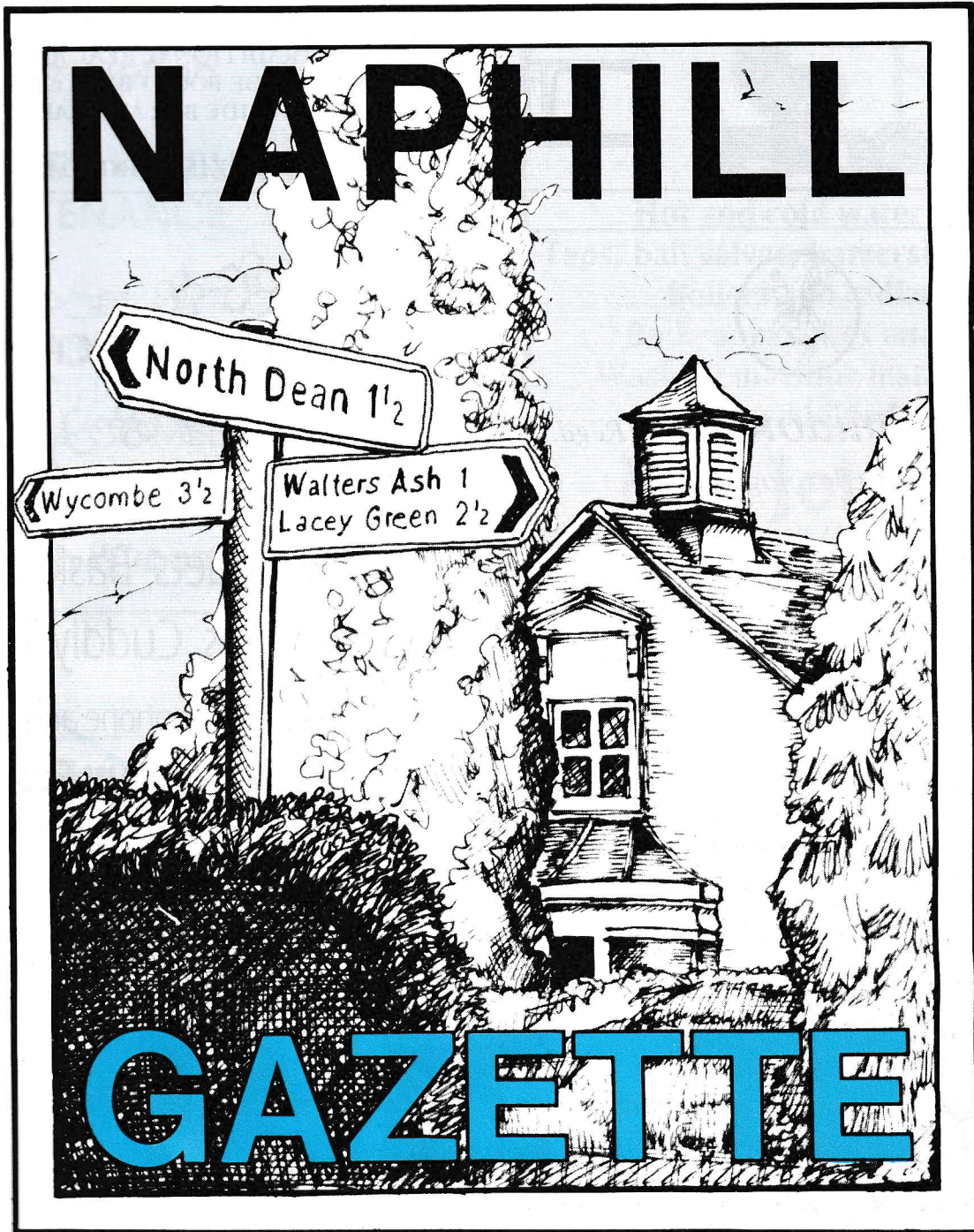


FEB 2002



Naphill Gazette

February 2002

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Copy date for March issue is Thursday 14 February 2002

Goodbye, Sheila . . .

I have been editor of the *Gazette* for over five years and have compiled almost 60 issues. However, it's time to move on and make way for a new editor with different ideas, greater editorial skills, more experience and, most probably, more time. [Well, certainly the first one of the four! Ed]

In the tradition of previous editors, I have selected my successor – no papal smoke or elections in Naphill! – and Alan Lewis introduces himself below in this, his first, issue.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me; it has been a privilege to know and work with so many villagers, many of whom I wouldn't have otherwise met. I have only been the compiler; its readers and writers are what make the *Gazette*, together with the commitment of all the villagers who distribute it, the subscribers, advertisers and grantees who aid it financially and, of course, David Leith and Dave Ratcliffe, without whom it simply wouldn't be practicable or even seen at all!

Happy New Year to everyone and good luck to Alan: please give him your best support.

Sheila Draper

. . . and hallo, Alan

It is with some trepidation and my wife's raised eyebrows that I assume the editor's mantle. Certainly, I could have picked a better year, as my 2002 diary is already crowded. However, I am looking forward to the challenge and hope the results generally please. Of course, some readers may dislike the changes I shall introduce but I hope no one will mind the date going on the cover – as it will from March. Meanwhile, the list of village hall activities has been temporarily omitted – back next month.

As regards the inside pages, I have introduced two-column setting not as a whim but to make for easier reading. It has long been known that there is a relationship between line length and readability, which is why newspapers have narrow columns. A bonus is that it also saves paper, which will mean that the *Gazette* can either be produced with the same

content but more cheaply or it can be enlarged at no extra cost.

With modern technology, incorporating photographs is straightforward and I am therefore encouraging all contributors to send in any relevant prints (colour is fine, though printing will be in black-and-white). Inevitably, it takes time for this change to come into effect and this issue will seem a bit short, no doubt, as a result. And, if a picture is really worth a thousand words (there's one on page 4), there'll be plenty more to absorb from now on!

This month (February) marks the end of the advertising year for the *Gazette* and so the existing layout of those pages has been retained. From March onwards, the intention is to standardise the layout somewhat without curbing flair. On this topic, any existing or prospective advertisers for the coming year who have not yet contacted Sheila Draper should do so as soon as possible. (Sheila is handling the ads in this changeover period.)

Finally, three thankyou's.

The first, on behalf of the readers (and I'm expecting the postbag to confirm this) is to Sheila for her excellent work over so many years, much of it with young children as permanent and demanding distractions. The second is to Naphill's artist, wood carver and model builder extraordinaire Dennis Thomas for allowing me to use one of his many sketches for the cover of issues from March onwards.

And my final thankyou goes to my wife in anticipation of her patience in losing me to the computer for even more hours than at present.

Alan Lewis

Christmas tree lights

We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the lights on the Village Hall Christmas Tree once more. We have to replace about half the lamps each year, and sometimes other equipment, so thank you to everyone who made donations. The climbing team this year consisted of Mike Leggett at the top of the tree, assisted by Gary Putnam from Widmer End and

Kelly Fountain from Hughenden Valley. The team on the ground comprised Ron Collins, David Brown, John Harris, Greg Hargrove, Terry Aldridge, Richard Walmsley, Peter Brown, Glenn Gavin and myself. Thanks must also go to Marlène Mason for helping to test the 800ft cable and for providing the essential mince pies and coffee.

As most people will be aware, the lights were mostly off for the second week of December. The problem was eventually traced to an intermittent fault in our 18-year-old timer, which will have to be replaced. The temporary fix adopted was to have the lights on 24 hours per day, which was expensive. We were told that 30A timers were no longer produced, so another solution is being considered for next year. If anyone knows of a source of a 30A timer, please contact the undersigned!

I must pay a special tribute to the Reverend Greg Hargrove who is retiring this year and leaving the village. Despite his age, he has been an essential member of the climbing team for several years. I felt I could not let this occasion pass without expressing my thanks to him.

Mike Mason

Light correspondence

A very sincere thankyou to our intrepid band of workers who so regularly lighten our darkness over the Christmas period. As soon as the lovely tree is lit up, it puts us in the Christmas spirit and radiates the true meaning of the festive season, helping us to stand and stare and forget all life's traumas for a while and lifting us up. May you all continue to give us so much pleasure for years to come.

Mollie Bowller

Once again, what a magnificent sight! Thank you to the team for the wonderful job you have again done for our village. My small part was taking the collecting tins around the shops, a task made pleasurable by the comments received. The amount raised this way came to £186.74 and I believe there was also a door-to-door collection. Thanks to everyone involved in continuing this tradition.

Pam Smith, on behalf of the Village Hall Council

Grow your own Christmas kiss

Growing your own mistletoe is a fun way to ensure you'll always be able to steal that Christmas kiss and it will also help the environment. The wild plant conservation charity Plantlife is urging mistletoe lovers to grow their own and help a return to sustainable local mistletoe harvesting.

In recent years, there have been fears that large-scale harvesting could result in fewer mistletoe plants left

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is
NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

on trees. This could have led to a shortage for sale in the future, since substantial amounts of healthy mistletoe have to remain growing to maintain supplies from year to year.

Growing your own is a practical way to protect mistletoe supplies and increase your enjoyment of the plant. You will need patience in the first few years and must be prepared to try again: it could take several attempts before planting is successful.

Please use berries from native mistletoe, as those from imported mistletoe could alter the genetic make-up of local populations. Jonathan Briggs, coordinator of the Plantlife/BSBI Mistletoe Survey, says "If you are not sure of the origin of your mistletoe, or it has not been grown locally, don't try to grow it".

To propagate mistletoe, gather fresh berries in February and plant them on the same tree species that their parent plant chose. Mistletoe bought at Christmas can also be used but berries will need to be stored in a cool place in water until February. If you are not sure of the parent host, choose an apple, lime, sycamore or poplar tree.

Select a vigorous young branch at least three inches in diameter and about five feet or so up on your chosen tree. Using a clean knife, carefully make a small, angled cut that penetrates just below the bark and into the wood. Hold the cut open with a wedge.

Push a mistletoe berry into the base of the cut, burst the outer flesh to release a sticky substance – this will eventually harden and secure a seed inside – and then remove the wedge. Mistletoe plants are either male or female so, to ensure pollination of the flowers and a crop of berries, repeat the process on other suitable branches of the tree.

In spring, some seed will germinate and send a sucker (root) into the branch so that it can draw water and nutrients from the host tree. Mistletoe is semi-parasitic and will not usually harm the host, as it uses its own evergreen leaves for photosynthesis, but be careful not to grow too many plants, especially if you have selected a prized fruit tree!

Try not to disturb the fragile green root you may see in the first year. It may be another year before a pair of real mistletoe leaves appear and these will not develop into a plant large enough to harvest for at least three years. Established mistletoe grows rapidly and spreads to other branches of the host as it sends out 'runners' under the bark or as birds spread its berries.

It is important to prune back the mistletoe each year to stop it growing too big and damaging the host tree. If you harvest some for you and your friends at Christmas, it should survive for decades and maybe even longer.

I know of a limited supply of mistletoe growing locally on an apple tree. Anyone who would like to have a go at propagating it should contact me.

Catherine Hillier: 564987

News from the over 60s Club

A happy New Year to you all! So far the winter has been kind to us and we haven't experienced any severe weather. I haven't seen any of you jogging through the village to shake off those extra pounds put on by excessive eating over Christmas!

We are glad to hear that Muriel Ayres is making good progress after her hip operation and hope to see her about in the village once again.

Forthcoming events

25 January: *Those were the days* by Princes Risborough WI

8 February: Maurice Saunders, Piano

22 February: *Memories of a grocer* from Mr Nicholls

8 March: Richard Pushman

Stella Page: 562314

Good evenings with the WI

About 50 members were present for our Christmas party in December: the wine flowed and the food, as always, was delicious. Gwen Appleton entertained us with some Christmas stories and poetry and the evening ended with carols.

Members were thanked for their contribution towards the Christmas Fayre at the end of November, where the WI raised £339 for the Village Hall on the tombola, teas, mulled wine and mince pies. In

addition, Jessie Higham and Ann Bull were presented with the cup for entering most competitions during the year.

On 17 January, we had an interesting talk on Princes Risborough and the White Cross by Dr Macfarlane.

On 21 February, J. Woolley will be speaking about the Great Train Robbery. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Betty Williams: 563366

Neighbours and friends

The subject of Naphill Neighbours' first meeting of 2002 had to be hastily changed as Mr Howard of Beechdean Dairies was unable to talk to us owing to a business commitment. However, he very kindly sent each of us a delicious tub of ice cream, which we all enjoyed at the end of the meeting, a gesture that was much appreciated.

Fortunately, Mr Johnson was able to step into the breach and gave a talk illustrated with excellent slides entitled "A tour of the Canadian Rockies". Not only did we see beautiful scenery but we were made aware of the magnificent engineering work that had been necessary to build a railway through the mountains. The impressive slides brought back wonderful memories for those of us who had been lucky enough to holiday in this area.

Our first outing of 2002 will be on Thursday 11 April to Wilton House near Salisbury. In the afternoon, we will move on to the Wilton Carpet factory for a conducted tour.

Please make a note in your diary for Saturday 11 May when a Fashion Show by Just Trading will take place in the Village Hall, with an opportunity to purchase clothes afterwards.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11 February, when the subject of Mr R.P. Johnson's talk is "Leaves of time - Speen Village". Please come and join us.

Mary Shrimpton: 562100

The tiny tots

The Naphill Toddlers continue to meet every Thursday afternoon during term time to allow the children to run around and let off steam - much needed in the current cold weather, which restricts the time they can play outside. In addition, we have some quieter activities for those wanting to sit down and relax. Our meetings are pay-as-you-come, so anyone can turn up to try it out without any commitment. So, if you want to bring your children, grandchildren, or children in your care, just turn up on the day. You can find us in the Village Hall from 2 to 4pm on Thursdays.

Half-term is early this year. We will not be open on 14 February but will be back the week after.

Lesley Fenn

Pre-School looks to expand

We had a great end to 2001 with a delightful Nativity and a terrific Christmas party.

The new term is off to a wintry start with various winter themes taking us through to half-term. Government funding has continued for our three-year-olds as well as the four-year-olds, which is good news for all of us.

All Pre-School places are currently full, so we are considering increasing the number we can offer for next term.

We are appreciative of the support and interest shown by the staff of the Early Years Unit at Naphill and Walter's Ash School. This close liaison ensures a smooth transition for our children when they move on to school.

Ruth Daly

Gardeners' delight

The Naphill Horticultural Society has arranged a dinner for Friday 8 March, starting at 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets, £12 including a glass of wine, are now available. If you would like to join us in the village hall for this popular event, give me a ring. The menu will be Coq au Vin or Boeuf Bourguignon followed by Lemon Meringue Roulade or White Chocolate Cheesecake. As always there will also be a vegetarian alternative.

After dinner, Rev. Nick Young, whom many of you know, will entertain us.

Members and non-members are welcome, but **I must** have final numbers by 28 February. Tickets always sell fast – so don't wait to be invited, just pick up the phone!

On Wednesday 13 March, we shall be holding our AGM at 8pm in the Small Hall. As always, all are welcome to air their views, with absolutely no pressure to join the committee – unless you want to, of course, in which case you will be especially welcome.

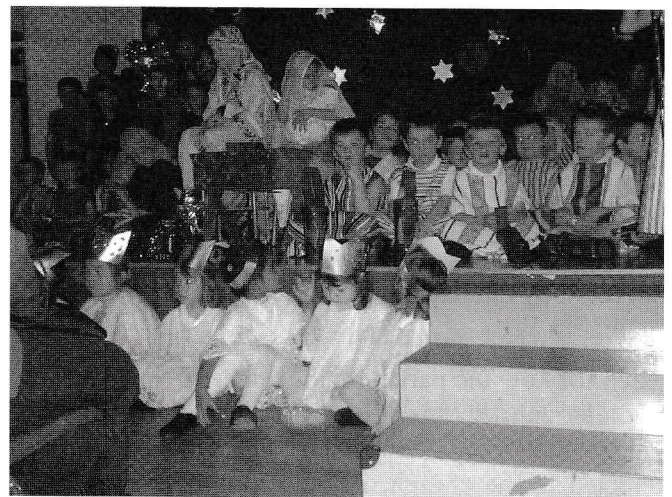
Hopefully, you have all been planning great things for your gardens over the winter months. Who knows – if you put all those wonderful ideas into practice, you should have some stunning exhibits for our shows later in the year! Looking forward to seeing you all on 8 March.

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Naphill and Walters Ash School

Our school had a hectic autumn term as usual, with the hard work of the early part of the term – settling into new classrooms with new teachers and, in the case of the oldest children, sitting their 11-plus exam – culminating in the enjoyment of Christmas. The youngest children performed a Christmas Nativity and the whole school was involved in the Christmas concert.

Apart from the normal curricular activities, the school involved itself in a number of other events, which included: hosting a visit from two Bosnian teachers as part of an international link; looking at ways of developing safer routes to school; raising money for charity through a mufti day; selling harvest produce; and setting up an 'Out of School Club', which will be opening in the early part of the spring term.



A scene from the school's Nativity play

Our school has a lot to be proud of. During the autumn term, the children achieved some excellent results in sporting competitions, including netball and cross country and pupils will be taking part in the High Wycombe Cross Country Championships on 7 February. The school, which was awarded Investor in People status in July 2000, had the status confirmed with a review last autumn and the primary school performance tables for the year 2001 confirmed that once again Naphill and Walter's Ash School has done exceptionally well. Our school achieved a score of 290 out of 300 at level 4 in the key stage 2 tests and joined the top 587 schools in the country (about 25,000 schools in total). This is the best performance ever from the school and there is no other school in the area that can boast this level of attainment. Congratulations are therefore very much owing to the 50 eleven-year-old children involved, to their parents and to the staff at the school.

Coming up this term, we will have a mufti day on Friday 15 March to raise money for new playground benches, and a bring-and-buy sale on 23 February to

raise money for charity. Both events are being organised by the School Pupils' Council. Our children will also have the opportunity of taking part in music workshops at the school on 7 and 8 February.

If you have any queries about the school, its past achievements or future developments, please either contact the school direct on 562813, or myself on 564918

Heidi Roberts, Chairman of Governors

Bradenham's plans

At the last meeting of Bradenham Parish Council on 10 December, Squadron Leader Simon, the RAF representative, gave an update on the office block to be built at the headquarters site. Invitations to tender have been issued and it is expected that work will begin at the end of February, with completion in Spring 2003. We were also informed that the planning application by Orange to attach their dishes and antennae to the RAF mast has been approved.

Two bus shelters in the parish and the Walter's Ash notice board have been vandalised. Police have been informed and the parish council's insurance company has approved the claims for repair of the shelters. The cost of the repair of the notice board, which is not covered by the insurance, will be borne by the parish council.

Ideas of how the parish might celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee this year were discussed. One suggestion was for a stained glass window to be erected in the church. Another proposal was the planting of a tree and a small village party. Both ideas were approved by the members of the public at the meeting, and a subcommittee was set up to organise the celebrations.

The footpath diversion proposed at the last meeting – which is the footpath that crosses the railway line near the Red Lion in Bradenham, not the one further towards West Wycombe, as one reader had inferred from my last article – has not yet been progressed. If approved by County Council, the National Trust and Railtrack will cover the planning costs.

As regards the proposed traffic roundabout on the main A4010 in Bradenham, the National Trust, which owns the land either side of the road, has proposed the site be nearer West Wycombe and at a lower level, as it is concerned about the loss of mature trees at the site originally suggested.

At the beginning of January, we were informed that the review of parish boundaries is at last to begin. We were originally asked for our proposals in Autumn 1999, and at that time I explained in our parish notes that Walter's Ash is currently split between

Bradenham, Hughenden and Lacey Green parishes, and this applies not only to the civilian houses but also to the RAF quarters and offices. We therefore proposed that Bradenham parish boundaries be altered to include all of Walter's Ash, a proposal that was welcomed by the RAF. A number of people have spoken to me since to express their approval as well. If any residents of Walter's Ash wish to make their views known, please phone or write to the clerk Deidre Hanson, 'Riva', Naphill Common, Naphill, High Wycombe, HP14 4SZ. Tel: 562254.

Cllr Jill Shiu

News from County and District . . .

Budget time is with us again and with it come the difficulties of balancing our needs and expectations of those services provided by our local authorities. Most readers will be aware that Council expenditure is funded from three main sources – Government grant, business rate allocation and the Council Tax. In addition to inflation costs, there is the need to implement new government and European legislation and, more often than not, this is not adequately allowed for in the grants received. Therefore, to balance the budget, a higher-than-inflation percentage is required of the Council taxpayer. I mention this in part explanation for what will be an above-inflation rate increase this coming financial year. It is required to meet the ever-increasing cost of social services, one of the important areas of necessary public expenditure, which do not always hit the national headlines for a generous handout!

Bottle banks and the other re-cycling bins at New Road, Walter's Ash provide a popular service to many residents but they can become unsightly, especially when overloaded and not cleared on schedule, as happened over the holiday period. Many readers would not wish to lose this facility but it is badly sited and I would welcome any practical suggestions as to where it might be re-located, away from Green Belt woodland.

Vandalism and acts of criminal damage are frequently reported to me by default. Any information must be passed to the police immediately it is discovered. Even messages left on the police answerphone are recorded as a crime statistic and help to build up a picture of policing requirement. We are all aware of damage to street signs, the village hall, and roadside hedges and fences but few instances are reported to the police. Hence, our villages are regarded as safe and free from vandals. 'Why do we require a policeman?' is the official line. It really is important to have any crime reported even if there appears to be no follow-up action taken by the police. Please only contact me after you have telephoned the police!

Dumping garden refuse on Naphill Common is increasing. The District Council's litter warden is compiling photographic evidence to assist in possible prosecution of this unsocial nuisance.

The proposed telecommunication mast on the village hall grass verge opposite The Wheel public house is going to appeal, having been refused by the District Council. I regard it as an unsuitable intrusion on this prominent site.

Boundary changes to the District Electoral Wards will result in losing Bradenham from Naphill, and Naphill and Walter's Ash combining with Hughenden Valley and Great Kingshill, to become a three-member district ward, to be known as Greater Hughenden. This will become effective at the next election in 2003. It does not affect the parish ward, county division or parliamentary constituency.

Richard Pushman

... and from the Village Hall Council

This report covers both the December and January meetings of the Village Hall Council.

Thankfully, with the darker evenings and the more miserable weather, the incidences of vandalism have waned. We are not complacent about this and continue to liaise with the police. Can I reiterate the need to report all incidents so they have a complete picture of what is going on in the village. Colin Oxberry, our Local Community Beat Officer, cannot act or implement adequate resources if he does not get all the information.

The Christmas tree lights again brightened the village over Christmas and we were able to appreciate them for longer each day as we had problems with the timer switch! Many thanks to all those of you who contributed to the lights via the collection tins, to the WI who donated to the fund, and to those intrepid 'young' men who risk life and limb putting them up. The display is appreciated by all who drive through the village over the Christmas period.

The hiring rates for the Hall and Playing Field have had to rise slightly again in line with inflation: all regular hirers have been informed of the increases. We have had problems in transferring the phone line for booking the hall from Graham Wagner's house to Barbara Clark's (our new lettings secretary). If you wish to book the hall and have trouble getting through, please phone a member of the committee. British Telecom has promised to sort it out a.s.a.p. and maybe will have done so by the time you read this.

Dave Evans, our new 'caretaker', was welcomed to the meeting. Dave has fully acquainted himself with

the building and found some issues that need to be addressed.

Sheila Draper announced that she is retiring from the editorship of the *Gazette* and has passed it to Alan Lewis. Although she is continuing to deal with the advertisements for the year, Alan is making his debut with this issue, and we thank him for taking it on. We all thank Sheila for all her 50 issues and wish her well.

The only fund-raising event in the pipeline at present is the Golden Jubilee Fete on Saturday 1 June. As ever, helpers are needed so if you could give time to this, please contact Cathryn Carter.

Sarah Bacon, Chairman, Naphill Village Hall & Playing Fields Council

Futurology

It will be strange indeed to thumb through the *Gazette* and to find there is no well-researched and finely crafted article by Rex Leaver, covering some bizarre aspect of life in 'Olden Times' in Naphill. I could not hope to match Rex's unique skills in ferreting out and presenting local scandals but perhaps, as a tribute, I could take a light-hearted look into the future, the Naphill of the year 2012, as revealed to me by my late Aunt Gavina who had a remarkable talent for forecasting the future.

While dreaming, I found myself with this mystical lady, the pair of us sitting with her large crystal ball sparkling in front of us. What caught my eye immediately and, surprisingly, was a copy of the *Naphill Gazette* dated April 2012.

But this was not a routine edition of the *Gazette*, but a special edition produced to commemorate a truly staggering event, namely the decision by Naphill to secede from the United Kingdom. The main article – entitled 'The Pushman Putsch' – set out how, after years of indecision (including a referendum that resulted in a tie), a National Government was formed in March 2012 with the specific aim of adopting the Euro. Scotland and Wales had separately decided to retain the Pound Sterling on 1 April 2012 and then, sensationally, after an emergency meeting in the village hall, the Council invited Richard Pushman to become President of Naphill and secede from the United Kingdom. The National Government was reluctant to use force to bring Naphill to heel but withdrew all forms of financial support from the Council. In response, Mr Pushman appeared on TV and both the Internet and the Outernet to state the case for independence. He also gave details of his (unpaid) Ministerial Appointments, as follows:

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Harold Latham. With his considerable experience of auditing the financial affairs of various village organisations, Mr Latham

(Bill!) is just the man to oversee the finances of the Independent State of Naphill. Indeed, sterling performance can be guaranteed.

Foreign Secretary: Gregory Hargrove. Mr Hargrove has declared his aim of establishing good relations with the many local communities that are looking askance at developments in the village.

Home Secretary: Robert Davis. Mr Davis (Bob) plans to reintroduce the death penalty for specific offences such as vandalism, ludicrous positioning of telecommunications poles, parking on the grass verges of Main Road, and not playing or supporting football. A gallows is to be erected on the crick and a public executioner is required urgently: previous experience is unnecessary.

Defence: John Bullock. Mr Bullock plans to introduce a Home Guard modelled on the Force established in 1940 during World War II.

Transport: Charles Leigh-Dugmore. Mr Dugmore believes this appointment is right up his street with his aim of introducing a minimum speed of 40 mph through Naphill coupled with new hairpin bends to add spice to journeys.

Farming and Food: Mrs Sarah Bacon. Mrs Bacon's policy is for self-sufficiency for Naphill. She also aims to set up a distillery to produce the first English Scotch – to be known as a 'Nip of the Nap'.

Culture: Geoffrey Froude. Mr Froude aims to develop the Brick Window Gallery to compete with the Tate Gallery in London.

Health: Mrs

At this stage, the crystal ball display began to flicker and gradually the image crumbled away before our anxious eyes. Aunt Gavina was unable to regenerate it and we were left wondering what happened to the Naphill Putsch. Who was the Minister of Health? Did Richard Pushman triumph and eventually become UK's Prime Minister? Did Naphill join with Scotland and Wales to sustain the Pound Sterling or did the Euro triumph? Perhaps Aunt Gavina will conjure up the future again in my dreams but, on the other hand, maybe we shall have to wait and see what Old Father Time reveals in the years ahead. Meanwhile, I apparently continue as the Honorary Treasurer of the *Gazette*!

David Leith

Evening of music

Naphill-born Jason Lawrence will be one of the musicians performing 'An evening of international music' at Trinity United Reform Church, Easton Street, High Wycombe on Saturday 9 February, starting at 7.30pm. Jason, who now works in

Norway, will be accompanied by other Norwegian musicians. Tickets costing £8, or £4 for concessions, may be obtained by ringing 01494 563916.

Voluntary village car service

We are considering setting up a voluntary village car service covering Naphill and Walter's Ash. It would provide a free car services (donations accepted) for elderly and infirm villagers who find it difficult to get to medical appointments, such as GP surgeries, hospitals, health clinics, dentists and prescriptions.

Before proceeding further with the idea, we first have to establish whether there is a need for such a service in our community. At the same time, we must locate volunteer drivers, prepared to give up an occasional hour or two in exchange for petrol expenses.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in making use of the service regularly or occasionally or, on the other hand, acting as voluntary chauffeur, please contact me.

Doreen Burge: 565430

Ken Vickery 1929–2001

Ken was one of the most sincere people I have ever met and I feel privileged that he regarded me as a friend. Always willing to help in any way he could, he was kind, courteous and caring.

When Ken retired, he took on the role of carrying out repairs to the Village Hall and the phrase "K.V. will deal" appeared several times each month in the Council minutes. All his work was carried out with maximum efficiency and minimum fuss, thus saving the Council a great deal of money.

To my mind, his lasting memorial will be the benches he made for the football club changing rooms. When the club was strapped for cash after equipping the new club room, Ken offered his help and produced benches that would grace any professional club and I am certain will survive generations of Naphill teams. A modest man, embarrassed by praise, he received satisfaction from knowing a job was well done.

Hazel and his family miss a loving husband, father and grandfather. The village will miss a dedicated worker and I and a number of others will miss a true friend.

Bob Davis

We would like to thank everyone who sent kind messages of sympathy and support on Ken's sudden death just before Christmas. A very modest man, he would have been surprised and embarrassed by the condolences and impressive attendance at his funeral. The many kindnesses are greatly appreciated.

Hazel and family

Willie Constable

As many readers will be now be aware, 'Willie' Constable passed away in Wycombe Hospital on 30 December 2001.

My family was fortunate to have had Willie as our neighbour in Vincents Way for some 20 years, and during this time we naturally got to know him extremely well. I spent many hours in his company as, whenever I had a DIY project in the house or work in the garden, Willie would be round at the first opportunity to provide help and often the tools to do the job.

Willie's real love was the crick and he was in his element when given the responsibility for cutting the grass, a job he undertook with great pride and enthusiasm. Willie was also a regular visitor to a variety of different homes in the village – he had his regular stop-off points where he could guarantee a cup of tea and a biscuit. He was never known to refuse, even when he had just left one house and popped next door. My parents and Kath Stewart (also Willie's neighbours) were daily drop-in points for him and also beneficiaries of any help he was able to offer. My father enjoyed a Sunday lunchtime ritual of a glass of beer and a 'nicey' – Willie's description of a tot of whisky

In recognition of the contribution Willie made to the lives of others living in the village, he was one of the first to receive the Naphill Good Neighbours Award.

As a result of failing eyesight, Willie was unable to look after himself at home, and his family arranged for him to be cared for in Icknield Court in Princes Risborough where he spent the last few years of his life. While he was not as happy as in his own home, he did settle there and, as might be expected, did his bit in the garden. My father and I maintained regular contact with Willie by taking him for a drink at a nearby pub, which of course he much enjoyed, as we were able to keep him up-to-date with village life. He also continued to attend the luncheon club that enabled him to keep in touch with old friends.

Willie was a great village character who made a significant contribution in his own personal way to the life of our village. The village will certainly be poorer without him and my entire family will miss him. He has now rejoined his old friends Claude Ayres and 'Kedge' Bristow, both of whom he will be pleased to be reunited with in the 'other room'.

Ron Collins

Planning proposals

As always, there is plenty to do in the five villages that Hughenden Parish Council covers. We have received quite a number of retrospective plans

[alterations and buildings going up without planning permission]. Wycombe District Council is very approachable and will give free advice on everything from your shed to that hedge or tree that might have a Tree Preservation Order. So if in doubt give them call. It could save you a lot of problems and money.

There are two items in Naphill giving us concern. The first is the slow deterioration of the Listed barns at Walter's Ash. Wycombe Council is now involved and we hope for a satisfactory conclusion. The second is plan MSR/06322/VCDN Unit 1-4 Le Flaive Business Park where the request is to amend the working hours. Originally, planning permission allowed these units for light industry only and the latest application has brought to our attention that this has not been the case. We again hope for a satisfactory conclusion from Wycombe District Council. As always, please do not hesitate to telephone me on any planning issues.

At our meeting on the 8 January 2002, our Local Community Beat Officer, Colin Oxberry, stressed again that if you see any vandalism or criminal actions they must be reported. So PLEASE take note so that these vandals can be caught.

On that note, let us hope that Naphill has a peaceful year and may I, on behalf of the Parish Council, take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy 2002.

Jane Elmidoro: 01844 275478

Ploughman's lunch in aid of Multiple Sclerosis

There will be a ploughman's lunch on Wednesday 13 February at Hughenden Village Hall organised by the High Wycombe and District branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The event, which starts at noon, will also include a raffle and a bring-and-buy stall. Entry will cost £3.

Blood donors wanted

There will be blood donor clinics at the Village Hall on Friday 1 March from 2 until 4pm and again from 5 until 6.45pm. For further information, telephone 01494 563846.

For your attention

Exercise machine for sale. Unwanted gift. As-new condition. Cost around £200. Accept £80. Telephone 562281.

Keep Fit class at Naphill Evangelical Free Church. Tuesdays 3-4pm. For further information, telephone 562891.

Italian lessons and translation service. Telephone 562782.

The sky at night

The moon is new on 12 February and full on the 27. It is next to Jupiter on 22 and next to Saturn on 20. Venus sets only a short time after the sun and is barely visible; it will be better next month. Capella, the bright star in Auriga, is high overhead, not too far from Jupiter and Saturn. Orion remains a really majestic constellation in the southern sky every evening.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Feb	Rises	07.42	21.47	08.03	09.31	13.30	11.49
	Sets	16.52	09.50	17.09	22.16	06.05	03.38
8 Feb	Rises	07.30	05.23	07.54	09.11	13.00	11.21
	Sets	17.05	13.02	17.32	22.18	05.36	03.11
15 Feb	Rises	07.17	08.54	07.44	08.52	12.30	10.54
	Sets	17.18	20.36	17.55	22.19	05.07	02.44
22 Feb	Rises	07.03	11.30	07.32	08.32	12.02	10.27
	Sets	17.31	03.35	18.18	22.21	04.38	02.17
1 Mar	Rises	06.49	20.45	07.18	08.13	11.34	10.00
	Sets	17.43	08.11	18.40	22.22	04.10	01.51

Comets

Since the Giotto spacecraft took images of Halley's comet in 1986, our knowledge of the nuclei of comets has been limited to 'a glowing core of icy dust and gas'. On 22 September 2001, NASA's Deep Space 1 spacecraft was manoeuvred to within 2200km of comet Borrelly, providing the best pictures ever of the inside of a comet. The pictures revealed that comet nuclei are far more complex than we imagined. Borrelly, a comet that orbits the sun every 6.9 years, consists of 'a rugged terrain, smooth rolling plains, deep fractures and very, very dark material'. Scientists also found that the coma, or surrounding cloud, is not symmetrical around the nucleus but is on one side of the comet and shooting out a vast jet of material forming the cloud tail that we see from Earth. Pictures of the encounter can be found at <http://nmp.jpl.nasa.gov/ds1/>.

The solar system

Articles within this series have often been concerned with the solar system and the nine planets orbiting the sun. But there are three main areas that contain almost countless other much smaller bodies. The first belt, between Mars and Jupiter, contains over 100,000 'minor planets', the largest of which is Ceres with a diameter of 1000km. This belt is sometimes known as the asteroid belt. The second, the Kuiper belt (largely between Neptune and Pluto), is about 30-50AUs from the sun (AU = Astronomical Unit,

the earth being defined as being 1AU) and includes at least 70,000 objects. It is the source of most periodic comets. Neptune is 30 AUs from the Sun and Pluto varies between 30 and 50AUs. Thirdly, and much further from the sun, is the Oort Cloud (varying from 20,000 to 100,000AUs, or about 1.6 light years, compared with 4.22 light years to the nearest star). The Oort cloud contains a huge number of comets without tails. These objects number over a thousand billion and represent some of the remnants of the solar system from its formation 4.6 billion years ago and could amount in total to the equivalent of another planet the size of Jupiter. On rare occasions, some of the objects are perturbed by a passing star that causes them to change their orbit and come much closer to the sun, causing it to sprout the normal comet tail (see September 1997 article).

Other solar systems

In October 2001, the total number of planets known to orbit stars other than the sun increased to 80. It is only a few years ago when the first of these 'exoplanets' was discovered. Bearing in mind how far even the nearest stars are away from us, astronomers have to use indirect methods to locate exoplanets as it is impossible to see them even with the most powerful telescopes. The method used is to look for tiny short- and medium-period wobbles in the star's orbit. It is then possible to calculate what kind of body is causing the wobble and where it is in relation to the mother star. Some exoplanets have earth-size orbits but no earth-size planets have yet been found. All 80 are much larger than Earth and most are larger than Jupiter; the detection procedure will have to be refined for success in this area.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Boys Under-15s

Having stepped in when Brian Boddy stood down as manager, I am delighted to report that the team has no fewer than seven new players this season, effectively making them a totally new team from last season.

They are a great bunch of lads and, with the help of Andy Brain, Richard Piercey and a young garage mechanic called Simon as coaches, we have had a mixed season so far. However, I believe that we have a team to be proud of and look forward to the rest of the season. The next two games are at home to Missenden FC and Tring Town Youth. Both kick off at 11am and any support would be most welcome.

On a slightly different note, I have this year managed to get myself a place in the London Marathon. Naturally, I am looking for sponsorship so any direct offers or suggested sources would be most welcome.

Tony Barlow

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

When I was in Dallas, USA, a few years ago, I chose the following item from a restaurant menu:

"Finest cuts of choicest, prime, long-horned Texas steer meat, skilfully minced, blended and expertly prepared by our own trained chefs; richly garnished with genuine garden grown Spanish onions and lavishly drenched with a special piquant sauce of our own secret blending; in a gigantic granary oven-baked bun of finest stone ground Oregon whole wheat flour, simply dripping with the very best dairy butter made from the richest high grade 4-star milk, lovingly coaxed from prize-winning prime herds fed on the lush green sun-soaked grass of Wyoming."

What did I get? A beefburger with onions!

These days, when advertising and public relations experts are at work in virtually every aspect of our lives and when even the nation's political leaders employ highly paid 'spin doctors' to present their policies in the best possible light, there is a great temptation to cynically disbelieve anything we are told and to be hypercritical of every claim made or statistic quoted.

Jesus said, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No, 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). In other words, simply tell the truth, say what you mean and mean what you say. How wonderful it would be if we could take everything we read at its face value and believe what we are told by any- and everyone – even politicians – knowing that it was the truth. But, as in every other area of life, if we want things to change for the better, it begins with us.

I don't believe in making New Year resolutions: what's so special about the New Year? If you realise that you need to change in some way, why wait for a particular date, just do it! So, from whenever you read this, why not make a 'today' resolution to "simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No', 'No'." This might lead to some interesting

conversations – "do you like my new hair-do?", "What do you think of my home-made wine?" – but as far as I'm concerned, if I ever ask you a question, please reply truthfully. And I'll do the same, honest!

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

We now have a new vicar, Simon Cronk, and I warmly welcome him to the parish and the 'Christians in the Community' team.

As I write, we are only a fortnight into the new year. I have been challenged by the events of last year, especially given all the hopes and aspirations being expressed a year ago at the beginning of the new millennium. What has gone wrong? I believe our aspirations and intentions were good. I also believe it has shown that, unless we seek God's will, our best intentions will not be successful. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, represents a God who does not remove freewill to impose peace; but shows in his life, death and resurrection a new way, which he invites us to follow. Because of Jesus, I do not lose hope but shall continue to work and pray for justice, peace, and respect between all people. May it be a good year for us all.

Shalom

Nick

Parish meeting

At the meeting held on the 11 December 2001 our County, District and Parish Councillor, Richard Pushman gave a talk on the new Cabinet, how it is working and how he perceives it.

Cllr Pushman also reported on the Standards and Code of Conduct laws required by all Councillors. These laws will effect everyone who is involved in government from Westminster to Parish Councillors. Further information will be reported when the Parish Councillors are involved.

Christians in the community

Sunday 27 January at 4.30 pm at Hughenden Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!* with exhibitions from all the local organisations and to welcome the new Vicar of Hughenden, Rev. Simon Cronk.

Fridays 1 and 15 February from 7 to 9pm at Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H!* 'Tweens Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Thursday 7 February from 10am until noon at the Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Fridays 8 and 22 February from 6.30 to 8pm at the Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Thursday 21 February at 8pm at Church House, Hughenden: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY*

Sunday 24 February at 4.30pm in Hughenden Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

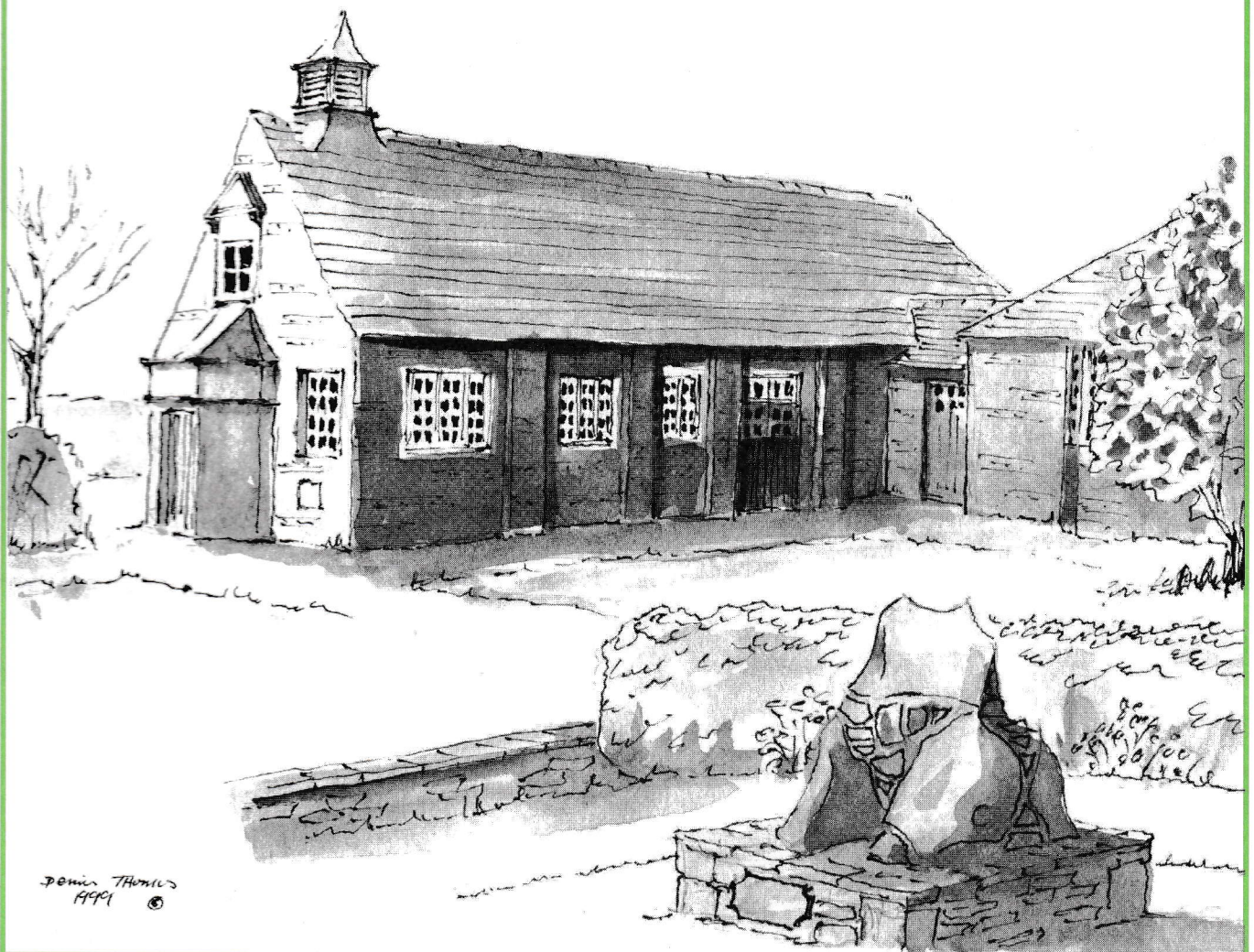
... and next month will start with ...

Saturday 9 March at 7.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *BARN DANCE*

For further details see notice boards in the area.

Naphill Gazette

April 2002



Dominic Thomas
1991 ©

Naphill Gazette

April 2002

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Copy date for May issue is Monday 15 April 2002

Editorial

Regular readers will note that this issue contains an extra page of advertising. The decision to include yet more ads was not taken lightly. The starting point, of course, is that there is always pressure from would-be advertisers for more space. From the layout point of view, it does mean that editorial can begin on a right-hand page, which 'research shows' is more acceptable to readers. *However*, I feel that the *Gazette* is now at its maximum capacity from the commercial point of view, so no more ads will be accepted for the year until next March.

Current advertisers should note that, as the ad pages are now printed with each issue rather than 12 months at a time, changes – such as altered

telephone numbers – can be introduced from issue to issue. With one or two errors creeping into the March issue, this will come as a relief to some!

As yet, any photo submissions are still thin on the ground. This seems a pity, especially as they say that a photograph is worth a 1000 words – which would save an awful lot of editorial time...

And, finally, a question for readers. Does anyone feel strongly about the content, that is to say whether additional, more general items – such as Grant Woodruff's informative articles on astronomy – would be welcomed and, if so, on what kinds of topic.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8 – 9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4 – 6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30 – 7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15 – 7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15 – 7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30 – 6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2 – 3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8 – 9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10 – 11.15am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15 – 6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6 – 7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30 – 11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2 pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15 am – 12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30 – 2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

In February, we enjoyed listening to Maurice Saunders with his wide repertoire of well-known songs on the piano and Mr Nicholls recalling memories of being a grocer in the days before the supermarket, where the grocer's shop was the source of village gossip in addition to polite, specialised service from the shopkeeper. In March, Richard Pushman was able to talk on local issues, in addition to forewarning us of the pending rise in Council Tax!

The programme for the coming meetings is as follows:

5 April Mr Edgeley – slides on farming

19 April Sally Edwards – a delightful singer

3 May OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY! Entertainment by Banjo Revivalists

17 May Quiz

Stella Page: 562314

Good evenings with the WI

At the February meeting, Mr J Woolley, an ex-policeman with the Bucks Constabulary, gave us a very interesting and amusing talk on the Great Train Robbery, and how, as a young constable, he had gone to a farmhouse with his sergeant to investigate a break-in, only to discover it was the farmhouse used by the robbers. Mr Woolley then took us through the investigation and subsequent arrest of the robbers. This was a fascinating talk, well worth listening to.

In the other business of the evening, Doreen Burge spoke about the help she will need if she is to be successful with the 'Transport for the elderly scheme' that she is setting up. Doreen asked for drivers to help people get to the doctors' surgery, hospital clinics, etc. or just to pick up prescriptions.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month except August. Why not join us? We are a friendly crowd and I can guarantee you will make new friends.

Hazel Davis : 563846

Neighbours and friends

'Glass painting in the grand manner' kept 40 members and friends absorbed at our March meeting. Jane Dunsterville and her husband have a glass painting business in High Wycombe and she brought along many examples of their work as well as two books they have written. Jane talked us through the whole process of glass painting and handed round items of work showing the different

stages of the procedure. The resulting articles are beautiful and colourful works of art.

Tickets for our fashion show by Just Trading on Saturday 11 May are now available at £3 each. Please phone me on the number below if you would like to buy any. After the show, a range of clothing will be displayed and it will be possible to purchase at reasonable prices.

At our next meeting on Monday 8 April, Sonia Waterton, who is blind, will talk to us on 'Housekeeping in the dark'. We have recently welcomed new members to our group and we would welcome even more. Please come and join our friendly bunch of ladies for meetings on the second Monday in the month at the Village Hall and for regular outings.

Mary Shrimpton: 562100

Letter to the editor

From Hazel Vickery

I was sad to read Jack Fair's letter in the March issue of the *Gazette* stating his reaction to the fact that Fairprint had been overlooked and not thanked.

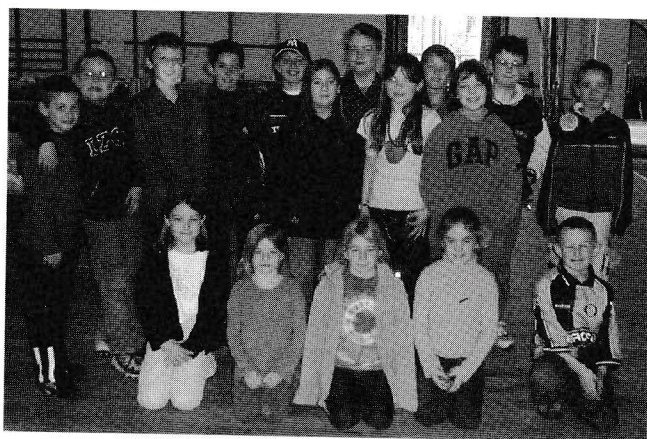
As a past Editor of the *Gazette*, I was in close contact with Fairprint every month over a number of years and have nothing but praise for the efficiency with which they produced our village magazine and for their personal kindness to me. Jack and Jill and all their staff were friendly and more than helpful and were a delight to deal with. Fairprint's contribution over many years should be acknowledged and I hope this letter will rectify that omission.

Naphill and Walter's Ash School

The Spring term has once again seen a vast range of activity at the school, from music and dance workshops, to a trip for Year 6 to the Rowing and Rivers museum at Henley and cricket coaching for girls in Years 5 and 6. Children throughout the school have been focussing on science as it is National Science Year, and on creative writing, with a selection of poetry being entered into a national competition. Once again, the children have performed extremely well in a variety of sports – the netball and cross-country teams have been very successful and one of our pupils, Richard Oetiker, has been selected to travel to Brussels to play with the High Wycombe Rugby Club, having played Tag Rugby at school.

Funding from the New Opportunities Fund and lots of hard work by a small group of committed parents and our Headteacher has meant that we have at last

opened our Out of School Club. This is a separate organisation from the school, run by a small but dedicated team who provide safe and stimulating care for our schoolchildren outside school hours.



Members of the School Council and helpers: Josh Smith, Dan Bradnam, Sam Jones, Duncan Foster, Harry Rush, Felicity Wakefield, Tom Bradnam, Eleanor Downs, Edward Day, Sarah Halpin, Phillip Wallace, Cameron Roberts. Front: Gemma Seabright, Sophie Wilkinson, Jade Wilkinson, Rebecca Kitto and Glen Thorpe

The school council held a 'Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale' in aid of Help the Aged, and managed to raise £237. The 18 children on the council organised the whole event themselves, including advertising the sale, pricing the donated items and selling as much as they possibly could on the day. Before the end of term, the School Council will be organising a mufti day, with the money raised going towards buying benches for the playground. Next term they will be teaming up with Rotary Club International and filling shoe boxes to send off to developing countries.

The Spring term will end with the Year 3 and 4 production of *Blast Off* and the Year 6 residential visit to Rhos-y-Gwaliau. Also, some of our pupils are starring in *The Wind in the Willows* which is part of Energise at Wycombe Swan.

If you would like any more information about the school, please contact the school office on 01494 562813, or myself on 01494 564918.

Heidi Roberts, Chairman of Governors

Special Constables and other matters

I know that my first topic has been raised in the past, but nevertheless I will raise it again.

I am looking for volunteers to become Special Constables. I want local people to help me with local issues, local problems and local events. I can guarantee that anyone who volunteers will not be asked to work in Wycombe unless they want to.

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

There are great opportunities for men and women to work in their local communities and really make a difference. Age is no barrier. Older residents are encouraged to apply. Full training is given and the Parish Council has agreed to help with funding for extra training that may be needed specifically for local problems. I would ask anyone who has even the slightest interest to give me a call on 01494 715352. I want to rid our village of vandalism, but I need help to do it. Please give me a call.

The second issue is aimed at parents. Police spend a considerable amount of time in schools giving drugs awareness presentations. The children are taught about the different types of drugs, the effects they have, both short- and long-term. They are also given the opportunity to talk about drugs and ask whatever they want. I would now like to redress the balance and give the parents the opportunity to do the same. I am arranging to hold a Drugs Awareness Evening sometime in the very near future, preferably in the Village Hall.

I know from evidence shown to me by locals that some of our teenagers are using drugs, and not just cannabis. Even in rural affluent areas such as ours, children as young as 11 experiment with drugs. The presentation will be aimed at the uninitiated and will help you identify whether one of your children could be using drugs. It will give you balanced information about the drugs and the effects they have, and also what to look out for. Being aware should make it easier for you to talk to them.

As soon as I have a date, I will put notices in the local shops with full details. If anyone wants further information, please call me on 01494 715352.

*Colin Oxberry, PC 4140
Naphill Area Beat Officer*

County and District Councillor's Report

Transco's refurbishment of the gas main between Pursell's Meadow and Huntshill Lane is scheduled for completion on 7 June. On the positive side, the disruption to the traffic flow appears to have reduced the volume of traffic using Main Road. Footway maintenance, from Moseley Road to Forge Road, has required a second set of traffic lights. This is unfortunate, but it was thought better not to delay the start of the re-surfacing work.

I am concerned at the increasing use of Clappins Lane by heavy lorries and will be requesting weight restrictions on this lane. There is a pilot scheme at present running in the Great Missenden area, restricting heavy goods vehicles on Chiltern Lanes. After monitoring this trial, it is hoped to widen the scheme to include most lanes within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Soon there will be a speed camera installed in Naphill, near to the junction with Pursells Meadow. Unfortunately, its arrival comes after the introduction of new government legislation that requires it to be painted bright yellow. There will also be two yellow warning signs to maximise the deterrent effect of the camera.

Proposed changes to secondary school catchment areas have caused much concern to some schools in my County Division but there is to be further consideration. Fortunately, our local school is not affected.

Frogmoor's fountain now appears to be working at last. To those who thought it an expensive 'white elephant', I can only say that it is within the originally agreed budget. I have not heard any adverse comments regarding the improved Frogmoor area and must conclude that it now has general support.

I hope that we are now near to agreeing the new 'Phoenix project' which replaces the defunct Western Sector development. It will have many of the features of the original plan, including a departmental store and plans for a new library. High Wycombe deserves a good comprehensive shopping scheme for, without these improvements, the vitality of the town will undoubtedly suffer.

Richard Pushman

Village Hall & Playing Fields Council

The AGM of the Village Hall and Playing Fields Council will take place at 8.30 pm in the Small Hall on Tuesday 2 April 2002.

Please don't be a silent majority! Come along and show your support. As a carrot – if that's not a contradiction in terms – there will be a free glass of wine for every attender! Since every villager may be affected by the work of the Council, it is well worth while going along.

Hazel Vickery

Toddle along to the Toddlers

Naphill's Toddlers Group can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2 to 4pm in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting off steam or quietly modelling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Blood donors

There was another incredible turnout when 132 volunteers gave blood at the session at the Village Hall on 1 March.

The National Blood Service was naturally delighted with the attendance.

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request.
Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 562667.

SHEET MUSIC FOR SALE. Lots of piano music – mainly popular songs – going back to the 1940s and 50s. Also some show scores and a few classics.
Phone 564512.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on 01491 638603.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with homemade cakes served at Hughenden Church House from 2.15pm on Easter Day, Sundays and

Holiday Monday afternoon until the end of October. Groups can book a Special Tea on weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

The Naphill sky in April

Earth–Moon System

The moon is known to be the main cause of the tides in our oceans and seas. To what extent does this energy dissipation cause the distance between the earth and the moon to change? There have been many measurements but the consensus is that the moon moves away from the earth by 2cm per year from this cause. This would mean that when the moon was first formed, its distance was about 70,000km nearer than the present mean distance of 384,400km. The other effect is to lengthen the day from the present 24 hours to 27 hours in a billion years from now. By this argument, when complex life started on earth some 900 million years ago, the day was about 21 hours long.

Another question I have been asked about the moon is when is it at its highest in the night sky? The answer is when the sun is at its lowest, on about the winter solstice. On 19 December this year, the moon will be full and will have an altitude of 64° above the horizon at about midnight. Near the summer solstice, on 24 June, the full moon will be a mere 14.5° above the horizon at its highest.

Globular clusters

In an article for the *Gazette* five years ago, I mentioned globular clusters. These are huge, old and dense objects containing up to a million stars or more. They are found in galactic halos, a spherical volume of space surrounding the central parts of spiral galaxies: 147 are known to exist in the Milky Way galaxy. The best one to see from Naphill is in the constellation of Hercules. It is sometimes known as M 13 and can be found in April about 60° above the eastern horizon during the late evening. It is just possible to see a very faint fuzzy star-like object with the naked eye, but through good binoculars the view should be better.

The Hubble Space Telescope published (<http://oposite.stsci.edu/pubinfo/PR/2001/33/pr-photos.html>) a new photograph in October 2001 of another cluster called Omega Centauri that cannot be seen by observers from northern latitudes. The Hubble people called their photo 'Peering into the core of a globular cluster'. Their press release states that it is a massive globular star cluster some 17,000 light-years from earth, containing several million stars swirling in locked orbits around a common centre of gravity.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1	Rises	06.38	00.54	07.17	07.55	10.38	09.03
Apr	Sets	19.37	08.39	21.20	23.26	03.15	01.00
8	Rises	06.22	05.34	07.05	07.39	10.14	08.38
Apr	Sets	19.49	15.02	21.43	23.27	02.50	00.33
15	Rises	06.07	07.28	06.54	07.24	09.51	08.12
Apr	Sets	20.01	23.03	22.06	23.36	02.26	00.09
22	Rises	05.52	13.43	06.45	07.10	09.28	07.47
Apr	Sets	20.12	04.28	22.29	23.25	02.02	23.45
29	Rises	05.38	23.47	06.38	06.57	09.05	07.22
Apr	Sets	20.23	07.04	22.51	23.23	01.38	23.33

The stars are packed so densely in the cluster's core that it is difficult for ground-based telescopes to make out individual stars.

Hubble's high resolution is able discern the detail, showing distinct points of light from stars at the very centre of the cluster. The part of the cluster covered by the photograph contains some 50,000 stars all within a region 13 light-years wide. To give an idea of how dense this is, such a volume with the sun at the centre includes about six or seven stars. Or the nearest star could be at the beginning of the Oort Cloud or 400 times the distance of Pluto or a third of a light-year. By contrast, the nearest star to us is Proxima Centauri at 4.22 light-years.

The globular cluster shown in the photograph below is Messier object, M 80.



Grant Woodruff

The second-hand emporium

At last year's fete, after Trish and Pauline had sold the remaining bits and pieces, we raised an amazing £1023. That sum was made through the generosity of yourselves just by giving items you no longer required.

I appreciate that there is a limit, but just have one more look through cupboards, attics and sheds and see what you can find. Remember, every penny made goes to Village Hall funds.

We take anything – except husbands, wives, children and large items of furniture. Please ring me, Bob, on 563846 or John on 565563. Or why not visit our website

www.thiswillbemylastyearonthestallsomakeit

Coach trip to Sudeley Castle

There are a few seats available on the coach outing to Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe that is being organised by Naphill cum Bradenham Conservative Association. The date is **Tuesday 23 April** and tickets cost £21 each, including travel and entrance fees. Please ring Peggy Waterston on 565969 if you would like to know more.

Village Hall Council

Notes for March 2002

We welcomed Barbara Clarke as our new Lettings Secretary, following the 'retirement' of Graham Wagner from the post. Graham has been doing the job for as long as I have been on the Village Hall Council and we thank him for all his hard work. It is a job that is only really noticed when it goes wrong. Many thanks to Graham for not letting us notice the bulk of the work that you have done. Enjoy your extra leisure time.

We were short of helpers to do the door-to-door collection for the Christmas Tree Lights this year. Could any of you please help out with the collection next year? This collection is vital if we are going to be able continue to light the tree.

We have a new springy toy in the children's play area on the Crick. It is a creature of uncertain parentage, but very bright and inviting. If you have any ideas of its genetic make-up, then please let us know. The play area is designed for children under the age of 12. We have had reports of older children using it. Bigger children are too large and heavy to use the equipment safely and could spoil it for the younger children. A notice has been on the fence in the past to this effect and we hope to put up a more permanent notice about this shortly. Please don't let your older children use the play area. Thank you.

Forthcoming events:

We have a **Murder Mystery Evening** in the Village Hall on **19 April**. Tickets are £5 each from John Harris (on 562099)

The **Fete** is on **1 June** and the theme is therefore the Golden Jubilee.

We hope to hold a **Jazz evening** in October. Details have yet to be finalised but watch this space and put it in your diary as soon as we have a firm date. It should be a really good night.

The **Fireworks** will be on 2 November

And finally the Village Hall Council AGM is on Tuesday 2 April at 8.30pm in the Small Hall.

Everyone is most welcome and the AGM will be followed by drinks and nibbles. Do come along and hear all that goes on.

*Sarah Bacon, Chairman, Naphill Village Hall and
Playing Fields Council*

Naphill Tennis Club news

Potential new members are invited to join us on Monday 1 April from 2pm for an afternoon of friendly tennis. Club sessions are also held on Sunday and Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday evenings during the summer, starting on 10 April.

Coaching for Juniors will begin in the Easter holidays for beginners and improvers, followed by supervised sessions on Monday (beginners) and Friday evenings during the summer term.

For further details please give me a ring.

Sue Crooks: 562539

Pre-school says goodbye to Norma

As many of you know, Norma Clarke has run our Pre-school for 16 years, and been a member of staff for two years longer than that. She has now decided that it is time to take early retirement, and will be leaving us at the end of the summer term. Fortunately, we have a strong and enthusiastic team of staff, and will be advertising for a new supervisor after Easter.

On behalf of many of the young people and parents of Naphill, I would like to (prematurely) thank Norma for all she has done for us, and wish her all the best with whatever she chooses to do next.

This term at Pre-school we have been 'looking at' *spring*, considering everything from seeds to tadpoles. As usual, the staff have come up with an imaginative range of activities to spark the children's imaginations.

The end of term will be marked on 22 March with the Easter Hat Parade, with friends and family invited to enjoy the occasion.

During the holidays the children will be encouraged to have a go at our sponsored find. Do sponsor them if you can.

As we move into the summer term, we start to look ahead to September when many of our youngsters will move on to 'big' school. The older children have already started the process of visits to the school to get a feel for the place.

As these older children leave us, so they make way for new children to join. If your child will be two-and-a-half or three by the autumn, do pop in and see us or phone the Village Hall (01494 564037) any weekday morning during term time.

Ruth Daly

Naphill and Walter's Ash Fete

The theme for this year's fete on 1 June is "The Jubilee Years". If you are planning a float, a Walking Tableau or Fancy Dress for the procession, we leave it entirely to your imagination. With 50 years of events, there must be something to suit everyone. Whatever you decide, we look forward to seeing the results of your hard work on the day.

I still need nominations for the Best Neighbour award, so if you have anyone in mind, please write to me at 236 Main Road, Naphill, briefly giving your reasons for the nomination.

We would also be grateful for any donations for the Tombola, so if you are starting a spring tidy-up and come across any unwanted gifts, spare bottles of wine (is there such a thing?) etc., give me a call and I will collect them. The only thing I ask is that food items are still within date.

Helpers are still required – both on the day and in the days running up to the Fete – so if you think you can spare some time please, please let me know.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Come and enjoy the colours and natural history of **Wild birds in the Chilterns** in a talk and slide show by Brian Clews of the County Ornithological Service. If you enjoy watching and feeding these attractive garden visitors you are welcome to learn more about them on Thursday 11 April at Naphill Village Hall. This is the latest in our series of talks on local animals, plants, natural history, fossils, landscape, etc, and should not be missed. Bring

children too! The talk at 8pm follows a brief AGM at 7.30pm which you are invited to attend also, to hear what the Residents Association is doing on your behalf and put any questions. Both are open to all local residents. Admission is £1 (to cover costs), children 50p. Wine and nibbles provided.

Planning

02/5306/CONCG RAF High Wycombe, Main Road (New Road?), Walter's Ash. Development of C Block car park and accommodation works associated with demolition of A & B blocks. Not clear what happens to rubble. Quantity? Transported through residential area? Which route? 02/5351/FUL Land adjacent to 1 prospect Cottages, Downley Road, Naphill. Two 3-bed semis. 02/5352/FUL Rosebine Villa, 52 Main Road, Naphill. Rear conservatory and replace Velux windows with two rear dormers to existing loft room. 02/5354/FUL 46 Main Road, Naphill. Two-storey front extension. 02/5410/FUL Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Convert linked outbuilding between garage and house to breakfast area and erect pitched roof. 02/5410/FUL Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Detached garage (retrospective application). 02/5437/FUL 5 Brackenwood, Naphill. Rear conservatory. 02/5438/FUL Homeleigh, Coombe Lane, Naphill. Rear extension, roof alteration and insertion of side dormers for roof conversion for 1st floor accommodation. Concerns over possible overlooking problem with side dormer (shower window). 02/5506/FUL 4 Bayley Gardens, Naphill. Single-storey rear extension (not in register.) 02/5542/ADV Templewood, Walter's Ash. Erection of two non-illuminated sales/direction signs with four flagpoles. Concerns that visual impact is excessive in AONB. 02/5545/FUL The Country Store, 247 Main Road, Walter's Ash. 2-storey rear extension to provide two 1-bed self-contained flats and parking with access from Ash Close. Questions whether Ash Close is a recognised access. Concerns about single-track access shielded by fences to a road used for on-street parking. Possible concerns of overlooking of 3 Burdett Drive. 02/5573/CONCG RAF High Wycombe, Main Road, Walter's Ash. Erection of replacement changing room facilities at Site 1. 02/5596/VCDN, Aspen, Naphill Common. Variation of Condition 3 (no further windows) of PP01/07878/FUL to allow insertion of ground-floor utility window in flank elevation. Question whether this is necessary. 02/5290 Uplands Training Centre. Installation of 27m telecomms mast with 7 antennae including 4 dishes together with a meter and equipment cabinet and ancillary development. For Hutchison 3G, 5th network operator for 3rd generation mobile phones. The mast is a 'slimline' design and will protrude only ca 4m above the tree

line. *Walter's Ash Barns*. Enforcement notice issued for restoration of Listed Buildings but scope of repairs unclear and condition seriously dilapidated. *Naphill Barns (Industrial Units) Church Lane, Naphill*. Continuing complaints of use outside permitted hours on Sundays and weekdays.

Motorcycle hazards

There are new reports of motorbikes being ridden on Naphill Common and Bradenham Green. Also of under-age riders on the pavement of Main Road, Naphill, at about 30 mph. If you have to report incidents that do not quite warrant a 999 call, the police suggest calling Amersham Crime Desk on 01494 736 736 which is open at most hours.

Next meeting (AGM 7.30 and Wild Birds Talk 8 pm) Thursday 11 April 2002.

Malcolm Leflaive : tel 563634)

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

Some years ago I visited Israel – the land which God gave to His chosen people, the Hebrews of long ago – the land in which God's son, The Lord Jesus Christ, was born, taught, died, but rose again.

We of course visited Jerusalem, one of the most fascinating cities in the world. We got up at 6am on the Sunday morning, entered the old walled city by Herod's Gate and walked along part of the Via Dolorosa to the Church (or more accurately churches) of the Holy Sepulchre. One of our group had arranged to hold a 7am service at the site, within the church, where tradition has it Jesus was nailed to the cross. What a lovely service it was, too: short, yet providing a meeting point for all the different Christian traditions we represented, as our leader quoted Jesus' words, "do this in memory of me". We had to stand in a tight group for, just a dozen feet away, a German pastor was leading worship for another group and, next to him, a Polish priest led yet another service. Not only were we three groups in this part of the building, but at least two other services were taking place – Greek Orthodox, at the sepulchre itself (where tradition has it Jesus was buried) and Coptic, in their chapel, behind the sepulchre. Part way through our various services, we all had to pause, as the great bells of the church called some other congregation of the faithful to *their* time of worship!

Afterwards, we wandered through the souk (market), where many small shopkeepers were opening up for another hectic, noisy, day's business. The souk is run mainly by Muslim Arabs, for whom Sunday is just another working day: their holy day is Friday.

After breakfast, we went to worship at whichever church we chose and, as there are dozens of churches in Jerusalem, the choice was difficult! I went to Christchurch, the first Anglican church to be built in Israel (in 1842) as a mission to the Jews. It stands just inside the Jaffa Gate into the walled Old City, and on a beautiful screen behind the altar are written the Ten Commandments and the Lord's prayer in Hebrew.

Some of our party had gone to the service held at 'The Garden Tomb', just outside the Damascus Gate. The English Baptist minister who led the service told them afterwards that, while the Holy Sepulchre church covered the traditional site of Christ's burial, many now believed He had been buried there in the garden. "But of course it doesn't really matter," he had added. "The important thing is that, wherever He was buried, He rose again!"

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove

Christian Aid 2002

Floods, earthquakes, typhoons, droughts, wars – our news media present us with an unending catalogue of disasters, in which people just like us are killed, disabled, orphaned, or made homeless or stateless. Most of us have no real idea of the misery these people suffer and many of us feel there is nothing we can do about it. But there is something, vitally important, that we *all can* do. We can *give* from our relative wealth, to help relieve their great poverty.

This year, Christian Aid Week is 12–18 May and, although we have a core team of people who are prepared to spend an hour or two to distribute and then collect envelopes, we could always use more people – to cover roads in our two villages not covered in previous years and also to reduce the number of houses some of our 'willing hands' are prepared to visit. If you could possibly help during that week, perhaps by collecting from your own road (or just part of it if it's a long one) or, if you would rather, from another part of the village, *please* give me a ring, or call in. And when an envelope drops through your letterbox, please think of those desperate people, and give generously.

At the end of August, I shall be retiring and moving away, after exactly nine years in the village. So next year a new Christian Aid Organiser will be needed if this vital humanitarian work is to continue. Could you take on this challenge? You will need only the equivalent of a day or two before the event to give the helpers their materials and probably a full day after the event to count, bag up and bank the proceeds, send off the Gift Aid forms, etc. There are many retired, early retired, semi-retired and others not in full-time work in our two villages who could

make the time. If you are concerned about the plight of the world's poor and could take on this very worthwhile task, please speak to me about it.

Gregory Hargrove, 124 Main Road: 563304

Greetings from Simon Cronk

I enjoy the story about a man who was known to be vigorously anti-Christian and therefore anti-church. One day he encountered a well-known local Christian man and church member and was rather free with his opinion: "You Christians", he said, "really you are all just a bunch of hypocrites!" The Christian man responded, "I am sure that you are right. We Christians are all a bunch of hypocrites, one more won't do us any harm: why don't you come along and join us!"

The truth about Christianity that many many people do not seem to understand is that those who are Christians do not see themselves as being any better or more worthy than anyone else, rather the opposite. As a friend once said to me "I became a Christian not because I knew myself to be a good person, but because underneath I knew that I was not so great after all". In his beatitudes (sometimes called the beautiful attitudes!) Jesus once said "Blessed are the poor in spirit", in other words "blessed are those who know their need of God".

Our culture today preaches self-dependency and self-fulfilment. Christians do not believe that ultimately **this works**: they believe the only way to true fulfilment is to come to God, knowing our limitations **and that** we constantly fail to live up to the standards we set ourselves, let alone those of pure goodness that any concept of God represents. "You are all hypocrites": well yes, I suppose we are, just like **everyone else**, but hypocrites who know forgiveness **and the chance** of a new start.

Simon Cronk, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

As I write it is just a few days away from the 175th anniversary of the death of Beethoven (26 March). We trombonists have a lot for which to thank Beethoven. It was he who introduced the trombone into the symphonic repertoire (in the last movement of his Fifth Symphony).

The classical form of a symphony is to begin with a fairly substantial movement which forms the groundwork of the piece and introduces the main themes. This is followed by a scherzo, a shorter lively movement, then the slow movement and the finale. It is a beautifully balanced programme, almost a concert in itself (part of the argument for clapping in between movements, which most of us dislike!)

This gives us a model for living, too. There is the main substance of our lives, which we might liken to education and career. The scherzo represents the play time, the fun, also an important part of a rounded personality. The slow movement reminds us of the importance of finding peace and space, and time to reflect. The finale is often celebratory, just as life needs its highlights. When all of these are held in balance, we generally find wholeness and fulfilment.

The creation story in Genesis, ch.1, gives us a simpler but similar pattern for a healthy lifestyle, working six days and resting on the seventh. Jesus once said (in John ch.10, v.10) "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." This is God's will for us all, and Christians find it most fully when life is lived in harmony with God, whose melody was expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Shalom

Nick

Christians in the community

Sunday 24 March at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Good Friday 29 March at 10.30am at Naphill Methodist Church: *UNITED SERVICE*

Easter Sunday 31 March at 6.30pm at St Michael's, Hughenden: *UNITED SERVICE*

Thursday 4 April from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Fridays 12 and 26 April from 6.30 to 8pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H! 'Kids Really Are Special Here!'* (for school years 2-6, ages 6-10)

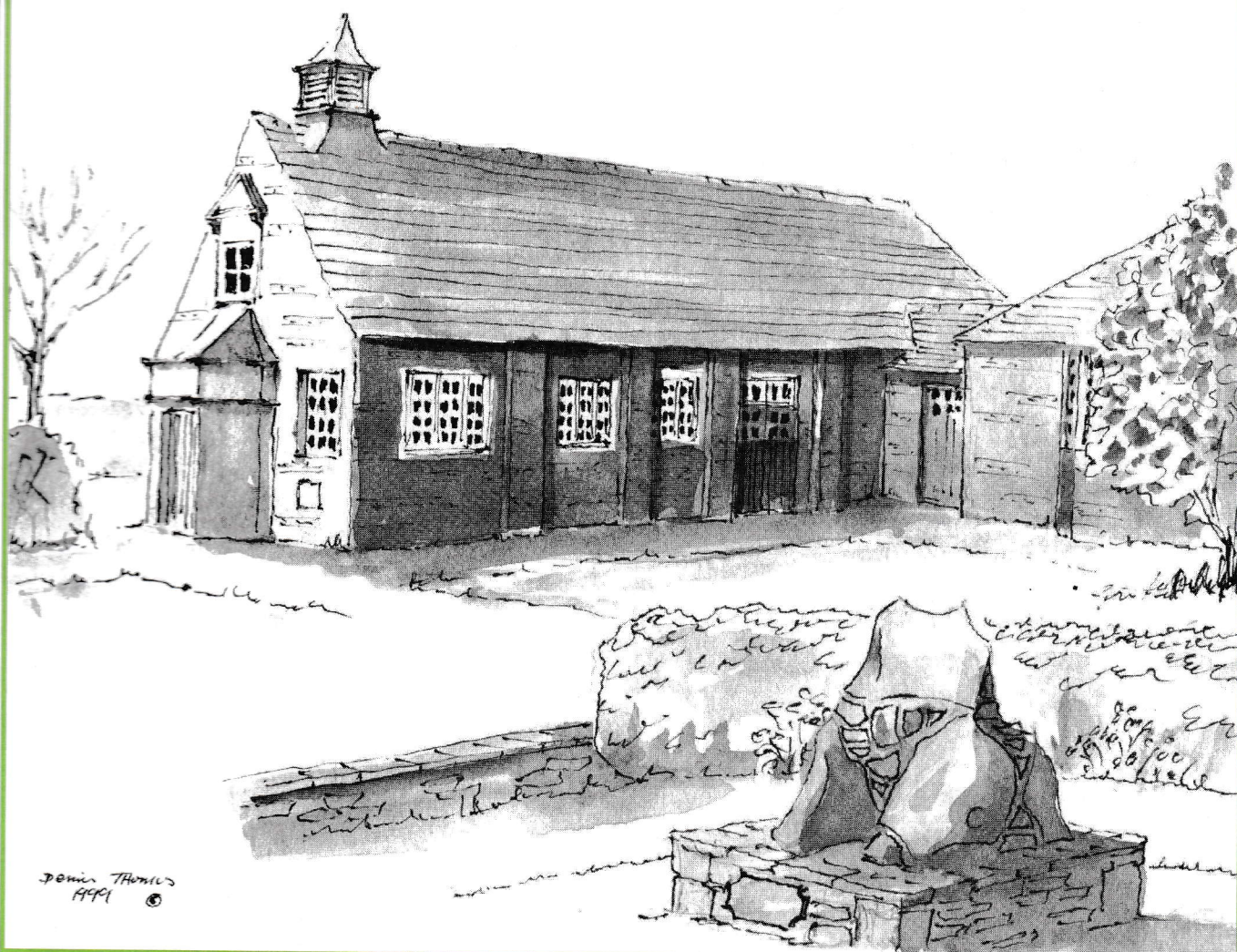
Friday 19 April at 7pm at Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H! 'Twins Really Are Special Here'* (ages 11-14).

Sunday 28 April at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Sunday 28 April at 6pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *UNITED SERVICE* – Rev. Dr Dennis Applebee ('Holy Life' Convention speaker)

Naphill Gazette

May 2002



Naphill Gazette

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Copy date for June issue is Thursday 16 May 2002

Editorial

When I first became involved with the printed word 40 years ago, there was no such thing as word-processing, desk-top publication or fax. And e-mail was not even a twinkle in a boffin's eye. Today, copy for the *Gazette* arrives in a variety of formats. Apart from some handwritten material, most of it is delivered as typescript – 'hard copy' – and the rest on floppy disc or by e-mail. All this is then input into the PC for tidying up in *WordPerfect* and finally layout in the excellent *PagePlus8* program. What all this means is that my job is much easier than it would have been 20 years ago. As a result, each issue can be put together in a couple of days. There is even no need to take it to the printers – e-mail does that job much more quickly and cheaply.

What all editors have to remember, however, is that computers are essentially stupid and cannot be relied upon to deliver perfection or even sense. In computer-speak, the acronym is GIGO – garbage in, garbage out. So, when scanning in hard copy, I have to be especially careful. With this issue, I managed to spot 'cod' when it should have read 'God' and 'run' for 'fun'. The best was 'perish councils' – a sentiment that some may share when the annual community charge is announced.

But it does leave me wondering what I may have missed...

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8 – 9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4 – 6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30 – 7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15 – 7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15 – 7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30 – 6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2 – 3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8 – 9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10 – 11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15 – 6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6 – 7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30 – 11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2 pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15 am – 12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30 – 2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

How lovely to put the dark days of winter behind us and to enjoy the lovely sunny weather we have been having, and the freshness of the spring flowers and flowering trees, not to mention the birds in full song.

Mr Edgeley's slides on farming were most interesting and he gave us some insight into the problems of farming. Not only do farmers face the hazards of weather and foot-and-mouth as they did last year, but the return on their produce is appalling. Out of a 99p packet of Weetabix, the farmer only gets 1p!

We celebrate our **Birthday Party** on **3 May** so please all come and enjoy the fine fare that our noble committee always set before us. This will be followed by entertainment from the Banjo Revivalists. On **17 May** we shall be having a **Quiz**, and the entertainment for **31 May** still has to be arranged.

Don't forget the Naphill Fete on Saturday **1 June**: if you have any bits and bobs for the second-hand emporium, all contributions will be gratefully received. Please ring either Bob on 563846 or John on 565563 if you need items collected.

Stella Page: 562314

Evening WI

The talk at our March meeting was given by Sharon Kelly, a paediatric social worker at Keech Cottage Children's Hospice. Keech Cottage is a purpose-built five-bedded children's hospice on the outskirts of Luton that provides care for children with life-limiting illnesses and support for their families. This year the hospice received only 5% of the £1 million it needs for annual running costs from the area health authority and the remaining 95% has therefore to be raised by donations and fund-raising. Sharon told us that, owing to a shortfall of funds, part of the unit has been closed for some months.

Karron Robinson, whose daughter Amy receives respite care at Keech Cottage, came to the meeting with her son Nick. They told us about the wonderful support the whole family receive from the staff at the hospice. Thanks to members' generosity, the WI donated £120 to the children's hospice.

May meeting: 16 May Caribbean cooking.

Competition – favourite cooking utensil and why. The meeting will start at 7.15pm to enable members to discuss the two resolutions to be taken to the IGM: (1) Local abattoirs and (2) Importation of food stuffs.

Doreen Burge : 565430

Naphill Neighbours

'Housekeeping in the dark' proved to be a most interesting talk at our April meeting. Sonia Waterton was blinded in 1971 as a result of meningitis and she

bears her disability with fortitude and great humour. She explained to us all the tricks of the trade that help her to use her hands as her eyes in the kitchen and also showed us gadgets that are a great asset to her. Sonia's humour in overcoming her lack of sight was an inspiration to us all. She is, she says, the happiest person she knows!

Please don't forget our fundraising Fashion Show on Saturday **11 May** starting at 1.45pm in the Village Hall. Tickets at £3 each are available from me, or pay at the door. Just Trading will have a varied selection of fashions that will be available for purchase afterwards.

Our next meeting is on Monday 13 May when Thea McIntyre (ex Roly-Poly) will speak on her life in Variety. Members are very welcome to bring a friend free-of-charge to this meeting, so do come along for what should be a very enjoyable evening.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Letters to the editor

Letter from Jean Lawrence-Mann

As known to my generation, the common was a paradise – a place of adventure, mystery and fun; where there were trees, bushes, ferns, fascinating wildlife, including ponds, frogs and grass snakes or, of course, mud. Sunday walks on the common with the family were the highlight of the week.

Recently, I took a friend to sample, as I thought, the beauty of the countryside by a walk on the common. We left the car at the top of Hunts Hill Lane and I got the shock of my life when I found a hardcore-tarmac road nine feet wide cutting straight through the common to Cookshall Lane and then bearing left almost as far as the road at Downley.

For what purpose? I wondered. In these modern times with a craze for speed and a desire to have everything planned to suit us humans, do we really take into account the needs of other species on this planet? True, the common has thickened enormously – partly because of our own way of life. We no longer graze our cattle there or keep paths open by regular walking.

One can appreciate the need for reasonable pathways but surely not nine-feet-wide tarmac roads – and encouragement for noisy, polluting motorbikes, etc. We need to consider seriously preserving this precious inheritance for the good of the present and the future.

Letter from the residents of Church Lane

We really could not let John Evans's letter in the March edition of the *Gazette* go by without writing in support of Councillor Jane Elmidoro as regards Le Flaive Business Park. In no way can this industrial development be considered an improvement as suggested by Mr Evans. Not only was the development totally inappropriate in a quiet residential district

within an area of outstanding natural beauty but the situation has become progressively worse since the units have been occupied.

- ❑ One of the units is being used for storage and distribution of materials in contravention of the planning consents.
- ❑ The increase in traffic has been horrendous – over five times that originally envisaged with cars, vans and heavy goods vehicles using a very narrow lane that is a designated footpath with restricted access to the main road.



This photograph was taken by a resident to show the kind of problem they regularly face.

- ❑ The car park cannot cope with the level of traffic and, as a result, cars, vans and lorries are, at times, parked along the lane blocking the footpath (see photo above).
- ❑ Despite the speed humps, vehicles travel at excessive speed along the lane, presenting a danger to walkers using the footpath. Already neighbours' fences have been damaged more than once, for which no responsibility has been accepted.
- ❑ Waste is left outside in contravention of the planning consent. It is a daily occurrence to pick up rubbish that has blown down the field and along the lane.
- ❑ On many occasions, the occupiers have worked outside the permitted hours during the week, weekends and Bank Holidays.

In summary, while we agree the barns in Church Lane were derelict and needed to be replaced, these industrial units are totally inappropriate creating noise, fumes and a potential danger to pedestrians and local residents. Unless the development is closely monitored and controlled, it will get worse. We urge all residents to give their full support to Councillor Elmidoro.

Thank you all

I would like to express my gratitude for all the kind thoughts, cards and expressions of sympathy we have received following the death of my beloved wife, Dorothy, on 12 March. They have been much appreciated by myself and family.

Ron Virels

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

Pre-school enjoys fine weather

The fine weather has allowed us to get out and play in the garden in recent weeks. Many children even made their own kites to fly before the holidays. Our Easter Hat Parade at the end of term was greatly enjoyed by the children's families. We were entertained with some lovely Easter songs.

This term we have sports day to look forward to, as well as the Jubilee Fete. Later in the term (mid-June) we shall be holding a couple of open evenings. Any under-5s are welcome to come along and join in the fun. With Norma, our supervisor, about to retire, we are looking to appoint her successor. Interested candidates should phone Ruth Bond on 564824.

Ruth Daly

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

An excellent talk and slide show by Brian Clews on *Chilterns wild birds in your garden* on the night of the AGM nearly filled the Village Hall and was greatly enjoyed.

Parish council electoral ward boundary changes

The AGM considered this important issue on which the District Council has invited our representations. As reported last July, the current boundaries are deemed unsatisfactory because:

(a) Walter's Ash and the RAF straddle three different Parish Councils – Bradenham, Hughenden and Lacey

Green – which intersect here, precluding a unified view on parish issues affecting Walter's Ash.

(b) Hughenden Parish Council office is at the far end of the parish from Walter's Ash, four miles away on a different hilltop on the far side of Kingshill, not reasonably accessible to Walter's Ash or Naphill residents on foot, cycle or public transport.

A vote was taken of all residents attending the AGM on the proposal that a more logical and constructive change would be a new Parish to include Naphill, all of Walter's Ash, Bradenham, all RAF areas including Strike Command and domestic sites, possibly Hughenden Valley, but separate from Great Kingshill and Widmer End. After discussion, all residents present voted in favour of the proposal, and this has been communicated to the District Council.

Election of Officers and Committee

Officers elected were: Secretary, Gloria Leflaive; Treasurer, Joyce Thorpe; Joint Secretary, Malcolm Leflaive; Assistant Treasurer, Carole O'Neill. Committee: Don Baker (Planning), Daisy Leek, Paul Norton, Marek Pawlik, Jill Shiu, Alleyne Stilwell, David Talbot and Michael Vojkovic. Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected at the Committee's first meeting.

Planning

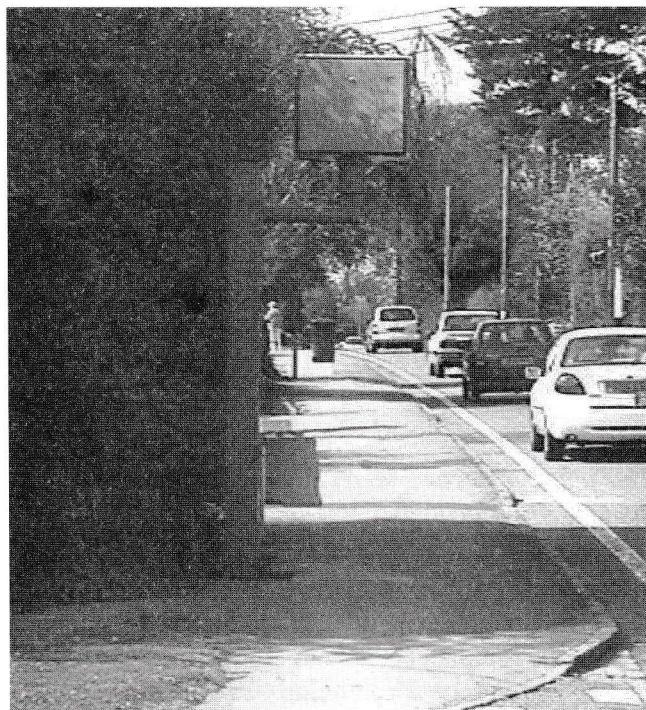
02/5620/FUL *The Hollies, Christopher Close, Naphill.* Amendment to permission 01/5664/FUL to give additional bedroom/bathroom & dressing room to 1st floor with Velux roof lights. 02/5657/FUL *The Old Forge, Forge Road, Naphill.* Conversion of garage to habitable room and alteration of garden to create 2 car spaces. Not clear where new vehicular access would be. 02/5701/FUL *4 Oakeshott Avenue, Naphill.* 2-storey part 1-storey side & rear extension, porch and detached garage. Increase on current area is 101.5% and effect on adjacent properties needs consideration. 02/5702/CIF *RAF High Wycombe, Main Road, Walter's Ash.* Erection of 3 omni-directional four-stack dipole antennae, 1 GPS and 2 x 600mm dishes on existing 40m high radio tower & radio equipment housing facility to be sited at existing concrete plinth. New police & emergency system replacing existing system on existing 'Boxer' tower. Mast sharing is in line with policy. 02/5731/FUL *Land adj to Dovecote, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill.* One 4-bed detached dwelling house. Replaces withdrawn outline application. Still close to Latchett, so may cause loss of light, and concerns that street scene sketch does not show a balanced Spacious Residential Zone outlook, and that access further from road junction and existing activity would be better.

Next meeting: 8pm on 9 May in Naphill Village Hall.

Gloria Leflaive: 563634

County and District Councillor's Notes

The speed camera, or strictly speaking now to be called a safety camera, is in place for all to see. In controlling speed through the village, it is hoped that both drivers and pedestrians will be reminded that speed accounts for 30% of injury accidents. It will be interesting to see who is the first motorist to catch its attention. Early observations have noted a decrease in drivers' speed along this part of Main Road.



Naphill's new speed-curber. At present it is an Inconspicuous grey but will be yellow.

Two applications for a variation to the original conditions placed on planning permissions have come before the District Council. One is a variation to the hours of operation of one user at the Leflaive Business Park, Church Lane, Naphill and the other an extension to the opening hours of the fish-and-chip shop on Main Road. Both have generated much public interest. The Development Control Committee at the April Meeting will determine the latter item. Planning conditions impose legal obligations on applicants to allay public fears as to what might happen to a contentious development. Their subsequent amendment often creates considerable concern as to the wisdom of the original decision.

Garden waste, including grass cuttings and hedge trimmings, continue to be dumped on Naphill Common. The District Council's litter warden is investigating. Perhaps an early prosecution will deter the offenders.

The Local Education Authority, that is the County Council, appoints several of the Governors to the Governing Board of local primary and secondary schools. Recommendations come from the local county councillors and the Governance Panel of the

County Council confirms their appointments. I would be pleased to hear from any reader who might be interested and wish to be considered for such an appointment.

We are told that Buckinghamshire must provide a further 6,100 homes by 2016. Consultation documents have been sent to every household, suggesting four possible options as to where they might be built. Please ensure that your views are made known. If you have not received a consultation paper please advise me or the County or District Council offices.

Richard Pushman

Cleaner wanted for Village Hall

A vacancy has arisen for a weekend cleaner for the Village Hall. The job is for three hours cleaning with the washer/polisher machine, preferably on a Sunday morning but there is some flexibility. For more details phone Norma Clarke 563116.

The Naphill sky in May

The Moon is new on 12 May and full on 26 May. This year, May is unusual in finding all five planets including Mercury very close together and all are evening stars at the beginning of the month in the western sky. Mercury can be seen only in the early part of the month because later the Sun is too close. On 5–10 May, Venus, Mars and Saturn are within 5° of each other. Have a look!

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 May	Rises	05.35	00.57	06.07	06.53	08.59	07.15
	Sets	20.27	08.28	22.57	23.23	01.32	23.15
8 May	Rises	05.22	04.32	06.35	06.42	08.37	06.50
	Sets	20.38	16.13	23.16	23.30	01.09	22.52
15 May	Rises	05.11	07.01	06.37	06.31	08.15	06.26
	Sets	20.49	00.21	23.32	23.15	00.42	22.29
22 May	Rises	05.01	15.38	06.44	06.22	07.54	06.01
	Sets	20.59	03.38	23.44	23.10	00.20	22.06
29 May	Rises	04.54	none	06.55	06.14	07.34	05.37
	Sets	21.08	07.08	23.51	23.03	23.57	21.43

Why is the sky dark at night: Olbers' paradox

With the trillions of stars in the billions of galaxies extending up to 14 billion light years away, why is the night sky largely dark? When every line of sight ends with a star, why does not the light from these trillions of stars add up sufficiently to lighten the night sky to what we see in daytime? This contradiction between theory and observation was called Olbers' paradox

(Olbers wrote about it in 1823). Seven out of every ten textbooks on astronomy give the wrong answer to the paradox. A good way of presenting the problem is to think of the sky as consisting of an infinite number of onion layers each with its own number of stars. The further a layer, the greater the number of stars in the layer and this compensates for the reduced brightness of the more distant stars. So distance does not decrease the brightness. Then there is the problem of dust in the universe absorbing the light from distant stars. This does not answer the conundrum because the dust will be lightened by the stars.

The correct solution was first proposed by a poet and writer and not a scientist. In 1848, Edgar Allan Poe wrote that the distance of the invisible background is so immense that no ray from it has *yet* been able to reach us. In other words the night sky is not brighter because much of the light has not yet arrived. The assumption of Olbers that the universe was infinite is also now accepted as wrong. Furthermore, the expanding universe is causing some of the light to be red-shifted (similar to the shift in sound when a motor bike passes at high speed) and so reducing its brightness. Another reason was suggested by Edward Harrison in 1964 when he showed that the universe provides insufficient energy to brighten the night sky. In summary, the night sky is dark because the universe is expanding, is too young, is not infinite and lacks energy. The paradox is no more and astronomers can thank their lucky stars and continue with their work.

Halcyon days

In the December 2001 the *Gazette*, I referred briefly to 'halcyon days'. The Oxford English Dictionary describes these as the 14 days of calm weather, anciently believed to occur about the winter solstice (usually 21 December) when the beautiful halcyon or white great-kingfisher was brooding. Holland, quoting in 1601 from Pliny, says these birds lay and brood their eggs about midwinter during calm and navigable seas especially around the coast of Sicily. This period of 14 days surrounding the solstice is often defined as between 13 December (when the sun sets at the earliest time in the afternoon) and 30 December (when the sun rises at the latest time in the morning). From an astronomical viewpoint, these dates vary slightly from year to year and reflect the uneven way the earth orbits the sun. No doubt from a meteorological viewpoint, there is little to support this fable.

Grant Woodruff

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request. Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 563667.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on
01491 638603.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at
Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for
rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do
locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further
information.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with
homemade cakes served at Hughenden Church
House from 2.15pm on Easter Day, Sundays and
Holiday Monday afternoon until the end of
October. Groups can book a Special Tea on
weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

Lunch Club

It is now approximately three years since we were able
to reopen the Lunch Club and numbers attending
continue to remain steady around the 30 mark,
although we would be delighted if any other residents
from the local community would like to join us once a
month for a reasonably priced meal and good
company.

Although we have a great team to prepare the meals
and do all those essential backup tasks, we would
welcome additional help. If there are any potential
helpers prepared to give the community about four
hours on the second Wednesday of every month,
would they please get in touch with me and I will give
them further details. Unfortunately, two of our very
good cooks, Sarah Bacon and Sue Nash, have had to
end their normal level of help to us because of heavy
commitments elsewhere and I would like to extend a
sincere thanks for all they have done for the
community through their help to us. They will,
however, try to support us when their circumstances
allow. To help counterbalance this loss we will shortly
be welcoming back Una, a previous stalwart who had
to take a year off to help with her grandchild. This
grandchild thing must be something catching among
the helpers, with Shirley Hood taking a small break to
help out following the birth of her second grandchild
and myself becoming a great-grandparent for the first
time.

Jan Gaunt : 562282

The second-hand emporium

Oh dear, redundancies are looming. Those manning
the telephones awaiting your call will be the first to go.
Just three calls since my last advert: it's very sad.

Have another look. There must be something you wish
you'd never bought or you are fed up at the sight of (as
I mentioned before, husbands or wives not accepted).

This time last year my garage was half full. So far I
haven't enough items to fill one table. As I said in the
April issue, the stall raised over £1000 thousand
pounds in 2001 for Village Hall funds through your
efforts. So PLEASE, PLEASE, have another search.
We are sure you will find something to donate. When
you do, telephone Bob on 563846 or John on 565563.
You can either deliver or we will collect. Meet us on
the web at
www.thisismylastyearonthestallsomakeitagoodun.co

Village Hall Council Notes

Our April meeting is always a bit of a rush as we have
to finish it in an hour so that we can follow it with our
AGM. This does have the advantage of making us
press on and focuses our attention.

We have been experiencing some problems with the
heating in the small hall and men's club which we
hope to address soon. In the meantime, please do not
turn off the radiators in the small hall if you get too
warm. This causes problems for the next hirer. By the
time you read this, it should have been sorted.

The corridors leading from the main hall to the small
hall are due to be painted by a working party from the
committee. Once the small hall had been redecorated,
it became apparent that these corridors needed
attention. The next job will then be the painting of the
main hall, but this has to be done in school holidays
when the pre-school is not using the hall every
morning.

We are planning to plant another tree in the play area.
This time it will be a mature tree that is too big to be
snapped off and vandalised, and will provide some
shade for the children in the summer.

Colin Oxberry, our local policeman, is hoping to
recruit some Special Constables to patrol the village
and help curb vandalism. If you see any acts of
vandalism around the village, please do report them to
the police on 431133 giving your postcode so that they
can locate you quickly and easily.

We were very sorry that the Murder Mystery had to be
cancelled. Some members of the cast had to drop out
and so they were unable to perform. However, we do
have the following events booked:

Fete: 1 June

Jazz evening: 26 October featuring the music of
Gershwin.

Fireworks: 2 November

Christmas Fayre: 30 November

At the AGM, the accounts for the year were approved
and the officers of the council were elected for the next
year. Hazel Vickery was re-elected as Hon. Secretary,
John Harris as Hon. Treasurer, and Barbara Clarke as

Lettings Secretary. The village reps for the next year will be : Daisy Leek, Doreen Burge, Colin Oxberry, Marion Lawrence and Graham Wagner. We still have one vacancy for a village rep. If you are interested, give me a ring on 563479. The vote for the Chairman and the Vice-chairman will be at our next meeting on 29 April. Watch this space!

*Sarah Bacon, Chairman, Naphill Village Hall and
Playing Fields Council*

Naphill Toddlers

The Toddler Group enjoyed their annual Easter egg hunt and the Easter Bunny was kept very busy presenting eggs to around 30 toddlers who all completed the obstacle course!

We are planning a 'Messy' day in the summer and will announce the date shortly. Sadly we said goodbye to Elaine Jessop (our Treasurer) whose daughter starts school after Easter. We would all like to pass on our sincere thanks to Elaine for a job well done and wish Anya all the best at school.

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting off steam or quietly modelling some play dough. Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Lacey Green Windmill

Lacey Green Windmill will be opening to the public again in 2002. Having been shut throughout 2001, because of foot-and-mouth disease precautions, this unique 17th-century windmill will be open to visitors once again. Opening hours are from 2.30pm to 5.30pm on Sundays from 5 May to 29 September, and also on Bank Holiday Mondays 6 May, 3 June and 26 August.

Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children to see the oldest smock mill in the country. The mill is two miles south of Princes Risborough, behind The Whip Inn. Please park in Pink Road.

We will be introducing some new displays this year showing the history and restoration of the mill, as well as various artefacts associated with milling and rural life. At the mill you can also collect a free leaflet listing 17 windmills and watermills open to view in Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We produce the leaflet on behalf of all these mills, and it includes details of their locations and opening hours.

*Michael Hardy, Honorary Secretary Lacey Green
Windmill Restoration Committee : 01844 343560*

Hughenden Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on 9 April, a note was made of our sincere gratitude to Mr Ercolani for donating to the Parish Council a beech board listing all the Chairmen and Clerks who have served Hughenden Parish Council since 1984. The first Chairman was Major Coningsby Disraeli followed by many familiar local family names that still live in the parish. A reception was held on 16 March with Mr Ercolani unveiling the board.

An interesting letter was received from the Minister for Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP, in a response to an article in *The Times* ('Dibley Villages' 29 December 2001) suggesting that the Government was not taking the role of the parish councils seriously and that they are secretly engaged in categorising their effectiveness.

Evidently *The Times* declined to print his response and it appears that they regarded the article as 'a bit of fun'. However, his letter to us goes on to say that this Government is not attempting to abolish Parish Councils nor is it secretly measuring their effectiveness. He says that the Government strongly believes in the value and potential of parish and town councils to lead and invigorate their communities.

Our Parish Warden, John Moorby, at our recent Service Committee Meeting, expressed how grateful he is for all the assistance he gets from the helpers in the village. The Councillors would like to express their thanks, too.

All villages/communities are once again invited to enter the Village of the Year competition. This year there will be two cups, one for the Village of the Year and the other for Community Activities, etc. It is hoped that Naphill will be entering and, if they win, will be invited to enter the National Village of the Year competition.

The Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for 21 May 2002 possibly at Widmer End School. Notices will be put up in the village but you are welcome to telephone the Clerk on 01494 715296 to confirm the venue.

The next full Council meeting will be held on 14 May with AGM and Council 7.30pm. Planning meeting will be held on 16 May at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Naphill and Walter's Ash Fete

Fete Day, Saturday 1 June, is nearly here and we are all hoping for a lovely warm summer day so you can enjoy the fun packed day that we have lined up for you. During the two weeks running up to the Fete, a hardworking band of volunteers will be calling at every house to deliver a free copy of the Fete

Programme, and give you an early opportunity to buy tickets for the Grand Draw.

The day will start with the traditional procession through the village, leaving Forge Road at noon led by the Fete Princesses, followed by the floats, walking tableaux, and children in fancy dress. They will all have worked very hard, so give them a cheer as they go by. They should reach The Crick at around 12.30pm.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be numerous stalls, sideshows and rides for you to have a go on, as well as lunch from the barbecue, drinks from the beer tent, and teas in the Village Hall. All in all, there should be something for everyone. During the afternoon, we shall be presenting the Best Neighbour award, so if you wish to make a nomination for this prestigious award, please write to me at 236 Main Road, Naphill, HP14 4RX.

One of the most popular stalls at the Fete is the tombola, so can I ask all of you to consider donating those unwanted gifts, or food and drink that you really don't know what to do with and have been hanging on to 'just in case'. I will be happy to collect any items you may have, so please give me a call. The only thing I must ask is that food items are 'in date'.

As always, we shall need help both on the day and the day before. There is a lot of setting up to do on the Friday, and it would be great to think we could have some willing volunteers to make light work of it.

Lastly, the Fete Dance is always a great way to round off the day and this year should be no exception, with a high-class disco. The only difference from previous years is that we will not be serving supper, but there will be nibbles available. Tickets are at the amazingly cheap price of £7.50 which includes your first drink, and can be booked with Janet Beetham on 564357, so invite your friends and family, and book a table or two.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Naphill Horticultural Society plant sale

Make a note now that the Naphill Horticultural plant sale will take place in the Village Hall car park from 9.30 until 11am on Saturday 25 May. After all the wonderful weather we have had just lately, I'm sure you are almost ready for planting up those spaces you have created, or tubs and pots you have cleared out. The plant sale is the perfect place to buy summer bedding, vegetables, herbs, and all manner of garden plants. They are all from local growers, at very reasonable prices, and all set to make your garden flourish this summer. Do come along and have a look: there are always some unusual plants available along with the perennial (and annual) favourites.

Should you be interested in having a stall to sell plants of your own, you can book one through me at a cost of just £5.

This is also the time to be thinking ahead to our summer and autumn shows, and the schedules for these can be picked up at the sale, or from the Post Office, myself or Don Turner. Go on, have a look through – there must be something you could enter!

Membership subscriptions are also due now, and the cost remains at just £1 per person. Again, you can pay at the plant sale or via any of the committee members.

Looking ahead, we have a trip booked to Borde Hill Gardens in West Sussex on Sunday 6 June. Not only are there wonderful gardens to explore, but also on that particular weekend they have a Roses and Rolls–Royce Extravaganza. We will be leaving the Village Hall at 9am and returning at 4pm. The cost will be £14 each (£13 concessions). This trip is open to members and non-members, so please let me know if you wish to join us on what promises to be a great day out.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Golden Jubilee Children's Party

I am pleased to announce that plans are now under way to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee by holding a children's party in the village hall on Monday 3 June. Fifty tickets will be available for children to sit down for tea and to enjoy an entertainer: details of ticket price and ages of children will be available soon.



Other friends, family and villagers will also be welcome to join us for a cup of tea and to watch all the afternoon's activities. A team of four people is organising this event but if anyone else is keen to offer help or sponsorship with food or commemorative mugs, or indeed help on the day, please contact me.

Norma Clarke : 563116

Prescription collection service

We had originally planned to start both a voluntary village car service and prescription collection service together but, following a meeting with Bucks Rural Transport Partnership, we have decided initially to set up a prescription collection service for elderly and infirm villagers living in Naphill and Walter's Ash. We will monitor the demand for this service before embarking on setting up the car service.

If you would like us to collect your prescription please phone: Doreen Purge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650. We will do the 'prescription run' twice a week – on Monday and Thursday.

Doreen Burge : 565430

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

Israel is in turmoil, but a few years ago when I was there, things were much quieter. Like most Israeli men, our guide was in the army reserve. He had fought the Syrians off the Golan in 1973, so knew the area well. He took us up to 'no-man's' land and we spoke to one of the UN Peace Keeping Force. His contingent posted 14 men on the Israeli side of the sector they guarded – and 540 on the Syrian side! Little doubt whom the UN saw as the potential aggressors in the middle east.

We visited Hebron to see the traditional tombs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives. This is an Islamic shrine, as these patriarchs are revered by Muslims. Outside we saw a blind beggar, common enough in the East, only he was not blinded by disease. He was a devout Muslim who had gone on pilgrimage to Mecca, as Muslims should. There he had seen The Ka'aba, the focal point of the pilgrimage, and, as he gazed upon this, the holiest of all Islamic sites, he had voluntarily had his eyes put out. Such devotion entitled him to return to his home town, to live on the charity of other Muslims. Oh that he, and all Muslims, could be enlightened by the light of Jesus.

Our driver was born in England of Jewish parents, but when he visited Israel on holiday, he knew he had to stay. So he had changed his nationality, language and name and settled in Jerusalem, wanting to help establish the modern state of Israel. I pray that his eyes, too, will be opened to the truth that Messiah has come!

We also met Christians. One, Abraham, was a Palestinian Arab, whose family was dispossessed by the Jews in 1948. Born in a refugee camp, he became a Christian at 20. He went to Bible College and now has a burden on his heart for – the Jews. The power of the gospel can truly make a man a new creation, replacing hate with love.

And then Cary, an American orthodox Jew, whose grandparents had fled from Russia. But he had been led by the Rabbi of their New York synagogue to see that Jesus was Messiah. He is now a 'Messianic Jew', proud of his Jewish heritage, but has trusted in Jesus for salvation. He had come to settle in Israel, to win others for the Lord.

These five people reveal a little of the complex political and religious situation in Israel but, with men like Abraham and Cary there, there is no limit to what God can do.

Finally, a reminder about **Christian Aid Week** on 12–18 May. If you can help with collecting, please call me.

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove : 563304

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

I have had many amicable conversations with Jehovah's Witnesses on my doorstep. I hope there has always been mutual respect, although I'm told that we clergy are sometimes regarded as particularly bad because we are the ones who lead people astray. No Jehovah's Witness has ever suggested that to my face! I have sometimes surprised a Jehovah's Witness with an answer which was more biblical than they expected (there is an awful lot of misunderstanding and folk religion, even among regular churchgoers)! One of the main issues that crops up is the idea of understanding God as a 'trinity' – this mathematical paradox of three persons within one and the same God. Nowhere does the bible use the word 'trinity'. Neither side disputes that. But there is plenty in the bible to identify God the Father with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

May sees Ascension Day, Pentecost (Whit Sunday) and Trinity Sunday. Rather than get bogged down in trying to describe an indescribable God, I would rather we celebrated God's revelation through creation, his gift of life to us, and his care for us. I would rather we celebrated the fact that in meeting Jesus Christ people found themselves uniquely in the presence of God. I would rather we celebrated the fact that, 2000 years on, millions still testify to the living and powerful presence of God's Spirit in the world, giving strength, comfort and guidance. The important thing is that he can make all the difference to our lives, and offers hope to a world which struggles to live in the love which he most desires us all to know.

Shalom

Nick

Christians in the community

Sunday 28 April at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Sunday 28 April at 6pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *UNITED SERVICE* – Rev. Dr Dennis Applebee ('Holy Life!' Convention speaker)

Thursday 2 May from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Friday 3 May at 8pm at Naphill Methodist Church: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING*

Fridays 3 and 17 May at 7pm in Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H!* 'Tweens Really Are Special Here' (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14).

Fridays 10 and 24 May from 6.30 to 8pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Sunday 26 May at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Naphill Gazette

June 2002



Naphill Gazette

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Copy date for July issue is Sunday 16 June 2002

Editorial

Like any newspaper, the *Gazette* tries to cover both serious and lighthearted issue. What follows is no exception, with topics such as car thefts and dog mess in Church Lane through to this year's grand fete on 1 June. I mention the latter especially as, yet again, it coincides with my family's trip to Wales. I am therefore on the lookout for anyone in the village who, on the day, would like to wield a camera on my behalf to capture a few memorable images that can be included in the July issue. For, as readers will note, the idea of photographs in the *Gazette* has not yet caught on to any great extent. This time, Grant Woodruff is again the sole supplier, with an illustration to accompany his regular feature on the Naphill night sky.

So, if you are budding paparazzo, please dig out that box Brownie and see whether you can get your foot on the journalistic ladder. Film and processing costs will be refunded and your name printed alongside.

Changing the subject, I recently rediscovered that the response to direct mail or flyers is seldom greater than 1% – in other words, one response to every 100 mailings. In my case, I fared slightly worse with just 0.2%. I mention this as an example of the unpredictability of advertising. However, the 'permanent' advertisers in the *Gazette* assure me that it a most useful medium and one that brings in regular business.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6–7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astro turf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

What a lovely tea our Committee gave us on our Birthday Anniversary, which followed a splendid entertainment by the Banjo Revivalists. Thank you to everyone responsible.

Our dates for June are: **14 June:** Jean Hall will give us a talk and show slides of Scilly and the Gardens of Tresco. Sounds interesting! **28 June:** Hopefully Robin, son of Frank and Muriel, will entertain us on the piano.

I trust you are all enjoying the summer months and all the beautiful flowers and trees in this lovely part of Buckinghamshire.

Stella Page : 562314

Evening WI

The April meeting was well-attended and the members were entertained by Dennis Jones who gave a fascinating talk on the history of pub signs. We learned there are about 56,000 pubs in England. The invading Romans first brought wine to this country, followed by the Saxons whose wives made ale and bread and sold the surplus by advertising with a pole stuck in the window of their home. When the Normans invaded, they brought hops and so the first beer was made. Richard II passed a law that each establishment should hang a sign, the chequer board being one of the oldest. Mr Jones showed slides depicting various pub signs both old and new. The most popular sign is The Red Lion, there being about 800 in England, and the second most popular is the Rose & Crown. The talk was amusing and very interesting and prompted several questions.

A canal cruise through the Chilterns has been arranged for 20 August. Our 19th birthday party will be the highlight of the June meeting.

Daisy Leek : 562602

Naphill Neighbours

We were very well entertained at our May meeting by Thea McIntyre who talked to us on her life in variety as a Roly Poly. Thea told us that BBC TV was looking for tap dancers and she auditioned with 1000 ladies. The chosen group became 'Les Girls', working with Les Dawson, and went on to be renamed the 'Roly Polys'. After touring with Les, they appeared on the continent, South America and Japan. Thea has many memorabilia in the form of photographs and posters. Since retiring, she has taken up public speaking and now says she rattles her tongue rather than her toes.

The April outing to Wilton House and Carpet Factory was thoroughly enjoyed by all members and friends who participated. Our fund-raising Fashion Show in the Village Hall was also a great success. Many thanks to all who supported this popular event.

The August outing will be to The Mill at Sonning on Thursday 8 August. We will travel to The Mill by coach where lunch will be served and then go into the theatre to see a comedy *Funny about Love*. Our June meeting will be on Monday 10 June, when Dick Smith will talk on the 'Life and times of a town crier'.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Letter to the editor

This month's letter is from a resident who wishes to withhold her name or address – permissible only if the details are given to the editor.

Church Lane

We recently bought a painting of the view across the valley from Church Lane. We decided we would take the grandchildren for a walk, with their bikes, to see if we could pinpoint the view. We thought it would be a nice, interesting, thing to do.

Imagine our dismay when we had to turn back because of dog mess littering Church Lane. It was really unpleasant. We did not feel we could continue the walk and subject the children to picking their way around the mounds of muck. What has happened to responsible dog ownership, and, apart from anything else, what a health hazard!

Naphill Toddlers

We would like to invite all under-5s to a Messy Day on Thursday 22 August, 2–5pm at Naphill Village Hall. The event is being jointly organised by the Toddlers Group and Pre-school and, among a wide range of activities, is a bouncy castle. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets, at £4.50 each, are available from Toddler Group or Pre-school.

We meet every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm until 4pm in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler in, be it letting off steam or quietly modelling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces are always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Watch that car!!

During the early hours of Saturday 11 May, a number of cars were broken into in the village. The thefts occurred between 3am and 5.30am and at least one was carried out by a man of Asian appearance driving a red BMW with a registration plate beginning with E. The lessons are: park in a garage wherever possible and always adopt a 'neighbourhood watch' approach to any suspicious vehicles very late at night or in the small hours.

Any information should be passed on to Local Community Beat Officer Colin Oxberry.

Pre-school prepares for fete

The children are busy preparing for their fete float, while we grown-ups pray for fine weather on the day. Open mornings will go ahead on 18 and 19 June. Any youngsters under 4 who would like to come along and have a play are welcome to join us (9.45-11.30am).

Recently, we have 'enjoyed' two weeks of music-making, with many of the children making their own drums, tambourines, shakers, etc.

As the Jubilee approaches, we shall be concentrating on Kings and Queens and the Jubilee. The hope is that some of the children's work will be used to help decorate the Village Hall for the Jubilee Party on 3 June.

STOP PRESS: We are delighted to announce that Mo Bedder has been appointed to take over as Pre-School Supervisor from September 2002.

Ruth Daly

Black cat found

If anyone has lost a beautiful black cat with a purple flea-collar, please contact Jenny Pearce on 562333.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Planning

02/5912/FUL Millfield Farm, Four Ashes Road, Cryers Hill. Retrospective application to retain stable block, manège and 2 security lighting poles, built without permission. Also to erect 4 store rooms. In 1988 a DoE inspector refused a golf course development in this part of the Hughenden valley, saying the landscape quality here is exceptional, compared to other approaches to High Wycombe. The development is conspicuous and seen as a blot on the landscape, visible from the footpath network. There is great concern to protect

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

this special scenery from unsympathetic change, and further concerns about light pollution from the security lights, and traffic hazard at the site entrance. Nearby residents object strongly. It is against both AONB and Green Belt policy. Enforcement action is being sought to remove the unauthorised development and restore the landscape. 02/5835/OUT Rear of Alde Cottage, Main Road, Naphill. Outline application for a 4-bedroom dwelling. Back garden development proposal, by Public Footpath H1 from Main Road to the Common. Concerns that it is out of proportion with the size of plot and surrounding layout, and out of keeping with the AONB location. Subject to detailed plans, there may be overlooking of houses in Moseley Road and Alde Cottage. 02/5935/FUL Land adjacent to Fernlands, Chapel Lane, Naphill. One 4-bedroom detached dwelling, between Fernlands and Brackenside. Seems squeezed in, on the 11 x 30m plot, and may cause an overlooking problem for Brackenside. Concerns that ridge height of 8.5m, relative to Fernlands 8m and Brackenside 6.5m, creates an unbalanced view on the edge of the AONB overlooking Green Belt. 02/6040/FUL Stonefields House, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Single storey rear conservatory.

Next meeting

8pm Thursday 13 June 2002, Naphill Village Hall.

Malcolm Leflaive: 563634

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

The new season has started well for the club with the Ladies Team winning their first match in the Bucks Shield against Chalfont St Peter, played at the end of April. In May, the summer season matches began in earnest and the club has entered men's and ladies' teams in the Bucks Shield and Aylesbury Leagues, mixed teams in the High Wycombe League, as well as teams in the Junior Leagues at U17, U15 (two teams) and U13 levels.

Mark Curtis, our new Junior Organiser, has made an enthusiastic start on Friday evenings, presenting new ideas and techniques designed to encourage and stretch the youngsters to play to the best of their abilities and, most importantly, enjoy their games. Lisa Bennett has continued to take the beginners under her wing on Mondays, gently introducing them to the rudiments of playing tennis so that they are able to join Mark's improvers on Friday evenings.

In the senior section, although there is a competitive edge to the club's tennis during the summer season, this does not mean that social tennis suffers in any way. Most club sessions on Sunday mornings, Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings are enjoyed equally by those who play in teams and those who prefer not to. Bank Holidays are usually an excuse for social gatherings, when members donate delicious fare for 'Tea & Tennis' or barbecues. This year, the club is planning to hold an all-day Jubilee American Tournament on Tuesday 4 June, which (weather permitting) will include lunch (self-catered, of course!)

If you feel you would like to join your friendly local tennis club, don't hesitate: just come along to one of our club sessions or ring Sue Crooks on 562539.

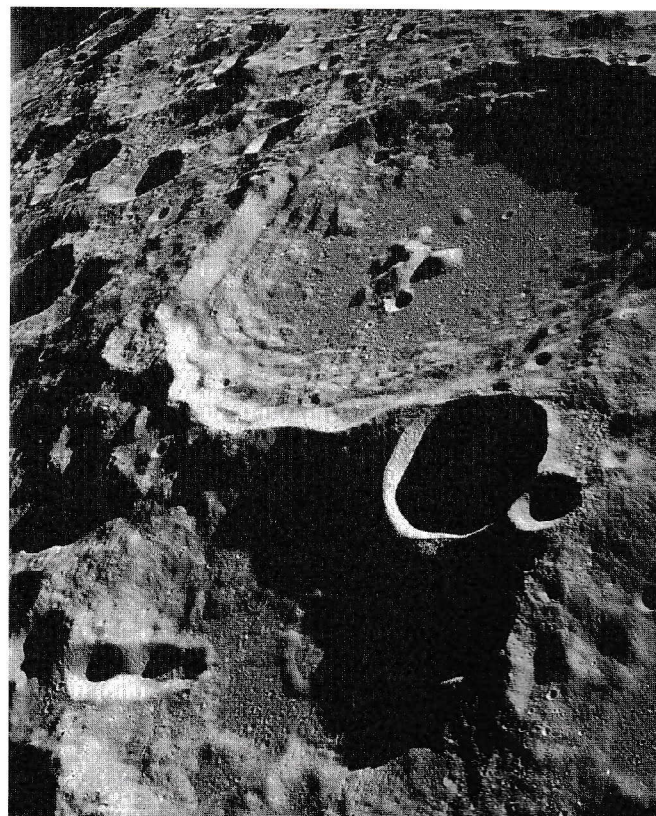
Ingrid Tomlins, Secretary : 446063

Consumer advice

Trading Standards at 5-7 Walton Street, Aylesbury – opposite the library – now opens its doors every Saturday from 9am until 1pm for free consumer advice. Contact details for more information are tel 01296 383212, fax 01296 382017, e-mail tsd@buckscc.gov.uk, www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/bucks.

The Naphill sky in June

The sunset on June 25 is the latest of the year and sunrise on 17 the earliest. The summer solstice is on 21. The moon is new on 11 and full on 24. The

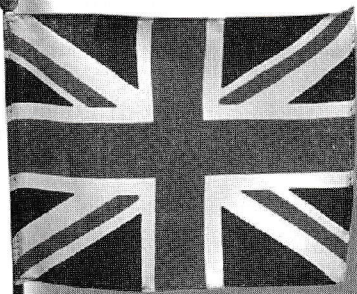


picture above is part of the other side of the moon taken by Luna in 1959. As the same side faces earth, this was the first time we ever saw that side. At this time of the year, the sky never gets really dark but, in spite of this, Venus and a less bright Jupiter are in conjunction on 3 June and will be a grand sight only $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ apart in the west. Mars is quite dim now but can be seen below Jupiter.

Ice ages

Why have there been ice ages and will there be any more? The last one ended about 10,000 years ago and it extended in England almost as far south as the Chilterns and made life for humans very

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 June	Rises	04.51	01.43	07.00	06.11	07.25	05.26
	Sets	21.11	10.32	23.53	23.00	23.47	21.33
8 June	Rises	04.46	03.38	07.16	06.04	07.05	05.02
	Sets	21.18	18.36	23.53	22.51	23.24	21.10
15 June	Rises	04.44	09.15	07.35	05.59	06.45	04.38
	Sets	21.13	00.00	23.49	22.41	23.02	20.47
22 June	Rises	04.45	18.56	07.55	05.55	06.25	04.14
	Sets	21.25	03.02	23.42	22.30	22.39	20.24
29 June	Rises	04.48	00.29	08.15	05.51	06.06	03.50
	Sets	21.25	09.25	23.31	22.18	22.16	20.00



With the theme
The Jubilee Years
the Naphill and
Walter's Ash fete will
be held on 1 June,
starting at noon



Naphill and Walter's Ash Fete

Bouncy castle Fancy dress competition
Barbecue
Inter-pub tug-of-war Candy floss

Beer tent Children's rides Cake stall
Vintage car display Stocks
Hoop-la

Bran tub Coconut shy
Grand draw Ice cream

Tombola Junk stall
Maypole dancing
Football shoot 5-a-side football

Teas

Dance 8-12pm - tickets from 564357

uncomfortable. Its disappearance, with the melting of land-ice, caused the sea level to rise and our land to be separated from the continent, creating the island we live in. Some scientists think this to be the tail end of the most recent quarternary ice age that started about 1.6 million years ago – before humans had evolved. This long ice age had warm periods interspersing (known as interglacials) and other scientists believe that the quarternary ice age is not yet over. In the earth's history, it is unusual for both poles to be covered in ice as they are now. Since single-celled life started on earth some 3.6 to 4.0 billion years ago, there have been quite a number of ice ages, about one every 150 million years that last a few million years each. It has also been argued by John and Mary Gribbin in their book *Ice Age* that the interglacial before our own was the cause of the emergence of fully modern humans, *Homo Sapiens Sapiens* some 100,000 years ago.

The solar system orbits around our galaxy every 300 million years and in this orbit it moves up and down through the plane of the Milky Way, encountering giant molecular clouds that cause the climate to change; enough to cause ice ages. Plate tectonics, the movement of the continents, was also a factor that has caused weather patterns to change. When, for example, there was a great deal more land in the southern hemisphere, weather-sensitive ocean currents were different from now.

What causes the interglacials? They are mostly related to the variations in the earth's orbit round the sun. The first is called the eccentricity cycle – the flattening of the near circular orbit into more of an ellipse and then back again. This cycle is some 93,000 years long and causes the earth to be slightly nearer and then further from the sun in a systematic way. The second is the change in the tilt of the earth's axis relative to the sun (called obliquity and at present is $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$) in a cycle that lasts 41,000 years. The third is called precession, similar to the wobble of a spinning top, in a period lasting nearly 22,000 years. Now the earth is nearest the sun in our winter; precession caused the earth to be nearest to the sun 11,000 years ago in our summer. Another factor is that winter at present is seven days shorter than summer.

All these changes complicate the climate patterns and are thought to have initiated and terminated the various ice ages our planet has experienced over the millennia. The combination some 18,000 years ago of precession, eccentricity and tilt caused the present interglacial to start. But, in total, scientists argue that for more than 90% of time in the past 4

billion years, the earth has been free of ice ages – for which we can be grateful when thinking about the future.

Grant Woodruff

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request.
Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 563667.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on 01491 638603.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with homemade cakes served at Hughenden Church House from 2.15pm on Easter Day, Sundays and Holiday Monday afternoon until the end of October. Groups can book a Special Tea on weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

Village Hall Council Notes

With the advent of a run of Bank Holiday Mondays, we are having to hold our meetings on the last Monday of the month instead of our customary first Monday in the month. Thus our May meeting was held on 29 April! A number of members were absent, so we managed to get through the business in record time.

Our first task was to elect the chairman and vice chairman for the coming year. No new proposals were forthcoming and so Sarah Bacon was re-elected as chairman and Greg Hargrove as vice chairman. Greg is retiring in the summer and will thus be leaving the village, so we will need to find a new vice chairman in September. He has done a great service to the village and the village hall and will be extremely hard to replace.

We do apologise if you have noticed that the floor of the hall is not up to its normal standard. Although we have a cleaner to sweep the floor and clean the hall daily, we do not have anyone to use the floor polisher on the hall floor at weekends. It takes about three hours on a Saturday or ideally a

Sunday morning. If you think you could help us out by doing this (at the current market rate for the job), please phone Norma on 563116 or me on 563479 for more details.

The dip in the entrance to the play area has at last been filled in and a new head for the second springy toy has been made but not put up at the time of writing. A notice has been put up by the gate to the play area reminding people that the equipment is designed to be used only by children under 12. Use by larger or heavier people could damage the equipment and put users at risk.

The new carpet for the corridors from the large hall to the small hall has been chosen and should be laid in the summer. A working party will soon be formed from the Village Hall Council to paint these corridors.

Our June meeting will again be at the end of the month on 27 May. In July we should be back to normal with our meeting falling back on the first Monday (1 July). This July meeting will be preceded by a litter blitz around the Hall starting at 7.30pm. Any helpers would be most welcome. You bring the rubber gloves and we will provide the bin bags!

*Sarah Bacon, Chairman, Naphill Village Hall and
Playing Fields Council*

Barbecue

All are welcome to come to the barbecue that Naphill-cum-Bradenham Conservatives are organising on Sunday 7 July. It will be held at Richard and Valerie Pushman's home, Umtata, Naphill Common, from noon. Tickets are £12 each for two courses, including wine. We shall go ahead whatever the weather – gazebos to be set up! Please ring Valerie on 564152 for tickets.

Dates for your (football) diary

Naphill Boys Football Club is holding a race night on 28 June starting at 8pm in the Village Hall. Tickets cost £5, which includes a free ploughman's and access to our bargain-priced bar drinks!

Our presentation day is 14 July – an all-day event with the under-6 to under-11s receiving their medals during the morning and the under-12 to under-18s in the afternoon. The day will also include 'mums+dads versus sons' matches and a barbecue, making it a fun day for the whole family.

Even if you are not directly involved yourself, why not come along and support your village football teams. You are bound to enjoy it.

Bob Hathaway : 563332

Naphill and Walter's Ash Fete

Fete Day, Saturday 1 June, is nearly here – see page 5 – and we are all hoping for a lovely warm summer day so you can enjoy it to the full. One of the most popular stalls at the Fete is the tombola, so can I ask all of you to consider a last-minute donation of those unwanted gifts, or food and drink that you really don't know what to do with.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Golden Jubilee Party

Preparations are now well under way for a village Golden Jubilee party on Bank Holiday Monday 3 June in Naphill Village Hall. There are 50 tickets available at £5 each for children aged 3–10 years to sit down for tea (a parent/carer needs to accompany their child). These children will receive a Naphill commemorative mug kindly donated by a couple in the village. There will also be entertainment by Oscar and organised games after tea.



We expect that lots of other people would like to drop in for a cup of tea and cake. And, of course, families with children older or younger than ticket-holders will be very welcome to watch the entertainer and join in with the games. I have also bought ten extra mugs to sell to interested persons.

So, imagine the scene: the Village Hall decorated with flags, golden crowns and balloons, children and families joining in a village celebration. The party starts at 2pm, with Oscar entertaining from 2.15pm until 3pm. (He is in great demand that day and this was the only time he could fit us in.) The celebrations will finish at around 4.30pm.

I would still welcome help on the day (making the tea, etc.) and donations of cakes; we do have one special celebration cake. Offers please on 563116.

Norma Clarke

Cleaner still wanted for Village Hall

Although we do now have a very experienced cleaner for weekdays, the young man who has been doing the cleaning at weekends for at least 10 years has left. Consequently, the main hall and small hall floors have not been cleaned for several weeks. Until we find a replacement cleaner, we are reliant upon the hirers on a Friday or Saturday evening to at least leave the hall well swept. For forthcoming weddings or special events, I will try to ensure the floors are cleaned but in the meantime...

So, if you can – or know someone who can – spare three hours (preferably on a Sunday morning) to drive a cleaning machine, please phone me on 563116. I will show you how to use the machine.

Norma Clarke

Naphill Horticultural Society

Firstly, a reminder that we have organised a trip to Borde Hill Gardens in West Sussex on Sunday **16 June** (not 6 June as appeared in last month's article). Apart from the wonderful gardens, there is a Roses & Rolls-Royce extravaganza that weekend. The cost will be £14 per person (£13 concessions). The coach will leave the Village Hall at 9am, pick up opposite Clappins Lane and then return from Borde Hill at approximately 4pm.

If you would like to join us on this trip, please let me know. You do not have to be a member of the Horticultural Society to enjoy this day out.

Secondly, contrary to what you may have heard from the media recently, home composting is not an illegal activity. Last year, 74,000 tonnes of organic waste were buried in local landfill sites, all of which could have been composted at home to make a rich soil conditioner.

In an attempt to encourage home composting, Bucks Local Authorities are making home composters available to members (and non-members) of our Society at the greatly subsidised price of £15 for a 330-litre bin. The usual price of these bins is £49.95.

Similar offers have been available in recent years, but have necessitated queuing in Wycombe to collect and pay for your bin. With this scheme, a minimum order for 20 bins will ensure they are delivered to Naphill.. If you would be interested in purchasing one, please let me know.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

On Sunday 19 May, the CHURCH throughout the world celebrated **Pentecost**, which in effect was when the Christian Church was born, almost certainly in the year AD30. Whatever denomination within THE CHURCH your particular church is part of, or if you worship at a church, such as ours, which is not linked to *any* denomination, Pentecost is a great celebration. But the *only* important question concerning church membership and one that every one of us will have to answer one day is, "Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal

Saviour and Lord?" This is how Jesus put it, in John's gospel, chapter 3 verse 3, "I am telling you the truth; no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again," and in John, chapter 14 verse 6, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."

But why do we bother with church membership? Does it matter if we are members or not? Well, it certainly matters whether we are members of THE CHURCH (Christ's body here on earth) or not. Indeed, our eternal destiny depends upon it, as the two quotations from Jesus' own words above should make it clear. So, if you are reading this and realise that you are not a member of THE CHURCH – in other words have not acknowledged Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord – then I would beg you to think very carefully about it and talk either to me, or to anyone else in THE CHURCH whom you feel you can be open and honest with. Or, if you prefer to think your position through with your bible, in peace and quiet, then ask me for an excellent little booklet that will help you to do so. There can be nothing more important than this and it may be that there are readers in this category.

But I also think that it is important that we become members of a particular local church and I'll go on next month to explain why. But to finish this month's article, I'll just say that I personally don't like the use of the word 'church' in this context, much preferring 'fellowship.' My reason is simple. It would be terrible if anyone went to a lost eternity because they thought that church membership necessarily meant that they were members of THE CHURCH. And if I haven't made myself clear, do read the first two paragraphs of *this* article again!

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove : 563304

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

Bob Geldof, sometimes dubbed a 'secular saint', is one of my heroes. There is a drive inside him and a passion for justice which he almost can't help! He gets angry about people suffering in the poorest countries, chained by debt, unable to repay more than the interest, and permanently trapped, unless we in the west choose to release them. To Bob Geldof, it's quite simple. We have the power to release millions of people from poverty at no real cost to ourselves. This is a jubilee principle; it's what the year of jubilee was about in the Old

Testament, so is quite pertinent at the time of celebrating the Queen's golden jubilee.

An interview with him in May was quite revealing. He said he finds negotiating with politicians and economists tedious and boring: lots of wasted energy. He'd much rather be making music with his mates. I can relate to that. There are few things I enjoy more than playing my trombone in an orchestra. If I had my school and university years over again I'd make different choices. I'd go down the music route (instead of maths) but I'd probably still end up in the same place, in Christian ministry. A vocation is something you feel passionately about and have to do, whether or not it's what you enjoy doing most.

What drives you? What's really important in life? What is of lasting worth? Do we always stop to listen to what God is saying to us? It might result in a radical change to our life. Risky, yes – but how risky is the alternative?

Shalom

Nick

Greetings from Simon Cronk

We live in a digital age, and there is a communications revolution under way. In the next few years we are being told that we will all be going digital (at a cost, of course!) and that we will have so much more viewing choice than we have now.

Now it is certainly not for me to moralise or be 'holier than thou' when it comes to television watching habits. I spend many evenings at work, visiting people or at meetings and, when I do eventually finish, TV is the great switch off! Similarly, it is all we can do as a family to turn the wretched thing off at meal times (well after all it is the Simpsons!) and getting homework or music practice to compete with the ever-present junk box in the corner is a perpetual struggle – a typical

family, really. One description of a family is 'a group of individuals loosely connected by a TV screen'. My honest reaction at being told that we will have even more channels to argue over – oh, great! Recently, I came across a version of a well-known Psalm, called the 23rd channel: it goes like this:

"The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want. It makes me lie down on the sofa, it leads me in the paths of sex and violence for the Sponsor's sake. Yea, though I walk in the shadow of my responsibilities there will be no interruption, for the TV is with me. Its cable and remote control they comfort me. It prepares a commercial before me in the presence of my worldliness. It anoints my head with humanism and consumerism. My covetousness runneth over. Surely laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the house watching TV for ever."

Well, it made me think about how insidious our TV culture really is and how perhaps more than anything else today it forms our outlook on life and affects our intellectual and spiritual judgements. With such noble and challenging thoughts, this evening for a change we had our supper with the TV turned off (post-Simpsons, of course) whereupon the vicarage runneth over with much noise and discontented rebellion from the younger generation! Seriously, how much TV do we watch, and how does it really affect us emotionally, intellectually and spiritually?

Simon Cronk, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels

St Botolph's church, Bradenham

There are regular church services at 11am every Sunday. On the first and third Sunday of each month, there is Holy Communion. The second Sunday is a family service and the fourth Matins, Book of Common Prayer.

Christians in the community

Sunday 26 May at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Fridays 31 May & 14 and 28 June at 7pm in Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H!* 'Twins Really Are Special Here' (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Saturday 1 June Naphill & Walter's Ash fete: *Christians in the Community SWEET STALL*

Thursday 6 June from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Fridays 7 and 21 June from 6.30pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Fridays 14 June at 8pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING*

Naphill Gazette

July/August 2002



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Copy date for September issue is Friday 16 August 2002

Editorial

Try as I may, I never seem to have enough time to do all the things that need doing. As a result, I inevitably find myself putting the *Gazette* to bed in a hurry, there being several other deadlines on the same day. With this issue, the cut-off is a 'let's-celebrate-our-Silver-Wedding' holiday. I know, therefore, without a shadow of doubt, that something will have been omitted or incorrectly printed here. So I should like to offer a contrite *mea culpa* in advance of the inevitable brickbats. The task has not been helped by more than the usual number of software and hardware problems. Like the washing machine, the personal computer is a marvellous aid when working properly but a kickable device when not.

On a lighter note, I plan in future issues to contribute occasional musings on this language of ours. Editors all have their hobbyhorses, and I intend to parade mine round the stable yard. Of course, we are all King Canutes, since language in time does what it wants. But that does not mean – or should not mean – that we make no attempt to stem the tide.

To whet your appetite, I am regularly annoyed by the vogue use of phrases such as 'on a regular basis', 'on an occasional basis' and 'on a weekly basis': whatever happened to regularly, occasionally and weekly? It seems they are being avoided on a deliberate basis...

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6–7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

The summer has so far been rather disappointing but don't despair – it often cheers up mid-June onwards and I feel sure we shall be able to bask in lovely sunshine when we share the delights of Richard and Valerie Pushman's garden on 5 July and the choice tea to which we shall be treated.

Dates for your diary

5 July: Garden Party at Richard and Valerie Pushman

12 July: To be arranged

26 July: Maureen Stone – Pot-pourri

6 September: Mrs Tomkins – Treasures with a story

20 September: Judith Mettam – Trekking on the Andes

To those of you going away, have a good time, safe travelling and plenty of sunshine! Try to encourage others to join us.

Stella Page: 562314

Evening WI

Our May evening had an early start to allow us to discuss this year's Resolutions. The first, regarding the re-establishment of local abattoirs, was passed by a narrow margin. The second, about the implementation of stricter food controls on imported food stuffs, was carried unanimously.

Our demonstration by Sandra Webb was 'An introduction to Caribbean cookery'. We were introduced to an exciting range of dishes such as Escoveitch fish, Ackee and Saltfish, and Rice and Kidney Beans. We then all tucked into a tasting – delicious.

Mrs Webb's fee, and money collected for recipes, was in aid of Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP) a rare genetic defect making the sufferer sensitive to all sources of UV radiation, especially sunlight. They cannot enjoy the sunshine as we do, but have to have a face mask and apply layers of barrier suncreams during the day for protection to their skin. Mrs Webb's own son suffers from this.

Dates

11 July: *Kiss Me, Kate* in London.

18 July: 'The work of the Samaritans'. All welcome. Competition: a single bloom.

20 August: Cruising in the Chilterns (with cream tea)

Thank you to all members who contributed to the success of the Jubilee Fete. We raised £400 on the day. Special thanks to Marion Lawrence and her team in the kitchen, Ginny, Daisy and Judy on the Tombola, and Hazel Davies and her group on the float. Thanks also to Richard Webb for allowing his lorry to be decorated and for driving it on the day. Without him there would not be a WI float.

Valerie Pushman and Betty Williams

Naphill Neighbours

When Dick Smith, the Beaconsfield Town Crier, arrived at our June meeting resplendent in replica Georgian regalia, complete with his bell, we knew we were in for a good evening. Dick is a larger-than-life character and made a dashing sight in his green and gold uniform with black and gold tricorn hat trimmed with ostrich feathers. He told us numerous highly amusing incidents that have happened over his 33 years in the post, a period he has obviously hugely enjoyed. He finished his talk in Town Crier style, ringing the bell and making an announcement with his booming voice. It would not be surprising if it had been heard throughout the village, despite the meeting's being held in the hall!

Our cake stall and raffles at the fete were extremely successful and made £322. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

The date of our next meeting has changed to **Monday 15 July** when a Garden Party will be held at the home of Sheila and Nigel Rolfe, 17 Battingswood Gardens at 4pm. If it should be a wet day, the event will be postponed until 8pm in the Village Hall.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Letter to the editor

From Marek Pavlik

On behalf of the Naphill Common Committee, I would like to reply to Jean Lawrence-Mann's letter in the May issue of the *Gazette*. Like many others, we too were very concerned about the

work being undertaken on the track between Hunts Hill Lane and Cookshall Farm and pursued this matter vigorously with the relevant authorities, i.e. English Nature, the West Wycombe Estate and the County Council. It rapidly became apparent that this track (and no other) had a special status that allowed the owner of Cookshall Farm to lay the new surfacing. English Nature would not intervene as, according to them, the track does not fall within the boundaries of Naphill Common and so is not governed by SSSI rules.

We were therefore left with the scenario that virtually anything could be done on this track with the County Council's acquiescence.

All villagers can remain assured that it is only this track that is affected. All of the other paths and bridleways on the Common are governed by strict rules on re-surfacing and will not be affected in the same way. Indeed, it is the requirement for a much better surface on our footpaths that has stopped re-surfacing work being done on them, as the County does not have the finances to undertake such work.

The Committee continues to try to improve our Common (see this month's report). We could do with more comment and support in our activities, e.g. more complaints from villagers to the relevant authorities and so would encourage everyone to write to English Nature expressing their concerns in addition to letters to the *Gazette*.

Naphill Pre-school

Hallo and goodbye

We are delighted to announce that Mo Bedder has been appointed to take over as Pre-school Supervisor from September 2002.

As you know, Norma Clarke is retiring as Pre-school Supervisor after 18 years. We are having a party to say thank you and good luck for the future. This will be held on Saturday 13 July 2002 from 2 until 4pm at the Village Hall. All past and present pupils, parents/carers and staff are invited to attend for afternoon tea, bouncy castle (sorry, only for the children). *Interest week theme* – 'Pre-school memories'

Ruth Daly

Naphill Toddlers

Names and numbers to note

The *Gazette's* e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

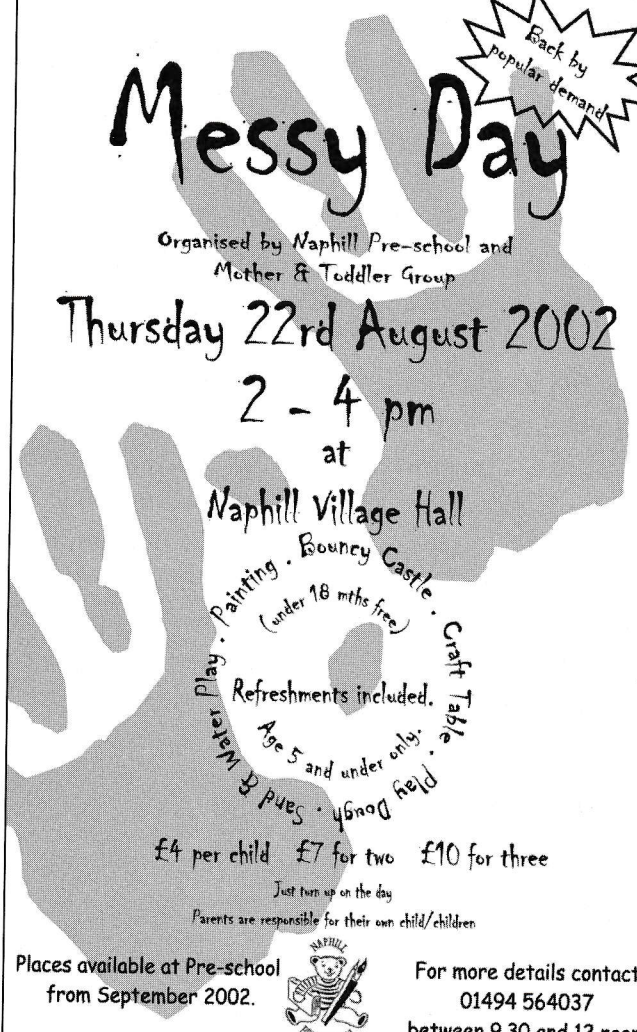
Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

Fantastic fete float



Messy Day Back by popular demand

Organised by Naphill Pre-school and Mother & Toddler Group

Thursday 22nd August 2002

2 - 4 pm
at
Naphill Village Hall

Play • Painting • Bouncy Castle • Craft Table
(under 18 mths free)

Refreshments included.
Age 5 and under only.

£4 per child £7 for two £10 for three
Just turn up on the day
Parents are responsible for their own child/children

Places available at Pre-school from September 2002.

For more details contact
01494 564037
between 9.30 and 12 noon.

NAPHILL PRE-SCHOOL

Once again, parents and staff at Pre-School pulled out all the stops to produce a truly memorable float for fete day. Well done to all those involved. The children were resplendent in their purple and gold kings and queens costumes. We also enjoyed making decorations for the Village Hall for the Jubilee. It was nice that so many people got to enjoy them over the Jubilee weekend.

Over the coming weeks we are concentrating on some holiday themes with seaside and camping-type activities. Sports Day will take place on Friday 12 July and the ever-delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic is all set for Thursday 18 July.

Ruth Daly

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Planning

02/6326/FUL Templewood, Walter's Ash.

Provision of 29 car parking spaces. More details needed. Residents would be concerned if the proposals result in (a) loss of green space, (b) loss of the children's playground, which local people would like to see retained for the benefit of the whole community, or (c) if the plans create an urbanising effect in this Chilterns AONB village.

02/6122/FUL Land adjacent to Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Demolition of existing garage & construction of new four-bed detached dwelling with detached double garage (amendment to pp 02/5151/FUL) including enlarged garage with room over, additional ensuite window in front elevation and revised size of bathroom. Concerns of over-development and overlooking relative to adjacent dwellings. *02/6141/FUL Tavern Cottage, Naphill Common.* Loft conversion with alterations to roof line to create new bedroom. *02/6199/FUL. Caswell, Stocking Lane, Hughenden Valley.* Construction of new garage roof, hot tub enclosure & decking (retrospective application).

Local Government boundaries

These are now under review, to serve the best interests of local people..

In July 2001, we responded, saying current parish council boundaries are unsatisfactory as: (a) Walter's Ash and the RAF straddle three different

Parish Councils – Bradenham, Hughenden, Lacey Green – which intersect here, precluding a unified view on issues affecting Walter's Ash, and (b) Hughenden Parish Council office is at the far end of the Parish from Walter's Ash, 4 miles away on a different hilltop on the far side of Kingshill, not reasonably accessible to residents of Naphill, or especially Walter's Ash, on foot, cycle or public transport. The pressure to use transport other than cars will not go away. We should plan for it now.

A more logical change would be to create a new parish to include Naphill, all of Walter's Ash, Bradenham, all RAF areas including Strike Command and domestic sites, possibly Hughenden Valley, but separate from Great Kingshill and Widmer End. There is much to be said for keeping parish council areas for villages small, to relate closely and simply to the community, not make them large, impersonal and expensive like District or County Councils. Wycombe District Council has ignored these representations, and proposes a large Greater Hughenden Parish Council.

There is a three-month public consultation period. We urge residents to write supporting the above electoral boundary review proposals, and disagreeing with WDC's proposal for a Greater Hughenden Parish, which would be less well suited to community needs and more costly.

Residents' letters carry great weight. For details of where to write, please ring Electoral Services Department at WDC (01494 461000).

Next meeting : 8pm Thursday 11 July, Naphill Village Hall.

Gloria Leflaive: 563634

Ploughman's lunch

The lunch at Hughenden Village Hall on 5 June went well, raising £283 for work on MS. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Marge Sawney

Naphill and Walter's Ash Fete

We could not have been luckier with the weather. Fete day was bathed in glorious sunshine (a rare

Memories of Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete and Jubilee party

Photographs by courtesy of
Ruth Daly and Kevin Bennett



sight at the moment) and the best part was that we raised just over £5100 for the Village Hall.

The procession was, as always, quite spectacular, and led by our glamorous Fete Princesses, Emily Middleton, Samantha French and Millie Howard-Sorrell. A lot of hard work went into all the floats, costumes and tableaux and it showed: well done to you all, and especially to Olwyn French who made the outfits for the Princesses.

The winners in the various categories were:

Fancy Dress: Under 8 – Joint first prize to Kirsty Scott as the Jubilee Fairy and Natalie Daly as the Queen. Over 8 – First prize to Adam Grout as the Royal Mail. Second Prize to Fay Johnston who was a bodyguard in one of the walking tableaux

Best Float Juniors: Playgroup

Best Float Seniors: Evening WI

Best Walking Tableau: The Brownies as the Buckingham Palace Jubilee Gardens

Best Stall: Evening WI

The Best Neighbour award went this year to Gregory Hargrove who has worked tirelessly for the village in the nine years he has been here, and who retires later this summer. He is indeed a very deserving winner.

Several people have said what a wonderful day they had and this is all due to the hard work of a large number of people who help to make the Fete what it is, by running stalls, taking part in the procession or spending money on the day – and in some cases all three! I wish I could mention everyone by name, but space does not allow. We are also helped by the generosity of the local shops and businesses that give prizes for the Grand Draw. My thanks also go to Andrew Wilmot as Master of Ceremonies on Saturday, Mark Blamey for the use of his truck, and Graham Wagner our Treasurer.

My special thanks however go to the Committee – John Harris, Clive Lawrence, Janet Beetham, Sue Beaumont, Cherry Grout, David Talbot, Ian Goodman and Sarah Atwell – who all worked so hard for months before the day to ensure everything was in place and ran smoothly.

Lastly, we have some lost property: two pairs of sunglasses, a camera case and a small knitted soft toy. If any of these belong to you, please let me know.

The previous page features a few photos of the day and of the Bank Holiday Monday Jubilee event.

Cathryn Carter, Chairman, Fete Committee :
563233

Second-hand emporium

Happy endings, all redundancy notices were withdrawn, so no one will go hungry this Christmas and Tiny Tim got his new crutches. Hurrah!!

What a day, glorious weather, and £776 taken on the stall – that's not including 'good ole John' (Bullock) who threw his lot in with us this year unable to find anyone to run his bookstall for this fete. He managed £144, making a combined total of £920. All that was achieved through your generosity. Most of the items came from Naphill and Walter's Ash but we also received some from High Wycombe, Tylers Green and even Carmarthen (there's lovely). Many thanks to you all. I know the Village Hall Council appreciate your efforts very much.

The help given to me was tremendous. Ladies first: Chris, Judith, Marian, Rosemary, Sally, Sue, Trish (who must be the fittest lady in Naphill) and Vicky. The gentlemen were Dave, Dennis, Frank, John (who also helped me to collect) and Reg. I am truly grateful for all their hard work. My final thanks go to one man and his lorry: Dick Webb, who worked from 7.30am until after 6pm for both the stall and the WI on Saturday and then all Sunday morning clearing away. I certainly value Dick's friendship.

Bob Davis

Balloons, bunting and bubbles

From the time people arrived for the start of the Golden jubilee Party on Monday 3 June at Naphill Village Hall party, there was a 'wow' reaction to the preparations for the afternoon. The hall was generously decorated with union flag bunting, balloons and golden crowns made by the Pre-school children. The tables were laid with union

flag plates and serviettes and decorated with helium union flag balloons. The entertainer did a wonderful job of performing magic with the children as well as organising the hokey-cokey and the conga, all to the fun of a bubble-blowing machine. After the serious business of eating and drinking and the loyal toast to HM the Queen and the cutting of the cake, some team games ended the afternoon. The limited edition commemorative mugs, kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Rowland, will, I am sure, be greatly cherished. The whole afternoon was photographed and I will be making up a commemorative album for the village 'archives'.

Thank you to all the helpers before and on the day and to all the people, from the babies to the senior citizens, who came to celebrate the jubilee.

Norma Clarke

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

The season continues well for the Bucks Shield Ladies Team, which is in good form, having won all three matches, with two left to play. This leaves them on track to achieve their promotion goal, after a disappointing season last year. The Men's Team had a late start to the season and no results are available to date. The Aylesbury League teams are having a mixed season, with the Ladies' first team doing well while, in the High Wycombe Mixed League, the first team is also doing well. Unfortunately, no Junior League results are available to date.

The Queen's Jubilee weekend proved a busy one for Naphill with the fete, organised by the Village Hall Committee, held on Saturday, in brilliant sunshine and attracting a good crowd. The tennis club was given the task of 'manning' (mostly women – but the author is not biased!) the 'bouncy castle'. Demand was so great that our final volunteers – Jenny and Ted Chapman – had to work overtime to ensure all had their turn.

On the following Tuesday, the Club held its Jubilee Tournament, which included the usual excellent 'co-operative' buffet lunch, provided by the players themselves. It cannot be claimed that the tennis was up to Wimbledon standard but it was played in a good, social spirit with no tantrums over line calls or racquets flying over the courts. Appropriately, the Men's winner was Club

Captain Ian Catchpole and the Ladies' prize went to Sara Philpott, our Bucks Shield Ladies Captain.

As a significant number of our members also enjoy playing golf, a Golf Day is arranged once a year. This was held at the end of May when 11 members and visitors had a good day out at Aylesbury Park, ending with Helen Leek as the overall winner.

The Club plays all year round so, if Wimbledon inspires you to dust off your racquet, do come along and join us or ring our Membership Secretary, Sue Crooks, on 562539.

Ingrid Tomlins (Sec) : 446063

Foiled again

After many years of collecting large quantities of foil from me – for-fund raising for Guide Dogs for the Blind – my friend is now moving away! So can I please now inform everyone who has previously either left foil at my front door or a message on my phone for me to collect it, that I am NO LONGER able to accept any more foil!! Many thanks to everyone who has helped in the past. Or perhaps there is someone out there who can accept this foil locally?

Eleanor, Moseley Rd : 562954

The Naphill sky in July and August

[Pressure on space prevents the inclusion in this issue of the table of times for July and August. Anyone interested. Apologies to anyone who is disappointed.]

The moon is full on 24 July and 22 August; it is new on 10 July 10 and 8 August. Venus is an evening star in the northwest during both months. It is next to the bright star Regulus in Leo on 11 July and next to the thin crescent moon on 12. Mercury and Saturn are close to the moon on 2 July in the east-northeast horizon about 45 minutes before sunrise; they are only $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ apart but you will need to get up early. About $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset on July 3 Mars is only $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ above Jupiter; binoculars may help to see them. Spica (in Virgo) and Venus are only 0.8° apart on 31 August. The Perseid meteor shower should be at its best on the nights of 11 and 12 August with 'shooting stars' moving from the northeast every two minutes or so.

Spacecraft missions

Nasa announced in December last year the details of two spacecraft missions to be launched in 2006. The first, Dawn, will make a nine-year journey to orbit the two most massive asteroids known, Vesta and Ceres, two 'baby planets' very different from each other yet both containing tantalising clues about the formation of the solar system. Using the same set of instruments to observe these two bodies, both located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, Dawn will improve our understanding of how planets formed during the earliest epoch of the solar system. Ceres has quite a primitive surface, water-bearing minerals, and possibly a weak atmosphere and frost. Vesta is a dry body that has been resurfaced by basaltic lava flows, and may have an early magma ocean like earth's moon. Like the moon, it has been hit many times by smaller space rocks, and these impacts have sent out meteorites at least five times in the past 50 million years.

The Kepler mission differs from previous ways of looking for planets orbiting other stars. Kepler will look for the 'transit' signature of planets that occurs each time a planet crosses the line-of-sight between the planet's parent star and the observer. When this happens, the planet blocks some of the light from its star, resulting in a periodic dimming. This periodic signature is used to detect the planet and to determine its size and orbit. Kepler will continuously fix its gaze at a region of space containing 100,000 stars and will be able to determine whether earth-sized planets make a transit across any of the stars.

Hubble constant

The Hubble constant is the rate of expansion of the universe due to the big bang. It is calculated by dividing the acceleration at which a galaxy is moving away from the earth by its distance from earth. The inverse of this figure gives the age of the universe. The unit is km per second per megaparsec (a parsec=3.26 light years and megaparsec=1 million parsecs). The current value for the Hubble constant is about 70 kilometres per second per megaparsec and puts the age of the universe at about 14 billion years. The Hubble constant is named after Edwin Hubble (1889-1953). He was the first astronomer to identify that

galaxies observed through telescopes lie way beyond the edge of our milky way galaxy and that our galaxy is just one of billions of galaxies in the universe. He also discovered that the more distant a galaxy is, the faster it is moving away from us.

Grant Woodruff

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request. Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 563667.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on 01491 638603.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with homemade cakes served at Hughenden Church House from 2.15pm on Easter Day, Sundays and Holiday Monday afternoon until the end of October. Groups can book a Special Tea on weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

Hughenden Parish Council

The AGM was held in May. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Rogers, informed us that he was not remaining as Chairman and asked for nominations. Cllr Rick Gould, Great Kingshill, was unanimously elected in his place. The Parish Councillors from Naphill thank Cllr John Rogers for all his work during the past four years and look forward to the wisdom and guidance of Cllr John Rogers.

The election of Standing Committees were then voted and Naphill councillors are on the following committees: Finance & Administration, Cllrs

Pushman and Harris; Services, Cllrs Mrs Bacon and Mrs Elmidoro; Planning, Cllrs Mrs Elmidoro and Mrs Bacon; Strategic Plan, Cllrs Mrs Elmidoro and Harris.

Recommendation of Appointment of Governors to Local Schools: Great Kingshill Combined, Cllr Mrs Bacon; Naphill & Walter's Ash Combined, Cllr Pushman; Appointments to other bodies: Naphill Village Halls, Cllr Mrs Bacon; Council for the Protection of Rural England, Cllr Mrs Elmidoro; Wycombe District Association of Local Councils, Cllr Mrs Elmidoro and Cllr Harris.

As you can see, all the Councillors from Naphill are represented on many different committees. Hughenden Parish Council is one of the largest in the district and representation on all these committees keeps us in touch and up-to-date in all areas.

Planning

We have received many queries with regards to the situation at Templewood at Walter's Ash. Firstly, permission has been given to erect flagpoles for advertisement purposes and, secondly, we have just received planning for 29 car parking spaces by Annington Homes Ltd. We have also received complaints about the long grass and the general unkept appearance of Templewood. Cllr Pushman has taken photographs of the area and given them to Wycombe District Council to pursue the matter, as the RAF are no longer responsible.

If you have any queries about any aspect of plans, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The date of the next Council Meeting is 9 July at 8pm and the Planning Meeting is on 16 July at 8pm at The Parish Council Offices, The Common, Great Kingshill.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

It's horticultural show time!

The Annual Summer Show of Naphill Horticultural Society takes place on Saturday 7 July at the Village Hall and is your chance to show off what you can grow in your garden or

allotment. I *know* it was a very wet winter and spring, but the weathermen keep telling us that the past few weeks have been perfect growing conditions, so no excuses. Pick up a schedule and have a look through – there is sure to be one class you can enter at least. Flowers, vegetables, cookery, handcrafts, and children's classes – we've got it all! Schedules are available from Don Turner, the Post Office or myself.

If you prefer to just come along and have a look, doors open at 2pm and the ever-popular auction of donated exhibits will take place at 4pm. There is also a sales table, so if you have any contributions to this please let Don know on 562645.

Remember, this is a village show, and has been designed for you to enter. Also, a reminder that home composting bins can be bought cheaply through the Society, at just £15. Please let me know if you are interested as I must place the order on 12 July and, unless we are ordering at least 20, delivery will be extra.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Naphill Common Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the committee took place on 27 March. The meeting was well attended thanks to the re-surfacing work that had been done on the track between Cookshall Farm and Hunts Hill Lane and also on the bridleway on Downley Common. Residents from Downley attended as well as the Rights of Way officer from the County Council and a representative of the Chiltern Society.

Much of the evening was taken up with a discussion of the status of the rights of way in question and of the work that had been carried out. We were informed that the track had a special status, which allowed the landowner (or his tenant) to re-surface the track in a manner, which would not be acceptable on other rights of way on the Common. It was acknowledged that the Downley Common bridleway looked very 'raw' now but with time would age and appear less obtrusive. The meeting was assured that re-surfacing on the Common itself would be done in a completely different way. However, no promises were given on when this work would be done.

The Chairman outlined the work that the committee had done in the past year and expressed his concerns about the lack of progress on Common improvements. It would appear that English Nature had lost interest in our Common (despite their promises that it would be declared a National Nature reserve). It was agreed that we should contact the landowner (Sir Edward Dashwood) to find out what his plans for the Common were. Our District Councillor Richard Pushman offered to contact Sir Edward directly.

The Committee was re-elected and consists of Marek Pawlik (Chairman), Susan Wharton (Vice Chairman), Gloria Leflaive (Secretary), Daisy Leek, Sue Goodman, Bill Zerny, Philip Hussey, Trevor Hussey and Evelyn Livett.

We need all the help that we can get in putting pressure on all of the bodies responsible for the Common. Among others are English Nature, West Wycombe Estate and Bucks County Council. We have seen no progress in improvements on the Common for over two years and are concerned about its future. If you would like to help, please get in touch with any member of the committee.

We would also like to receive reports about misuse of the Common.

Marek Pawlik : 563126

County and District Councillor's Notes

There is to be a roundabout at the junction of Woodway, Loosley Row with the A4010 at the Culverton crossroads. A public exhibition of the scheme is on display at the information office at Princes Risborough. Comments on the plans should be made as soon as possible to the County Councils' consultants, Babbie Group Ltd, Hampden Hall, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5TB. Although this will enable a safer entry onto the A4010 from Lacey Green, Naphill and Walter's Ash, I am worried that this might attract a greater use of Main Road.

The old barns at Walter's Ash continue to give concern. The District Council is negotiating with the owners for repairs to secure this Listed building. Permission was granted some years ago for the conversion of these buildings to provide

office accommodation but unfortunately it has not been implemented. We are fortunate to be living in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but it does impose planning restrictions on all residents. There is a mistaken impression that small building works, including the erection of garden sheds and greenhouses, do not require planning permission under permitted development rights. Anyone envisaging such work should check with the Planning Office at Wycombe District Council to find out whether permission is required.

The RAF site at Templewood is still under negotiation. In the meantime, I have reported the untidy state of the open spaces and the urgent need to prevent vandalism.

Readers may have read in the local press that all County Councillors are to have access to the Community Leaders Fund, to enable them to support appropriate schemes in their communities. My allocation for this purpose is £2050 and will enable me to support local organisations, where a 'pump priming' donation would assist those who provide for the well-being of our communities.

Richard Pushman

[Editor's note: This is an updated version of Richard's notes for the June issue, that somehow failed to survive el-mail. Apologies to all affected. Readers might like to know that Richard is now Vice-Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council. Congratulations!]

Naphill Village Hall Notes

The meeting was again poorly attended as we had to hold it on the last Monday of May and not on our customary first Monday of the month, this being the Jubilee Bank Holiday. Next month we should be back to normal.

We should by now have a Sunday cleaner to polish the floor in the main hall. (You will know by the state of the floor next time you visit the hall whether we have been successful.) We also have a new cooker in the kitchen, the old having done 40 years' service. The new one is very smart and more efficient. I am told it is fiercer than the previous one and users should be aware that the ovens take less time to cook.

The goals on the junior football pitch have been taken down for the summer. The aim is for them to be replaced next season by lighter goals that can be put up weekly instead of for the season.

The baby swings in the play area have had to be removed as they have been damaged. Until they have been repaired, we apologise to those youngsters having to do without.

The fair seemed to bring a lot of pleasure to the children of the village without any trouble. They left the Crick as they had found it with no rubbish and seemed to be a great addition to village events. Let's hope they ask to come back again next year.

The fete was again a great success. The children's party on Jubilee Monday was also a wonderful village event which I hope the children will remember in the same way as those of us of my vintage remember what we did on Coronation Day!

The Village Hall swinging sign has had to be taken down as it had been damaged in the heavy winds. As soon as it can be repaired and made safe, it will be replaced. Our next meeting will be on Monday 1 July and will be preceded by a litter blitz around the Hall and the Crick starting at 7.30pm. Any helpers would be most welcome. Bring your own rubber gloves and we will provide the black bags. Hopefully, we will time it right for the judging of the best kept village again!

Sarah Bacon, Chairman, Naphill Village Hall and Playing Fields Council

Naphill Neighbours

When Dick Smith, the Beaconsfield Town Crier, arrived at our June meeting resplendent in replica Georgian regalia, complete with his bell, we knew we were in for a good evening. Dick is a larger-than-life character and made a dashing sight in his green and gold uniform with black and gold tricorn hat trimmed with ostrich feathers. He told us numerous highly amusing incidents that have happened over his 33 years in the post, a period he has obviously hugely enjoyed. He finished his talk in Town Crier style, ringing the bell and making an announcement with his booming voice. It would not be surprising if it had been heard

throughout the village, despite the meeting's being held in the hall!

Our cake stall and raffles at the fete were extremely successful and made £322. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

The date of our next meeting has changed to **Monday 15 July** when a Garden Party will be held at the home of Sheila and Nigel Rolfe, 17 Battingswood Gardens at 4pm. If it should be a wet day, the event will be postponed until 8pm in the Village Hall.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Christian Aid 2002

I have taken over this year as Christian Aid Organiser for Naphill and Walter's Ash. The Rev. Greg Hargrove is due to retire this year and is to be thanked for his hard work as organiser for the two villages for the past few years. This year, £1008.65 was raised – so a huge thankyou to all who contributed to and collected for this year's appeal to help the world's poorest people. Thank you also to my husband Anthony for helping to count and bank the money. (Though I shall use the two donated buttons (sic) myself.)

If anyone would like to help us collect next year – it need only be for a few houses – your offer would be gladly accepted.

Helen Seys-Llewellyn : 563624

Riding for the disabled

Are you disabled? Fancy a challenge? The High Wycombe Riding for the Disabled group has vacancies for adults on Friday afternoons at Shana Riding School, Walter's Ash (term time). If you think you may be interested, please telephone Jane on 01494 863893 for details.

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

I will be running in the Flora Light Challenge for Women 2002 – a 5km run in Hyde Park on Sunday 1 September – to raise funds for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and am making an appeal for villagers to sponsor me.

The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home is a registered charity offering specialist nursing care, support

and advice for patients with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses in their homes. The Hospice at Home also helps the relatives and those carers close to the patient during the illness and bereavement period. They have four teams working throughout the Chilterns providing care to adult patients and one team looking after children. The Hospice at Home service is offered to patients and families free of charge and they rely heavily on fund-raising activities to sustain the service. Please help in their fund-raising, by sponsoring me for this run.

Doreen Burge : 565430

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

During the school half-term week in June, I took my children on the Underground from Amersham to Hammersmith. As we emerged from the station, one of my children immediately spotted the Apollo Theatre and guessed we were going there. Another saw a far less obvious church and wondered whether that was our destination! The third didn't notice either. Number one was correct. We went to see 'Riverdance'.

'Riverdance' is a wonderful show, based on traditional Irish dancing, with irresistibly foot-tapping music and some beautiful singing. Different people get different things out of any presentation. For me, an important aspect was the inclusion of Spanish Flamenco, American jazz and Russian Cossack. On the one hand, it demonstrated different cultures confronting each other: on the other, a common thread uniting humanity. It was wonderful to see how a scene, which began with Irish and American traditions opposing each other, ended with their meeting as the dancers joined together.

Christianity can be seen as divisive or unifying. For me, Jesus meets a common need, crossing all cultural and ethnic boundaries. There are different expressions of faith but we are a common humanity with one Creator who wishes us to know him and live as brothers and sisters. The way of Jesus seems so obviously right, but it won't be recognised or sustained without a

relationship with him. More details from any of your local churches. You will be very welcome!

Shalom

Nick

Greetings from Simon Cronk

I don't think many of us will forget the Jubilee weekend, not only for the glorious weather we enjoyed, but also for the special sense of occasion that was about at the time. I cannot claim to be a tremendous fan of royalty, nor can I claim to be tremendously anti, but come the event it was heart-warming to see how many joined in the celebrations and also how the Queen herself seemed to be genuinely surprised by the warmth of feeling shown towards her by the numerous people she encountered. It was also, amidst the gloom of so much that is happening in the world, something positive and diverting for a few days (well there has been the World Cup, which as a non-football fan even I have become excited by!).

St Michael had its traditional teas over the Jubilee weekend and teas and lunches on both bank holidays which were well supported. Looking ahead to the weekend of 27-28 July, there will be a flower festival in the church with the theme of 'Celebrations', a part of which will be the celebration of the Golden Jubilee. This will culminate in a Songs of Praise service at 4pm on the green in front of the Church (weather permitting), a time of praise and thanksgiving to God for the many things that we can celebrate in this Jubilee year.

Simon Cronk,

Vicar of St Michaels and All Angels, Hughenden.

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

Last month I said that our eternal destiny depends upon whether or not we have become members of THE CHURCH – Christ's body here on earth – by acknowledging Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

But I also think it is important that we become members of a particular local fellowship. Those who became members of THE CHURCH on the day of Pentecost (Acts ch.2) gathered for

fellowship, worship and teaching and so formed, in effect, the first church. Most of Paul's letters were written to groups of 'saints' – as the early Christians were called – who were meeting together in this or that place and whom Paul addressed as 'the church of the Thessalonians' or 'the churches in Galatia'. It is obvious that, if we are to worship, fellowship, build each other up, share each other's burdens, learn, witness and do all the things that Christians are called to do, then we too need to gather together and it surely makes sense to do so with the same group of people, at the same place. I think it follows, if we are to enter fully into the life of a fellowship, that it should be our local one. But here we can have a problem. The group of Christians nearest to our home may worship in a way which we are not used to, don't understand, don't like, or which doesn't meet our needs. They may not emphasise particular doctrines of the Christian faith as much as we would wish or they may put considerable emphasis on things we do not think are important at all, or they might start their Sunday morning service too early! Some of these things may be so important to us that we would not want to join that particular fellowship – some we may be happy to adapt to or ignore – some we may feel we could change. No fellowship is perfect and if you find

one that is perfect, don't join it, because then it won't be!

Having found a fellowship that is nearest to our home to meet our needs, we should join it, not in the way we join a secular club, but with total commitment, determined to support it with our time, talents and treasure, so that through it we can fulfill our calling as members of THE CHURCH.

If you are not a member of our Fellowship, but are members of THE CHURCH, should you perhaps pray about joining us? Don't wait to be asked, but speak either to me or to any of the existing members. There is so much to be done for the Lord in this part of the world and we would love you to join us as we seek to serve Him here.

Your sincere friend *Gregory Hargrove : 563304*

Our next issue

Regular readers will know that the *Gazette* is published ten times a year, not 12. Anyone wishing to advertise or contribute to the next – which will be the September edition – should make sure they send their material (with photos if relevant) to the editor by Friday 16 August.

Christians in the community

Sunday 30 June at 6pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *UNITED SERVICE*

Thursday 4 July from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Friday 5 July from 6.30pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H! 'Kids Really Are Special Here!'* (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Sunday 7 July 1.30–4pm on the Crick: *BARBECUE & FUNTIME FOR ALL THE FAMILY*: Pre-school children FREE; Primary schoolchildren £1; everyone else £2. Tickets from the churches or Jim Long (564009). Numbers to Jim **by 3 July**.

Friday 12 July at 7pm in Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H! 'Tweens Really Are Special Here'* (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Saturday 13 July at 11am in Hughenden Village Hall: *HUGHENDEN FETE*

Sunday 28 July at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Thursday 1 August from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Saturday 10 August from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *DEDICATION SERVICE & TRAINING for HOLIDAY CLUB*

Tuesday 27–Friday 30 August 9.30am onwards in Naphill Village Hall: *HOLIDAY CLUB*. Contact Jim Long (564009) to register or to offer help as Leader/Assistant Leader.

Saturday 7 September at 3pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *INDUCTION SERVICE for NEW PASTOR – BOB SEMPLE*. We shall also welcome his wife *POLLY* and daughter *ABIGAIL*.

Naphill Gazette

September 2002



Naphill Gazette

September 2002

Editor: Alan Lewis, 16 Battings Wood Gardens. Tel: 564512. E-mail NaphillGazette@aol.com

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Copy date for October issue is Sunday 15 September 2002 (see Editorial)

Editorial

'More haste, less speed' may be an old adage but it is still very much alive and kicking, as anyone who read the last issue will have spotted. Still, at least *most* of the information made sense!

One interesting point has been raised by a reader in Walter's Ash. Her complaint is that, now the *Gazette* no longer carries the 'signpost' illustration, her village is not mentioned on the cover – which is true. She went further, saying that, as a resident of Walter's Ash, she no longer feels that the publication is for her.

Although this is the first – and so far the only – such criticism, I wonder whether her view is shared by others. If so, please let me know. I am reluctant to change the cover illustration so early in its life but it would certainly be possible to head this page, for

example, *Naphill Gazette, incorporating Walter's Ash*. What do readers think?

In my previous editorial, I expressed a few thoughts on our use of English and especially the current trend towards tautology – namely, saying the same thing twice, as in 'foot pedal' or 'weather conditions'. However, it seems my interest is not shared: one reader complained (yes, life has more brickbats than bouquets!) that it was all too highfalutin and unsuited to these pages. Well, I don't want to lose any more readers, so that's the end of that!

Finally, some dates: the deadline for the October issue is **15 September** to fit in with work schedules: and the NCH envelope collections in Naphill and Walter's Ash will be on 7–21 September.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6–7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

As I write these notes at the end of July, I feel our summer so far has been very disappointing weather-wise, and hope that August will be better, especially if – like me – you are going away.

We need to have some new members as our numbers have been somewhat depleted for various reasons. We have enjoyed some excellent speakers and thank Mary for booking them.

Future dates are:

6 September – Mrs Tompkins: 'Treasures with a story'

20 September – Judith Mettam: 'Trekking on the Andes'

4 October – Jackie Wratten: Accordion and jokes!

18 October – John Howard

If you're going on holiday, I hope you come back refreshed. I look forward to seeing you all on 6 September. Enjoy what's left of the summer.

Stella Page: 562314

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 563667.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with homemade cakes at Hughenden Church House from 2.15pm on Sundays until the end of October. Groups can book a Special Tea on weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

Blooming marvellous!

Naphill Horticultural Society is holding its Autumn Show on Saturday 7 September at Naphill Village Hall. This is your big chance to show off what you have been nurturing in your gardens and allotments this year. We would love to see as many of you as possible at this village event, and would certainly welcome more exhibitors. So don't be shy, pick up a schedule and have a go. There are classes for flowers, vegetables, cookery, photography, handicrafts, and of course special classes for children. Schedules are available from Don Turner, the Post Office or myself.

If you prefer to just come along and admire the exhibits, doors open at 2pm, giving you time to look around and have some refreshments before the ever-popular auction of donated exhibits takes place at 4pm.

Also, please note that our annual cheese & wine evening will be on Friday 1 November, when Tim Miles, Head Gardener of the Cotswold Wildlife Park, will be telling us about the 'Glorious gardens of Cornwall', starting at 7.30pm prompt. This is always a sell-out evening, so put the date in your diaries and look out for more details next month.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

County & District Councillor's Notes

Now that summer holidays are over, more pressing local matters must be addressed. Concerns over speeding traffic are frequently voiced, despite the improvements to part of Main Road by the presence of the safety/speed camera. The completion of the relaying of the gas main has opened up the road again for those using Naphill as a short-cut to avoid the A4010. Hopefully, improvements to the West Wycombe Road and its junction with the A40 at the pedestal and the turning at Chapel Lane will entice traffic back to the main route into High Wycombe from the north-west.

The District Council has now completed its consultation document for parish boundary review and it is in the public domain for comment. The recommendations are to leave Walter's Ash within Hughenden Parish. There are some slight modifications to Bradenham parish at Saunderton. Hughenden Parish boundaries are unchanged.

Government proposals regarding changes to planning were published at the end of July. County Structure Plans are to be abolished and replaced by a new regional planning system. The government intends to ensure that a high proportion of 'affordable' houses are built in the southeast to provide homes for essential workers, such as teachers, nurses, police and firemen. The main growth areas are to be the Thames Gateway, Ashford, Milton Keynes, and the London-Stansed-Cambridge area. Areas, such as the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Green Belt, will continue to be protected from development. There will be higher densities on land that can be developed, and housing applications with fewer than 12 dwellings per acre (30 per hectare) will be resisted.

Richard Pushman

Village Hall Council Meeting

As Sarah was away, I had the privilege of chairing the last meeting before I retired and moved away from the village in August. The meeting proper was preceded by half an hour of cleaning up the grounds around the Hall by your Committee (or at least by most of your

Committee!), a task which perhaps not all of us realised was part of the job! As always, a surprisingly wide range of issues were discussed. Some of the more interesting were:

- The perennial problem of unauthorised vehicle parking in the car park. Lowering and locking the barrier from time to time is impracticable because it's 'either all or nothing'. Therefore, the possibility of clamping, with a hefty release fee, is being considered.
- The excellent Golden Jubilee Fete raised over £5,100 for the Village Hall improvement projects, and sincere thanks were expressed to all those who put so much hard work into making it such a success. These events don't just happen: they are the result of a lot of effort over many months. And very largely by the same surprisingly small group of dedicated village people.
- The forthcoming firework party on 2 November was mentioned. The Committee had to order the fireworks in July to guarantee availability! Put the date in your diary now and support the event.
- As Scout and Guide Joint Headquarters Committee representative, I reported that I had retired the previous week as chairman of that committee and that a replacement was urgently needed. Only about four meetings are held each year, so it is not an onerous task; but it is a vital one. We all know of the vandalism and petty crime that our society is rife with. Organisations like Scouting and Guiding play an important role in encouraging our young people into more constructive activities. The leaders of the training sections deserve the fullest support of lay people to maintain and keep their excellent Headquarters building.

A busy meeting, but a sign of a healthy, active and friendly village, which Judith and I have so much enjoyed living and working in for these nine years. We shall miss our many friends.

Gregory Hargrove

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

The competitive part of the summer season is drawing to a close as September approaches. Our teams have had their usual mixed bag of results, although our Ladies Shield team remains undefeated, latterly mainly because of circumstances mostly beyond their control. In their penultimate match, they travelled to the away venue, only to find out that their opponents had withdrawn their ladies team a couple of days previously but neglected to pass on the information. In their last match, their opponents were unable to field a

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

full team, which obviously gave Naphill a significant advantage, without a ball being played!

Our junior teams were supported enthusiastically by parents and club members and all those who played appeared to greatly enjoy the experience. The Beginners' Tournament took place on 15 July, when Shelley Foster and Aidan Roberts won trophies, all other participants being awarded medals. The Junior Tournament is due to be held on 2 September and it is good to see the younger club members using the courts during the summer holidays, hopefully, practising for the 'big day'.

During the winter, most club members continue to support club sessions on Sunday and Tuesday mornings, weather permitting, although we also book a fortnightly Wednesday evening session at the Cressex indoor centre.

As with most enjoyable sporting activities, maintenance of facilities is an expensive business, so the club has to raise extra revenue each year to ensure the courts and clubhouse are kept up to standard. We try to make this a relatively painless exercise and, after a very successful Murder/Mystery Evening last year, we are holding a Barn Dance on the evening of Saturday 12 October, complete with fish & chip supper to sustain dancers. The redoubtable Old Mole Band and the Village Hall have been booked for the event, so if you feel like a bit of do-se-doe, do come and join us! Tickets will be a 'steal' at around £10 and Maddy (on 01494 523495) will be delighted to give you further details.

Ingrid Tomlins (Sec) : 01494 446083

Broadband for Naphill

You may already know it, but BT does not seem to have any immediate plans to upgrade our exchange (code SMNPL) to broadband ADSL in the near future. We may be able to do something about this if we all harassing BT to get the work done.

What is Broadband?

Broadband is the common term for a high-bandwidth Internet connection. A Broadband service can be capable of transmitting data at up to 40 times the speed of a standard modem. Equally importantly, it is always 'on' – you don't need to dial up every time you want to log on. Just sit down at your computer and the Internet is there – like electricity or tapwater! You also can use your telephone on the same number, at the same time. You don't even need new lines into your house.

So what's the plan?

Anyone interested needs to register with BT (or a participating ISP). You can do it yourself at: <http://www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10> or email me at: email@alanjessop.com with your name, address, postcode, telephone number, and computer type (PC or MAC). I will then lobby on your behalf. (Please put Naphill somewhere in the subject line.)

BT is setting trigger levels of interest for each of the exchanges they haven't yet converted. These will be set, I'm told, by the end of September, so everyone interested needs to act as soon as possible.

Broadband really is the future for everyone. Even if you don't have a computer now, you may want one in the future. You will then probably want a Broadband connection, so please do call or write to me so I can register your interest. A Broadband connection will also be a plus when you come to sell your property. If you have already pre-registered, intend to do so yourself, or you have anymore information, please drop me an email so I can help put our case forward. Finally, if you don't understand any of this, call me!

Alan Jessop : 563369

Computer training at Naphill & Walter's Ash School

Would you like an introduction to computing, information technology and achieve a certificate? Are you new to word processing and database? Have you always wanted to use a computer?

As part of our commitment to work closer with the community, Naphill and Walter's Ash School together with Amersham and Wycombe College is intending to run a Level 1 Word Processing and Database computer course from 12 September 2002 at the school. The course will be delivered over 12 weeks (excluding school holidays) at the cost of £38 per person. For

further information or if you are interested in enrolling, please contact the school on 562813 or myself on 565439 by Monday 9 September.

Don't be nervous, take a step forward in ICT and bring a friend.

Julie Schmid : 565439

Naphill Toddlers

Thank you to everyone who helped organise this year's Messy Day. I think all will agree it was a great success. We are now looking forward to a new term starting in September. It will be great to see all the new faces.

Dates for your diary

3 October : Annual photo session

5 December : Christmas party

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm until 4pm in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us. We have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting of steam or quietly modelling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Evening WI

The summer months, as always, have flown by. We celebrated our 19th birthday in June with food and wine and an entertaining talk by Hugh Grainger on 'Hilarious legal cases'.

Members were thanked for their contribution to the Jubilee Fete, when we raised £400 for Village Hall funds, and Stella Page was given a cake to mark her 90th birthday. At the end of June, we played croquet in Richard and Valerie Pushman's garden and the money raised has been sent to the South Bucks Scannappeal.

At the beginning of July, we all enjoyed a night out in London to see *Kiss me, Kate* and at our July meeting we had a very interesting talk on the work of the Samaritans.

On 20 August we shall be cruising in the Chilterns and enjoying a cream tea and on 22 August we shall be walking in the Bledlow area, ending the evening with a pub supper.

Our next meeting will be on 19 September when Mrs Deakin will talk about New England – from history to foliage. The competition will be a bouquet of berries. Everyone is welcome.

Betty Williams : 563366

Collection of aluminium foil

In July's *Gazette*, Eleanor asked people not to send any more foil to her as she no longer has an outlet. Quite a few people had been giving foil to me, Judith Hargrove, while I was at The Manse, 124 Main Road, for my contact who gives it to Guide Dogs for the Blind. My contact's receiver of the foil is trying to find someone else in the Naphill area who could keep the foil and arrange to have it picked up. He hadn't found anyone in time for this issue. If there is someone who could do this, please telephone Patricia on 01494 438968. Meanwhile, please **don't** take any more foil to The Manse, but hold on to it, until October's *Gazette*, when we hope to have more information to give you.

[Alternatively, another reader has informed me that Wycombe District Council has a bright yellow bin at Safeways – apparently it has been there for some time – where foil can be recycled. *Ed*]

Bylls and Moone

Down the years, Bill Latham and I have collected, sorted, stored, racked, shelved, crated, transported, presented and sold hundreds of books of all sorts, to raise money for the Village Hall Fund. Over those years our efforts (aided by a few other willing hands) have raised several hundreds of pounds.

Last year, we gave good warning that it was to be our last. We would, in our late seventies and early eighties, move quietly into well-deserved retirement: we would no longer run our stall at the Fete and the Christmas Bazaar. However, I would be able and willing to help provide the essential 'stock' for that 'new' stall.

Because good old Bob Davis (despite, also, retiring last year!) was again this year being left to run the famous Second-hand Emporium, I volunteered to join his devoted team of helpers. He happily accepted my offer but got me to agree 'not to cut out books completely' and to stock and run 'one small table of books at the far end of the stall'.

Come the day, and what happened? *No* replacement for Bill and me: *no* Bylls and Moone! As if from habit, however, well-wishers from every corner of the village bombarded us with *truckloads* – and I do mean TRUCKLOADS – of books of every description: we were absolutely swamped. Extra tables were brought over, until no more were available. What to do? Out comes good old Mike Clarke, and uses his good offices to borrow some extra tables from the Guides and we wind up with seven heavily burdened tables, and with four large boxes of books left on the ground. So much for my 'one small table at the end'!

Faced with that mountain of books, I could hardly say 'No can do... I've only agreed to run one table', could I? So, helped from time to time by friends who saw and appreciated the difficult position, I pressed on,

encouraged (as ever) by Bob, who was busy enough with his own huge stock. By the end, my non-existent stall yielded a little over £144, while Bob's main stall must have produced £800 or more, I would think.

Let's hope that you let him do what he also tried to do last year, namely retire on a superb crest of achievement!

I now write to advise readers, once again, that neither Bill nor I will be available to deal with books next year. If you want to continue to benefit from a bookstall producing £100–150, you must start *now* to drum up volunteers to take over what was our stall. But those concerned must understand that there are many days and weeks of effort to be put in beforehand: it's not just THE DAY that demands the work.

I look forward to hearing or reading how you get on. Meanwhile, best wishes for the continuing success of our Village Hall and Field.

John Bullock

Bradenham Parish Council

At the July meeting, Richard Langridge, an executive TV producer living in Bradenham, was unanimously co-opted to the Council vacancy.

The Parish Council had been anxious about planning applications affecting the village: one from the Accountants Grant Thornton, tenants of Bradenham Manor, and one from the National Trust about tree felling. But approved alterations to the Manor will not affect those west and south fronts of this beautiful house, visible to the public. They are improvements to the untidy back. Internal alterations cannot be the concern of the Parish Council, but the National Trust, as owners, have not approved all of them.

The National Trust's representative, Alistair Roach, eased some doubts about the tree felling, but anxiety remains over the their initial application to clear trees around the pond. The Trust is reconsidering this.

The Council is resurrecting an old project to improve the pond. However, to produce fresh water, this will mean diverting the waste road water, which prevents natural growth. Bucks County Council has been approached for help.

The design for the Jubilee window for the church is being re-examined by the diocese. If they give permission, the work might be completed in two to three months.

Hooting of trains at the pedestrian crossing opposite the Red Lion should end in a year, once plans to divert the footpath under a nearby bridge have been agreed.

Crime in the Parish reported by local policeman PC Polkey included strange persons calling around trying to sell burglar alarm systems under threat. In such an

event, the police must be called. Also, local farmer Andrew Stubbings had reported incidents of stolen cars being driven across his fields. One offender is known.

The Bradenham Millennium book is still selling well from the Risborough News shop in Walter's Ash and the bookshop in Princes Risborough.

Ivor Herbert

Air ambulance service

The Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance is in urgent need of further support. Often, an Air Ambulance can make all the difference between life and death when speed of response and transfer to hospital is critical. It can also fly over the congestion to the scene of a road traffic accident, and rescue the ill or injured from remote or inaccessible areas. We have airlifted over 2200 people from Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire.

At present we are only operating five days a week owing to lack of funds. There are various ways in which you can help make that seven!

- We collect and recycle mobile phones along with toner and laser cartridges and printer cartridges
- We are looking for volunteers to help us fund-raise
- We are always looking for stationery
- Lottery – join our pound-a-week lottery
- Donations – make a one-off or monthly direct debit donation.

Interested? Then call Sally Gunston on 01296 422883.

Letter to the editor

From Mrs E. Livett

In June this year, residents would have been sad to see the disappearance of three precious and magnificent Scott pine trees from Downley Road. Owing to concern about the remaining pines that mark the old boundary line and ancient drover routes, Wycombe District Council has put a Preservation Order on them. So their future is safe. Meanwhile we each have a responsibility to care for, respect and safeguard our history and beautiful environment for future generations to enjoy.

Sporting success for Naphill and Walter's Ash School

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has received a national Activemark Gold award from Sport England. The award is a celebration of the investment made in pupils' health and well-being through physical activity and sport. The school is one of only 46 in England to be given an Activemark Gold award in the latest round of applications. Trevor Brooking, England and West

Ham footballer and chair of Sport England, praised the nominated schools for ensuring that physical activity and sport remain a priority. The award is valid for three years and schools are encouraged to celebrate the achievement with pupils, staff, parents and partner organisations.

Head teacher Hilary Conboy says she is absolutely thrilled at the success, adding that the school must be the only one to have its own 'Active Marc' in the shape of deputy head Marc Ackland who co-ordinates all the extra-curricular sport and who masterminded the whole application process.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Planning

02/6625/FUL Seven Winds Cottage, Downley Rd Naphill. Construction of attached single garage and first-floor bedroom extension. *02/6633/FUL Land adjacent Prospect Cottages, Downley Rd, Naphill.* Erection of one rear conservatory to each of two 3-bed semi-detached dwellings permitted under p/p 02/05351/FUL. Possible blocking of rear views of neighbours. *02/6636/VCDN Land adjacent Cornerstones, Stonefield Rd, Naphill.* Erection of dwelling and double garage permitted under W92/7045/FF without complying with Condition 1 (Time Limit) imposed on 97/06981/VCDN.

02/6688/FUL Hedgerows, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Construction of first-floor front and side extension. *02/6695/CLE Hunts Hill Farm, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill.* Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use of land as garden area. *02/6794/FUL Lilac Cottage, Pursells Meadow, Naphill.* Construction of two-storey side extension. *02/0591/FUL retrospective Millfield Farm, Four Ashes Rd, Cryers Hill.* Retention of a stable block and manege in connection with the use of land for keeping horses. Refused.

Candlelit Dinner Dance

On Saturday 16 November, we shall once again be dancing to the lively Jolliffe Band and enjoying Morreen's excellent catering. We look forward to seeing old friends and newcomers. Tickets from Joyce 562703, Daisy 562602, or Carole 563508.

Malcolm Leflaive: 563634

The Naphill sky in September

Venus is in the west-southwest sky soon after the sun sets. With a telescope it should be possible to see its crescent becoming longer as the weeks progress. Saturn and Jupiter have become morning stars and can be seen in the eastern dawn sky. Mars cannot be seen. The moon is new on 7 and full on 21 when it is also sometimes known as the harvest moon (described below). Autumn starts on 23. It is just possible that we

will be able to see the Aura Borealis in the northern sky if we are lucky.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1	Rises	06.15	00.00	10.47	05.33	03.11	00.00
	Sets	19.50	16.27	20.47	19.43	18.44	16.19
8	Rises	06.27	07.52	10.57	05.31	02.52	23.35
	Sets	19.34	20.36	20.24	19.24	18.20	15.53
15	Rises	06.38	17.03	11.04	05.29	02.32	23.09
	Sets	19.18	00.26	20.00	19.04	17.56	15.27
22	Rises	06.49	17.46	11.06	05.27	02.11	22.43
	Sets	19.02	07.22	19.35	18.44	17.32	15.01
29	Rises	07.00	22.41	11.03	05.25	01.51	22.16
	Sets	18.46	15.19	19.09	18.24	17.07	14.34

Harvest moon September 2002

The harvest moon is the full moon nearest the autumn equinox. In the northern hemisphere this occurs around September 21.

This year the moon is full on September 21 giving a few days when the near full moon rises soon before or after sunset giving farmers extra hours of light to harvest crops. The full moon after the harvest moon is called the hunter's moon. What about the moon's Love number? This is how much the moon's surface and interior moves in response to the gravitational pull of the earth and the sun. Researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena calculate that the moon's surface may bulge out and dip in as much as 10 cm over the 27-day orbit of the moon around the earth. Love numbers are named after Augustus Love, an Oxford mathematician who worked on theories of elasticity and waves in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Nothing really romantic after all.

Alien worlds

In February this year there was a conference in Boston, USA organised by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. One of the speakers, Roger Angel, the professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona, told the conference that astronomers here on earth are on the point of developing technology that will enable them to read light signals from other worlds of evidence of life. In return, alien civilisation only slightly more advanced than ours would be able to read signals identifying the existence of life here on Earth and if they existed why have we not heard from these aliens? This column has argued several times that there is unlikely to be intelligent life elsewhere within the galaxy, for otherwise where is it. The development described by

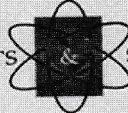
Roger Angel is another pointer in favour of this controversial view.

The search, nonetheless, continues. A Jupiter-like planet has been found orbiting at a Jupiter distance from a sun-like star, 55 Cancri. This star is 41 light years from our planet. Of the 100 or so stars known to have orbiting planets, this is the first with a configuration beginning to resemble the solar system. But no earth equivalent has yet to be found there.

Postage stamps

Four spectacular astronomical images appear on September 24 on our first-class stamps. Three were taken by the Hubble Space Telescope (showing the planetary nebulae in Aquila and Norma and the Seyfert 2 galaxy in Pegasus). The fourth (the Seyfert 2 galaxy in Circinus) is from the Japanese Subaru telescope in Hawaii. The Royal Mail is also issuing a 12-page prestige stamp book to accompany the set, called *Across the Universe – A Guide to Outer Space*, containing sets of the stamps, images and background information.

Grant Woodruff



HEARTS & SOULS

present

Big Band Bonanza

The three bands of Bisham - Burnham - Thame

In

An evening of Music

(from Swing to Pomp and Circumstance)

GUEST COMPERE - JEREMY BEADLE

Programme includes: Marches, Swing, Film Scores and even Blue Grass
Plus a Second Half of Flag Waving, Clapping and Singing

Led by: Gillian Wellard – Soprano

7.30pm 12th October, at Thame Leisure Centre

Tickets £6 Adults £5 concessionaires £4 Children

Naphill Neighbours

On a gorgeous July afternoon, members thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing afternoon in Nigel and Sheila Rolfe's beautiful garden. Tea was served by the Committee and the only strenuous activity was to tax the brain solving a horticultural quiz set by Sheila. Our grateful thanks go to Sheila and Nigel for allowing us to use their garden for such a pleasant get-together.

Members and some husbands visited The Mill at Sonning for an excellent lunch and a matinée performance of *Funny About Love* on 8 August.

The picturesque setting of the Mill with its water wheel on the banks of the river made for a pleasant stroll before or after lunch. Once in the theatre, the audience thoroughly enjoyed watching four excellent actors perform the farce with its adult humour and risqué dialogue.

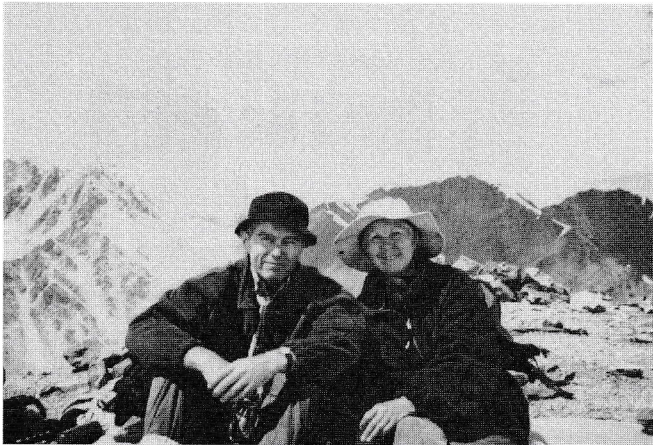
Our next meeting is on Monday 9 September when 'The life and times of Queen Victoria' will be described by R.J. Carter. New members always welcome.

Mary Shrimpton/Valerie Gibbs

Bob & Ellen trek for NCH

This year, ex-Naphill residents Bob and Ellen Webster bravely trekked through central Asia to raise money for the National Children's Home. The following is an extract from their report:

"Our trek started in pouring rain in a pine-clad gorge outside the city of Almaty at a height of 2200m. By nightfall on that first day we had just reached our campsite, all thoroughly wet, cold and wondering what was to come. A shot of vodka warmed the inner self!"



Bob and Ellen take a high-altitude rest

The following day dawned fair and we found ourselves in a paradise of snow-clad mountains, rushing sparkling streams, riotous wild flowers and clear, clear air. The trekking varied from gentle ascents and descents to tough climbs over 4000m high snowy passes and downhill slides. We were delighted to spot our first edelweiss flowers but by day three we were sleeping on carpets of them. We got used to seeing eagles and falcons circling gracefully overhead, the steep tracks of goats on the rocky mountainsides and the paw prints of wolves in the soft ground.

One of the highlights of the second week was our encounter with the family of a herdsman. The herdsman met us at a river crossing and kindly offered to take each of us across the water on the back of his

horse before inviting us to tea in his yurt (a traditional, circular nomad's tent).

We entered his yurt through beautifully carved doors and sat on soft, thick, brightly coloured mats around a low table. The wives had prepared a feast of bread, thick cream, butter and small hard cheeses, all washed down with traditional tea. Two toddlers were intrigued by us. It transpired that the family had no photo of the younger son so we took a few snaps. Our guide Shokan said he would take the pictures to them next summer.

We are grateful to NCH supporters for all your generosity in supporting our venture and for your prayers. You have helped us raise over £7000."

Photographers wanted

The photograph on this page is a rarity, simply because it is one of only two submitted for publication: the other was a view of the moon sent in by correspondent Grant Woodruff, and I felt that his contribution was sufficient without it. The point is that we really need more pictures to liven up the layout, so please 'think pics' when sending in material.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

On Wednesday 1 September 1993, Judith and I began our ministry here. Although I had been the Minister at 'The Pastures' Free Methodist Church, Downley, for ten years and our manse in Selwood Way was less than 1½ miles away across Downley Common, we knew little about Naphill. I had preached a few times in Naphill Methodist Church and had met my predecessor, Rev. Arnold Page, once or twice. But, apart from that, almost everything and everybody was new and therefore a little daunting.

The church and the manse, to be our home for as long as God wanted us to minister here, was particularly strange, being one combined building. I had never before lived so close to my place of work. I am writing this in my study, which is part of the church, only a few feet below my bedroom, which is part of the manse! And ministering to a congregation of people, some of whom I had met only once before, four weeks previously when I had taken a Sunday morning service for them and some of whom I had never met before, was daunting too. But Judith and I knew very definitely that God had brought us to Naphill and we relied on His promise never to leave us or forsake us. So we looked forward with confidence in God to our future.

And now nine years later to the day, on Saturday 31 August 2002, we leave the congregation, the church, the village and the people we have come to know, to love and to be very happy with for so long.

That means, of course, that somebody else is now coming in to replace me – with, I'm quite sure, the same feelings of apprehension and nervousness, expectation and excitement. That somebody else is Bob Semple, with his wife Polly and daughter Abigail. They are coming here from the Baptist Church in Christchurch, Dorset. I'll let Bob introduce the family to you in the next *Gazette*, but the one thing I'm sure he would agree is that, even though the minister is changing, the message will be the same – the Gospel (which means the 'Good News') of Jesus Christ.

You may have moved into the area recently and not yet chosen a church to worship in; you may have stopped attending church for various reasons (growing family, demanding work); you may have been 'commuting' to a church some miles away because you felt God had led you to go there for a while; you might never have been a churchgoer in the past. Whoever you are, you would be made most welcome at the Evangelical Free Church, especially if you would like to get involved in the work of witnessing for the Lord in the village. Our Sunday service is at 10.30am. And you are all warmly invited to come along to Bob's induction service at 3pm on Saturday 7 September.

Your sincere friend *Gregory Hargrove : 563304*

Gregory and Judith Hargrove have moved, all being well, to 35 Fennels Farm Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9BP.

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes....

We are going through a period of changes among the local clergy. We have recently said farewell to Charles Overton and now have Simon Cronk with us: different personalities with different gifts, but both fine

Christian men whose friendship and colleagueship have been a great support to me and, I believe, an asset to the parish. Now Gregory Hargrove enters retirement – a rather active one, knowing him! I am delighted that the community recently recognised his contribution to village life. His energy and enthusiasm have put some of us younger ones to shame! We wish Judith and him well. Like the Overton family, they won't be too far away, but will keep a respectful distance so that their successors have the opportunity to establish a proper pastoral relationship with their church members and parishioners.

Next year, it will be time for me to move on as well, but I want through this letter to offer a formal welcome on behalf of the Methodist community to Bob and Polly Semple and their family. We look forward to befriending them and working with them. Please offer your prayers for them as they begin to settle in at the Evangelical Free Church, and that they will find much fulfilment in their time here. Bob will be very different from Gregory. He will bring his own special gifts and make his own contribution to the community.

To Bob and Polly and family we say 'Welcome! We hope you will be very happy in Naphill. We will pray for you, support you and work with you. God bless you!'

Christians in the Community continues to share with you in prayerful practical ways the Good News of God's love, shown supremely in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The three churches in the parish offer you a choice of worship styles and aim to cater for different outlooks and needs. As churches working together we are happy to point you to which ever suits you best. A warm welcome awaits for all.

Shalom

Nick

Christians in the community

Tuesday 27–Friday 30 August 9.30am onwards at Naphill Village Hall: *'MEGAQUEST' HOLIDAY CLUB*

Thursday 5 September from 10am until noon at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Thursday 5 September at 8pm at Naphill Methodist Church: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING*

Saturday 7 September at 3pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *INDUCTION SERVICE FOR NEW PASTOR – BOB SEMPLE. We will also welcome his wife Polly and daughter Abigail*

Tuesday 10 September at 8pm at 4 Fleet Close, Hughenden Valley: *CELEBRATION PLANNING MEETING*

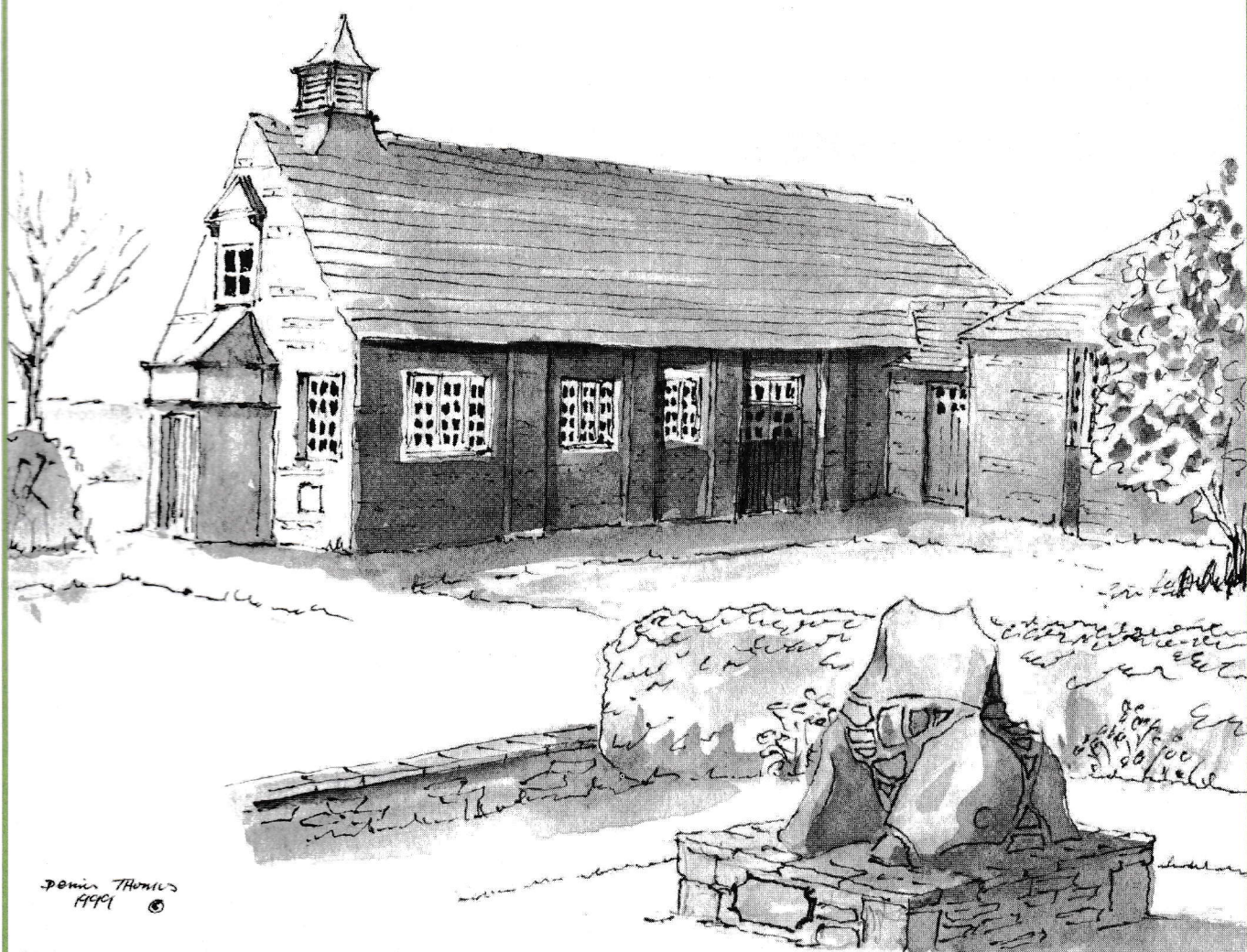
Fridays 13 & 27 September at 6.30pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church : *K.R.A.S.H! 'Kids Really Are Special Here!'* (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Friday 20 September at 7pm at Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H! 'Twins Really Are Special Here'* (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Sunday 22 September at 4.30pm at Naphill & Walter's Ash School: *CELEBRATION*

Naphill Gazette

October 2002



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Editor: Alan Lewis, 16 Battings Wood Gardens. Tel: 564512. E-mail NaphillGazette@aol.com

Distribution manager: Dave Ratcliffe, 4 Allen Drive. Tel: 563650

Treasurer: David Leith, Falcon's Oak, The Common. Tel: 562312.

Copy date for November issue is 15 October 2002

Editorial

First of all, a reminder from Richard Pushman that we shall have our usual **Remembrance Service** service in the Village Hall on Sunday afternoon, 10 November, at 2.45pm.

Second, a votes of thanks on your behalf and mine to Mike and Pauline Pool who have distributed this issue, as Dave Ratcliffe is off enjoying antipodean climes. This is, I believe, the third time the Pools have stepped into the breach and their help is much appreciated.

I seem to have discovered that no one reads editorials. I say this because I invited readers last time to comment on a complaint that the *Gazette* no longer clearly covers Walter's Ash, suggesting perhaps that this page should carry a subheading along the lines *Naphill Gazette, incorporating Walter's Ash*. (The

reason for the complaint is that the cover has lost the signpost.) Not one person responded. Perhaps someone ought to launch an Apathy Club – it should be easy to run as no one would turn up for meetings!

In these days of electronic wizardry, many correspondents and readers send in their contributions for each issue on floppy discs. However, being disorganised and keen to save on postage, I seldom if ever return them. As a result, I have accumulated literally dozens and dozens.

May I therefore ask any of my 'suppliers' to drop me a note if they would like some floppies returned, and how many. I can then pack in sensible numbers and drop them off.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6–7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the Over-60s Club

Those who went on the outing at the end of August had a very enjoyable day. In bright sun we toured around Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. It was all very tranquil, the harvest having been safely gathered in, and the fields were lying waiting for the sowing of next year's crops.

We stopped at Stowe for a break but it was so crowded with tourists that finding a seat was difficult. Our next stop was mid-afternoon where we were treated to a superb cream tea at Friary Court, Clanfield, and were able to buy gifts at the shop.

Our first meeting of the season started with Mrs Tomkins with her vast assortment of treasures, each with its story, and it was a really fascinating afternoon.

Those of you who normally enjoy lunch at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month should note that, following a gap in September, we shall be resuming as normal in October. At one time, it was feared that the lunches would fold in the wake of the rise in insurance costs but, thanks to Jo Gaunt and Richard Pushman, we can now continue to enjoy these lovely lunches with the bonus of congenial company!

Stella Page: 562314

Naphill Horticultural Society

Tickets are now available for our annual Cheese and Wine evening, which is always a popular event and this year takes place on Friday **1 November** in the Village Hall. The evening will start with an illustrated talk by Tim Miles on the 'Glorious gardens of Cornwall', starting at 7.30pm prompt, admission from 7pm. Tim is a very experienced speaker on gardening topics and is noted for his informative style. He is Head Gardener of the Cotswold Wildlife Park and has previously run the gardens at London Zoo and been curator of the 'Lost Gardens' of Heligan. He is also a judge at major flower shows such as Chelsea and Hampton Court, and should therefore be extremely interesting.

We will then tuck into the now-famous buffet of cheese, pâté, salad, etc. and there will be a bar for wine and soft drinks.

Tickets are £7 and include a glass of wine. Numbers are limited, and tickets always sell quickly for this event, so do book early. It also helps on the catering front if we have final numbers a week beforehand.

Secondly, very many thanks to all of you who took part in our recent Autumn Show. Whether you were an exhibitor, a viewer, or a buyer at the auction you helped to make it a great success.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 563667.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates, Leaflet on request.
Telephone Sally on 562281.

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

CREAM TEAS. Scrumptious cream teas with homemade cakes at Hughenden Church House from 2.15pm on Sundays until the end of October. Groups can book a Special Tea on weekdays. Contact Judy Dauncey on 562972.

HEALTH & FITNESS. Sue Croxford, YMCA, RSA, BSY (sports injury) is a certified Pilates instructor and fitness consultant. Services include fitness training for older adults (including chair-based workouts), local Pilates classes, gym instructor (one-to-one available), circuits, consultations, posture analysis, RSA exercise to music, fitness assessments and BSY sports injury. Phone 563313.

RUSSIAN PLEASE... Is there anyone locally who is fluent in Russian and who would be willing to give me lessons once a week? My telephone number is 01494 564049 and I live on Main Road. Caroline.

County & District Councillor's Notes

On 12 September I attended the funeral of Brenda Hughes, who died while embarking on a holiday to Scandinavia. Brenda was my predecessor on the County Council and also a District Councillor for Hughenden Valley. She was a Freeman of the City of London and had lived an interesting life, from training in cookery, to lecturing students on domestic science and home economic skills. She was well respected in public life and her many friends attending church testified to this.

Road speed management has been the main part of my County Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee work in recent months. Residents of villages have become increasingly aware of speeding traffic using rural lanes as 'rat runs' and many residents have been demanding some system to curtail excess speed in dangerous places. A new strategy will put in place an area consultation – by councillors, officers and residents – who will agree the speed limit and traffic-calming methods best suited to their communities. In this way, it is hoped that local 'ownership' of the scheme will ensure a better level of compliance.

Useful names and numbers

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

I attended the official opening by Prince Andrew of a new factory on the site of the Pitstone cement works. The company, which specialises in the manufacture of high-tech aircraft components, employs around 500 people. It was good to see that this country can still make a high-quality product and that many people still use their hands in skilled craftsmanship. It is a pity that such good and encouraging news rarely gets reported in the press.

Haddenham won the Village of the Year Competition and now goes to the national finals. The level of community involvement was outstanding and organisations were well-supported. It was a difficult competition to judge because much depended on the size of the community. I think that next year we must have several categories. It would be nice to think that Naphill and Walter's Ash could be recognised in the future because we have all the attributes of good community spirit.

Richard Pushman

Village Hall & Playing Fields Council

We had the sad duty this month to say goodbye to Gregory Hargrove who has represented the Evangelical Free Church on the Village Council since moving here and who has been vice-chairman for the past three years. Greg has retired and has thus left the village. He has not moved far, only to Flackwell Heath, but we shall miss him, and all the work he has done for us. Many thanks for everything, and we wish him and Judith a very happy retirement.

In Greg's place has come Bob Semple and we welcomed him as the representative for the Evangelical Free Church onto the Village Hall Council and we welcome him and his family into the village.

You will have noticed that the swinging sign outside the Hall is now swinging again. Many thanks to those who renovated it and re-hung it. The swings and springy toy in the play area have also been repaired and put back in place much to the delight of the younger residents of the village. There is a notice on the fence around the play area stating that the equipment is for the use of children under 12. If older people use it, it could become unsafe. Please heed this and save us unfortunate accidents or the expense of unnecessary repairs.

After a few teething troubles, the new oven in the kitchen is now (fingers crossed) working properly. Sorry to any of you who were inconvenienced by our coming to grips with it.

The corridors down both sides of the Hall leading to the small hall have been repainted and have new carpet and are looking very spruce. Thanks to the working party of Village Hall Council members who did the painting. A great job.

We have some events lined up for the next few months:

On Saturday **26 October** we have a **Jazz Evening**. A group of professional musicians will be coming to play the music of George Gershwin. Bring your own drink. Tickets £8 each from John Harris (562099) or Sarah Bacon (563479).

The **Firework Display** will be on **2 November** on the Crick.

The **Remembrance Day Service** will be in the Village Hall on **10 November**.

The **Christmas Fayre** will be in the Village Hall on **30 November**. The committee is desperate for extra help and new blood to organise this popular event. If you could possibly give us a little of your time and brain power please phone me.

Please do support us in these events. You will have a good time and help to maintain and develop your Village Hall. We are still looking for some public-minded soul to take over the bookstall from John Bullock who is fancying a well-deserved retirement from it and also someone to take over the secondhand stall at the fete from Bob Davis. Bob has given freely of his time and energy and garage space for several years to run this stall which has raised thousands of pounds for funds. He feels that he really has done his bit and is looking for a new recruit. Please consider whether you could take over these enterprises. They would be sorely missed if they could not continue.

Sarah Bacon (Chairman) : 563479

Pre-school news

Having completely failed to write anything for the *Gazette* last month, please forgive me for going back a bit here. Back in July, Dave Akhurst (Robert's dad) and his rock band gave us a fund-raising/social evening to remember. Thank you to Alison Akhurst and her team for their organisation. July saw the end of an era, when Norma Clarke retired from after 18 years at Pre-school. Children and adults alike enjoyed a delightful celebration and farewell do on 13 July. Our thanks go to Norma for all her years of tireless commitment. The end of term was marked by the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic, at which we said goodbye to 23 of our 32 children, as they moved on to 'big school'.

Having watched those children (including mine) confidently starting school this term, I must express my gratitude to Norma and her team for preparing them so well.

Another successful Messy Day in the holidays saw 45 children playing in the sand, water, paint, glue, etc. and generally being 'creative'.

With such a large proportion of children having left this summer, the new term has started quietly, allowing our new two-and-a-half and three-year-olds to settle quickly, and the staff to get to know them easily.

Finally, the Pre-school AGM takes place on Thursday **26 September** at 8pm in the Village Hall. Pre-school is run by a parents' committee, so all parents should attend.

Ruth Daly

Bradenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 10 September. Although we had no full council meeting during August, work goes on in the parish.

During our summer recess, the planning committee had three meetings: there are always plans coming in, some straightforward and others that require us to speak at the Development Control Committee at Wycombe District Council.

The development and sale of houses at Templewood is being watched with interest from the village. We have received two further plans RH/02/06847/FUL, provision of 36 car parking spaces at Templewood and plan 10/2002/TPO Tree preservation order on land to the front of 158-163 Templewood.

Let me remind you if you have any worries about any plans in the village, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively you are always welcome at our committee meetings, which will be on Thursdays 10 and 31 at 8pm.

Allotment judging was held during the summer and the winner will be revealed next month.

The next full council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 October at 8pm at the Parish Council Offices, Kingshill Common; public speaking is at 9.30pm.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Naphill and Walter's Ash School

The school is now into the autumn term of a new school year with the children getting used to their new teachers (and vice versa). The summer term was very busy with numerous sporting fixtures and musical productions, along with the school fete and the Year 5 and 6 production of *The seven-sided dice*.



Some of the aliens. Notice the unearthly shining light above the leader!

We finished the last school year on a high note with our achievement of Activemark Gold, as reported in last month's *Gazette*, and with an excellent set of Key Stage 2 SATs results. These tests are taken in year 6 when the children are 11 years old. Not only did our children match or exceed targets set for level 4 (which are well above the national average) but 60% of them achieved level 5 in maths, 62% achieved level 5 in English and 66% achieved level 5 in science. Level 5 is what is expected of children aged 13 who are already at secondary school.

This term we are aiming to provide our children with a second computer suite. ICT is an essential part of the curriculum and impacts on many different subject areas. As always, the staff are providing a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for the children. These take place during lunchtimes and after school and these days it is almost impossible to find a time when nothing is going on!

If you wish to know more about the school, please phone the school office on 562813.

Heidi Roberts, Chairman of Governors

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Candlelit Dinner Dance

On Saturday **16 November** in Naphill Village Hall, there will be a candlelit dinner dance starting at 7.30pm for 8pm and finishing at midnight. The evening will include dancing to the lively Jolliffe Late Edition Band and dining to Morreen's superb catering. Tickets £15 per head from Joyce (562703), Daisy (562602), or Carole (563508).

Menu (all home-made): velvet chicken in champagne and Guinness; beef curry, vegetarian moussaka topped with delicious cheese; rice; mixed salad; French bread. Dessert: Black Forest roulade; lemon and lime cheese cake; apple and apricot pie; coffee and chocolates. As usual it will be a great evening of dancing, good company, plenty to drink and a delicious dinner, so book now to ensure you don't miss this popular annual event. Everyone welcome.

Parish Boundary Changes

As our request to create a new Parish of Walter's Ash and Naphill is less likely to succeed than the alternative suggestion of a more limited boundary change, we have agreed to support, as a minimum, bringing the whole of Walter's Ash into one Parish combined with Bradenham. This will put an end to the anomaly of Walter's Ash being split between three parishes, with no parish office within a reasonable distance, and simplify planning consultations in the area.

Planning

02/6647/FUL Templewood, Walter's Ash. Provision of car parking spaces – 36 in total for 28 houses including visitor parking. It was felt there are too many spaces being crammed into a limited area, taking no account of the AONB designation of the area which borders Green Belt. To accommodate this plan the developers have suggested felling seven mature trees out of 20 and replacing two small ones. Even so, the 36 parking spaces fall short of the minimum requirement of 1.5 spaces per property. Covenants covering allocation of spaces are likely to be unenforceable, and residents are more likely to park in places most convenient for themselves. We question the application. 02/06989/FUL Green Belt/AONB. Change of use of land (field) for use for archery practice, and erection of a timber building for storage. As this field is surrounded by fields of horses and is opposite Strike Command, we are making more enquiries about the application. 02/6986/FUL Bon Air, Forge Road, Naphill. Raise existing brick-and-flint wall on NW boundary with 195 Main Road by 38cm and construct new wall on NE boundary with 195

Main Rd to same height (1.96–2.16m). Wall to be brick-and-flint. 02/6990/FUL 4 The Orchard, Main Rd, Naphill. Construction of conservatory to rear. Walter's Ash Barns. Good news. Work has started to halt further deterioration of these barns. We hope full renovation will now take place.

Playground for Walter's Ash

Wouldn't it be a nice idea if Templewood's, now abandoned, playground could be preserved as an open space and playground for local residents?

Gloria Leflaive: 563634

The Naphill sky in October

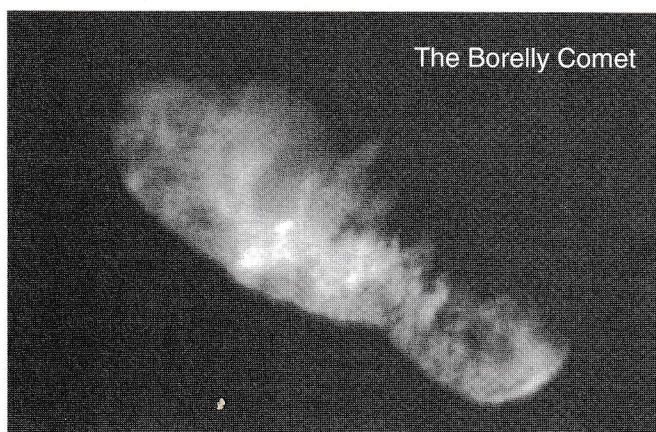
The Orionid meteor shower should provide on average a sighting every two minutes during the early morning of 23 in the east. British Summer time ends on 27; put back your clocks one hour. The moon is new on 6 and full on 21. Venus is still visible as an evening star very low in the western sky during the first week. Next month it becomes a morning star. Jupiter sets before the sun in the evening but is bright and is near Sirius, the brightest real star in the sky.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1	Rises	07.03	00.57	11.00	05.24	01.45	22.09
	Sets	18.41	16.57	19.01	18.18	17.00	14.27
8	Rises	07.15	09.46	10.45	05.22	01.24	21.42
	Sets	18.25	19.36	18.32	17.58	16.35	14.00
15	Rises	07.27	16.50	09.17	05.20	01.02	21.14
	Sets	18.10	00.32	18.02	17.37	16.10	13.32
22	Rises	07.39	18.37	09.34	05.18	00.37	20.46
	Sets	17.54	08.37	17.32	17.17	15.45	13.04
29	Rises	06.51	14.32	07.40	04.16	23.14	19.18
	Sets	16.42	05.29	16.04	15.57	14.19	11.36

Comets

Comets are sometimes described as 'dirty snowballs', but a close flyby of one by NASA's Deep Space 1 spacecraft last autumn detected no frozen water on its surface. Comet Borrelly has plenty of ice beneath its tar-black surface, but any exposed to sunlight has vaporised away, say scientists analysing data from Deep Space 1, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"The spectrum suggests that the surface is hot and dry. It is surprising that we saw no traces of water ice," said Dr Laurence Soderblom of the US Geological Survey's Flagstaff station. The picture overleaf is of the Borrelly comet.



The Borelly Comet

Asteroid on collision course

During March and April 2002, newspapers decided to have a go at the suggestion that an asteroid is on a collision course with the earth on 16 March 2880. This asteroid is about 1km across and certainly, if it hit us, would cause catastrophic damage to our planet. Searches with optical telescopes followed up with radar telescopes can give unparalleled accuracy, states NASA. We already know a great deal about the asteroid as it was discovered in 1950 and is sometimes known as 1950 DA. We need not worry too much though, because the accuracy is affected by gaps in knowing physical details, such as shape, size, mass, how it spins, how it reflects light and radiates heat into space that could subtly alter its course over the centuries. Therefore, we may know a lot about its orbit, but there are many relevant characteristics that will change its orbital location in 880 years. All these variables could make the chance of 1950 DA hitting us as infinitesimal. As Steven Chesley (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) states: "The impact risk is not the story here, because we can say unequivocally that it's not going to hit earth." The real story, he says, is how having such a precise orbit has allowed dynamicists to push the realm of impact prediction so far in the future.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Toddlers

The new term started on 5 September and we have welcomed many new happy faces.

Dates for your diary: **10 October** – Annual photo session (not 3 October); **5 December** – Christmas party.

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm till 4 in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting off steam or quietly modelling some play dough. Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Neighbours

Following our Garden Party and outing to the Mill at Sonning, we returned to the Village Hall for our September meeting where Mr R.J. Carter entertained us with an amusing talk on 'The life and times of Queen Victoria'. Although seemingly not very maternal, the Queen gave birth to nine children who in turn produced 40 grandchildren for her. It was most interesting to hear how the family married into the other European royal families, hence the relationships that are still ongoing with the present monarchy.

Sheila Rolfe, our President, was pleased to advise the audience that we are now in a position to make donations to our chosen charities this year, namely the Scannappeal and The British Heart Foundation.

On Tuesday **17 December**, we have arranged a coach trip to see the Christmas lights in London. On arrival, we will have a supper of fish and chips or chicken and chips in a restaurant. Tickets will be £15 for members and £17 for guests, from Sheila Rolfe on 562888.

The AGM will take place on Monday **14 October** followed by a talk from John Beedle on the art of 'Straight lines and scribble'.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Lunch Club

Members will be aware that, following a horrendous hike in proposed insurance charges (a rise of several hundred pounds), we reluctantly had to cease activities for the month of September. Since then, thanks to a lot of help from Sue Cooper and Joy Lawrence, we have been able to source new insurance at a rate that allows us to continue. This insurance is with a company specialising in small non-profit-making groups and as a result we are pleased to advise all involved that we will be back again on Wednesday 9 October at our usual meeting time of 1pm for a 1.15pm lunch. Although we have managed to contact many members personally, we would be pleased if the word could be passed along not only to those who usually attend but also to any potential new members.

Jan Gaunt : 562282

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

This year I was one of 25,000 women who took part Flora Light Challenge for Women 2002. Held on Sunday 1 September, the event attracted a large number of runners and the atmosphere was both friendly and noisy!

Despite the very hot day and the crowds, I managed to complete the run. More importantly, I was delighted to have raised about £450 for the hospice and would like to thank all villagers who so generously sponsored me.

Doreen Burge

JAZZ EVENING



featuring the music of
George Gershwin

Naphill Village Hall
26 October at 8pm

Tickets £8 from Sarah Bacon (563479)
or John Harris (562099)

Bring your own drink
Nibbles and glasses provided

Brownies and Guides jumble sale

Naphill Brownies and Guides will be having a jumble sale on Saturday **5 October** in the Village Hall starting at 2pm. We will be collecting from around the village during the morning and would appreciate any donations of jumble. We shall then be at the hall from 9am if anyone wants to drop any in.

We have recently been contacted by a man who cycled from Dover to John O'Groats when a Scout in the early 1930s and camped on Naphill Common on his way. He saw our name as one of the official sponsors of the bakery at Ifakara that we helped to set up. He found us via Guide HQ. Small world!

Barbara Clarke, Brown Owl : 562528

Christmas Fayre

There will be a Christmas Fayre at Naphill Village Hall on Saturday **30 November**. If you sell suitable craft work and would be interested in booking a table, please contact me for further details.

Doreen Burge : 565430

Help build future Beckhams

Hi! Could any of our readers run the line for us on our games? Our usual linesman is needed at High

Wycombe for the Wasps games on Sundays so we need a person to run the line for us. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

The under-16s are a fantastic group of lads and are out to win the league this year, so if you come past on a Sunday why not stop and cheer on the boys in green-and-yellow striped shirts and green shorts?

Tony Barlow : 564141

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

Our main event during September was our Junior Tennis Tournament, which was played on a pleasantly warm Monday, 2 September, just before the end of summer holidays. Although entry numbers were less than usual, it turned out to be a very enjoyable event, well supported by spectator parents for most of the time.

The players were split into U/13s (two groups) and U/16s (one group). Owing to the smaller number of entrants, not many games were played in the round robin qualifying round, and so semi-finals and finals were played. Adam Toone and Elliott Poulter reached the final of the U/13s section, with Adam winning 6-1. A closer final was fought out in the U/16s section between Jack Boddy and Matt Bates, with Jack winning 6-4. Shields were awarded to both winners but it was obvious that all participants had enjoyed themselves, enthusiastically expressing their thanks to Jan Curtis, who organised the day, with the help of other club members. All agreed it had been a good day!

The club is now turning its attention to promoting our main fund-raising event, the Barn Dance, due to be held in Naphill Village Hall on Saturday **12 October**. At a recent 'think-tank', it was decided refreshments would, after all, be provided by club members. The well-known Old Mole Band has been booked to guide us through the dances and the evening, including supper, will only cost you £10 each. If you feel like a night out 'honouring your partners', give Maddy (523495) or Ingrid (446063) a ring for further details and tickets and why not bring your friends along as well!

Although many of our younger members have now deserted us for the football field and other winter sports activities, tennis is still played on most Sunday and Tuesday mornings. In an effort to keep fit and blow away the winter blues, club members don their thermals and play whenever weather permits. We even run a 'Tinsel Tournament', complete with festive lunch around Christmas. If you would like to join us on court, new members are always welcome, so don't hesitate, just turn up or ring Sue Crooks (562539).

Ingrid Tomlins, Secretary : 446063

University of the Third Age

Don't let the word 'University' put you off from reading this item. Although we use the term university, it is used with the meaning of a collection of like people studying together. We don't require entrance qualifications and we certainly don't have tests or exams! If you are now no longer in full-time employment (the 'Third Age') and would like to pursue a leisure activity of your choice, then do come and join us.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is an organisation with no distinction between those who teach and those who learn. All activities are voluntary and members' time is freely given in an atmosphere of shared learning. All activities take place during the daytime and there is no age requirement. Everyone is always welcome.

The subjects taught and learnt in the programme of activity result entirely from the choice of members and the availability of those able and prepared to share their experience and knowledge with others. Thus members with common interests are encouraged to get together to form study groups and arrange other activities. Study group leaders, whom we call convenors, are all volunteers from within the membership. A committee, elected annually at the AGM, controls the organisation's operation and finances, co-ordinates the study group programme and assist in finding venues. Our current study groups span the following interesting subjects: Art, Astronomy, Caravanning, Computing, Croquet, Embroidery, Excursions, French, German and Spanish Conversation, History/Current Affairs, Discovering Art, Local History, Mah Jong, Ornithology, Patchwork and Quilting, Poetry, Puddings, Reading for Pleasure, Science and Technology, Scrabble, Social Swimming, Walking and Woodcarving. More study groups continue to be formed.

Our main meeting is held monthly in the Kings Centre, Desborough Road on the fourth Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm, when there is a presentation from an invited speaker and refreshments are available. An annual programme and membership card containing information about the forthcoming talks and lectures, on a variety of topics, is given to members when joining and at the start of each academic year.

High Wycombe and District U3A is a Registered Charity (No. 1065069) and is a member of the Third Age Trust. It receives no money from central or local Government. We are financially independent and rely solely on members' subscription income. The convenors and management staff all give their services entirely freely. If you wish to know more, then please contact me.

Don Rankin : 01844 346715

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

Greetings. There is a Christian children's song that says, "it's an adventure following Jesus". This has certainly proved to be true for my family and me. As most of you who read this magazine will know, a new adventure has begun in the Life of Naphill E.F.C and therefore this village. After many years of loyal service, Gregory and Judith have moved into retirement and there is yet another new kid on the block. I personally thank Gregory for the great work he has done before me.



As the photo shows, there are four members to our immediate family, though Roger (18½) remains living in the Bournemouth area. The rest of us have just recently moved up from Christchurch in Dorset where I trained for three years at Moorlands Christian Training College and then Polly and I spent a further two years in various aspects of church ministry at Christchurch Baptist Church. Before moving to Dorset, we were members of St Johns the Evangelist (C of E) Church in Colchester Essex. Abigail (11¾) is looking forward to meeting and making friends with young people of her own age in the village and is enjoying her early experiences so far of senior school at Princes Risborough.

Our adventure now continues here in Naphill and we are looking forward to settling down and getting to know as many people as possible from the community and sharing in the village's life. We are so glad to be here with you.

Polly, Abigail and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to many people who have already made us feel so welcome. A special thanks to Simon and Nick and those members of the Methodist Church and Hughenden Church for the tremendous amount of time and work they put in, alongside our members, for the day of the Induction on 7 September. You all helped make a very special day even more special. Thank you.

At this early stage in my family's service and ministry in Naphill, the churches have been seen to be continuing to work together. This is because we are on the same adventure of "Following Jesus" so that we might make Him known to all people. Jesus said to the first disciples "Follow Me": our prayer and hope for all people throughout the world is that they will come and "Follow Him" and so come to know the grace, peace and love of God for themselves. A continued welcome awaits anyone who would like to visit our church.

May the blessing and peace of God be with you.

Bob Semple : 563304

As announced in our last issue, Gregory and Judith Hargrove have moved to 35 Fennels Farm Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9BP.

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes....

All of us who care about the world will have been greatly challenged by the British and American governments' desire to see Iraq brought to task about its alleged defiance of United Nations resolutions. If the UN is not prepared to take sanctions, do we have a moral right to do so? I know our answers will vary, and I will not attempt to give a simplistic answer to a complex problem. However, I would suggest violence tends to beget more violence. If it is a short-term answer to a particular problem, then I would claim it is

not a long-term solution, for it suppresses grievances rather than dealing with them. It can lead to a vicious circle of tit-for-tat retaliation. On the other hand, peace without justice is not real peace.

Today, as I write, I have been preaching on forgiveness, which is an important part of the gospel. Forgiveness is not a weak acceptance of injustice (although sometimes to allow ourselves to be taken advantage of is the strong position). Rather, forgiveness is about putting things right, restoring relationships and, of course, not holding a misdemeanour against someone permanently, but being prepared to let go and move on.

Forgiveness is often the first step to reversing the direction of a vicious circle. Making a concession can encourage the other party to do the same. This can continue until trust grows and relationships are restored. Forgiveness, like love, cannot be exercised unless we have experienced it ourselves. None of us is perfect, certainly not Christians, who know their need of forgiveness. So, are you carrying a burden of guilt? God offers forgiveness, which is accepted through penitence. It may also require some restorative action.

Then we may be able to reverse the vicious circle and undermine the attitude of violence, which threatens the well being of the world and the security of us all. The church is, ideally, a forgiven and forgiving community. Come along and find out more. You will be most welcome.

Shalom

Nick

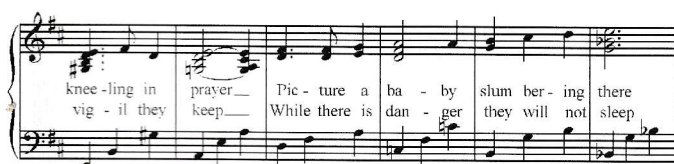
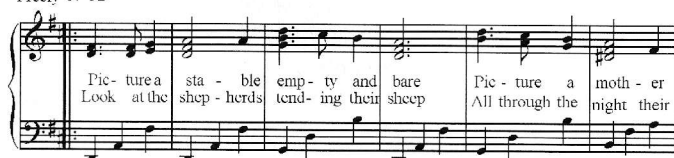
STOP PRESS

Unfortunately, at the last minute, copy for the usual *Christians in the community* panel was unavailable. Rather than leave the space blank, here is a brand-new carol – 'Hope in the world' – from a Naphill resident, which may be of interest to those who regularly read this page.

HOPE IN THE WORLD

A carol for 2002

Freely ♩ = 32



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

March 2002



Naphill Gazette

March 2002

Editor: Alan Lewis, 16 Battings Wood Gardens. Tel: 564512. E-mail NaphillGazette@aol.com

Distribution manager: Dave Ratcliffe, 4 Allen Drive. Tel: 563650

Treasurer: David Leith, Falcon's Oak, The Common. Tel: 562312.

Copy date for April issue is Thursday 14 March 2002

Editorial

My first stab at producing the magazine inevitably produced both bouquets and brickbats, in the ratio 5:2. To use the modern jargon, I am on a 'learning curve', I suppose, and I hope readers will bear with me as I profit from the experience!

As promised, this issue carries the date and I hope all will see this as an improvement. The same goes for the new drawing on the cover, even though artistic licence has been used for the sake of pictorial effect. As yet, the idea of submitting photographs has not caught on to any great extent – there are none in this issue – so *please* remember if reporting local news that pictures are now welcome.

This issue, as always in March, marks the start of the *Gazette's* advertising year and so thanks are due to everyone whose ads appear. Without their support, publication would be impossible. Regular readers are therefore urged to take a look at the front and back sections, as there are a few new advertisers alongside a good sprinkling of the familiar names of local suppliers. In some cases, the ads may look a little different because I had (for various reasons) to reproduce 80% of them! That inevitably led to a slight holdup, so apologies if your issue is a little late.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8 – 9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4 – 6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30 – 7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15 – 7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15 – 7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30 – 6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2 – 3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8 – 9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10 – 11.15am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15 – 6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U13s every Wednesday*	6 – 7pm
	U7s - U12s every Saturday‡	9.30 – 11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2 pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15 am – 12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30 – 2.45pm

* At Kilnwood Astroturf ‡ At Kilnwood Sports Field

News from the over 60s Club

'March winds, April showers, bring forth May flowers!' I think we are all fed up with being indoors for so many months and long for the better weather. To cheer us in March, we look forward to the following:

8 March Richard Pushman, who will bring us up to date with local developments and news

22 March Our old friend Jackie Wratten and his cheerful playing

In February we welcomed Mr O'Neill most warmly with the hope he enjoys our meetings. How about us all trying to bring one new member each?

Stella Page: 562314

Good evenings with the WI

Our January meeting opened with our President, Betty Williams, welcoming members and guests, and wishing us all A Happy New Year. Dr Sandy Macfarlane was our speaker who gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on Princes Risborough and the Whiteleaf Cross. We learned what Princes Risborough looked like a century ago, and about some of the families who lived there, and the White Cross as seen from the fields below. The Cross which has deteriorated over the years is now being restored.

Arrangements are in hand for two visits to London this year, one to the Magic Circle and the other to the theatre to see *Kiss Me, Kate*.

Two dates to note:

March meeting: 21 March. Talk on the children's hospice, Keech College. Competition: An Easter posy.

Group Meeting: 7 March. Talk entitled 'The life of a Queen's Messenger'.

Valerie Pushman

Neighbours and friends

A very well attended gathering of over 40 members and guests were entertained at our February meeting by Mr R. P Johnson, who gave an extremely interesting illustrated talk on the history of Speen village – its inhabitants, cottage industries, schools and chapels, etc. The talk concluded with information on subtle links with, and similarity of changes to, both Speen and our own village of Naphill.

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is
NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at
<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

At the time writing, there are only six seats left for our 11 April trip to Wilton House near Salisbury. If you are interested in joining us, please ring me on the number below.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11 March when Jane Dunsterville will talk on 'Glass painting in the grand manner'. Please come and join us.

Sheila Rolfe: 562888

Letters to the editor

From Jack Fair, Fairprint

It was with great interest that I read the February 2002 issue of the Naphill Gazette and all the comments shown on pages 1 & 2, thanking the Editor, Treasurer, Distribution Manager, Dennis Thomas who designed the front cover, people responsible for putting up the Christmas tree lights and indeed your own wife but no mention whatsoever of the printers who, over the last 10 years, have subsidised this magazine every month.

It would have been nice to have received some form of recognition for the work we have carried out on your behalf over the years be back the week after.

[This oversight is freely acknowledged. Ed]

From John Evans, MD, Integrated Card Solutions Ltd, Church Lane

I refer to Planning Application MSR/06322/VCDN and comments made in writing by Ms Jane

Elmidoro on page 8 of the Naphill Gazette, February 2002.

Ms Elmidoro has implied in the article that the residents are in breach of the planning constraints. She stated, *“Originally, planning permission allowed these units for light industry only and the latest application has brought to our attention that this has not been the case”*. She implicates the whole of the committee in this article.

Integrated Card Solutions refute these accusations and request that a statement is placed in the Gazette apologising for this misleading article.

I would assume it is the duty of the Council to protect the interests of *all* residents whether commercial or residential within the area. My company provides significant revenue for the council with no demonstrable benefits in return, employment for 10 local residents and revenue, in excess of £150k over the past 12 months, for other local businesses.

The development at Le Flaive converted a previously derelict, crime-ridden eyesore into an area thriving with activity which, whilst I admit is not totally in keeping with the surrounding area, is a great improvement on what was here before. For a local Councillor to allow such blatantly incorrect information to go into print does neither her nor the Council's reputation any good. Furthermore, when I phoned Ms Elmidoro she advised me that she had not seen the article, would not discuss the matter on the phone and had no idea of the address to which this letter should be sent.

Reply from Mrs L M Turner, Clerk to the Council

The article submitted by Cllr Mrs Elmidoro on behalf of Hughenden Parish Council was factually correct. As the application in question, MSR/06322/VCDN Units 1-4 Le Flaive Business Park, was in the name of the Business Park as a whole, the Council's comments were based on all the units collectively. However, the Parish Council wish to confirm that they have received no specific complaints regarding Unit 4 – ICS Ltd, with regard to breaches of the current planning permission and would like to apologise to ICS Ltd for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

Multiple Sclerosis

The High Wycombe and District Multiple Sclerosis branch held a Ploughman's Lunch on 13 February. The event was a great success and realised £311. Thanks go to everyone who helped or contributed in any way.

Gardeners' news

If you have not booked tickets yet for our Annual Dinner on Friday 8 March, be quick – I might just have some left! The cost is £12, which includes a free glass of wine.

Also a reminder that on 13 March our AGM will be held in the Small Hall at 8pm. It would be nice to think that somebody would be interested in coming along – we live in hope.

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Walter's Ash and Naphill School Association

Sadly, we had to cancel the Barn Dance scheduled for 30 November because of lack of support. However, the fundraising at the Carol Concerts was very successful so this was some compensation!

We are now looking forward to the following events:

Quiz night

We are still awaiting final confirmation of the date for the Quiz Night and I will let you have this as soon as it is available

10K Run

We are awaiting a final date in May. We were not able to hold the 10K Run last year owing to the foot & mouth crisis but this year it will be back – so start your training soon!

Summer Fete Saturday 29 June

We are already full of plans for this year's Summer Fete, so make a note of the date now!

Judy Whitehorse, Treasurer: 562742

Boys' Football Club

A quick reminder that Naphill Boys Boot Room is still up and running, so now is the time to sort out any old boots for sale on 50/50 basis.

This solves the problem of what to do with those old boots and at the same time helps with club fundraising. Please leave any old boots on the doorstep at Foxglove House, Chapel Lane, Naphill, with your name and phone number and I'll get them scrubbed up and ready to sell. Lots of excellent condition boots for sale £5 a pair so give me a ring and avoid those traumatic visits to the sports shops!

Sarah Boddy: 562223

Crime and punishment

Following police consultation at our last Parish Council meeting, the Council feel that it is important that all incidences of criminal activity, including acts of vandalism, should be reported to the Police Control Room on 01494 465888, regardless of whether you feel there will be a suitable response. These statistics are used by senior officers to assess future staffing levels within the community. At present, because reports are not being made, the statistics don't support the need for additional policing within the parish.

It was also mentioned at the meeting that there was a real possibility of recruitment of Special Constables to be used within the local villages. If anyone is interested in becoming a Special Constable, please contact our Community Policeman, PC Oxberry, on 01494 715352.

County and District Councillor's Report

Consultation and partnership are the new buzzwords of modern government and, although we know what they mean, they are not always easy to put into practice. For example, consultation can be a three-percent response to a tick-box questionnaire. Is that an expression of public wish or opinion, or are the 97% who did not reply a more accurate reflection of the public's mood? As an elected representative, I prefer to rely on what is said to me in conversation and what I read from my extensive mailbag and indeed from comments in the *Gazette*. So please continue to write, phone or e-mail me on points of advice or concern.

For some time, I have discussed the possibility of making the frontages to Naphill Common part of a conservation area, thereby protecting them from intensive development and protecting the more open aspect of existing development adjacent to the Common. Similar schemes exist at Downley and Loosley Row. Local plans will become more important under the government's proposed alterations to existing planning arrangements.

At long last, and I suspect with some police intervention, parking is taking place on the roadside and not on the pathway. Pedestrians are now able to enjoy free access and to push wheelchairs and prams, without having to move into the road to avoid cars obstructing the path.

I know that the condition of the old barns opposite the junction of Bradenham Woods Lane has caused concern for a long time. The serving of repair notices require the negotiation of many legal

requirements and their preparation can take several months, but I am assured by the officers concerned that the situation will be rectified in the near future.

Before Christmas, I indicated an intention to arrange a village hall meeting to address community safety and crime prevention. Preliminary arrangements are now taking place between the District Council, Police and Neighbourhood Watch and I hope to convene a public meeting sometime in April to discuss fully these matters.

The district council's dog warden on 01494 421723 can deal with neighbour concerns, such as continuous dog barking and other animal nuisances.

Richard Pushman

Hughenden Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held on 12 February. The Parish Council has expressed great concern of notice of appeal of Application No.01/07058/FUL Land fronting recreation ground at Main Road for a telecommunications mast. Any concerns on this plan and any others, please do not hesitate to contact me and also Wycombe District Council planning department.

Our next Planning Meeting at the Parish Council in Great Kingshill will be on 14 March and our full Council meeting will be on 12 March, both starting at 8pm. You are always welcome at our meetings, which give you the opportunity to express any concerns you may have.

Jane Elmidoro: 01844 275478

Volunteer drivers needed

Following a survey, I have established that there is a need for a voluntary village car service for elderly and infirm villagers Naphill and Walter's Ash who find it difficult to get to medical appointments at the local surgery, hospitals and clinics. However, in order to set up the service, I need to have a pool of volunteer drivers who have a car and can spare an hour or two occasionally. A mileage allowance will be paid.

If you feel you can help or have any queries, please ring me. Without volunteer drivers, I shall not be able to set up this much-needed service.

Doreen Burge: 565430

Downley Road pond

Conservation work on the pond and surrounding area has been undertaken over a number of

Saturday sessions since November under the expert eye of John Moorby, parish warden. Grass that encroaches into the pond during the summer months has been removed to stop it taking over – a cold job that John volunteers to do! The new hedges planted to the left and rear of the pond are now beginning to become established. Weeds around the new plants have been removed to enable them to flourish. At the rear of the pond, the dead hedge erected to protect the new hedge plants from being eaten by deer has been removed, as the plants are now of sufficient size for the deer not to be a problem. At the time of writing, the pond water level is high thanks to the heavy rainfall over the past few weeks.

Bat boxes have been put up on a number of trees around the pond to encourage them to nest there.

To the left of the pond, the small wooded area – a former damson orchard – has been cleared of debris and the hedge on the roadside has been laid. It really is looking good and if you haven't seen it I think it's well worth taking a look.

All in all, we are very satisfied with our winter's work and now look forward to the spring and summer months when we can enjoy the fruits of our labour: the bench seat adjacent to the pond makes a pleasant resting spot to sit and appreciate this wildlife habitat. Anyone wishing to join us with the conservation work next winter is welcome to do so. Do give me a ring.

Ron Collins, Warden: 562240

Balancing the Gazette's books

I have been awaiting a call from the United States Federal Administration Authority inviting me to assist in the investigation of the affairs of the giant but failed American global company ENRON. The authority is looking for investigators with financial skills and absolute integrity, a combination which seems to be in rare supply in the modern world of the quick buck. The thoughts of juggling with all those 0000000s in both dollars and pounds is quite exciting. However, it would appear that I have been overlooked and will have to confine my efforts to the Naphill Gazette and its £6000 budget!

So down to earth and the annual (2001) financial report. In fact, despite the increases in the cost of the Gazette and advertising, 2001 turned out to be a good year. We had expected to lose money and to require a further increase all round in 2002. However, as you can see from the summary below we had a significant increase in donations (for which many thanks!) and the cash collectors did

<u>Income</u>	31.1.02	31.1.01	<u>Expenditure</u>	31.1.02	31.1.01
Adverts	3889.16	3544.04	Printing	6175.12	5000.91
Collections	2017.50	1544.40	Admin	85.88	102.45
Donations	271.00	165.00			
Interest	79.38	74.89			
Total	6292.04	5328.33		6261.00	5103.36
<u>Surplus</u>				31.04	224.97

extremely well, with the result that we finished with a small profit (£31.04). Furthermore the new editor has negotiated a lower printing rate with a different printer so the prospects for 2002 are sound and charges for the Gazette (£2.50 for ten issues) and for advertising will remain unchanged. So would subscribers please carefully put aside their £2.50 to facilitate their payment when Dave Ratcliffe's team are in collecting mode.

To end on a gloomier note, when I look back over the year the first thing that comes to mind is an incident from last August. It was a dry (!), warm night and a 'garden' party was taking place about 100 yards away with very loud music and raucous laughter, etc. It did finish at a reasonable hour but what depressed me was the music. When in the Royal Air Force, I served in Africa during 1947/49 and what struck me about the music being thumped out was that it sounded remarkably similar to what I heard from local African villages all those years ago.

Progress? I wonder!

David Leith

Notes from a small Village Hall

In the absence of both the Boss and her assistant it was necessary to call on the services of one of yesterday's men to take the chair at our last meeting, which is why I am doing these Notes.

Other items of importance include Phil Howland's farewell to the Council after 16 years' service. We shall miss his smiling face but wish him well with all that spare time that he will now have available. Thank you, Phil. Graham Wagner, our Lettings Secretary, has handed over the reins to Barbara Clark. It is one of the more demanding and necessary jobs on the Council and Graham has held the post for some years. We cannot say farewell to him, as he has not left us, but we must

express our gratitude to him for filling this most important position for so long. We welcomed Barbara Clark (much better-looking than Graham) into our midst and pledged our support to her as she gets to grips with her new responsibilities.

We did find time for other more mundane matters. Vandalism raised its ugly head once more and time and money will be needed to re-set one of the bench seats near the Play Area which had been pulled out of its concrete base by someone. We also need to replace tiles over the Sports Extension and a piece of the downpipe by the kitchen. Our bid for financial support from the Lottery Community Fund for the Millennium Extension is still ongoing. It is impossible to rush these things but those interested should know that it is still on the stocks and has not been forgotten.

The Village Hall Council AGM will now be at 8pm on 2 April 2002. Do not turn up in your thousands on the Monday but do turn up on Tuesday and get some idea of just what is involved in running the Hall and Playing Fields. You will be more than welcome even if you do not get further involved.

Don Turner: 562645

Small ads

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely house and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request. Telephone Sally on 562281.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 562667.

HOME & PET MINDING. Phone Liz Higgin on 01491 638603.

SCRABBLE ANYONE? Is anyone interested in setting up an informal Scrabble™ group? If so, telephone 562281.

CAN YOU SING? OR DANCE? OR BUILD SCENERY? OR PAINT BACKCLOTHS? If so, why not take part in the forthcoming musical comedy *Below Stairs* being staged at The Elgiva, Chesham, in May. Ad hoc group is looking for additional – and essential – chorus members. Without a good chorus, it will suffer and its composer (*Gazette* editor Alan Lewis on 564512) will not be happy! Age range is 15 to as-young-as-you-feel...

GARAGE required for small sports car. Reasonable rent paid. Tel John Harris on 562099.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

Naphill Common Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Naphill Common Committee will take place on 27 March at the Naphill Evangelical Free Church (by courtesy of Gregory Hargrove). Please come along and learn about the work the Committee has been doing during the past year and to make sure that your point of view is taken into account in the future.

Marek Pawlik: 563126

Heavens above

The moon is new on 14 and full on 28 of the month. The four planets given in the time chart can be seen in the sky this month although Venus is difficult as it appears close to the Sun. Look to the west during evening twilight. The other three planets are more or less in a straight line with Saturn in the middle. Jupiter, the brightest of the three, is near the zenith.

		Sun	Mo on	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Mar	Rises	06.49	20.45	07.18	18.13	11.34	10.00
	Sets	17.43	08.11	18.40	22.22	04.10	01.51
8 Mar	Rises	06.33	04.16	07.05	07.55	11.06	09.33
	Sets	17.56	11.50	19.03	22.23	03.43	01.25
15 Mar	Rises	06.17	07.16	06.50	07.37	10.40	09.06
	Sets	18.08	19.34	19.25	22.25	03.17	01.00
22 Mar	Rises	06.01	10.09	06.36	07.19	10.14	08.40
	Sets	18.20	02.29	19.48	22.26	02.51	00.35
29 Mar	Rises	05.45	19.38	06.23	07.02	09.49	08.14
	Sets	18.32	06.13	20.10	22.26	02.25	00.10

The Sun's future

I have been asked to give more information on what will happen in the future to the Sun. Already 4.6 billion years old, it will start to expand in about 5 billion years into what is called a red giant. Its luminous circumference will then nearly encompass the Earth. This change in size will be brought about by its changing chemical constituent parts. At the moment, hydrogen is gradually being converted into helium (fusion), creating the light and heat we all know. When all the hydrogen is

consumed, the helium will itself start converting to lithium and so on until it passes through the periodic table to carbon, oxygen and eventually to iron. Once this happens, further fusion cannot take place and dramatic changes will start, inflating the Sun into a red giant. But this will not be the end; even further changes will take place, resulting in its becoming a white dwarf. If the Sun had been much larger, then it would end in a super nova or exploding star rather than a white dwarf.

Dynamics of the Sun in the Milky Way galaxy

The Earth travels around the Sun at 29.79 km/sec or 67,000 mph. The Sun rotates round the centre of the galaxy at 250 km/sec and so, with respect to the galactic centre, the Earth is travelling at 562,500 mph plus or minus 67,000 mph depending on where it is in its orbit around the Sun. The Sun is locked with its neighbouring stars in its movement around the Milky Way galaxy but its movement is not simple. In its orbit round the centre of our galaxy, the Sun with its neighbouring stars periodically enters what is called a giant molecular cloud (GMC) that consists mostly of high densities of hydrogen and dust grains. This GMC is encountered every 27 million years or so because of the Sun's orbit moving up and down through the plane of the Milky Way. Such encounters cause major changes in the Earth's climate. Overall, the Sun does not 'change places' with its neighbours, but other star groups rotate around the galaxy at different velocities: currently it is about 26,000 light years from the centre of the galaxy and just a few light years north of the galactic plane.

The local group of galaxies

The Andromeda spiral galaxy will collide with the Milky Way in about 10 billion years' time. These two giant spiral galaxies are gradually getting closer to each other because of their mutual gravitational effect. The timing of their collision is uncertain, if only for the reason that astronomers are unsure exactly how far apart they are. For example, when these articles began to appear in the *Gazette* in 1996, Andromeda was thought to be 2.2 million light years away. Now that figure is thought to be 2.9 million. The collision itself is expected not to cause too much of a problem as the stars in each of the galaxies are too far apart. However, the relative position of stars will change and much of the spiral dust will coagulate into new stars. These galaxies are part of the 'local group' of 35 or so known galaxies. This local group has its own dynamic with its constituent parts revolving around each other in a complicated way with the

two largest galaxies gradually getting closer. The galaxy resulting from the merging of Andromeda and the Milky Way will probably be a vast elliptical with a new pattern of star movements around the new vast black hole at its centre.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill and Walter's Ash Residents' Association

Local cultural strategy

The Local Government Act 2000 calls on local authorities to promote economic, environmental and social well-being of their areas, and we have been sent papers for a major consultation on facilities for reply by 2 April. This may be a chance to promote new ideas in the district, or to question whether the balance is right with most council facilities being in Wycombe and few in the villages where much of the council tax is raised. If you have ideas please let us know.

Planning

01/7985/FUL 11 Moseley Road, Naphill. Erection of chimney (retro). Serious concerns that flue is too low to disperse smoke and fumes, so creating problems for Moseley Road and Brackenwood residents, and there is no spark arrester. The house is wooden-clad so fire hazard from sparks is a real concern. Minimum distances not met on roof. External expert fire opinion requested.

02/5004/FUL Hunts Hill Farm, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill. Two-storey side and one-storey rear extensions and enlarging existing porch.

02/5048/FUL 258 Main Road, Naphill.

Construction of 1st floor and single-storey rear extension. *02/5078/FUL 22 Grimms Meadow, Walter's Ash.* Rear conservatory. *02/5115/FUL 280 Main Road, Walter's Ash.* Questions raised as to why application has been made for continued use of site until 2007, for storage, office and builders yard.

02/5121/VCDN Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill. Application to carry out development permitted by 98/5449/OUT without complying with condition 1 of appeal dated 19/1/99 (time limit for reserved matters). *02/5151/FUL Land adjacent Homelands, Clappins Lane, Naphill.* Demolish garage and erect new 4-bed detached dwelling with double detached garage. Object on size in relation to plot and surrounding properties. *02/5236/FUL Tarn Hows, 275 Main Road, Walter's Ash.* Two-storey side and rear extension. *02/5248/FUL Vinette, 171 Main Road, Naphill.* One-storey rear extension. *02/5255/FUL Meadow View, Stocking Lane, Naphill.* Detached carport. *02/5290/FUL Uplands, Four Ashes.* Telecom mast (Details: Guy Kaddish

WDC) Concerns over harm to landscape in conspicuous location above Hughenden Manor and Valley. 02/5312/VCDN *Paul's fish and chip shop, 129 Main Road, Naphill*. Application to change opening hours restrictions in Appeal decision to add Monday opening and also lunchtime Mon–Fri. Concerns over increased impact on residents. Also questions whether large advertising sign obstructs footpath. 02/5306/CONCG *Ministry of Defence, RAF Strike Command, Works at C-Block car park*. (Details: Mike Russell WDC).

Local shopping

Village shops near at hand, open all hours, are useful when you need them, but many close for lack of support. If we want ours to survive, we have to be prepared to share our spending between them and the big stores.

Vandalism

Incidents have been reported from Coombe Lane, through village and Naphill Common. If it is true local youths are to blame, should parents be taking a closer interest in what their children get up to?

The next meeting is at 8pm on 14 March 2002 at Village Hall. The AGM is on 11 April.

Malcolm Leflaive: 563634

Naphill Tennis Club

The new season gets under way at the beginning of April and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, why not come along on the afternoon of Monday 1 April from 2pm for a friendly game or any Sunday morning from 10.15am.

For the **Juniors** (5–16) coaching for beginners and improvers is being held between 26 March and 11 April between 4pm and 6.30pm. This is a good way for children either to start playing tennis or to revise skills learnt in previous years. The coaching leads on to junior club sessions held on Monday afternoons for the youngest members, and Friday evenings for the older ones. These start at the end of April and continue through the summer term.

As explained in the November 2001 *Gazette*, it is intended to introduce a locking system for the courts to prevent their use by non-members. So, if you want to play tennis, support your local club and become a member. We offer 50% reduction in the annual subscription to new members for the first year.

For further information and to request a membership form please give me a ring.

Sue Crooks: 562539

Neighbourhood Watch

There was a time when people said: “If you want to know the time ask a policeman.” Today they say “If you want to report a crime, you won’t find a policeman for love nor money.”

Shortage of manpower and burgeoning bureaucracy make the police force a much different and seemingly less friendly organisation from the one many older people remember with affection. Yes, today’s police are stretched and, yes, crime is on the increase. Indeed, burglary is one of the most accessible methods many of today’s drug addicts adopt to feed their needs.

Yet you can help to ease the burden on the police.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community self-help scheme, involving teamwork, where simple and targeted precautions can make life better for all. Reporting anything suspicious or anything unusual makes you a good neighbour, not a nosey-parker – and can all be done for as little as 50p a year.

Being a Neighbourhood Watch member does not mean ‘having a go’. You are not a vigilante. But by following some simple precautions and guidelines you can provide additional security for your home and help reduce crime figures.

Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is easy and painless. All you need is a number of households to get together. The groups can vary in size, depending on what people want. Each group is led by a co-ordinator and helpers, so you do need people who will get things done; although the time involved again depends on how much you want to put in. You won’t be called upon to give up evening after evening. With the most efficient groups it can be as little as half-an-hour a month. And most of us can spare that.

You will develop close links with the local police and an officer will provide and pass on information about your area and the incidence of crime there. A two-way flow of information between police and Watch helps keep on top of local crime.

Good schemes plan action to deal with your area’s problems, whether burglar, vandalism, graffiti or combinations thereof. Schemes will make people aware of the need to prevent crime, will show householders simple, cheap and effective ways to make their homes more secure, and will support vulnerable people, such as the elderly, and help prevent them becoming victims.

Neighbourhood Watch will also help you improve your environment, give the area sense of pride and

purpose, and discourage vandalism. Simple and cheap systems are available for marking your property which will actually deter thieves and help stolen property be returned.

The most immediate benefits of belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch is the access to security products at greatly reduced prices. And, most importantly, most insurance companies will allow up to 15% off premiums for registered scheme members.

For more information or if you want someone to call to help you set up a scheme, ring Wycombe Police Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01494 686120 between 8.30am and 12.30pm.

Bill Potts, Regional Organiser: 528306

Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete: 1 June 2002

Preparations are now well under way for the Fete, which promises to be a day of fun for everyone, the theme this year being 'The Jubilee Years'.

The most important thing for you all to do at this time is to mark the date in your diaries and calendars to make sure you are in the village on the day, remembering also to invite family and friends along. Further details will be announced in due course but, as always, there will be an amazing array of events, stalls, and children's rides as well as the traditional procession of floats and children in fancy dress to start the proceedings.

As ever, we could do with more help. This does not mean that you have to turn up to committee meetings; there are plenty of things to be done in the background if this is what you would prefer – if you can spare some time, I would be only too happy to hear from you.

Nearer the day, we shall be asking for volunteers to help distribute programmes and sell tickets for the Grand Draw. If you think you could spare perhaps an hour in the week leading up to the Fete, again, please give me a call.

One last thing – please give some consideration to nominees for the Best Neighbour award. If there is anyone in the village who you think deserves to win this prestigious award, could you put your nomination in writing to me at 236 Main Road, Naphill.

Remember 1 June is FETE DAY!

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

The Lifeboat Station

On a dangerous coast where shipwrecks often occurred, there was a crude little life-saving station. It was just a hut with only one boat, but a few devoted members kept watch and, with no thought for themselves, went out by day or night, searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by that little station and it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and other local people, wanted to join the station and give their time, money and effort to support its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the new members were unhappy that the hut was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. So they replaced the emergency bunks with beds and put better furniture into an enlarged building. The station became a meeting place and the members redecorated it and furnished it beautifully and used it as a club.

Fewer members were prepared to go to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do it. The life-saving badge was still on the wall and there was a model lifeboat in the room where club-joining ceremonies were held.

Then, a large ship was wrecked nearby and the hired crews brought in boat-loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and the new club was messed up. So the committee had a shower-house built outside, where shipwrecked victims could be cleaned up before coming in.

At the next meeting a split occurred in the club membership. Most members wanted to stop life-saving, as it was an unpleasant hindrance to the social life of the club. Some insisted that life-saving was their main purpose, but they were voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the different people shipwrecked in those seas, they'd better build their own life-saving station further down the coast. They did.

Years passed and the new station experienced the same changes as the old. It developed into a club and so another life-saving station was built. History repeated itself and on that coast today there are many clubs. Shipwrecks still occur in those waters, but most of the people drown.

Our life-saving station needs more crew members. Do come along and help us.

Your sincere friend

Gregory Hargrove

Greetings from Simon Cronk

As I am newly arrived as Vicar in these parts I have been asked to write a brief note to introduce myself – Hello! (If anyone might want to know a little more about us, please read the last edition of Hughenden News.) Which puts me in mind of a Church in York, St Michael-Le-Belfry, where there is an ancient board displayed in the Church with the Lord's Prayer written on it. Unfortunately (or fortunately) whoever wrote on the board did not quite work out the spacing and so could not get the first phrase of the Prayer fully on one line. If you look at it closely it reads 'Our Father who Art in Heaven, Hallo'. (The second line begins with 'wed be thy name!'.) I love that.

For Christians, Good Friday and Easter are the most significant times when we remember that God in Jesus has shared fully in our human condition, God as it were has rolled up his sleeves and has got his hands dirty. On the cross, Jesus has been to the place of physical and spiritual death and has experienced the depths of pain and suffering. These things are a painful reality of the human condition, but no one can ever say that God doesn't understand: God does. But then, of course, the resurrection is the greatest of statements of the power of God to transform. In our churches on Easter Sunday at the end of March, we will celebrate the marvellous truth that Jesus has been raised by the power of God and that we can all share in the hope and life and purpose that he offers. It is as if we hear God with laughter and joy in his voice saying to us 'Hello'!

Simon Cronk, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

I was talking to a friend in Naphill recently about exercising. Whilst I am conscious of not doing formal exercise, I suggested that I am sufficiently active and healthy not to need to do anything special. Five minutes later, driving back to Hughenden down Stocking Lane, my clutch went (don't ask me to get any more technical than that!). I got the car home by rolling it down the slope, forcing it into second gear and staying in that gear all the way home, until I stopped on my drive by stalling the engine! I then had to collect my son from Great Kingshill School. How did I get there? I got the exercise I had just boasted I didn't need – it served me right! I know that at 46 I am into a dangerous age for men's health, but because I feel generally fit I am in danger of complacency.

We are already in Lent and March takes us through Passiontide, ending with Easter day. It is a complacent world which thinks it has no need of God. What happened to the hopes and aspirations for the new millennium? Don't talk to me about conflict being caused by religion – I already know that. I'm not arguing for religion. I'm arguing for a way of life, for a world view, for values which are given by God and most fully exemplified in Jesus Christ. It is about a relationship with him, about recognising the worth he sees in all people, about respect, justice, peace, caring; in other words, about love. Can you argue against that? Come to any of the local churches and help us work out what that means in practice.

Shalom

Nick

Christians in the community

Sunday 24 February at 4.30 pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!* . (Note the change of venue.

Friday 1 March from 7pm: *T.R.A.S.H!* (Ages 11–14). Ice skating evening – contact Jane Ticker for details on 01494 534989 or 07890 346781.

Friday 15 March from 7 to 9pm: *T.R.A.S.H!* (Ages 11–14) in Church House.

Thursday 7 March from 10am until noon at the Evangelical Free Church: *COFFEE MORNING*

Fridays 8 and 22 March from 6.30 to 8pm at the Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 2–6, ages 6–10)

Saturday 9 March at 7.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *BARN DANCE*. For further details see notice boards in the area.

Sunday 24 March at 4.30pm in Naphill Village Hall: *CELEBRATION!*

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

June 2002



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

November 2002

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Treasurer: David Leith, Falcon's Oak, The Common. Tel: 562312.

Copy date for December/January issue is Friday 15 November 2002

Editorial

When I took on the editorship of the *Gazette* at the beginning of last year, my primary aims were to change the typographic layout to two columns per page and to introduce the date on the front cover. A separate ambition was to incorporate photos but this has not caught on; this issue, for example, has none.

At the time, my wife suggested I needed my head examined as we were up to our eyes with producing a new musical comedy I had written – and that on top of my everyday self-employment. In the event, I survived the experience and the *Gazette* has now settled down somewhat in terms of getting each issue prepared and printed.

However, my work front has recently become extremely busy again and so, when Matthew Piercy volunteered to take over, I accepted. His offer was partly the result of an awareness of my early problems and partly that he felt he would like to contribute more to local life. I am therefore taking my leave of these pages, handing in my bucket and spade. The change comes at a time when the name has been altered to include *Walter's Ash*, a move for which there were many pros and no cons!

The succession of Matthew brings the Piercy name back into prominence, as his grandfather Ron was an early editor. I wish him well.

Alan Lewis

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8–9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4–6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30–7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15–7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15–7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30–6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2–3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8–9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10–11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15–6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U14s every Wednesday*	6–7.30pm
	U16s every Wednesday*	6.30–8pm
	U18s every Wednesday*	7.30–9pm
	U6s–U12s every Saturday	9.30–11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am–12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30–2.45pm

* At RAF Astroturf

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS



**Volunteers needed to organise and run the
Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete 2003.
If you are willing to help,
please contact Sarah Bacon on 563479.**

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service. Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices. Telephone 563667.

CARAVAN. A lovely six-berth on a superb site at Highcliff, near Christchurch, Dorset available for rent. Ten minutes' stroll to beach. Lots to do locally. Telephone Sally on 562281 for further information.

WANTED: Gas or electric cooker 522mm wide (narrower than normal). If you can help, please ring Bob Semple on 563304.

Horticultural Society news

If you have not yet booked tickets for our cheese-and-wine evening on **1 November**, give me a call as soon as possible – I may just have a few tickets left, but hurry, they have been selling fast!

The evening will start with an illustrated talk by Tim Miles on the 'Glorious gardens of Cornwall'. Tim is head gardener of Cotswold Wildlife Park, but has also been curator of Heligan during his varied career, so this should be a very interesting talk. Please note that the talk will start at 7.30pm prompt, so don't be late! This will be followed by the spectacular buffet of cheese, pâté, salad, etc.

The ticket price of £7 includes a glass of wine or fruit juice.

Also, following the autumn show, we had two plates left behind. So, if you have missed blue and yellow plates, please call either Don Turner (562645) or myself.

Cathryn Carter : 563233

Badminton

We play sociable badminton on Sunday mornings in High Wycombe. It's good fun and keeps you fit. If you think you might like to join us and are an experienced badminton player, please telephone me for some more information.

Jackie Armstrong : 562769

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

Thanks to the sterling work by our social organizer, Maddy, and our chairperson-cum-caterer-in-chief, Pauline, club members, families and friends had an enjoyable evening at the Barn Dance on 12 October. The redoubtable Old Mole Band was on top form and successfully cajoled dancers on to the floor, guiding them through the intricacies of 'stripping the willow' and 'swinging their partners' throughout the evening. The participants were sustained by a substantial two-course supper, organised by Pauline, with contributions by club members. At the end of the evening, it seemed that young and not-so-young went home tired but happy and it was good to reflect that this had been an occasion that appeared to have bridged the age ranges!

Our next social event is not for the faint-hearted. It's the Tinsel Tournament, which is due to be played this year on Sunday **15 December**, when the elements will probably not be particularly conducive for such an event. However, with the help of a cup of mulled wine to keep out the cold and the prospect of the usual social lunch provided by club members, it's always a very enjoyable precursor to the Christmas season. (Incidentally, the lunch usually goes ahead even if the weather is inclement!)

As noted in last month's *Gazette*, weather permitting, we continue to play tennis throughout the winter on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. In addition, we have a fortnightly evening booking at the Indoor Tennis Centre for members' use, a list for which is on the club noticeboard. New members are welcome at any time: just turn up or contact our membership secretary, Sue Crooks, on 562539.

Ingrid Tomlins (Sec) : 01494 446083

Broadband for Naphill

The words BROADBAND and ADSL have been flying around our village for a few weeks now. You may have read it on a poster, read a previous article in here or even got a flyer through your door. So how is it going – well, since I started this campaign, the

registrations have gone up from just under 30 to around 185 – fantastic! Unfortunately, we do still need you others who have never heard of Broadband, don't understand it, don't want to commit yourself or haven't got round to it yet, to go and register your interest, or email me to find out more.

When BT get enough interest and realise that we are not joking and we REALLY DO want it in our villages, BT will come along and fit it for us. At the moment, they are saying that upgrading the exchange for all 56XXXX numbers – that's Naphill, Walter's Ash and Hughenden – is not an economically viable proposition.

So it is up to us to prove them wrong by demonstrating that the demand is there, or rather here.

To do this, simply go to www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10 to register your interest and tell others who have a telephone number that starts with 56 to do the same. Filling in the web page form is simplicity itself and does not commit you to anything at all.

Please do nip up to the computer, log on, put in the web site address and REGISTER YOUR INTEREST so we can get Broadband Internet into our villages like everyone else in the area.

Alan Jessop : email@alanjessop.com : 563369

Naphill Toddlers

Since the new term began, the Toddlers Group has looked somewhat depleted as many of last year's toddlers have progressed to school and the new intake numbers are much less. We have plenty of room for new faces!

Dates for your diary: **31 October** – Halloween crafts session; **5 December** – Christmas party (tickets available soon).

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2pm until 4 in the Village Hall. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting off steam or quietly modelling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Evening WI

Our meeting in September was the first one after the summer break and it was good to see so many members present. A letter of thanks was read from the Wycombe Scannappeal, and Doreen Burge and

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is NaphillGazette@aol.com

Naphill Website is at

<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>. Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site and his e-mail address is Naphill@England.tc

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604; e-mail Naphill_Lettings@England.tc

Local Community Beat Officer is Colin Oxberry on 715352. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

Pauline Flynn were congratulated on completing the Flora Light Challenge for Women in Hyde Park.

The speaker was Margaret Deakin and her talk was about the history and foliage of New England. She showed slides to illustrate her talk. She started in Boston, a charming city full of history. Then on to Cape Cod with its beautiful shoreline, Newport, Rhode Island where the rich and famous lived, then through the mountains of New Hampshire and the coastal villages of Maine. We heard about a Shaker Village and a whale-watching cruise. She finished her talk with some lovely slides of autumn foliage.

Our October meeting will be the Annual Meeting and on **21 November** Dr Banham will be taking us on a trip to India. The competition is a pot plant. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Betty Williams : 563366

Bradenham Parish Council

At the September meeting it was announced that Alistair Roach, who has been on the council for eight years and for several years before that attended meetings as the National Trust Representative, is retiring from the National Trust and moving to Somerset. This sadly means he has to retire from the council. His help to the parish has been enormous. He will be hugely missed, and equally so by the Friends of St Botolph's. The vacancy has been advertised. The National Trust's representative for the Parish will be James Taylor, who lives in Bradenham and attended our September meeting.

Plans are afoot to try to restore the village pond by the youth hostel, if Bucks County Council can divert the dirty water that drains into the pond from the road. Work is proceeding carefully on some old trees in Bradenham, including the 'finest tree in the village', the old cedar in the Manor Garden.

The council is still waiting for the Oxford Diocese to approve plans for the Jubilee window it wants to present to St Botolph's church. This application has been frustratingly lengthy.

The Parish Council has reiterated its views on the parish boundaries, emphasising the centuries-old links between Walter's Ash (now covered by three parishes) and Bradenham.

The police reported no burglaries in the parish, but a further sighting of a naturist man in Bradenham Hill woods.

The RAF representative will now be wing commander Shaun Tyrer, who takes over from squadron leader Roger Simon. Roger was always a very helpful link with the RAF.

The next meeting of the Council will be Monday 9 December.

The Bradenham Millennium book is still selling well from the Risborough News shop in Walter's Ash and the bookshop in Risborough.

Readers' letters

From Paul T Phillips

I note from the last edition of the *Gazette* Richard Pushman's responsibilities for road speed management and would like to offer a thought from our recent holiday in Cornwall.

There is obvious concern about speed through the villages in that county and many of them have a prominent 30 in a circle painted on the road on entry to the village, the sign being topped and bottomed by a double rumble strip. Our limited empirical evidence suggests that this was quite effective and provided a cheap and easy means to reduce potential speeding.

While writing, can anyone please provide me with a logical explanation as to why there are different speed limits along Main Road? Surely, 30mph along the whole length makes more sense. Perhaps we should campaign for this.

From Matt Piercy

I have just picked up the October *Gazette* and read your editorial regarding the inclusion of 'Walter's Ash' on the front cover. Since you raised this last month, it has been a topic of much discussion among the people I have spoken to, so much so that I assumed you would have been inundated with responses. Clearly, it is wrong to make assumptions!

As an inhabitant of Walter's Ash, I should like to see the name included on the cover of the *Gazette*; in fact, I would go further and suggest that we should consider changing the name to the *Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette*. These days, to all intents and purposes, we are one big village where the community spirit that we all love thrives. The *Gazette* is an important voice in this village and I imagine that if some bright spark were to create a *Walter's Ash Gazette*, in time it could only have a negative impact on our community. Let's name the *Gazette* in line with the community it serves.

From Bob Foggo

I offer the following in response to your complaint that those of us who live at Walter's Ash do not read your editorials.

Oh dear, the Ed has had a bash
At all the folks of Walter's Ash
He thinks his words they do not read
As past the editorial page they speed
But Ed, please do not lose your hair
The people here do really care
It's just that in life's rush and hurry
We have not got the time to worry
About the missing sign and name
That seems to cause you so much pain
We knew right from the very start
You had our interest much at heart
But apathy clubs will be no go
As folks from here just would not show

[Ed: I should point out that my editorial in no way singled out the residents of Walter's Ash. I was looking for response from anyone on whether the name should be changed. Also, it was a reader, not your editor, who was looking to change the name. In the event, it has been decided to retitle the publication 'Naphill and Walter's Ash Gazette', since there were several voices for this change and none against.]

From Mr W Styles

I am replying to the article in the September issue from Mrs E. Livett, implying criticism of my action in the felling of three pine trees at the front of my property in Downley Road. My justification in taking this action is as follows.

Firstly, on three occasions the trees had shed large and heavy branches, one of which damaged my wife's car, the second damaged my neighbour's fence and my concern was that the next one could fall and seriously injure a person walking by.

Because of our love for the beautiful countryside we live in, the decision to fell the trees was not taken lightly. After discussions with three tree experts, it was agreed that the trees were dangerous and something should be done. Next, I sought permission from the council to fell them and, after an inspection by a council representative, we were given written permission to carry out the work.

As far as preservation orders are concerned, the council informed me *on 30 September this year* that the only trees that carry a preservation order in Downley Road are the four at the front of the two new cottages next to the Village Hall.

My final thoughts on the matter: I wonder if Mrs Livett would have offered to pay any compensation if a person had been injured by a falling branch from my trees.

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

There will be a Candlelit Dinner Dance on Saturday **16 November** at Naphill Village Hall. Bar opens at 7.30pm, dinner at 8.15pm. Dancing until midnight to the celebrated Late Edition Band with music for all tastes. Dinner by the highly regarded Morreen Catering. Open to all residents, with guests also very welcome.

The dinner menu (all home-made) includes: black velvet chicken (cooked in bubbly and Guinness); beef curry; vegetarian moussaka topped with delicious cheese; rice; mixed salad; french bread. Choice of desserts is: Black Forest roulade; lemon-and-lime cheese cake; apple-and-apricot pie; coffee.

As ever, this will be a fun evening of lively dancing, pleasant company, and excellent food and drink. Tickets £15 per head from Joyce (562703), Daisy (562602) or Carole (563508). Book now to ensure you don't miss this enjoyable annual event.

Planning

02/7130/FUL *Hunts Hill Farm, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill*. Green Belt, AONB. Formation of manTige for training of horses. Surfaced area on slope would be ca 60m x 20m (200ft x 66ft) surrounded by 1.8m (6ft) post and rail fence with kick boards and a new beech hedge, on the high ground to the north of the farmhouse. Details of construction and use are being sought relative to AONB and Green Belt policy.

02/7307/FUL *Moseley Lodge Farm, 208 Main Road, Naphill*. Listed Building, Green Belt, AONB. Preliminary details of application for renovation and extension to house, demolition of garden sheds, and construction of detached double garage with storage area. Questions over size of garage and position relative to green belt outside domestic curtilage.

Next Meetings

Thursday 14 November and 5 December (NB unusual date) in the Village Hall at 8pm.

Carole O'Neill: 563508

Saturday 2 November

Fire lit 6.30pm

Display 7pm

**BBQ from 6pm
run by Sports Club**

Mulled wine

Soup

**Pavilion bar
run by Mens Club**



**Tickets available from Costcutters,
Paul's fish-and-chips, Country Stores,
Risborough News or phone 562770**

**In advance
£3 adults, £1.50 children**

**On the night
£4 adults, £2 children**

Under-5s FREE

The Naphill sky in November

The moon is new on 4 and full on 20. Saturn with its rings rises mid-evening this month and is particularly bright. Jupiter, the largest of the sun's planets, is even brighter but rises several hours later. Mars and Venus are morning stars although Venus rises after the sun at the beginning of the month. The Andromeda galaxy is overhead.

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Nov	Rises	06.57	01.44	07.14	04.15	23.03	19.06
	Sets	16.36	15.41	15.52	15.48	14.08	11.23
8 Nov	Rises	07.09	11.47	06.16	04.13	22.39	18.37
	Sets	16.24	19.01	15.29	15.28	13.42	10.54
15 Nov	Rises	07.21	15.03	05.27	06.11	22.15	18.03
	Sets	16.13	02.01	15.09	15.08	13.16	10.25
22 Nov	Rises	07.33	17.32	04.49	04.09	21.49	17.38
	Sets	16.05	10.07	14.51	14.49	12.49	09.56
29 Nov	Rises	07.44	00.47	04.23	04.07	21.22	17.09
	Sets	15.58	14.04	14.35	14.29	12.22	09.26

Life in the universe (part 1)

This column has often advocated that intelligent life elsewhere in the universe is extremely unlikely. One of the arguments stems from the so-called Fermi paradox. The nuclear scientist, Enrico Fermi, simply asked the question in 1950: 'Where is everybody?' His point was that, with billions of stars located in each of billions of galaxies, why had a civilisation not visited us? For us to be the first of many civilisations would be most unlikely. Ian Crawford of the department of physics at University College London argued some six years ago that 'the absence of evidence of extra-terrestrial civilisations amounts to evidence for their absence.' He claimed that this conclusion is supported by biological evolution on our planet and that humanity may well possess one of the very few technological civilisations to have arisen in the milky way galaxy.

The main threads of Crawford's argument are that the Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) programmes have so far come to naught. Secondly, all planets supporting intelligent life will eventually have to migrate because their sun will have died or worn out. Yet there is no evidence of such ET civilisations having visited earth or are located in our galaxy near earth. The biological evidence on earth suggests that single-celled life started here about 4 billion years ago (only a short time after earth evolved) and yet took a further 2.3 billion years to evolve into multicellular life, in part waiting for oxygen to develop in sufficient quantities for more complicated life to survive. Then there is the accidental demise of dinosaurs and the

emergence of mammals some 65 million years ago that enabled more intelligent life to evolve from mammals. More recently, two books have been published giving mutually opposite viewpoints. The first is by Amir Aczel, (author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*), called *Probability 1* Aczel argues that probability theory can show that we are not alone; the chances of intelligent life not existing elsewhere are zero if only because of the vast numbers of potential locations throughout the universe. Then there is the book published in early 2000 by Peter Ward and Frank Drake, entitled *Rare Earth*, in which quite the contrary conclusion is reached. The arguments presented by Ward/Drake will appear in the December *Gazette*.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Neighbours

Naphill Neighbours AGM took place on Monday 14 October and the officers and committee members remain the same. Following the meeting, John Beedle showed us the art of 'Straight lines and scribble'. We would all love to be as artistic as he, and his sketch pads from 1954 and tools of his trade were passed around. Mr Beedle is well-known for his lovely drawings of local scenes, and notelets and pictures of the area were available for purchase after his talk.

We still have a few seats available for our trip by coach to London on **17 December**, when we will have supper followed by a guided tour to see the Christmas lights. Please contact Sheila Rolfe on 562888 if you would like to join us. At our next meeting on 17 November, Mr P. Smith will talk on 'The Royal Collection' – not to be missed.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Pre-school news

The Pre-school AGM took place on 26 September where we said goodbye to most members of the committee and thanked chairwoman Ruth Bond all committee members for all their time and hard work over the past year. We also welcomed the new members of the committee and wished them luck in their new roles.

The autumn term has got off to an excellent start under the care of Mo, the new supervisor, and her team. The children have been having fun baking, decorating biscuits, making stew, painting, arts and crafts and also learning under the theme of 'Ourselves'.

During October, the staff have been busy preparing for an Ofsted visit and the children had their photographs taken.

Don't forget a visit to the **Christmas Fayre** in the Village Hall on **30 November** where the Pre-school will be organising for Father Christmas to visit in his grotto.

Also, a reminder for parents with children coming up to pre-school age who would like more information or wish to put their child's name down – please contact Mo Bedder on 564037 (am) or 565359 (pm) as pre-school places are limited.

Debbie Marchant

Viva Apathy!

Inspired by the vision of the editor in his October editorial, I am delighted to announce the launching of the Naphill Apathy Club (NAC). Initially, consideration was given to a slightly different name, the Naphill Apathy Group (NAG), as the latter has a more interesting acronym, especially for the female of the species, but it does unfortunately suggest *some* activity, albeit critical.

There are, as you all know, many clubs and societies operating in the area but it should be remembered that, in any cross-section of mankind, only about 10% can be accurately described as active members of a community. One can readily observe that it is the same group of people who DO THINGS, while the remaining 90% presumably watch TV! Thus, in forming the Apathy Club, we immediately create a prime force in the village with 90% of the villagers as potential members. It must surely be possible to harness this usually invisible and silent power, which has a certain parallel with the radiation produced by nuclear fission – which is invisible but deadly.

The inaugural meeting will be on 31 November. There will, of course, be no chairman and minutes will not be recorded or circulated. In establishing the club, it is important that the duties of the elected officials be clearly defined. The chairman must be a person of infinite lethargy, well-qualified to do nothing with tremendous style. The secretary will need no writing skills because there will be no requirement for meetings, no actions to initiate, and no minutes to prepare. Indeed, his/her main duty will be to discourage enthusiasm and liveliness among members. The treasurer will require no mathematics or computer skills as there will be no subscriptions to collect and no functions to finance. It is anticipated that there will be no shortage of volunteers for these posts, which clearly require no deviation from normal inactivity.

This submission to the November *Gazette* is late – naturally – and will probably not be printed. But does this matter? Apathetically – NO. Sleep well.

David Leith

NCH collections in Naphill...

Our annual house-to-house collection for NCH realised a total of £702.20. Many thanks to both collectors and donators. As a result of such collections

nationwide, thousands of needy children, young people and families benefit from such support.

Jean and Ted Lawrence-Mann

... and Walter's Ash

A big thank-you to all who contributed to the collection in Walter's Ash. We raised £387.92. I would also like to thank publicly all those who gave of their time delivering and collecting – it was your help that made it all possible.

Susan Bickerstaffe : 565161

Quiz night

Naphill-cum-Bradenham Conservatives invite you to a quiz evening on Thursday **5 December** starting at 7.30pm in the Evangelical Church Hall. Tickets cost £7.50, including a fish-and-chips or chicken-and-chips supper.

It is hoped there will be eight tables of six. We can help with making up tables if you wish. Glasses will be provided, but please bring your own drinks.

There are splendid prizes for the winning table. Lucky number tickets available from Valerie Pushman (563122) or Peggy Waterston (565969). Please ring for tickets or further information.

Christmas bazaar

The High Wycombe branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society is holding its Christmas bazaar in Hughenden Valley Village Hall on Saturday **2 November**, starting at 2pm.

On sale will be gifts, Christmas cards, toys, plants and cakes. A tombola and raffle are other attractions designed to raise funds for this excellent cause..

Hughenden Parish Council

Police consultation

The Parish Council was very sad to learn that it is unlikely that our Community Policeman will be returning to the post. We have not had a police consultation recently and are writing to the new Sergeant for an update.

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce that Naphill has managed to keep the cup for the best allotment in the parish. Congratulations go to winner Mr E.J. Wilson from Walter's Ash. He is a new tenant and within a year has turned his plot around. The cup is a tribute to his hard work and dedication.

While on the subject of allotments, there will be some work carried out on the boundary area at Louches Lane allotments in the near future. If you have a plot there, do not worry: no harm will come to it.

Cllr Pushman reported that, as a County Councillor, he had access to a Community Fund that which he

proposes to share among his wards. If anyone has a specific project, please contact him.

Planning

The Parish Council is delighted that the barns at the junction of Bradenham Woods Lane have now been waterproofed to stop any further deterioration of this Grade II Listed building.

New plans for consideration are GK/02/07311/LBC and GK/02/07307/FUL, Moseley Lodge, 208 Main Road. Application for construction of part single storey/part two storey rear extension and alterations & detached double garage.

Next planning meeting is **21 November** at 8pm. If you have concerns of any plans in the village, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Clerk on 01494 715296.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Quiz

Quiz addicts are invited to while away the long winter evenings by entering this year's Iain Rennie Hospice at Home quiz. The quiz is divided into 12 sections, each with 20 questions, covering subjects as diverse as advertising slogans, songs from shows, memorable dates, prefixes, suffixes, places and sport. Entry is £1 and copies can be obtained from IRHH shops in High Wycombe, Tring, Princes Risborough and Hemel Hempstead, or by sending £1 and sae to 52a Western Road, TRING, HP23 5AH.

You have until the end of February to complete the quiz and the prize is a £50 M&S voucher, plus five lucky number prizes. Last year, the quiz raised over £1600 towards nursing terminally ill patients in their own homes. Thank you for your help.

Mary Wiles, Fundraising Volunteer

Naphill Boys Football

With the football season well under way, our sides have all started very well and we have a number of age groups with 100% records. The U6 to U11 and U18 are all playing on the RAF sports field, while the U12, U14 and U16 are using the Crick pitches. All these games are played on Sundays so there is plenty of junior and youth football to see. Come along and give the YELLOWS a cheer.

Our Christmas Disco, always a great night out, is on Saturday 30 November. There will be our usual 'value bar' and tickets are now on sale from our age group managers and secretaries.

Bob Hathaway : 563332

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday **7 December**, there will be a Christmas Fayre in Naphill Village Hall, beginning at 2pm.

This is *the* Christmas Fayre with something for everyone – games, gifts and attractions for the whole

family – all at amazing value. Many of the stalls will be run by the Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts themselves – a real team effort.

On the day, you will be able to: buy your last-minute Christmas gifts – including the always popular cakes; play games and competitions; hunt through the bric-a-brac; and enjoy the various refreshments.

Please come along and support this event, where all the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Headquarters Building – a facility used and enjoyed by many village children. Also, we are expecting a *special* guest at the Fayre..... See you there?

Greetings from Simon Cronk

René Descartes, the French philosopher, has been called the 'father of modern philosophy'. It seems that he concentrated on the consciousness of the individual as the source and criterion of truth: basically, everything was to be doubted, but one thing could not be doubted, his own existence, and from this astonishing insight came the now famous phrase *Cogito, ergo sum* (I think, therefore I am).

There is a marvellous take on this, which perhaps for many sums up the modern world: *Tesco ergo sum* (I shop, therefore I am). There does seem to be a good deal of truth in this. Our meaning and identity seems to be based so much on our material status. Recently, I came across an article in the same local newspaper which talked about 'shopping therapy'. Now perhaps I have missed something, but personally I do not find much therapy in shopping! We have become a society of consumers and we are being encouraged to go out and consume more; this at a time when the world summit has cautiously pointed out that the first world cannot continue to sustain such consumption.

I believe that our modern culture has lost its way; we are not defined by our material status or by our image, what we own or what we can buy and how we appear. Our thirst for these things simply hides deeper yearnings for identity, purpose and love. As a Christian, I believe these needs can only be satisfied in a relationship with God. As St Augustine said: 'Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.'

Rev. Nick Young of Naphill Methodist Church writes...

Every Sunday in November has some designation in the Methodist Church. It's a bit like certain times of year when the charities seem to hold their flag days or door-to-door collections in successive weeks. There's a limit to how many special events you can cope with in close succession! However, they're all important and it's good that they're highlighted. So, what are our special Sundays? I'll list them because they give a fairly comprehensive, though not exhaustive, list of groups of people we should be supporting.

3 November 3: Methodist Homes Sunday. The Methodist Church has a number of residential care homes, mainly for elderly people, including a recent initiative to offer more specialist care for those facing dementia. What was it the 2001 census revealed – more over-60s than under-18s? Certainly, the proportion of older people in Britain is rising, putting pressure on the health service, pension schemes, and so on. It's in all our interests to care for older people in the community.

10 November 10: Remembrance Sunday. Perhaps the over-70s will feel most strongly about this, but there are two messages (at least) to take in from this occasion: firstly our gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives fighting for justice and freedom with its continuing expression in caring for those left with permanent disabilities or bereaved; secondly, to learn the lessons of wartime and try to avoid the repeat of such atrocities.

17 November: Prisons Week. There is much debate about the penal system and the role of custodial sentences. As a Christian, I believe that the aim is the safety of all people, including the perpetrators, a sentence which makes clear the severity of a crime, restorative action where appropriate, and the opportunity for repentance and rehabilitation into the community. In any case, all prisoners have very serious needs, so we should pray for them as well as prison officers, for whom the need to balance discipline and security with respect for their charges is a very difficult challenge.

24 November: Youth Sunday. We've all been there! But times change and, while our children often don't appreciate that we were young once, there are challenges and pressures which we didn't have to face. It's also a reminder to give to young people the respect we wished we had when we were their age! Our future is in their hands – that's a cliché, but worth remembering.

Please join us in remembering, supporting and praying for these groups of people (which include many of us) and for the associated issues.

Shalom

Nick

Naphill Evangelical Free Church



People remain devastated today in the aftermath of such disasters. In the light of witnessing obvious evil in the world, some ask, 'If there is a God, how could He let this happen?' That statement suggests there is a God but that He is cruel. Or it suggests that there can't be a God or it wouldn't happen. Or it could be calling God to account, which suggests He is responsible and is capable to bring or prevent disaster. That would mean He is all-powerful. And if He is – dare we ignore Him? What would His answer be? Do you look to one more powerful than yourself. Has he/she provided an answer for you and the world around you?

What about your life? Is it built on immovable foundations secure for eternity or could a disaster bring your life crumbling around you?

Maybe that has already happened and you are in the midst of suffering or are concerned by world events and would like to discuss this with someone. The message of Jesus brings sense into the pain and disorder we see in the world. My wife and I extend a welcome to anyone who would like to just talk or discuss matters of concern. We are often around in the church or at home – The Manse – next to the church and would be pleased to talk over a cup of coffee.

Please note that from the first Tuesday in November we will be looking to open the church each Tuesday morning for refreshments between 10am and noon instead of just once a month. There will be a children's play corner in the church so that all might be welcome.

May you know the richness of God's love.

Bob Semple : 563304

Christians in the community : contact 564009

Sunday 27 October at 4.30pm at Naphill & Walter's Ash School: *CELEBRATION* : refreshments

Fridays 8 & 22 November at 6.30pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church : *K.R.A.S.H!* 'Kids Really Are Special Here!' (for school years 1–6, ages 6–11)

Tuesday 12 November at 8pm at Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING*

Fridays 15 & 29 November at 7pm at Church House, Hughenden: *T.R.A.S.H!* 'Tweens Really Are Special Here' (for school years 7–10, ages 11–14)

Sunday 24 November at 4.30pm at Naphill & Walter's Ash School: *CELEBRATION* : refreshments

Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

December 2002 & January 2003



Naphill & Walter's Ash Gazette

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Copy date for the February issue is Wednesday 15 January 2003

Editorial

My first words as Editor must be to thank Alan Lewis for a job well done during his time as Editor of the *Gazette*. Alan's editorial experience has bought the *Gazette* more up to date with the regular inclusion of photographs and the 2-column layout that we are all familiar with - this also necessitated him redesigning every advert, a mammoth task so I intend to leave things much as they are. Thank you Alan.

As we approach the end of another year I would also like to thank David Leith (Treasurer), Dave Ratcliffe (Distribution Manager) and the 27 people, whose names I'm afraid I don't know, that deliver the *Gazette* every month. Your on-going efforts are greatly appreciated.

The last thank you this month goes to Dennis Thomas for adding some festive spirit to our front cover. The Village

Hall has not seen this amount of snow for some time so I am grateful to Dennis for using his artistic license to come up with a *Gazette* Special Commission!

It would be nice to think that we could include some new names and articles over the coming months. Given that this publication is intended for our whole community it is surprising that we seldom hear from any of the local young adults or children - could we help publicise your endeavours?

Please note the *Gazette* has a new email address (above) for future correspondence.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Matt Piercy

Naphill Village Hall: Organisations' Diary

Aerobics/body conditioning	Each Wednesday	8-9pm
Art group	Each Thursday (Small Hall)	7.30pm
Ballet and tap classes	Each Monday	4-6.30pm
Ballet classes	Each Tuesday	3.30-7.30pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Tuesday (Small Hall)	6.15-7.15pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Wednesday	6.15-7.45pm
Dance (Pam Sheen)	Friday	4.30-6.30pm
Evening W.I.	Third Thursday	7.45pm
EXTEND gentle exercise class	Each Monday	2-3.30pm
Line dancing	Tuesday	8-9pm
Luncheon Club	Second Wednesday	1 for 1.15pm
Men's Club	Monday to Friday	7.30pm
Mobile library	Thursday	10.10-11.10am
Modern, jazz and tap classes	Each Wednesday	4.15-6.15pm
Naphill Boys FC training sessions	U14s every Wednesday*	6-7.30pm
	U16s every Wednesday*	6.30-8pm
	U18s every Wednesday*	7.30-9pm
	U6s-U12s every Saturday	9.30-11am
Naphill Neighbours	Second Monday	8pm
Over Sixties' Club	Alternate Fridays	2pm
Pre-school	Each weekday	9.15am-12.30pm
Residents' Association	Second Thursday	8pm
Toddler Group	Each Thursday	2pm
Village Hall Council	First Monday	8pm
Yoga: stretch, tone and relax	Tuesday	1.30-2.45pm

* At RAF Astroturf

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS



**Volunteers needed to organise and run the
Naphill & Walter's Ash Fete 2003.
If you are willing to help,
please contact Sarah Bacon on 563479.**

Small ads

TO LET. Six-berth mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole, Dorset. Lovely position overlooking nature reserve and Poole harbour. Close to beach. Telephone 562169.

ITALIAN LESSONS and translation service.
Telephone 562782.

DRESSMAKING alterations at reasonable prices.
Telephone 563667.

BED & BREAKFAST in Naphill. Lovely House and garden. Reasonable rates. Leaflet on request.
Telephone Sally on 562281.

HOLIDAY COTTAGE. Traditional brick and flint cottage Nr. Sheringham, North Norfolk. Sleeps 4-6. Two miles from beach in quiet village location.
Telephone Amanda on 565544.

FOR CAREFULLY CARRIED OUT STRUCTURAL GARDEN WORK, WOODWORK AND SMALL BUILDINGS WORK, TEL 565526

YUCCA seeks good home! I am 6ft tall and very healthy but I am getting a bit too big for the hallway where I live. If you can help, I'm free! Tel: 564512

WANTED adjustable piano stool. Tel: 564512

Horticultural Society

Once again our recent Cheese & Wine evening was a great success. The illustrated talk by Tim Miles on the Gardens of Cornwall was most interesting, showing us what can be grown not only in these wonderful conditions, but further north as well.

As always our thanks go to Joyce Thorpe for putting on another excellent cheese, pâté and salad buffet.

For those of you who are terribly well organised and like to keep your diaries booked up in advance, our next event is the annual dinner on Friday 7th March 2003. Details will be in the next edition of the *Gazette*.

Also, should any of our members be interested in visiting Wisley gardens, the Society has a Garden Entry Card, which allows entry at a reduced rate for two people. If you wish to borrow the card, please let me know.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the past year, and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

Cathryn Carter: 563233

Naphill Lawn Tennis Club

Although the recent autumn weather has been more suited to "wellies" than sports shoes, tennis continues to be played on those Sunday and Tuesday mornings when the weather has been kind. Over the weekend of 2/3rd November, around a dozen or so Naphill members (including at least 3 stalwart, self-confessed "TOGS") contributed to the fund-raising "Children in Need" tournament, organized by Richard Chapman of Widmer Tennis Club at the Cressex Indoor Tennis centre. It was hoped that as many local players as possible would take up the £5 an hour slots so that play would be continuous from the Saturday start time through to the Sunday evening finish. Besides raising as much money as possible, the aim was to possibly gain an entry in the Guinness Book of records for the most games played in a tennis tournament. As at 7 pm on Saturday, the amount raised had already reached £1,700 and, hopefully, by close of play on Sunday, this amount had increased substantially.

In addition to this activity, tennis club members also turned out in the appalling weather conditions to "police" the Fireworks Display organised by the Naphill Village Hall Committee. Our help has also been solicited by the committee to run the Cake Stall at the Christmas Fayre. Jenny & Ted Chapman have "volunteered" to take this on so that local residents can experience a taste of the club's catering abilities. As a club, we might not always be on the winning side but our post-match refreshments are legendary, so treat yourself by purchasing one of our offerings and, by so doing, contribute to your own Village Hall funds!

As everyone knows, there is always a serious side to running local clubs and organizations. In our case, this time of year is devoted to "admin" to ensure the smooth running of the club for the new 2003 season. At our AGM, arranged for Thursday, 12th December in the Clubhouse, we have to make decisions, which, most importantly, affect our Junior membership. For the first time, we hope to be able to offer them sustained professional coaching and are writing to members and parents to explain our proposals, inviting them to attend our meeting, in order to voice their views. Another task

at the AGM will be to elect a new committee, which includes a vacancy for a Junior Organizer and a new Chairman. In this respect, I am sure you will all join me in thanking Jan Curtis and Pauline Styles, for their sterling contributions to the Club. As Jan has now moved to Thame, she is finding it very difficult to travel to and fro in order to take charge of Junior activities. Pauline has been Chairman for several years, after a stint as Secretary and is also our perennial Caterer-in-Chief. Fortunately, she has been persuaded to retain the latter appointment, which is good news for us as the Tinsel Tournament beckons on Sunday, 15th December.

On behalf of all club members, may we wish all local residents a very happy Christmas and prosperous 2003!

Ingrid Tomlins (Hon. Sec) : 01494 446083

Broadband for our Villages

So, "how's it going?" I hear you ask, well we've got the registrations up to 250 now, which is very good but BT Wholesale haven't taken the bait yet. The problem is that the Naphill exchange hasn't been given a registration target yet. This could be for a number of reasons, I'm trying very hard to find out why, with a small amount of success. If there is anyone reading this who has any insider knowledge or connections in BT then please do contact me.

So if you haven't registered your interest to get broadband then please do it now. You can do it via your own Internet Service Provider or do it on this BT web site:

www.btopenworld.com/broadband/reg10

It does not commit you to anything at all, it's just to register your interest. The exchange at Naphill covers; Naphill, Walters Ash, Hughenden Valley (& part way up Cryers Hill), Bradenham and some houses around Saunderton, all numbers that start with 56. So if you know someone in this area who may not read this, then please contact them and suggest that they register their interest.

Hopefully, when we have convinced BT that we really do want Broadband in our villages, they will email you back to ask if you really DO want to have it in your home. When they have about 75% of the registrations signed up they will fit the equipment in the exchange.

Once the gear is fitted in the exchange and you have signed up, all you need then is a small filter that plugs into your telephone socket and an ADSL modem then away you go, phone and fast internet on the same line at the same time.

I hope to cover more technical bits in future articles, in fact during this Broadband campaign I've discovered there's a bit of a thirst in the village for more computer information and advice. So, myself or other like-minded individuals hope to do regular articles in the *Gazette* to help you through some of the basic problems with computers, especially the Internet and connecting to it.

Names and numbers to note

The Gazette's e-mail is nwagazette@lycos.co.uk

Naphill Website is at :
<http://members.tripod.co.uk/Naphill>

Andrew Wilmot designed and maintains the site - his e-mail address is aewilmot@lycos.co.uk

Village Hall bookings can be made by ringing 565604: e-mail Naphill@lycos.co.uk

Local Community Beat Officer is TBA. For the police control room, ring 431133

Crime Reduction Officer is Steve Kirby on 686111

Naphill and Walter's Ash School has a website at <http://www.nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk/>

Prescription Collection Service: Doreen Burge 565430; Betty Williams 563366; or Ginny Ratcliffe 563650.

I also have a plan to maybe hold evening master-classes in the village hall, so you can come along and ask those questions you've always wanted to ask.

To help me get information to you about things like broadband, articles or the master-classes, please send me your email address. I promise not to give it out to anyone, it is just to be held by me to get village information out to you all in a fast, efficient manner.

Alan Jessop : 563369 : email@alanjessop.com

Naphill Toddlers

Our Halloween craft session went very well, lots of colouring, spider making and wizard outfits everywhere! Many thanks to all the people that helped organise it and thanks to those who came along.

Next big diary event is the Christmas party on **5 December** for which we have booked the Children's Entertainer "Cheeky Monkeys". Tickets are limited and are available from Sharon Piercy on 562081 or at the Toddler Group. The cost of the tickets are £5 per child, which includes the entertainment, tea and a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Since the new term began on 5 September the Toddlers Group has looked somewhat depleted as many of last year's toddlers have progressed to School and the new intake numbers are much less. We have plenty of room for new faces!

In January the current committee will need to be replaced by a new one made up of parents of the Toddler Group, as it is a parent run organisation. The commitment is very little in terms of time but without a

new committee the Toddler Group will cease to exist which would be a great shame. If anyone wishes to take on the challenge for 12 months please phone me on the number below.

We can be found every Thursday afternoon during term time from 2.00 – 4.00pm in the Village Hall. All Parents, Grandparents and Carers are welcome to join us and we have something to suit whatever mood your toddler is in, be it letting of steam or quietly modeling some play dough.

Each session is pay-as-you-come and the nominal fee includes tea, juice and biscuits. New faces always welcome. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sharon Piercy : 562081

Naphill Evening WI

Our Annual Meeting in October was a time to look back over the past year and to elect the President and Committee for the coming year. The President took the opportunity to thank the Committee and members for their support over the past year. Marion Lawrence was thanked for organising the trip to the Magic Circle in London. This really did prove to be a magical evening with non-stop entertainment and refreshments.

Seventeen of us went to the Disraeli Group meeting on the 22 October when Dr. Brandham gave a talk with slides on a Year at Kew. It made us realise how lucky we are to have these lovely gardens nearby and we intend to visit them again in the very near future. We were pleased when Naphill won the competition with Betty Leaver's miniature garden. This was a work of art and deserved to win the prize.

On 28 November we will be going to London to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and to see the Christmas lights in Oxford Street.

Dr. Brandham will be coming to our November meeting and this time his talk will be A Camera in India. Our meeting on 12 December will be our Christmas party and Kate Tuffney from Floreat will be showing us some Christmas decorations.

As this the last *Gazette* before Christmas I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Betty Williams : 563366

Blood Donors

There will be two sessions held in the Village Hall during December. The first session is on the 6th, the attendance times being 2pm - 4pm and 5pm - 6.45pm

The second session is on the 20th, the attendance times are slightly different, 2pm - 3.30pm and 4.30pm - 6.45pm.

New and regular donors please do your utmost to attend one of these sessions.

Bob Davis : 563846

Readers' letters

From John Bullock

Appeal for missing garden tool...

Some time ago I lent out my adjustable length twig & bough, rope-operated pruning shears, and as I did not make a note of the borrower's name, I've no idea who it was! Now, another friend wants to borrow them – BUT THEY ARE MISSING!

Can I please ask the unknown borrower to return them to me ASAP as I don't want to let the friend down? Just leave them by my garden gate please. Thank you.

John Bullock, 157 Main Road, 563429

From Marge Sawney

The Bazaar held at Hughenden Valley Village Hall on 2 November was a great success. We raised £1,200 for Multiple Sclerosis.

Thank you to friends who gave their help and support.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Multiple Sclerosis, High Wycombe & District Branch

District & County Councillor's Report

I never ceased to be amazed as to what extent the County Council has an effect on our every day lives; from using roads and paths, to social services and education, but another interesting aspect is within Trading Standards, Weights and Measures and the Registrars Department. This latter service recently provided a seminar for members, where we learned that civil ceremonies are now available, not just for marriage, but for naming, and the conducting of funerals as well

A Young People's Conference was held in October, at Green Park, Aston Clinton to find out what young people want from youth services in the County. Around 150 young people aged 13 to 16 attended the conference and their views will have a direct impact on future youth services. I recently attended a meeting of the Wycombe Youth Council to answer questions they put to the panel, comprised of councillors, police and council officers. To see a full council chamber of keen young people concerned about their community bodes well for all our futures.

The recent spate of mindless vandalism in the village has caused much justified concern. The theft and burning of a car left at the village hall car park has prompted me to seek a review of the lack of policing in the village and our rural communities at large. The Chief Superintendent for Chiltern Vale has assured me that our concerns are taken very seriously and it is my intention to call a meeting in the village, early in the new year, where the police will be able to explain their plans for our future security. In the meantime, please

inform the police of all incidents, which cause concern, even a recorded message is added to the statistics

I have received several applications for support from my community leaders' fund and I am pleased to help where I can. However, I do need some specific information of the proposed scheme, regarding its planning and implementation and any other funding which might have been achieved

Recently, I have received several comments from residents concerned about noise and vibration resulting from low flying helicopters. In a detailed response from the Ministry of Defence, the following sentence might give some re-assurance. "Whilst every effort is made to avoid flying over residential areas, it is not always entirely possible due to a variety of climatic, operational and flight safety considerations. Nevertheless, crews have been reminded of their responsibilities to the general public and I would like to offer my apologies for the disturbance caused". I understand that one of the main problems is the use of the recreation field next to Courns Wood for Chinook helicopters, the site near the Headquarters building is only of use to smaller helicopters.

As Christmas will soon be upon us may I take this opportunity of wishing all readers a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

Richard Pushman

Naphill & Walter's Ash Residents Association

Planning

02/7391/FUL 23 Vincents Way, Naphill. Rear conservatory.

02/7394/FUL Trada, Stocking Lane, Hughenden. Replacement conservatory roof and insertion of Velux roof lights.

02/7453/FUL ntl transmitter station, RAF High Wycombe, New Road, Walter's Ash. Installation of 4 antennas on existing tower with equipment cabin, cabinet and feeder gantry.

02/7508/FUL Naphill House, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill. Formation of riding manege.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5 December 2002 at Naphill Village Hall 8.00 pm.

Malcolm Leflaive : 563634

The December and January sky in Naphill & Walters Ash

Sunset will be at its earliest on December 13 and sunrise will be at its latest on 30 and the shortest day on 22.. The Moon is new on December 4 and January 2; it is full on December 19 and January 18. The Geminid meteor

Naphill Apathy Club Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of NAC, the Naphill Apathy Club, will be held at 7pm in Naphill Village Hall on 29 February 2003 or on the next unavailable day. Agendas will not be circulated and coffee and tea will not be served. We look forward to not seeing you. Please keep this news quiet.



shower should be at its brightest on December 13 and 14 in the east with an expected 75 hourly rate of hits. Elusive Mercury might be seen low in the west-southwest sky about 45 minutes after sunset at the end of December and early in January. Mars, Venus and an ebbing Moon will be seen very close together in the southeastern sky at dawn on December 1. The bright star just north of Mars is Spica. The large galaxy in Andromeda (M31) is overhead, and Orion is low in the southeast in the evenings rising higher in January.

Life in the universe (part 2):

		Sun	Moon	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn
1 Dec	Rises	07.47	03.37	04.18	04.06	21.15	17.00
	Sets	15.57	14.38	14.30	14.24	12.15	09.18
8 Dec	Rises	07.56	11.55	04.05	04.04	20.47	16.30
	Sets	15.54	20.09	14.15	14.05	11.47	08.48
15 Dec	Rises	08.03	13.50	04.00	14.03	20.18	16.00
	Sets	15.53	03.12	14.02	13.46	11.20	08.18
22 Dec	Rises	08.08	18.31	04.00	04.01	19.49	15.31
	Sets	15.56	10.36	13.49	13.28	10.52	07.48
29 Dec	Rises	08.10	02.42	04.05	03.59	19.18	15.01
	Sets	16.01	13.01	13.38	13.11	10.23	07.18
1 Jan	Rises	08.10	06.57	04.08	03.58	19.05	14.48
	Sets	16.04	14.32	13.34	13.03	10.11	07.05
8 Jan	Rises	08.08	11.16	04.17	03.56	18.33	14.18
	Sets	16.12	22.40	13.25	12.47	09.42	06.35
15 Jan	Rises	08.03	13.25	04.27	03.54	18.01	13.49
	Sets	16.22	05.38	13.18	12.31	09.13	06.05
22 Jan	Rises	07.56	21.44	04.38	03.51	17.29	13.19
	Sets	16.34	10.17	13.14	12.16	08.44	05.36
29 Jan	Rises	07.46	05.56	04.48	03.48	16.56	12.50
	Sets	16.46	13.13	13.13	12.02	08.14	18.26

In the November issue of *The Gazette* I mentioned the two books published quite recently that gave contrary arguments about the existence of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. AmirAczel has written 'yes' in his book *Probability 1*. Peter Ward and Frank Drake in *Rare Earth* argue that although simple single-celled

life may well be ubiquitous throughout the universe, they draw attention to the need for the large number of essential but extremely rare coincidences to enable intelligent life to develop. The first is the need for a stable sun over a long period. This excludes most stars in the universe including binaries, variable stars and stars only 30% larger than the sun (larger stars burn out too quickly). Smaller stars would also not be suitable (they create other problems) and this excludes 95% of all stars. Then the 'earth' has to be just the right distance from the sun, so that water is neither permanently frozen nor boiling. Ward and Drake show that this limits the location of the earth to a zone from 5% nearer to and 30% further from the sun. We also need a Jupiter like planet, through its powerful force of gravity, located at the right distance in the solar system to protect the earth from devastating collisions from comets and asteroids. As has already been written in an earlier article in this column, the cataclysmic encounter with the Earth some four plus billion years ago that created the Moon is also significant. A similar encounter now would destroy all life on Earth.

Astronomers from Pennsylvania State University have recently suggested that the Moon is also responsible for the stability of the Earth's axis, which causes the seasons. Without this stabilising factor, the Earth would probably have a very different climate that would involve significantly larger temperature variations within the year. The Ward/Drake book argues that the location of the Sun in the milky way galaxy is also relevant. We need to be not too near the centre of the galaxy to avoid pernicious radiation; nor can we be too near the edge of the galaxy for otherwise there would be insufficient metals and other elements that make up the chemistry of the Earth. Rather like the Goldilocks fairy tale, everything has to be just right and the chances of Earth and the solar system having been repeated are too remote to contemplate. We are probably alone.

Grant Woodruff

Naphill Neighbours

Members were expecting a talk entitled "The Royal Collection" at the November meeting, however the presenter, Mr. P Smith, was unable to attend owing to ill health. Into the breach stepped Mr. Andrew Howard of Beechdean Dairies in North Dean for what proved to be an excellent evening. Along with Jez and Neil, two of his employees, he brought an ice cream making machine and we were all treated to samples of vanilla and strawberry straight from the production line - quite delicious. Andrew gave us an enthusiastic insight into the workings of the dairy and its products. The 400 cows at present produce one million litres of ice cream per year, which is available in 32 different flavours. Watch out if you are travelling by Emirates or Malaysian Airlines, or are invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party, as you may be served with Beechdean ice cream! Andrew and his wife have now

started a bakery and he was kind enough to bring cakes along for us to try. He also said he would provide some cakes for the Christmas Fayre cake stall - what a gem! Thank you Andrew for a great evening, we all enjoyed it so much.

During the meeting, Sheila had the pleasant task of presenting Lily Ellis with a bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her Diamond Wedding anniversary. These were passed on with the very best wishes of the members.

Our next meeting on 9th December will be the Christmas Dinner to be held in the Village Hall. Following that on 17th December, 50 members and guests have booked for our trip to London which includes supper and a tour of the Christmas lights.

To start the year 2003 our meeting will be held on Monday 13th January at 8.00pm when Mr. Mark Meltonville from Wycombe Museum will give a talk on "High Wycombe - the town before chairs". We have prepared an excellent programme for the coming year and always welcome new members to our friendly club.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Shrimpton : 562100

Pre-school news

During November and December we have been working on the theme "Food" divided into bread, vegetables, fruit, eating out etc. The children have been making bread, rolls and fruit salad to eat as well as food themed art and craft work. We are also looking forward to the "Christmas" theme during the last two weeks of term.

We are having our annual Nativity on 6th December and our Christmas Party on 12th December.

After Christmas in the January term some new children will be joining us.

For more information or details about pre-school the contact numbers are 01494 564037 (am) or 01494 565359 (pm).

Debbie Marchant

Hoax Letters

Local residents have reported receiving letters asking them to send £10 to the author, then to create 200 similar letters and send them to random names from the phone directory in return for a large sum of money (£40,960). The police have been made aware of the existence of these hoax letters. Do with them what they deserve and throw them in the bin.



Naphill Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30 November

In the Village Hall

Doors open at 1.00p.m.

Santa to arrive at 1.15p.m.!



*Santa's Grotto, Raffle, Refreshments, Mulled Wine,
Craft Stalls, Games, Tambola etc.*



Viva Apathy!

Inspired by the vision of the outgoing editor in his October editorial, I am delighted to announce the launching of the Naphill Apathy Club (NAC). Initially consideration was given to a slightly different name, the Naphill Apathy Group (NAG), as the latter has a more interesting acronym, especially for the female of the species but it does unfortunately suggest some activity, albeit critical.

There are, as you know, many clubs and societies operating in the village but it should be remembered that in any cross-section of mankind, only about 10% can be accurately described as active members of a community. One can readily observe within the village that it is the same group of people who DO THINGS, while 90% presumably watch TV! Thus, in forming the Apathy Club, we immediately create a prime force in the village with 90% of the villagers as potential members. It must surely be possible to harness this usually invisible and silent power, which has a certain parallel with the radiation produced by nuclear fission which is invisible but deadly.

The notice elsewhere in this issue gives details of the inaugural meeting of the Club. There will, of course, be no chairman of the meeting and minutes will not be recorded or circulated. In establishing the Club, it is important that the duties of the elected officials should

be clearly defined. The chairman must be a person of infinite lethargy, well-qualified to do nothing with tremendous style. The secretary will require no writing skills because there will be no requirement for meetings and no actions to initiate or minutes to prepare. Indeed, his/her main duty will be to discourage enthusiasm and liveliness amongst members. The treasurer will require no mathematics or computer skills, as there will be no subscriptions to collect and no functions to finance. It is anticipated that there will be no shortage of volunteers for these posts which clearly require no deviation from normal inactivity.

This entry for the December *Gazette* is late – naturally – and will probably not be printed. But does this matter? Apathetically – NO. Sleep well.

David Leith

Hearing Dogs For The Deaf

Will readers please be good enough to drop any of their used Birthday Cards into me? I can then pass them on to Mr. & Mrs. R Smith, local members of the Hearing Dogs Charity, as they have a marvelous scheme for recycling such cards to the “as new” standard, enabling them to sell their handiwork to raise money for this well worthwhile organisation. Thank you.

John Bullock, 157 Main Road : 563429

Over 60's Club

Frank very nobly stepped in to give us an enjoyable game of "Housie" on the 1st November when we had a Bring & Buy sale.

Dates to the end of the year:

29 November - Princess Risborough W.I. Christmas Carol afternoon.

13 December - Cookham Bell Ringers. Please bring your Christmas cards for Joyce to distribute as this will be our last meeting before Christmas.

2 January 2003 - THURSDAY Christmas dinner at Village Hall. £10 approx. 12.45 for 1.00pm start.

We hope to see you again in the New Year on January 2nd and meanwhile wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a pleasant New Year.

Any who have recently moved into the village, or who don't know about us, we would give you a warm welcome at 2.00pm alternate Fridays.

Stella Page : 562314

Quiz night

Naphill-cum-Bradenham Conservatives invite you to a quiz evening on Thursday 5th December starting at 7.30pm in the Evangelical Church Hall. Tickets cost £7.50, including a fish-and-chips or chicken-and-chips supper.

It is hoped there will be eight tables of six. We can help with making up tables if you wish. Glasses will be provided, but please bring your own drinks.

There are splendid prizes for the winning table. Lucky number tickets available from Valerie Pushman (563122) or Peggy Waterston (565969). Please ring for tickets or further information.

Naphill Common Committee

Since we have experienced so many problems in our dealings with the bodies responsible for the Common (West Wycombe estate, English Nature, Bucks County Council – to name only some of them) we have enlisted the help of our local MP (David Liddington) in trying to improve the state of the Common. This has already paid dividends and we have finally received welcome news. Unfortunately the good news has also been accompanied by bad news but first the good news.

English Nature has assured us that lack of money is not an issue in resolving the problems we face on the Common. Apparently, sufficient funds are available to do all of the required work and the Common is in the top 5 sites in the Southeast Area in the English Nature priority list. The Common has also been accepted as an area to receive the status of National Nature reserve, which should further strengthen protection of the Common.

The bad news is that English Nature are unable to sign an agreement with the landowner (Sir Edward Dashwood) to start restorative and remedial work as Sir Edward has awarded a lease to the occupants of Cookshall Lane Farm to allow them to use a substantial part of the common for Pheasant Shooting. We are at a loss to understand how a landowner can do this in a Site of Special Scientific Interest let alone a National Nature reserve. This now means that guns will be extensively used on the Common, without warning and in the vicinity of bridleways and paths.

We are very very concerned about this and have of course already made our views clear about the dangers inherent in this arrangement. It would be very helpful if as many residents as possible could write to at least one, if not all of the following people to express their concerns about this. The names and addresses are as follows: Mr. David Liddington, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, Mr. Alan Law, Regional Coordinator, English Nature, Foxhold House, Thornford Road, Crookham Common, Thatcham Berkshire, RG19 8EL, Sir Edward Dashwood, West Wycombe estate, West Wycombe House, West Wycombe and our local District Councillor, Richard Pushman. The more letters these people receive about the dangers of mixing firearms with recreational walking and riding the more likely they are to pay some attention. Please don't forget to mention the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which specifically seeks to extend right of access to Commons.

There has been some further damage done to the Common by recent storms and we are trying to get the footpaths cleared as a first step.

Dr. Marek Pawlik : 563126

Naphill Fireworks 2002

This popular event celebrated its tenth birthday this year since its re-launch by the present committee. November 2nd was the wettest Saturday possible. Despite this, our regular volunteers turned up and built one of the biggest bonfires ever and prepared the usual attractions. Our firework team prepared the support posts etc. and set up the display in high winds and driving rain, making every effort to protect the fuses.

The rain eased off a little at about 6.30pm and Clive Lawrence was able to light the bonfire. The display commenced on time, however fuses were slow and up to a dozen pieces failed totally causing pauses in the performance. The team were very encouraged by the crowd who certainly seemed to enjoy the evening.

Sadly numbers were understandably well down. This of course meant that our revenue, in aid of the Village Hall, was somewhat below expectations, however it is hoped that we will at least cover our costs.

As always, on behalf of the committee, Andrew Wilmot, John Harris, Mike Pool, Clive Lawrence and

Don Turner, I would like to thank Bob Hathaway and the Sports Club for their excellent catering. Thanks also to our pubs and shops for selling the tickets for us, plus the many individuals who gave up their time to help and of course thank you to Gaskins, Cilag and Tesco for their sponsorship!

We owe most of all to the village families who turned up despite the terrible conditions – thank you for supporting your Village Hall! We look forward to seeing you again next year.

David Hayes.

2002 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Once again the people of Naphill and Walters Ash have responded in a marvelous manner to the above appeal. My grateful thanks to you all. Our total this year is £1,575.14p which includes the sum of £213.79p collected at the Naphill Service of Remembrance

This year the Rev. Simon Cronk, Vicar of St. Michael & All Angels, Hughenden, conducted our service. It was heartening to see so many people attending the service and especially the members of our Scout and Guide Associations who proudly carried their flags and banners and formed a Guard of Honour. Wreaths were placed around our memorial stone by village Organisations. Thanks must also be expressed to our trumpeter, Jonathon King, who at short notice came and played The Last Post and Reveille.

Valerie Pushman

Hughenden Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 12 November.

If you read this column regularly you will have noticed that we have not had any police consultation for quite a few months now. However, although we do not have a representative from the Police attending our meetings, the council were shocked to hear of recent events of car thefts within the village. With willful destruction from vandals and cars being destroyed and dumped the Parish Council are writing to the Chief Constable and our MP, David Liddington about the slow response from the Police and our grave concerns that Hughenden Parish does not have the policing that it is entitled to.

Naphill does have a low crime rate, however we know that not every incident is reported to the Police, therefore statistics can appear false. Please report any incident, however trivial you may think it is, to the Police. You may not get the response that you want but it will show a true reflection of our needs for better policing in our community.

Naphill Ward has decided to take the initiative of preparing for a Village Design Statement. The purpose of Village Design Statements is to show how planned development should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting and contributes to the

conservation and, where possible, enhancement, of the local environment.

The Village Design Statements are the outcome of an initiative taken by the Countryside Commission in 1996. It is to be welcomed and is approved Supplementary Planning Guidance to be used in conjunction with the local plan with Wycombe District Council. It basically tells the district council what we want and what we don't want in our village. We will be informing you more of what all this entails during the next year.

Don't forget our planning meetings, which are held every three weeks. If you have any worries about any issues of plans in the village please do not hesitate to contact me or the Parish Clerk on 01494 715296.

The next planning meeting is Thursday 12 December. Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 10 December, both at 8.00pm.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all of your Parish Councillors, Richard Pushman, John Harris, Sarah Bacon and myself, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

Jane Elmidoro : 01844 275478

Village Hall Report, November 2002

This month's meeting started with a discussion about the events of the evening of Friday 1 November. A car was stolen from the Village Hall car park, joy ridden around the Crick, and finally dumped and torched at the end of Hunts Hill Lane. You will find other responses to these events elsewhere in this issue, but it will suffice to say here that the Village Hall Council took the matter very seriously and decided on various actions to try and address these issues.

The oven in the Hall has again been letting us down despite various visits by the engineer. We do apologise to everyone who has been let down by the eccentric behaviour of the oven and ensure you that we are doing all we possibly can to get a reliable cooker in place. In the meantime there should be a contact number on display in the Hall telling you who to contact should you have a problem. Do make sure that we know of any difficulties so that we can rectify matters as soon as possible.

The Jazz evening was a great success. It provided both great entertainment and a bit of profit to go towards the Hall's funds. Many thanks to all those of you who supported it. We plan to run a similar evening in the New Year so look out for it!

The fireworks were again a great success despite atrocious weather conditions. Actually, by the time the display was due to start the rain had just about stopped, but I think that our thanks must go out to the intrepid band who risked double pneumonia by spending all day setting it up in pouring rain. Also

thanks to all those of you who ventured out on a filthy night to support us. It has been a while since we had a wet bonfire night so I suppose we were due for one, but let's pray for better weather next year.

The next event is the Christmas Fayre on the 30th November in the Village Hall. Santa has it in his diary so come along and join him from 1.00 pm.

WANTED - BODIES OF ALL SHAPES, SIZES AND AGES TO HELP ORGANISE THE FETE NEXT JUNE. If you could possibly give up some of your time, thought and inspiration to next years Fete please phone me on 563479. We really do need some new blood to give the fete a lift and help produce a great village event for all of the community. Any help you could give however small would be greatly appreciated. You might even have a bit of fun doing it!

By the time that you read this it will be just about time to light the Christmas Tree again and what a wonderful sight that is. There will be collection boxes around the village to fund this. Please drop your loose change into these boxes to show your appreciation of this village tradition that is admired, not only by us villagers, but also by interlopers from Lacey Green, Speen, Haghenden and the like.

*Sarah Bacon
Chairman Naphill Village Hall Council*

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday **7 December**, there will be a Christmas Fayre in Naphill Village Hall, beginning at 2pm.

This is *the* Christmas Fayre with something for everyone – games, gifts and attractions for the whole family – all at amazing value. Many of the stalls will be run by the Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts themselves – a real team effort.

On the day, you will be able to: buy your last-minute Christmas gifts – including the always popular cakes; play games and competitions; hunt through the bric-a-brac; and enjoy the various refreshments.

Please come along and support this event, where all the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Headquarters Building – a facility used and enjoyed by many village children. Also, we are expecting a *special* guest at the Fayre See you there?

Computer Training Course at Naphill & Walter's Ash School.

Would you like to improve your computer skills and achieve a qualification?

As part of our commitment to work closer with the community Naphill and Walters Ash School together with Amersham and Wycombe College, are intending to run a Level 2 Word Processing and Excel

Spreadsheet computer course from 9th January 2003 at the school.

The course will be delivered over a period of 12 weeks (excluding school holidays) at the cost of £38.00 per person. For further information or if you are interested in enrolling, please contact the School on 562813 or myself on 565439 by 15th December 2002.

Julie Schmid, I.T.C. Technician.

Nuisance gone too far

It is with regret we have to report an escalation of the trouble at the Village Hall. By comparison some of the previous mindless vandalism seems quite tame. A line has now been crossed and I urge all residents to be even more vigilant and to report all incidents, however seemingly trivial, to the Police. It is not always possible for the Police to give the attention they (or we) would like, but some of the problem is that Naphill is perceived as a trouble free (relatively) part of the area. The recent escalation I trust will change that perception by the authorities and help the village to receive the policing levels necessary to curb the trouble.

The incident I refer to is the theft and joy riding of a car from the Village Hall car park. This was for no other reason than mindless, wanton vandalism and destruction, or drink induced mindlessness in all probability, evidenced by the beer and spirit bottles these 16-17 year old cretins leave behind. The car was crashed through the car park wooden bollards, driven around the field for upwards of one and a half hours, then crashed back through the bollards and finally driven down Hunts Hill Lane where it was unceremoniously torched leaving a burned out shell. Two of the culprits are now known - the youth who broke in and drove the car lives in Downley, as I am sure others involved may well do. One of the others who had a major role in some of the destruction lives in Naphill and is probably well known. There has been a bout of underage drinking and vandalism at the Hall catalysed now perhaps by an influx of youths from Downley and I think it is time to convey the message of "not wanted or tolerated here".

Are you sure where your son (or daughter) is in the early hours if not at home? There were upwards of a dozen 16-17 year olds involved at 2-3 in the morning! The escalation of the trouble means increased vigilance by villagers and Police and be assured both charges and even claims for compensation will be made against anyone proven to be participating in this antisocial behaviour.

It is regrettable the Police could not take advantage of the one and a half hour window to turn up and catch these apologies for future citizens and members of society. This issue is being taken up elsewhere but clearly needs to address such factors as overall Police



Village Hall Christmas tree (photo)

We all enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee this year. The previous monarch to have celebrated a jubilee was King George V, whose Silver Jubilee was in 1935. The celebrations must have been quite an event in Naphill. The photograph here, taken at the fete that year, shows Mrs. Disraeli crowning Phyllis Smith Queen of the May. Phyllis went on, as Queen of the May, to plant an Atlantic Cedar tree outside the village hall. So now we know the origin of our Christmas tree!

As she planted the tree, Phyllis said:

*Here have I set a cedar tree,
that ages yet and men to be,
may not forget this Jubilee.*

Sadly, Phyllis died 33 years ago but she must have had fond memories of 1935 and 'her' tree, especially when it was decorated with lights at Christmas. (We believe our tradition of decorating the tree outside the Village Hall at Christmas goes back over 50 years.) Phyllis came from a large family and many of her relatives still live in Naphill. Her cousin, Nesta Edwards, supplied the photograph and the information.

Mike Mason

[Editor's PS: Can anyone put names to faces here? In particular, the toddler being held on the left could well still be around.]

resourcing, priorities and as indicated at the beginning, perception of the level and nature of trouble an area receives. In this particular case several people reported these activities between 12.30 and 1.30 am. Due to the nature of the incident there was a potential issue of public safety but the Police could still not respond. We do need to make sure that jobs indulging in these antisocial activities are not allowed to get away with believing they are untouchable and that the Police will not bother to turn up. Stealing a car and joy riding it to destruction must be a far more serious concern to police and public than any previous incidents indulged by any Village Hall gang. Given the numbers (about a dozen) in the age group 16-17 I think public safety issues must be a concern.

If you are witness to any trouble or suspicious or antisocial behaviour, phone the Police on 465888 and make sure you get a call log reference number. Finally, if anyone has any thought how to make the Village Hall car park unattractive out of hours then suggestions will be gratefully received.

Village Hall Council

Carol Singing Around Naphill

K.R.A.S.H. youngsters accompanied by adults will be carol singing around Naphill on Friday 20 December between 6.30 and 7.45pm. We shall be making a circular tour starting in Lacey Drive, then Chapel Lane, Pursells Meadow and Brackenwood before returning along the Main Road into Christopher Close and back to the Evangelical Church.

The children will be rattling collection tins, the proceeds from which will be given to a charity (yet to be decided upon).

P.S. *K.R.A.S.H.* (Kids Really Are Special Here) meets on alternate Fridays in Naphill Evangelical Church from 6.30 to 8.00pm and offers children from 6 to 11 years a fun evening with singing, games, craft activity linked to a bible story led by Rev. Nick Jones, his guitar and helpers, young and old!

Norma Clarke : 563116

Changes in Service Times - St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden

At St Michael's we are about to embark on changes in service times. The principle motivation for these changes is to move the most attended service (to which the children come) from 9.30 am to 10.30am so that it will be the last service in the morning. We are hoping that after six months we will be able to make a final decision about these changes.

The changes will take effect on Advent Sunday this year, **Sunday 1st December**. From that Sunday the service times will be as follows:

8.00am - Said Holy Communion

9.00am - Chorally supported service (This replaces the present 11.15am service)

10.30am Morning worship with children's groups (This replaces the present 9.30am service.)

The monthly pattern at these services will remain as they are.

In addition, Sung Evensong will begin half an hour earlier at 6.00pm.

In December you are warmly invited to come to our special services as we approach Christmas.

1 December, 10.30 am, following the success of last years event, instead of our regular family service there will be a special Pantomime.

15 December, 3.00pm - Christingle service.

22 December, 6.00pm - Candle Lit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

24 December - Christmas Eve:

3.00pm - Crib Service

11.15pm - Midnight Communion

25 December - Christmas Day:

8.00am - Said Holy Communion

9.00am - Mattins

10.30am - Family Communion

5.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Simon Cronk

(Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden.)

Rev. Nick Young, Minister of Naphill Methodist Church writes ...

My life seems to be dominated by keys at the moment! I have spoken publicly about the keys I dropped down a drain at the side of the road (and managed to retrieve) so I won't repeat that story again.

Then there was the evening I was chasing backwards and forwards all over the place when all but one member of the family had left their keys inside the house. You wouldn't believe the route the one remaining set of keys took before everyone ended up in the right place.

My car has caused me some expenditure recently, including needing a new lock for the boot. When we lose keys (or have one that doesn't work properly) we can be in a right mess! You have probably heard it said before that, for Christians, Jesus is like a key because he gives us access to God the Father.

As a musician, there is another kind of key which I deal with every time I play. A key in music is the note, or set of notes, which gives the basis for a piece of music. It is a foundation on which the music is set; it helps give meaning to the music. Another metaphor for Jesus: again, we find that he fills that role in our lives, giving them a basis, a foundation, and meaning; helping us to make sense of life.

Is there a Christmas message in all of this? Go back to the first story. I nearly walked away from those keys and abandoned them to the slime, but by rolling up my sleeve and getting my hand dirty I reached down to rescue them. You don't need to look far to see what a mess we've made of this life. God could have abandoned us, but instead came down to all the messiness of this world, to reach us and restore us to a relationship with himself. Happy Christmas!

Nick

Naphill Evangelical Free Church

I wonder what does Christmas mean to you? Is it like the mixed bag of presents some children get from family or just like the specific present they have asked and hoped for?

If we think about it a varying degree of thoughts might come to mind, some good some bad. As a church minister I am expecting it to be one of my busiest times of year. Some of you may think it's the only time church ministers work more than one day a week. Mums are probably expecting to spend hours in the kitchen preparing a traditional Christmas meal only for the children to say they don't like it (the vegetables anyway). Dads spend ages digging out the Christmas decorations only to find they have to spend further time fixing the lights yet again. Children spend weeks trying to find out or inventing schemes to try and find out what they've been brought.

Christmas time is often thought of by many as a time when families can get together, for others who don't have family it is probably one of the loneliest times of year. Christmas is a time of great joy for some but sadness for others. But more often than not when it is all over everyone sits down, counts the cost, and says, "was it worth it?"

For many Christmas no longer has any meaning except to party and have a good time but in the Christian calendar it is a time we remember and celebrate the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ. At His birth over 2000 years ago I believe God had feelings of joy and sadness.

Joy in the sense that His One and only Son would be the means by which a world, which had chosen to live independently from God, would have a means of being reconciled to Him. People who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour and confess their rebellion towards God would be able to come back into a personal relationship with God.

God's Sadness is that it would cost the price of the life of His beloved only Son. That for the world to be reconciled to God, Jesus would voluntarily lay down His life for the people of the world. Sadness also because God knew so many would reject this offer of reconciliation and continue to live independently from Him. God loves each and every one of us but He knew what the cost of what we now call Christmas would be before He even started His plan to reconcile the world to Himself. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 16)*

As you give and hopefully receive presents and gifts this Christmas please don't forget the most precious gift God ever gave, Jesus Christ, and He is available to all everyday of the year if you would be willing to receive Him.

May you know the love, peace and presence of God this Christmas.

Bob Semple : 563304

Christians in the community : contact Norma Clarke, 563116

Friday 6 December at 6.30pm in Naphill Evangelical Free Church: *K.R.A.S.H.* "Kids Really Are Special Here" (for school years 1-6, ages 6-11).

Friday 13 December at 7.00pm in Church House, Hughenden : *T.R.A.S.H!* "Tweens Really Are Special Here" (for school years 7-10, ages 11-14).

Sunday 15 December at 3.45pm - carols around the Christmas Tree at Naphill Village Hall and then from 4.00pm inside the hall, followed by mince pies and hot drinks.

Friday 20 December *K.R.A.S.H.* Youngsters carol singing around Naphill.

Friday 10 January *K.R.A.S.H.* 6.30pm at Naphill Evangelical Church

Friday 17 January *T.R.A.S.H.* 7.00pm at Church House, Hughenden

Friday 24 January *K.R.A.S.H.*

Sunday 26 January *CELEBRATION** 4.30pm at Naphill and Walters Ash School, Kilnwood.

Friday 31 January *T.R.A.S.H.*

**CELEBRATION* is a monthly event held at Naphill and Walters Ash School organised by members of all three local churches - a time for singing those favourite songs, enjoying live music, perhaps a mini drama presentation and more! All the local Ministers/Vicars try to be there as well as a selection of people who do or don't regularly attend Church. There is also a "Celebration" chocolate on the way in!