*The next Afternoon Social is on Monday 22nd May, Bon Ami Café, 2.00pm-3.30pm for more details contact Susan tel: 07880 519323*

*Hilda Stearn*

Communications Co-ordinator

07808 229476

[hughendensa@gmail.com](mailto:hughendensa@gmail.com)



## Naphill Neighbours



### **Our Coach Trip to Stratford on Avon Tuesday, June 20th Cost is £23**

*A few places left. If you would like to join us please call Yvonne Cook - 01494 563960. Full payment is expected on booking but, if you are unable to attend, the amount less the deposit will be returned if appropriate.*

### **Our News:**

Some thirty members enjoyed an afternoon of Easter bingo; enjoyment aided by hot cross buns!!! It was a fun afternoon with prizes of Easter eggs for completed lines or a full house.

The event provided an opportunity for catching up with gossip and news. When we have a speaker there is not always an opportunity for a 'catch up'.



*Our next meeting is on Monday May 8th at 2pm as usual. The speaker is Heather Stanley whose talk title is "Homeless Connection".*

*Peggy Ewart  
565969*





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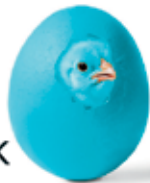
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## Tackling Antisocial Behaviour!

Antisocial behaviour is a term used to describe actions that are disruptive, harmful, or offensive to other individuals or the community as a whole. It can include anything from vandalism and graffiti to violence and aggression. Such behaviour not only creates an unpleasant and sometimes dangerous environment, but it can also negatively impact the mental and physical well-being of those affected. It is, therefore, important to recognize, record, and report it.

The first step is recognizing it when it occurs. This may not always be easy, as some forms of antisocial behaviour can be subtle or go unnoticed. However, there are certain signs to look out for, such as aggressive behaviour, property damage, noise disturbance, and threatening language. There is a fine line between antisocial behaviour and neighbour disputes, which can often begin over relatively minor inconveniences such as parking. However, if they persist, they can potentially become anti-social behaviour.

Once antisocial behaviour has been recognized, it is important to record as much information about the incident as possible. This can include the time and location, a description of the person or persons involved, and any witnesses who may have seen what happened. Taking photographs or video footage of the incident can also be useful in providing evidence.

Reporting such incidents to the relevant authorities is crucial. This could include the police, local council, or housing association. Always report to the police first of all and, whilst it is fine to report incidents as being repetitive, repeated reporting will add to the impact. Reporting such behaviour not only allows the authorities to take action to address the situation, but it can also help to prevent future incidents.

It is important to remember that reporting should not be seen as a form of retaliation or punishment. Rather, it is a way to address behaviour that is harmful or disruptive to the community as a whole and reporting it can help to create a safer and more pleasant environment for everyone.

One of the most effective ways to combat antisocial behaviour is through the establishment of a neighbourhood watch scheme. Neighbourhood watch is a community-led initiative that aims to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour by encouraging residents to look out for each other and report any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities.

Learn more about preventing this and other crimes by joining Neighbourhood Watch!

[office@wdnhwatch.plus.com](mailto:office@wdnhwatch.plus.com)

## Valley Players - "All for one and one for all"

Ok, hands up who knows which story the title quote comes from?

Yes, you at the back there, quite right "The Three Musketeers"!

Now for the "oops" moment. In our last article we advertised our Picnic and Play (8th and 9th July) as being a Sherlock Holmes story however due to some of our members being unavailable we are not able to cast the show. However, we are delighted to present for your entertainment, "The Three Musketeers" written by James Barry.

It is a light hearted romp through the famous story, very suitable for an outdoors show in the height of Summer with a glass of something cool in your hand, while eating your picnic.

So look forward to seeing if Porthos, Athos and Aramis, can stop the dastardly Cardinal Richelieu

from deposing the Queen of France! (With a little help from D'Artagnan).

If you are on our mailing list details will be sent, if not watch our website, banners and [www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk](http://www.valleyplayershughenden.co.uk), and tickets will be available from our partners Ticket Source from June 1st. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Recently we did a Charity murder mystery performance for Rennie Grove Hospice Care in the Naphill Village Hall. The evening was a huge success and we helped raise £980 for the Charity. Thanks to everyone who supported us and had terrific entertainment also!



*Andrew Pitman*  
(Chair, Valley Players)

[valleyplayershughenden.co.uk](http://valleyplayershughenden.co.uk),



Local Tales - *Fisticuffs.*

I hope you agree that looking back at far off days often brings to mind long forgotten memories of characters and events that make you smile. To me as a lad, the ways of adults seemed bewildering and amusing. One such happening involved the furniture workshop in the photograph. This was Widgington's old factory, said to be the first furniture workshop in High Wycombe. It was demolished in 1959, but until then, had been part of Nicholls and Janes, the furniture makers in St Mary Street, where I did my apprenticeship as a draughtsman in the 50's. At the time of the photograph, the upper part of the workshop was being used by the wood carvers. Les Harvey stands at the top of the ladder and John Hudson at the bottom. John was the master carver, and I never quite drew the elaborate carving on some pieces we made, without his correction.

The company had a sprawling of workshops on both sides of the street and their uses changed from time to time. Widgington's shop was one of them, and at the time of the events I recall, it was occupied by two individuals that really didn't get on. Upstairs was a rather crochety cabinet maker I'll call Fred, while the workshop underneath was a rather mischievous chap in charge of the stores, I'll call Bill. Both middle aged, they were best kept apart.



What kept them apart physically, was a creaky wooden floor. A floor for Fred but ceiling for Bill. One day Bill, bored and rather tired of hearing Fred's heavy tread overhead, traced the footsteps going the length of the workshop to where he knew Fred's bench was.



Bill remembered that there was a knothole in the floor right by Fred's bench. He looked up and could not see daylight through the hole and so guessed that Fred must be standing over it. He happened to have to hand a six-foot length of dowel from his store. He gently threaded the dowel through the knothole. By sheer chance the dowel went up a leg of Fred's trousers and eventually touched Fred's leg behind his knee. Fred, alarmed by what he thought must be a mouse, leapt to one side striking at the invader. This resulted in the dowel ripping Fred's trouser leg for its entire length.

There followed uncontrolled mirth from Bill and anger and abuse from Fred. The noise made others, including me, aware of the fracas. Fred, of course, was determined to get retribution and he challenged Bill to a fight, a fight to take place during the lunch hour in the timber yard behind the workshop (now under the Buckinghamshire New University). I, and a number of others, hearing of the proposed bout, assembled to watch. The yard was quite a size with stacks of planks, seasoning sometimes for many years amongst long grass and stinging nettles. The adversaries stood

beside one of the timber stacks. They both solemnly removed their false teeth and placed them on their respective end of the top plank of the pile beside them. They turned to face each other, standing stern and tall, raising their fists.

They certainly meant to fight but seemed to show some uncertainty about the way to do it. They began to dance about, engage in a sort of shadow sparring without either of them actually landing a blow. The dance became more agitated as they circled each other and waved their arms. Unfortunately Fred, the more agitated of the two, nudged the pile of boards with his rear. This caused his false teeth to fall in amongst the stinging nettles. The 'fighting' then stopped while they both rummaged amongst the nettles for some time, to retrieve the dentures. This joint retrieval of the teeth seemed to serve as a means of having seen justice done. Fred shrugged as if justified and Bill as if at least his teeth had come out on top. We all wandered off – me bewildered and amused.

*Phillip Hussey.*

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## Gordon the Bird Man

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With modern gardens getting ever smaller the options for wildlife gardening also diminish. However, even the smallest of gardens will have fences and a wall.

The ability of plants to climb is a trait we can put to full use in the garden. Growing plants up walls, fences, obelisks, pergolas or the outside of houses allows us to dramatically increase the volume of leaf and flower to be grown. Using the vertical space like this is something that can improve every garden but is especially useful where space is at a premium. In addition to hiding a stark fence, climbers can also be a boon for wildlife and fulfil the basic equation that more plants equals more wildlife. We can further boost the benefit by ensuring we choose climbers that offer woody stems, those climbers with a permanent network of sturdy growth create a strong framework that can support all sorts of bird roosting and nesting sites. Dense foliage offers a wealth of hiding places for insects and hence becomes a hunting ground for Robins, Tits and Wrens seeking to winkle them out. Evergreen



foliage will provide cover all year and is an ideal place for birds to find shelter during the worst of winter weather. Some butterflies also overwinter in such dense cover.

Nectar rich blossom – A lot of climbing plants have flowers full of pollen and nectar, single flowered, not double flowered blowsy ones with hard-to-find or non-existent stamens and nectaries.

Berries – Some climbing plants extend their bounty for wildlife by producing succulent fruit. Ivy has berries full of fats. Honeysuckle and Cotoneaster produce attractive red berries.

What's more, if you cover the walls of the house with climbers, the microclimate against the warm brickwork can be like an electric blanket for wildlife. It will also

help insulate your house, keeping it warmer in winter and reflecting summer heat.

Plants to use – Ivy, Honeysuckle, Climbing Hydrangea, species Roses, Boston Ivy, Wisteria, Clematis, Golden Hop, Passiflora.

*Gordon.*



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## College Lake

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## Summer Days Out

It's getting close to that time of year again. School summer holidays are only a few weeks away and the search for new places to take the kids for inexpensive and stimulating days out begins. Given how nice the weather was over Easter weekend we took a drive over to College Lake Nature Reserve near Tring.

Located in Bulbourne, roughly halfway between Tring and Pitstone, the Nature Reserve was the dream of Graham Atkins. College Lake was originally a working quarry. During the last century chalk was excavated for cement production. Graham was a lorry driver working for the cement company. He had a passion for nature and a vision for how the site could be used when it's life as a quarry would come to an end. The Youtube link below tells his story far better than I ever could.

The site covers 67 hectares and is under the stewardship of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. College Lake is widely thought of as their flagship site. There is a hugely diverse range of wildlife to be seen. The volunteers that staff the entrance are very helpful and keep a blackboard regularly updated with recent sightings of birdlife, land animals, butterflies, and amphibians. Information boards line the paths and there are a number of hides situated around the lakes for serious birdwatchers. Definitely take your binoculars and cameras with telephoto lenses in your backpack.

After the quarry was decommissioned, construction work on the Reserve infrastructure began. The visitor centre opened to the public in 2010. Many fossils, including ammonites and sea urchins, were uncovered. Some are on display at the centre.

There are also some farming and wildlife exhibits displaying vintage farming equipment, such as hand cranked sheep shearers and timber bodging / chair making equipment. Great for keeping enquiring young minds engaged.

There is a very well provisioned cafe on site offering sandwiches, pasties, sausage rolls and hot & cold drinks. My preference would be to take a home prepared picnic as there are plenty of benches and open spaces to enjoy.

*Entry is free of charge*

Official site here:

[www.bbowt.org.uk/nature-reserves/college-lake](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/nature-reserves/college-lake)

More information and history of the concept here:



*Mike Beckley*  
Chiltern Hills Arboriculture



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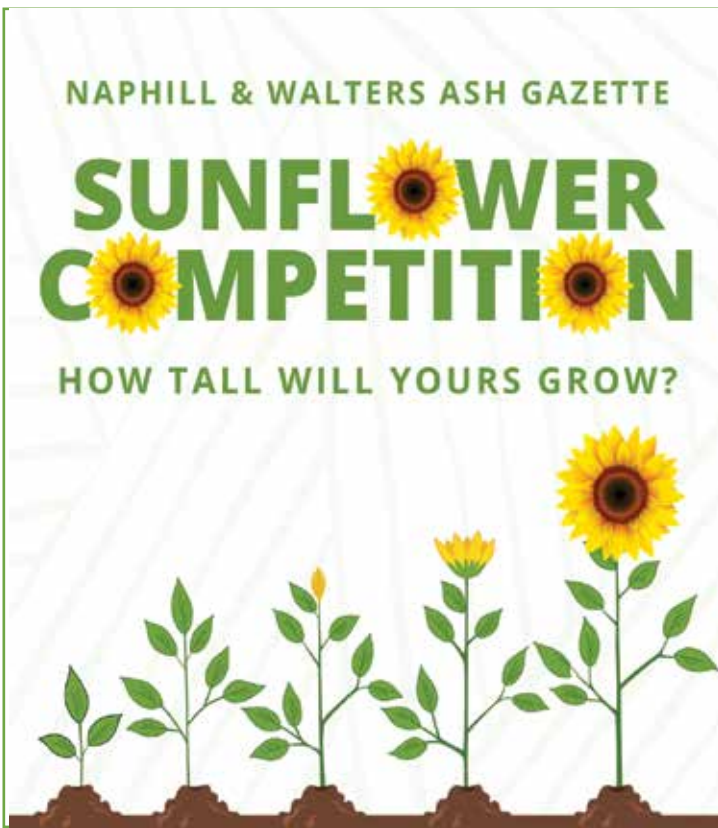
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## Grow the Tallest Sunflower!

Have you got green fingers, or maybe we should say yellow. This competition is open to all ages and is so simple to enter. All you have to do is grow the tallest sunflower you can. If you don't have any seeds, please feel free to pick them up from the porch of 154 Main Road. All entries must be in by the end of July. We really can't wait to see them. All children entering will receive some fairies that will magically appear around their sunflower when it reaches their own height so keep us posted. (adults can have them too if they want!)

All correspondence, including when the sunflower reaches your or your child's height, photos and measurements need to be sent to [andriaelibenzamin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andriaelibenzamin@yahoo.co.uk)

The winning sunflower will feature in the Gazette magazine!

Thank you

*The Gazette Team*



## Antony to the rescue!

When the going gets tough the tough get going! I had the pleasure of meeting Antony Cramp on Sunday, who has set up Ant's Dairy Ltd, which will be a local and traditional dairy with a heart. Antony and his wife Kirsty made the decision to set this up after the demise of Wren Davis and the requests from his customers.

As Antony says it's been a whirlwind as on the Tuesday, he was made redundant, Thursday he was jobless and on Saturday he was a limited company. He says it has been a real learning curve with IT skills being learnt and customers being spoken to.

Antony is a milkman through and through, he started at aged 11 as his uncle's milk boy working with Express Dairies and working for the last 9 and a half years for Wren Davis. The last 4 with his own round in Speen, Hughenden Valley and Prestwood.

So how will it work? The suppliers are the same Cotswold Diaries. He will pick up the milk from Aylesbury and deliver direct to your door. Please note the prices are the same as you are used to, a pint will cost £1.03 in glass and Oat Milk in Glass will be £1.25. Other supplies are sourced locally:

- Bread from Darvills of Chesham
- Yogurt from Tims Dairies of Chalfont
- Eggs from Holmer Green

He has acquired 3 extra milk trucks and already has 1 employee. They will do two rounds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday delivering to 450 and 380 homes which are in:



- Prestwood
- Gt Missenden
- Lt Hampden
- Gt Hampden
- Hughenden Valley
- Bryants Bottom
- Speen
- Lacey Green
- Naphill

On Tuesday and Thursday, he will deliver to 200 homes which are in:

- Stoke Manderville
- Elsborough
- Princes Risborough
- Saunderton Lee

*Jonathan Piers*  
PIERS PHOTO



## Mothers' Union News



Hughenden Mothers' Union were pleased to welcome Marie-Louise Morley to our meeting on the 4th of April, to talk about the charity 'Ukraine2Chilterns', a local charity formed to support Ukrainian refugees and their families coming here after the Russian invasion.

After more than a year, some families now need to be rematched and host families are needed to offer their support. With the war continuing, the prospect of a life in the UK is a very real one for the Ukrainian families. The women, children and the elderly of Ukraine have settled here and the goal of 'Ukraine2Chiltern' is 'to get them back on their feet'. Some have jobs and others want to work as they face the prospect of staying here for an extended time.

Marie-Louise reminded us that our Ukrainian guests had no choice but to leave their country. They are constantly worried about what is happening with those they left behind and their former homes, yet they show resilience and strength to overcome any and all problems with strength and determination.

**Next month our meeting is on 9th May at 2pm when Bob Moore will be sharing his interest in Eartha Kitt singing Gershwin songs. Everyone is very welcome to attend.**

*Dianne Walker*

## More News from St Michael's and All Angels.

April saw the celebration of Easter, when the Church was filled with flowers after the sombreness of Lent and the despair of Good Friday, and before that the Annual Meetings of the Church. This involves election or re-election of Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council Members, reports of the activities of the church and an explanation of its finances. Anyone attending or viewing the meeting on line, could not have failed to be impressed by the wide range of activities undertaken.

**Looking forward we have a number of events taking place at the Church in May, which you may like to join.**

### May 5th: Sing for the King



Join the Hughenden Community Singers at 7.30 pm in church for a fun filled evening of song and celebration for the Coronation of Charles III. In support of One Can Trust. More info: [www.hughendensingers.org](http://www.hughendensingers.org)

### May 15: Chiltern Arts Festival Concert;



11.30 am: Solus Trumpet Ensemble. A group of trumpeteers demonstrating the instrument's full range from melodic lyricism to sparkling virtuosity. Tickets £15 from Chiltern Arts:

[www.chilternarts.com/whats-on](http://www.chilternarts.com/whats-on)

### May 20th: Nature Quest in Churchyard

Join us in an exploration of the wonders of the range of flora and fauna in our churchyard. Churchyards in the UK comprise a huge area of relatively untouched green spaces and thus are home to a wide variety of wildlife. See what you can find by visiting St Michael's any time from 10am - 4pm on May 20th, and, if you wish, fill in a questionnaire and report your findings to our experts. Also, this is a chance to learn what our Eco Group is doing. Dogs are welcome: why not combine the quest with a dog walk in the park?

Further details on our website:

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



*Jane Tyrer*

## From the Vicarage

On Saturday 6th May 2023, King Charles III's & Queen Camilla's coronation ceremony will take place in Westminster Abbey, commencing at 11am.

Like the majority of the population, this is the first time I will be alive to witness a coronation in the United Kingdom, as her majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth II reigned for 70 years, and it was only last year that we were celebrating her platinum jubilee.

Sunday 7th May marks the Coronation Big Lunch, where neighbours and communities will be invited to share food and fun together, and St Michael's Church will be hosting a special Combined 10am service, giving thanks to God for our new monarchs, and praying for God's blessing and wisdom to be upon them.

The weekend celebrations end on Bank Holiday Monday, with the Big Help Out, when we are encouraged to volunteer and join a project in our local communities.

The coronation service will be broadcast across the planet to billions of people. King Charles will swear the coronation oath, which has been laid down by statute since 1688, following the overthrow of King James II, and the subsequent coronation of his daughter Queen Mary II, together with her husband King William III, in 1689.



During the ceremony, King Charles will swear to uphold the Church of England and the Law, he will be anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with oil consecrated in Jerusalem, he will be presented with two sceptres and an orb, and a coronation ring, and he will be crowned, whilst sitting on the ancient coronation chair. Queen Camilla will then be anointed and crowned.

I cannot imagine the weight which will be upon especially King Charles' shoulders, as he takes up these new responsibilities, for which he has been preparing his whole life.

It is already clear to many that King Charles is seeking to modernise the monarchy, and we should remember to pray for him, and Camilla every day, as a new era in our nation has already begun.

Let us pray:

*Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.*

*Bless his reign and the life of our nation.*

*Help us to work together*

*So that truth and justice, harmony and fairness*

*Flourish among us;*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

*Rev Keith Johnson*

---

## Not from the Vicarage - May Days

---

Down through the centuries May Day has been associated with fun. It begins with May Day on the 1st, a day in which the end of winter is celebrated and the approach of summer is eagerly anticipated. In ancient times, the Celts had four major festivals. Beltane or 'the fire of Bel', represented the first day of summer and was celebrated with bonfires to welcome in the new season. We perhaps know Beltane better as May 1st, or May Day.

May Day traditions in southern England include the Hobby Horses that still rampage through the towns of Dunster, Minehead and Padstow. The horse or the Oss, as it is normally called is a local person dressed in flowing robes wearing a mask with a caricature of a horse. In Oxford, May Day morning is celebrated from the top of Magdalen College Tower by the singing of a Latin hymn of thanksgiving. After this the college bells signal the start of Morris Dancing in the streets below.

As May progresses, other fun days and festivals occur. A little internet searching reveals some form of celebration or remembrance on virtually every day of the month. May 4th is International Star Wars Day, when aficionados can greet each other with 'May the fourth be with you' whilst w/c 20th May is the first day of doughnut week. On a more serious side, 12th May is International Nurses Day, celebrating the work of nurses.

The church has two major celebrations in May - Thursday 18th May sees Ascension Day, commemorating the day Jesus returned to his Father in heaven, 40 days after his Resurrection (celebrated on Easter Day). This is followed on 28th May by Pentecost, 50 days after Easter,



celebrating the day Christ's followers were filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit. Many churches see Pentecost as the 'birthday' of the church as it is from this day onwards that Christianity began to spread.

For this year only, we have an extra, special celebration and holiday. 6th May is the Coronation Day of King Charles III. The press have been careful to warn us that this coronation will not be like that of the late Queen, that it will be a more modest affair, yet it's meaning and significance will remain the same. Charles III will officially become our new monarch in an ancient, solemn ceremony that will see this role bestowed upon him in the presence of God. To some, this ceremony will seem quaint or even anachronistic, yet if not vested with such a role by God, then by what authority does King Charles III rule?

In our modern world, we know God by many names, but the Almighty remains the same sovereign being who created the Earth and the heavens, the sea, stars, land and life itself. As beings of that Creation, we are irrevocably linked to the Divine – a link which enables us to look beyond ourselves to something immeasurably greater whatever our role or circumstance and to whom we are ultimately all accountable.

May you know God's blessings.



*Rev Jenny Ellis*



# FLASH



Trampolines

Food Stalls

Bar Cocktails

Snacks

# NAPFEST

Sweets

2023

Music on the Crick  
9th June

Ferris Wheel

Bungee Jump

Music & Fun!



## Ticket Information

[www.NAPFEST.co.uk](http://www.NAPFEST.co.uk)



Adult 17+ £20

Child 6 -16 £10

Gazebo (3 x3m) £10

Family ticket - 2 adult + 2 childre £50 (only available on line)



There are also limited tickets for sale, cash only, at The Wheel, The Hive (Site 3 RAF High Wycombe), and Shear Madness



# MUSIC NIGHT! - 9th June

WOW!! What a night this promises to be! Definitely not to be missed!

## The Headlining Acts this year are:

**FLASH:** A Tribute to QUEEN, established in 2001, which brought together the finest musicians from several Queen Tribute shows for a 'best of the best' live Tribute to the musical legacy of Freddie Mercury and Queen.

## Backing this amazing Band are:

**THESE CERTAIN PEOPLE** were live at Napfest 2021. The experienced, energetic six piece band will be performing a full set of the most popular songs, covering all musical tastes, from ABBA to House of Pain via anything in between, alongside a handful of the band's original material.

Then we have the amazing **BAD NEIGHBOURS**, this local band have shot to fame after performing at many local gigs, they are not to be missed.

Gates open at 4pm with our first act starting at 5pm, then it's live music till 10.30pm. SO! Over five hours of fantastic live MUSIC! There will be food from Noodle Nation, and a sausage bar, there will be a bar and in addition we have a cocktail van. There are large fun fair rides, stalls of all varieties, something for everyone. SO! Roll up, Roll up, tickets are on sale NOW! [www.NAPFEST.co.uk](http://www.NAPFEST.co.uk) See poster opposite for more ticket information. Please get booked in quickly as we are limiting numbers and **tickets will not be sold on the gate.**

*As this is a local fund raising event, there will be NO parking, except for a few Blue Badge Holders, which should be booked online.*



Linda Clark  
NapFest Chairman

## Family Day

There is lots of planning still going on! BUT!!

**WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE  
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT  
A BIG SUCCESS!**

- Car Boot
- Fun Fair Rides
- Stalls
- Dog Show
- Lots more!!

If you can help, if you want a stall or more information about the car boot sale, please get in touch.

More information in next month's Gazette.

Linda Clark

Napfest Chairman

[www.NAPFEST.co.uk](http://www.NAPFEST.co.uk)



**NAPFEST** 2023  
9TH - 11TH JUNE  
Live Music ~ Village Fete ~ Classic Cars

Music  
9th June

Family Day  
Car Boot  
10th June

Classic Cars  
11th June

[www.napfest.co.uk](http://www.napfest.co.uk) [www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk](http://www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk)



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*Clara McCaffrey*

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If you're curious about any of the above then take a look at my website: [www.loveforlifecoaching.co.uk](http://www.loveforlifecoaching.co.uk) or contact me at [clare@loveforlifecoaching.co.uk](mailto:clare@loveforlifecoaching.co.uk)



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## Update from Classics on the Crick

The response to this year's show from the Classic Vehicle community has been fantastic and we are now at capacity for Car and Commercial Vehicle display. So unfortunately we are unable to accept any further entries in these categories, however we still have plenty of space for bikes and scooters.

As usual we have a tremendous variety of vehicles ranging from Minis to the latest supercars and everything in between.

The show will open at 10am to the public. Tickets will be available to purchase in advance from our website [www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk](http://www.classicsonthecrick.co.uk) or at the gate on the day of the event.

All profits from the event will go to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

The last year was very hectic for this vitally important charity. They had their busiest year since they became an independent healthcare provider in 2018.

They were there when the worst happened throughout our community and they were called out a total of 3,158 times. Buckinghamshire accounted for 1,086 call outs. The most frequent cause for attending a patient is cardiac arrest, accounting for over 50% of patient assistance.

The new helicopter arrived last November. An Airbus 135, G-TVLY, which flies under the call sign Helimed24. It is now owned directly by the charity and they now have their own Air Operator Certificate.

The aircraft has a top speed of 135 mph and can fly to any part of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire or Oxfordshire within 15 minutes!

In support are five Critical Care Response Vehicles. You will often see one of these Bright Red and Yellow vehicles stationed at Marlow Fire Station. The 4x4

vehicles all carry the same equipment as the helicopter and are especially useful in more built up areas when the helicopter might struggle to land.

As usual, we always welcome any assistance on the day of Classics on the Crick. If you would like to get involved, please email [classicsonthecrick@gmail.com](mailto:classicsonthecrick@gmail.com).

All volunteers will receive a Classics on the Crick T-shirt, snacks and drinks, plus an invite to our volunteer evening later in the summer. You can help for just a few hours, or the full day.

Finally, if you would like to donate any prizes for our grand raffle, please contact us at the same email address. As mentioned above, all profits go directly to the charity.

**See you on Sunday 11th June**

*The Classics on the Crick Team*

## Volunteers Needed

*Volunteers will receive a Classics on the Crick T-shirt, snacks and drinks, plus an invite to our volunteer evening later in the summer. You can help for just a few hours, or the full day.*



**Please help to make Classics  
a HUGE success!**

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Sunday:  
12pm - 10:30pm

(Bank Holiday Mondays)  
12pm - 8pm

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Tuesday - Saturday  
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12pm - 4pm

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12pm - 4pm

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

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It's May already! This year is moving on so quickly! The sun is slowly coming out and there is now some warmth in it. The garden is finally getting dry and it's lovely to see you all enjoying a few beers and sampling our new improved menu.

Next week is the big one! CoRONation FES**T** 2023. Saturday 6th May from 3pm there will be 3 live bands, Caribbean street food stall, massive marquee (in case it rains), outside bar, good friends and a great atmosphere. Also we will be raising as much money as we can to fulfil Ron's Last Wish. This is for a friend of his who has disability needs and the money will help improve their life massively. If you would like to contribute either cash on the day or donate on the 'Go Fund Me Page'. I will add the website and QR code at the bottom of this article. Anything you'd be able to donate would be gratefully received.

We would like to thank Tony (Chefikins) for the last 12 years of hard work. Tony gave in his notice and decided to start winding down. You'll see him in here and around other establishments for a catch up. All of us here wish him the best of luck for the future. So, we have several new staff to welcome - Our new Chef Isabella Penfold, Lynda Morris and Tom Lawrence to the bar, Kieran Male to the kitchen as a KP.

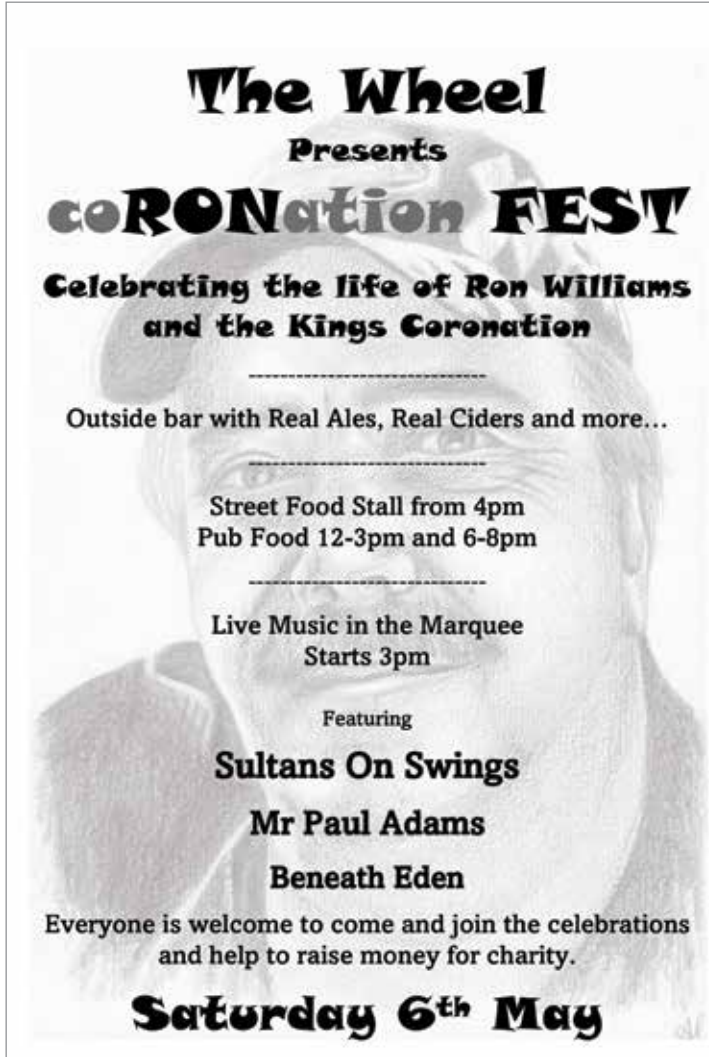
By the time you read this, the JSM roadworks will be nearing us. We are in constant contact with them and our suppliers to avoid any un-necessary blockages with delivery trucks. Whilst the roadworks are here, we would like to reassure you that you will still be able to get into the carpark, however, you may need to be careful when pulling in and out, or better still leave the car at home.

Few things coming up in June to let you know about:

- Music on the Crick 9th June
- Naphill Family Day/Car Boot 10th June
- Classics on the Crick 11th June
- Father's Day 18th June.

Thank you all for your continued support and here's to the summer. We shall see you all soon for a couple of pints in the garden!

*Claire and Mark*



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-----

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-----

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and help to raise money for charity.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

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**Coronation Day**  
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Nikki Annable Dip FH MCFHP MSC

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## Naphill Brownies

*As spring arrives, we all like to plant seeds and watch them grow!*



So, the Brownies have planted tomato and sweet pea seeds. They are already growing away nicely, but only time will tell whether we get to see any lovely flowers or tomatoes.

Before the Easter break we also managed to get outside for an Easter egg hunt with a difference. Before setting out, we learned to use our compasses to find out which is north, south, east and west. Then, we headed out following written directions, to find our way one egg-shaped clue to the next.

This was also in preparation for the Bucks Guiding Competition Hike which takes place at the end of April. Naphill Brownies and Walters Ash Brownies have joined forces and are entering 3 teams. The girls will follow directions and a map to complete a 5km route, without getting lost. They will have an accompanying adult with them, but the girls lead the way. Wish them luck!

For the Summer term, we are looking forward to marking the King's coronation, working to complete some more badges as well as getting outside for some fun adventures

If you know a girl aged 7-10 years old who would like to get involved in Brownies, you can either register interest via the Girlguiding website ([girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk)), or email me directly.



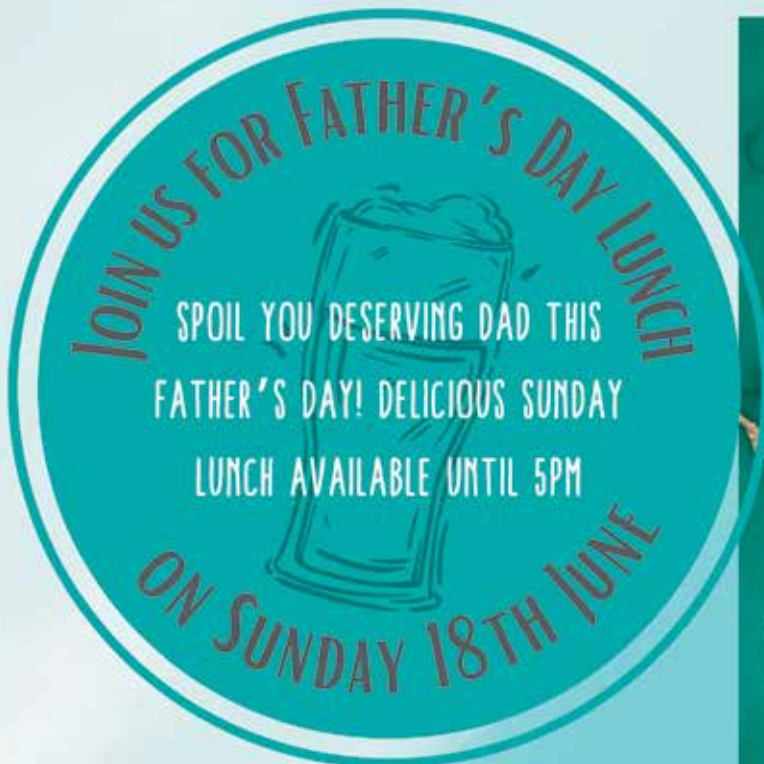
Brown Owl

*Ruth Daly*

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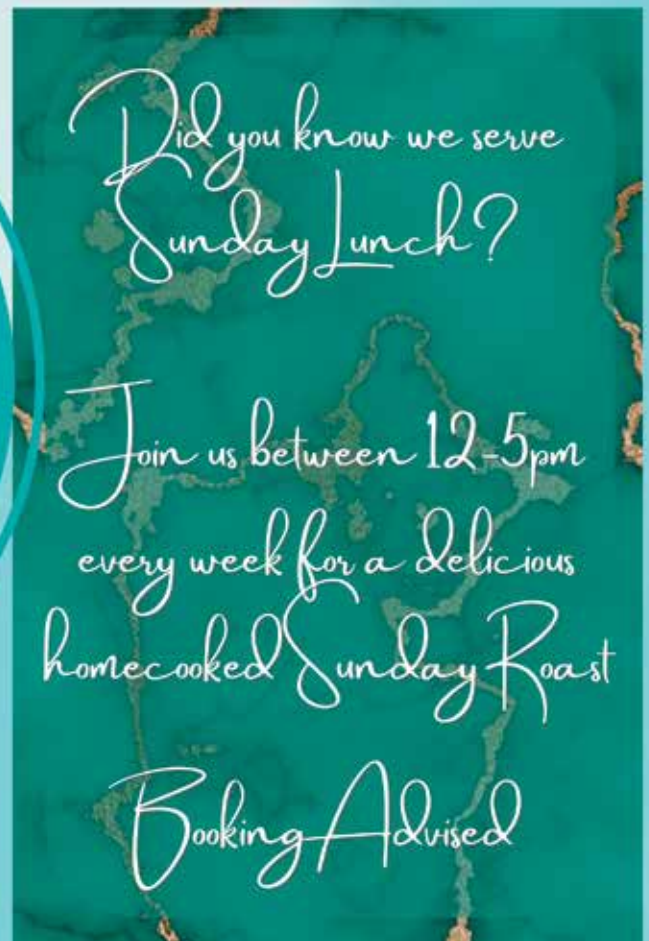
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# News from RAF High Wycombe

## RAF High Wycombe - Woodland Path Refresh



RAF High Wycombe's Thrift Shop, a charity that sells items on behalf of its customer's and keeps a percentage for donations, has raised £5,000 over the past two years for the renowned charity, Hounds for Heroes. As a thank you, the next puppy that the charity undertakes for training will be named by the RAF High Wycombe Thrift Shop after it ran a naming competition within the local community.

Hounds for Heroes offer specially trained assistance dogs to disabled HM Armed Forces and Emergency Services personnel. The dogs, which can take up to two years to train, are a major support to injured personnel. For example, if the person has no arms, the hounds can put keys and pens in mouths. If paralysed, they can help move limbs around.

Allen Parton, the founder and vice-chairman of Hounds for Heroes attended a special gathering on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at RAF High Wycombe to accept the cheque on behalf of the charity. Allen, a Gulf War veteran spent five years at Headley Court, the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, after sustaining life changing injuries. He started the charity 12 years ago and his first dog, Endal, "brought me back to my family and gave me a quality of life," said a clearly emotional Allen. For his efforts in saving Allen after a hit-an-run accident, Endal was awarded the Dickin Medal – also known as the animal Victoria Cross. The charity founder went onto say, "Dogs can take away a lot of the pain and anger that an injured person may feel. It is about ability, not disability, solutions not problems." Lunch was provided at the Officer's Mess attended by Allen, his current Labrador - ET, members of his charity, volunteers of the Thrift Shop, event organiser, Wg Cdr Stowers and representing the Station Commander, Sqn Ldr Mephram-Stone.

The RAF High Wycombe Thrift Shop has been part of the local community for several decades and is open to both the military and civilian community. The shop is run by a team of very loyal and friendly volunteers who take great pride in both the service they provide to their community and for the money they raise for charitable causes each year. The shop

is open 0900-1300 on Wednesdays (term time only) and is situated just before the entrance to RAF High Wycombe 3 Site - new customers are always welcome.

To find out more about the Hounds for Heroes charity, or to donate, please go to [www.houndsforheroes.com](http://www.houndsforheroes.com)



### One Year On.....with Padre Andi Chapman



Have you ever visited the Padre's office? If not, you should. It is cool, but not cold. Warm without being hot. A sanctuary from the hub bub of life. I am here to meet Padre Andi (*"Just Andi will do"*), a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis, who rejects the need for titles and prefers to live humbly in true St Francis fashion. His voice goes with his occupation – soothing, with the soft rhythm of a Rolls Royce engine. It has been a year since Andi first came to High Wycombe – a posting he initially said no to!

*"I was asked to come here, and I have never said no to a place before, so here I came," said the Padre, truthfully.*

As with any new assignment, I was keen to see if there were any expectations from the new Padre. The covid whirlwind had recently subsided. "I thought I was coming to a Station that possibly did not know what it was anymore."

Andi knew that he had huge shoes to fill after the departure of the previous Padre, Chrissy. He was not only a man, but



a gay man which added a whole new dimension. He had become a Christian at fifteen and had his sense of calling in his teenage years. *"The difficulty for me was that I was openly gay and that was going to be a challenge. It still is,"* said Andi with a tinge of sorrow. The death of his grandmother, who had always been a strong believer, cemented his faith.

High Wycombe held new beginnings. Just over twenty-five people would normally attend church. But a chance comment about Andi's partner caused some consternation and soon after, many did not come back to the church. Though not overt about his sexuality, Andi did not hide it either. *"I am who I am,"* said the Padre, proudly. Regular Sunday worship on Station ceased thereafter.

I felt uncomfortable for Andi and the situation, and for someone who is just trying to do a job. But I didn't feel sorry for him. He would hate that. He is a realist and I found that inspiring. *"I came into the church with my eyes open knowing the church was not supportive of LGBTQ+ people. Knowing the creature I was coming into I knew it was not going to bother me,"* he said, assuredly. I got the impression that it would take something bigger than this to dampen his resolve. The ruling by the General Synod of the blessing of same sex marriage, is, for Andi a step in the right direction – *"But it is just that... a step. I do not feel that I (as a gay person) am treated with respect or dignity. In the main I will be a thorn in the side of the church, and they recognise that,"* said a resigned, yet defiant Padre.

Walking home from work allows him to disconnect from the job, taking in the countryside and appreciating God's creations. It also helps his work on a master's thesis entitled *"Who Cares for the Military Chaplain?"* Currently there is no formal structure set out. His partner, David is supportive and very much 'Ying' to Andi's 'Yang.' The committed clergyman once went on a retreat. He found it hard and realised that the hermit's life was not for him!

One year on, what has the man who dares to be different (*"being openly gay often tests the waters quite a lot"*) learned? He believes being present with people is important, as is listening and being visible;

*"One of the most useful tools that I learnt to use is humility. Knowing that my position in the Airforce does not matter and it is my role of chaplain that does. I have learned more here than in any other unit."*

Andi is a man who does not make plans. He has hopes. One is to administer to people in need. He is clear on what assistance he offers;

*"I try and avoid giving advice. I try to get people to think about what options they have - aiding people to get there on their own. All I can try to do is understand and be empathetic, not sympathetic."*

Andi believes that his primary calling is to God, secondary to the church and this colours a lot of how he feels and behaves. In his own words he could have opted for an

easier life and not become a member of the clergy and stayed working at BT, where he first started after university. But I get the sense that easy is not Andi's way. He has faced homophobia head on and battled prejudice, but proudly wears the emblem of the rainbow flag with as much conviction and tenacity as he does the clerical collar.

I admire Andi's honesty, not holding back, telling it as it is. When all seems hopeless it is good to know that there is a voice out there willing to lift your spirits. The mounted saying on the Padre's wall brings together the man and the mission perfectly; When you need me but do not want me, then I must stay. When you want me but no longer need me, I have to go.



*Laurence Parker .*  
Station Media and Comms Officer  
(MCO) | RAF High Wycombe

## RAF Family Day/NAWA Fete Day

Naphill Crick

9th June

Funfair Rides, Stalls, Dog Show

Lots of fun for everyone!



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## Shear Madness

Those of you who follow the antics on the shop's Facebook page will already know this. A couple of years ago Julian the postman and I gave up smoking together, fast forward to this year and he has decided that we both need to get fit and join a gym, The last gym I was in was the school's sports hall thirty eight years ago ! I must have shown some enthusiasm that Julian picked up on, I explained to him that I don't actually possess a pair of trainers and I thought that was that. Oh no! No! NO! A week later he popped up with a box for me, I was quite taken aback but now there was no getting out of it. Lots of people have commented how funny this all is and they wanted proof so here it is. I doubt very much that I'll turn into a gym bunny but it was actually quite fun but don't tell him that!



This should land on your doorstep just in time to remind you of coRONation fest that is taking place at The Wheel on Saturday 6th May. Beer festival, live music and a fundraiser in memory of dear Ron. Just a daft silly fact for you, apart from Mark, Dawn and myself trim the whole of Team Wheel, it's even become a kind of rivalry between Chloe and Adam, hilarious.

Holiday time for the first time this year, I will be away for the last week in May which is half term, only a week and Dawn will be in as usual.

Have a happy and safe May and I'll try not to kill myself or Julian at the gym.



Love as always,  
*Mandy*

## Naphill Residents' Association

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

#### (NAWARA) AGM

7.30pm on the 19th May 2023

Naphill Village Hall

**AGM 19th May 2023** - The short AGM will be at 7.30pm on the 19th May 2023 at Naphill Village Hall, all residents welcome. This will be followed by an opportunity to meet others and explore how we can make our 2 villages a great place to live and enjoy the wonderful surroundings. We will have our Parish councillor and our HAS rep. on hand, plus information on various local volunteering groups. There will be a "just for fun" picture quiz of the local area to tease your little grey cells. The bar and nibbles will be available making it an excellent opportunity to mingle with new and more established residents. Our normal committee meeting night due on the 8th May has been cancelled due to the Coronation Bank holiday.

**Annual Litter Pick aka The Villages Spring Clean** - This will take place over the weekend of 20th,21st May. In the

words of Mary Poppins "in every job that must be done, there's an element of fun" so if you are able to get together with neighbours and friends and form a team even better. Litter picks and bag blacks are available. If every resident does an area near where they live or walk regularly, we will look tidy for the Best Kept Village Competition in June/ July. If you know of an area in the village that you think looks particularly scruffy tell us about and together, we will see if we can improve it.

NAWA in Bloom – entry closing date 18th June 2023

Email [hello@nawara.co.uk](mailto:hello@nawara.co.uk) for an entry form or more information. There are 4 categories to enter so there should be an opportunity for all residents of all ages to participate. The Wye Partnership Estate Agents have kindly agreed to sponsor the garden voucher prizes, and the winners also will receive a cup to hold for a year. But an even better reason to enter is the smile on people's faces when they see the wonderful summer display you have created. We hope to do a trail guide around these amazing displays.

**Can you help with plants?** - We are manning the plant stall at the Family Fun Day on the 10th June. If you have any spare garden or house plants, please consider donating them to the stall. If you don't, please come and visit us at the stall to see what interesting plants we have.



*Bartha Pitman*  
NAWARA Chair  
[www.nawara.co.uk](http://www.nawara.co.uk)

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## Naphill Tennis Club

There is really nothing more enjoyable on a sunny Spring morning than to knock a few balls across the court as a Red Kite swoops low to take a look. I don't think one has yet landed on our 'Tiger Turf' artificial grass courts but it might get a surprise if it did. If you haven't experienced them, you might be also be surprised by how comfortable they are compared to hard courts.

Should you wish to try tennis, our excellent coaches, Mel & Bees, are running various junior and adult beginner and improver courses as detailed below. In addition, there is ongoing group coaching on Monday and Wednesday mornings throughout the

year together with our usual club sessions where everyone mixes in.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. Pay us a visit or contact our membership secretary on 07905 226203 email: [naphilltennismembership@gmail.com](mailto:naphilltennismembership@gmail.com). You can also visit our website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NaphillLTC> or find us on Facebook: Naphill Tennis Club.



Jenny Tench



### Play Local League Competitive Tennis - Join our Team

*Are you new to the area? Do you enjoy competitive tennis?*

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Look forward to hearing from you!

**Contact: Steph Ayres 07743 894731 or Mel Burn 07949 128195**

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/NaphillLTC/Play](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/NaphillLTC/Play)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/417440811742419>

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*May/June Mondays*

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Improvers adults 7pm-8pm

Non-members welcome.

All levels welcome.

**Contact: Mel Burn 07949 128195**

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Wycombe Photographic Society meets in the large hall at Hughenden Valley Village Hall, on the 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm. We have a new programme of events, wider range of Guest speakers and lots more.

3rd May Talk by Martin Patten

10th May Field Trip – High Wycombe

24th May Themed Assignment – Hidden Wycombe

To see everything that is happening at Wycombe Photographic Society please visit our website at: - [www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wycombephotographicsociety.org.uk)

*Peter Davis*

Membership Secretary

Wycombe Photographic Society



Princes Risborough Rotary Club - [www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=561](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=561)



One of the most important activities of the Princes Risborough Rotary Club is to raise money to support local organisations and individuals needing help. In the past few weeks we have donated over £4000 to local organisations including the Princes Centre, Saunderton Lodge and local schools who needed our support for initiatives they were undertaking. We are always looking for more local projects to support and we are keen to learn how we might be able to play a part in them. So, if you know of any such projects, please contact us using the information at the end of this article. Details of the type of support we are providing are shown in our website at: [rcpr.org.uk](http://rcpr.org.uk).

Princes Risborough Rotary Club is a member of Rotary International which is made up of over 1.2 million neighbours, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in their communities and around the world. The Club has made contributions to Rotary International's efforts providing generators for hospitals in Ukraine, helping to eradicate polio and to Mercy Hospital Ships, to name but a few.

Rotary's initial concept was as an organisation to provide friendship and companionship, which is also our Club's objective. We are a very sociable group of men and women, and our regular Monday evening

meetings aim to achieve that. If you would like to "give back", and are thinking about joining, go to our website with a view to coming to one of our meetings to see if it might interest you. Additionally, if you would like to make a donation to our Charity Account, please use the contact details below.

We would love to hear from you.

You can contact us at: [rcpr.org.uk](http://rcpr.org.uk) or call the Club President, David White on 07787 750889 or email: [david@dhwhite.plus.com](mailto:david@dhwhite.plus.com)



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Everyone is welcome!

Following the Easter Holidays, many of our members are looking forward to the 'annual u3a holiday'. This year we are visiting Suffolk. I will be reporting on our trip in the June edition of the Gazette.

Our Groups are all reporting good attendances at their monthly meetings. This month we were fortunate to enjoy a talk given by Dr Jill Evers on 'Boudica, Warrior Queen or Rebel'.

On Wednesday 24th May at 2pm, in Lacey Green Village Hall, our speaker will be Kamran Irani who has chosen as his title, 'Blood Bikers and Babies'. Even if you are not a u3a member you are very welcome to come along, there is no charge. After the talk we serve tea and coffee and enjoy a friendly chat.

We currently have a new u3a display at Wycombe Library. Do head up to the second floor to learn more about our group activities. *See photo*



*Do please visit and pick up a leaflet!*

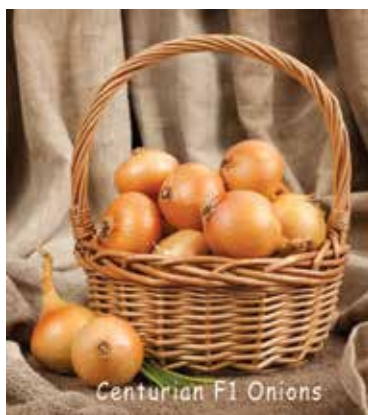
*Paul Gilliam*

[gilliamph@aol.com](mailto:gilliamph@aol.com)

## Growing Your Own

The Office for National Statistics said that the price of food went up by 18.2 % in February compared with a year earlier. How awful. The sales of seeds went up by 20% in February so someone is getting the message – Grow Your Own!

My next favourite vegetable to grow in the vegetable patch in my garden is onions, indispensable for the cook. I have tried growing them from seed in the past but that did not give good results. Growing from sets, which are small immature onions, is a much better idea even if they cost more. I have tried the main varieties of sets on offer, with patchy results. However, a neighbour introduced me to "Centurion F1" a few years ago and I have grown them ever since. They grow well in our soil here in Naphill and seem less affected by onion rot. They keep well hung up in strings in the garage, lasting well into February. If space is limited in your garden you definitely want certainty, and "Centurion F1" I have found to be the best. Plant them in rows about a foot apart in early March. Large onions do not keep as long as small onions. So, instead of following the advice on the packet to space them 5 inches apart, grow them 3 to 4 inches apart in the rows. That will result in smaller onions, but you will have more of them and they will keep longer.



At planting time, clean off any old skin at the top of the sets and soak them in water for a day or so. That will awaken the sets and tell them that it is time to grow. Make holes with a dibber rather than push the sets into the soil – that could damage them. Leave about an inch of soil above the sets. Plant them the right way up! Birds can be a problem as soon as you have planted the onion sets. The birds seem to take a fiendish delight in pulling them out and scattering them around. The birds do not eat them. They just pull them up to annoy the

gardener. So, cover the onion patch with fleece or plastic netting for a few weeks until the sets have started to grow, poking their shoots above the soil. Then you can be sure that the roots will have anchored themselves in the soil and the birds will not be able to yank them out. Sometime in July the tops of the onion plants will have turned brown and it will be time to harvest. Gently lever the onions up with a trowel, let them dry off for a day or two, then make strings of them and hang them in the garage with tops and roots still attached. When using the stored onions take the largest ones first since the smaller ones will keep longer.

Good gardening!

*Mike Mason*





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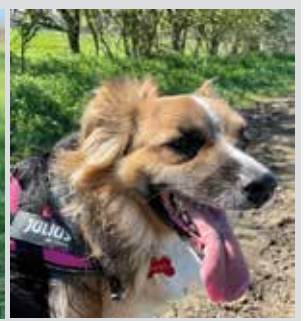






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## Staying Safe During the Summer Months

We've all been teased with the warmer, dry weather recently, reminding us of how incredible the Chilterns are. This is my favourite time of the year, being drier underfoot and the need for washing down dogs after a walk is temporarily suspended!


With Spring & Summer upon us, come a few reminders that you need to be aware of, when out walking your dog, to ensure you continue to enjoy your surroundings. The lighter evenings and warmer temperatures are perfect for getting out and exploring what the Chilterns have to offer.

- Grass Seeds – particularly common during the Summer months and once embedded under the skin, are tricky to remove. Common areas, being eyes, ears and toes, but with regular grooming, these can be located and removed.
- Ticks – usually transferred from livestock via long grass and wildlife via woodland in the warmer months. Ticks can be largely prevented by using a tick repellent, which is simple to administer at home and should be repeated as per the instructions. Ticks can carry Lyme disease, so it is important to keep an eye on your dog after removing ticks.
- Fleas – can be transferred at any time during the year and easily treatable. Tick & flea treatments can be bought & treated together.
- Daffodils – these are incredibly toxic to dogs if any part of the plant is eaten, but for some reason, they all love to sniff and leave their mark on them!
- Young wildlife & Livestock – keeping your dog under control and where appropriate, on a lead at this time of year is imperative, with an abundance of young wildlife and livestock in the Chilterns, even the most well-trained dog can be tempted!

For more information on any of the above topics, visit the PDSA website [www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk).

Next month we will take a look at dog friendly Pubs & café in the surrounding areas – if you have any good experiences that you would like to share, please get in touch!

*Charlie Hughes*



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## A Wine Giant Essay on Bordeaux...

In the world of wine there are various regions whose names ring out more loudly than most others. Names which are hallowed, take up the exclusive shelves of your favourite wine shops, and which be found on dusty bottles stacked in precious wine cellars the world over. These are regions which demonstrate the very best of what a country's wine culture produces – places like Rioja, Burgundy and Barolo, where wine is the principal industry and it flows through the veins of the people who live and work there.

However, one name epitomises the concept of 'fine wine' and resonates louder than most and is revered above almost all others. That name is, of course, Bordeaux. It has been producing fine wines for centuries and produces some of the most expensive bottles the world has ever seen. Fancy some Petrus, Le Pin or Lafite? You'll need to re-mortgage your and your neighbours' houses just for a couple of bottles.

Naturally, when I think of Bordeaux, I think of English football; Bordeaux invented the game, for a long time owned the game and looks down its nose at these new world clubs who probably do it better but have less 'history'.

I'll let you into a secret, but promise you won't tell anyone...? I'm not really a fan of Bordeaux!

Whilst it can be wonderful and is filled with unbelievable nuances that make it so complex and a fascinating region, it can also be self-aggrandising, pompous and condescending. A good Bordeaux is beautiful, complex and long - like me, if I were beautiful and complex, as well as 6ft6. However, in the UK it is often overpriced and talks about itself with far greater reverence than is due. Back to the football analogy - for me, often it is priced because of where it's from rather its technical ability. Like an English player with a solid PL season under its belt, a Bordeaux can quickly price itself way above its station. A shabby

supermarket St Emilion is like a liquid Andy Carroll. A mediocre Majestic Medoc struts its stuff like Francis 'I cost more than Dennis Bergkamp' Jeffers.

Do not fear, for despite Bordeaux carrying an Englishman premium, it is very much worth exploring. For every Andy Carroll there is a mid-priced champion that is a perennial favourite, a figure of uncomplicated excellence who delivers year after year - fancy a bottle of James Milner? Then try a Chateau Montgaillon. Big fan of James Maddison for £20m? He's basically a £14 Chateau le Croix du Marbuzet. If you're fortunate enough to have a wine rack that is backed by Abu Dhabi and you want to splash out a worthwhile £200m on Raheem Sterling, Jack Grealish and Kyle Walker then head to the wonderful Lloyd's Wines in Hughenden and fork out £50 on a bottle of the truly exquisite Etalon Rouge. It's a hefty transfer fee to pay but this bottle is guaranteed to win you back-to-back Premier League and FA cup doubles, alongside a good run in the Champions League.

These are all great, but the real quest is for the Jamie Vardy of banks of the Gironde; the Premier League Golden Boot winners who were signed for the same price as Wycombe's Garath McCleary. A sub £9 Bordeaux that encapsulates the mystery and romance of the region is the true Holy Grail. The £7.50 Wine Society's Claret is a worthy and well-loved effort but falls just short - more James Beattie in 2003 than a full Vardy. Unlike Indiana Jones, I am yet to find the this Holy Grail but am more than happy to keep searching! If you think you've got the answer please do get in touch to reveal your secrets!

*Adam Sergeant*



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### Widmer Park Farm Spring Update

We've been very busy at the Farm Park since we opened 8 months ago. We have loved seeing so many visitors and it's been great speaking to people who used to visit us as children now bringing their own children and even grandchildren along too.

We've had lots of new additions since we opened with our latest being Biscuit, Maple and Doug the three little Micro Pigs. They may only be as big as a family dog but they have lots of personality and are super intelligent.

With it being Spring time we have lots of gorgeous lambs in all different breeds and it has been great to have lambs born on the farm for the first time in 25 years. We have a new set of naughty goat twin kids much to the delight of our Animal Keepers. You'll see them leaping, climbing and causing general mischief on the Farm Park now (the goats that is, not the Animal Keepers!). We have a super competition running where all you need to do to enter is tag us in your social media posts about your visit and each month someone will be chosen to have four free tickets to the Farm Park.

There are lots of plans in place for the coming year and we can't wait to open our Café and then Soft Play. Sign up to our mailing list on the website and follow our Facebook and Instagram for the very latest updates.

*Alice Paterson*







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