

125 Years of the Parish & Council

A local voice for then, now and the future

Made up of the wards of Widmer End, Naphill and Walters Ash, Hughenden Valley and Great Kingshill the parish and its settlements has a long history but this is about celebrating and remembering the last 125 years.

The Local Government Act 1894 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that reformed local government in England and Wales outside the County of London. The Act followed the reforms carried out at county level under the Local Government Act 1888. The 1894 legislation introduced elected councils at district and parish level.

The principal effects of the act were:

- The creation a system of urban and rural districts with elected councils. These, along with the town councils of municipal boroughs created earlier in the century, formed a second tier of local government below the existing county councils.
- The establishment of elected parish councils in rural areas.
- The reform of the boards of guardians of poor law unions.
- The entitlement of women who owned property to vote in local elections, become poor law guardians, and act on school boards.

Hughenden Parish came into being on the 4th December 1894. The first ever Parish Council meeting was held in the Guildhall in Wycombe (you can see the plaque to this day) on the 31st December 1894

Events Planned

In celebration of 125 Year of Hughenden Parish a schedule of events has been planned throughout the rest of the year

There are five main themes

- 1) **Celebratory** – opening presentation at the AGM on 23rd April and closing Celebratory event being organised with the National Trust on 4th December.
- 2) **Walks and activities**– centred around rogation Sunday and that time of the year the plan is for all four Wards to have a walk in their area
- 3) **Talks and Events** – including films and planned again to be in all four wards – these will be later in Autumn as people become more and more aware of the significance of the year. These are all themed to have a local significance.
- 4) **Publicity for the council and potential recruitment of councillors** – both through the events above but also through stalls at the various events during the year.
- 5) **Heritage gatherings and community events** – mainly centred around Hughenden on the 6th July Naphill on 12th October

The detailed schedule (dates for your diary) is as follows: (some times and dates still to be finalised – so will update on the Hughenden Parish Council Website)

Event Calendar	Venue	Month	Time & Date
Parish AGM launch	WEVH	Apr	23 rd April
WEFAH – May Day celebrations - Ann McCarthy		May	6 th May
GKRA Village Walk - Anna Young		May	10.30am 6th May
Hughenden Stream Walk – Doug Kennedy		May	10-1pm 25 th May
Naphill Walk - Chris Miller		May	10.30am 26th May
Napfest Stall		Jun	8 th June
Hughenden Have a Field Day	Hughenden Valley Rec	Jul	6th July
Inter- Ward Cricket Game	Hughenden Valley Rec	Jul	2pm 6 th July
Hughenden School Fete - Stall		Jul	2pm 7 th July
Naphill football event – Stall		Jul	2pm 14 th July
RAF museum opening – visits to Bomber Harris Office Tuesday 4th June – 1.30 - 3pm Monday 10th June – 1.30 - 3pm Monday 24th June – 1.30 - 3pm Friday 19th July – 1.30 - 3pm	RAF Naphill – No 3 Base	Jun/Jul	
Naphill Heritage Day	The “Crick”	Oct	12th October
Talk - Suffragettes and the HV Vote - Edward Thonne	Church House	Oct	7pm 2nd October
Talk – Bodgers HVVH - Keith Spencer	HVVH	Oct	7pm 9th October
Talk – WW1 NVH - Maj Glenn Ridgely	HVVH - Small Hall	Oct	7pm 11th October
Talk - History of the Area - Lace making– Pam Smith	NVH	Oct	3pm 12th October
Talk - Chiltern Landscapes - Doug Kennedy	GKVH	Oct	7pm 18th October
Talk – WW2 NVH - Janet Idle/Bob Digby	WEVH	Oct	7pm 30th October
Talk - Chiltern Woodlands – John Morris	GKVH	Nov	7pm 1 st November
Celebratory Event – Church House	Church House	Dec	7pm 4th Dec

The History

Hughenden, formerly often called Hitchenden, is a hilly parish 5 miles in length and 3½ miles in width lying in the hundred of Desborough except that part of it called the Liberty of Brand's Fee, which is in Aylesbury Hundred. It covers an area of nearly 5,828 acres, including 3,336 acres of arable land, 1,532 acres of permanent grass and 611 acres of woods and plantations. The slope of the land is very irregular. The chalk hills are often between 500 ft. and 600 ft. above ordnance datum and reach their maximum height (644 ft.) at Denner Hill near the northern boundary separating this parish from that of Great Hampden. Deep valleys wind round these hills, but the surface of the land is never lower than 265 ft. above ordnance datum in the extreme south of the parish. The soil is chiefly gravel, the subsoil chalk. Wheat and barley form the principal crops. There is no village in Hughenden, but scattered along a winding road leading from High Wycombe to Great Missenden are the hamlets of Four Ashes, Great Kingshill and the village and ecclesiastical parish of Prestwood formed 9 April 1852 out of Hughenden, Great Missenden and a detached portion of Stoke Mandeville. Naphill hamlet is in the west of the parish, and Widmer End in the east is now comprised in Hazlemere parish.

Great Moseley Farm at Naphill, and Coombs Farm, on the north side of the road leading east from Naphill, are all 17th-century houses, with later additions and alterations, but retaining much of the original work. The church¹ stands on the north side of the grounds of Hughenden Manor, in the southern part of the parish, and to the south-west of it there is a range of early 17th-century almshouses given to the parish by the Dormers. An inscription on the building records that Ellen Countess Conyngham (d. 1816) left a legacy for repairing the houses. They have been a good deal restored and altered in modern times.



The manor-house stands on a hill in the south of the parish. It is a square building with two wings, of which only a small part is ancient, and commands from its south front a fine view of the town of High Wycombe, 2 miles distant. The carriage drive to the north front winds through a well-timbered and undulating park watered by a trout-stream. A mill at one time stood on this stream by Old Ford Lane, and the head-water surrounding a small island fills up when there is sufficient water in it. Hughenden Manor, which was formerly the seat of Benjamin Disraeli Earl of Beaconsfield, is now the property and residence of his nephew Mr. Coningsby Ralph Disraeli. The path down-hill to the northeast of the manor-house leads past the vicarage to the churchyard and church. Church Farm lies to the north-east of the church, and threequarters of a mile further on is Brands House, the seat of Mr. Samuel Newman, who is also the owner of Rockhalls Farm to the east of Brands House. At the end of the 18th century the old moated mansion locally known as Rockhalls still retained traces of former grandeur. It was



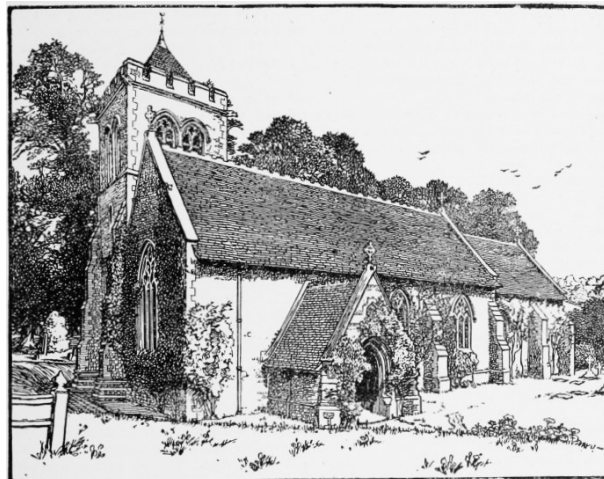
replaced by the present farm-house in the early 19th century, when five stone shields from the old house bearing the arms of Montfort and Wellesbourne inaccurately charged were rebuilt into the walls.

The name of Widmer, a family who lived at Rockhalls in the 17th and 18th centuries, survives in the small hamlet of Widmer End with Widmer End and Widmer Farms, half a mile to the north-east. In this part of Hughenden are also Hazlemere Lodge, the seat of Mrs. Leadbetter, and Uplands, the property and residence of Mr. T. Somers

Cocks. About the centre of the parish is the hamlet of Cryers Hill with its farm and plantation. Here are also a school and Methodist chapel. Half a mile north-east of Cryers Hill is the hamlet of Great

¹ <https://www.hughendenparishchurch.org.uk/History>

Kingshill, which before the middle of the 19th century was an open common. Part of it in 1852 was included in the ecclesiastical parish of Prestwood. The hamlet of Naphill, 2½ miles to the north-west of Hughenden Church, has a mission hall and school and a Primitive Methodist chapel built in 1851. A reference to Moseley Farm occurs in 1616, when it was the property of Richard Clarke, (fn. 8) a name found in Hughenden in the 15th century. Naphill Common extends into the neighbouring parish of West Wycombe. Bricks are made at Walter's Ash in the extreme west of the parish. A finely-grained building stone has been quarried here for some time (fn. 10) and is extensively used for channelling. Large quantities were used in refacing the Round Tower at Windsor. To the north-east of Walter's Ash beyond Courn's Wood is the hamlet of North Dean, once the property of Sir William Lawrence Young, bart., and formerly the residence of the Young family. Half a mile further in the same direction are Piggott's Farm and Wood belonging to the Earl of Buckinghamshire.



Hughenden is inseparably connected with the memory of the great Victorian statesman, Benjamin Disraeli Earl of Beaconsfield, who made the manor his home during the greater part of his Parliamentary career, and on his death in 1881 was buried in the church by the side of his wife at his express desire. In 1826 an urn containing silver and copper coins, a flint arch supported by side walls and other Roman remains and a battle-axe of later origin were found in this parish near Hazlemere turnpike gate. A vase, probably Roman, was also discovered during excavations at Hughenden Vicarage in 1883. Some portions of Hughenden parish were inclosed in 1856.



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If you have any questions or suggestions or would just like to book to come along to one of the events please contact simon.kearey@hughendenpc.org.uk 07956 183262

Simon Kearey 16/4/2019