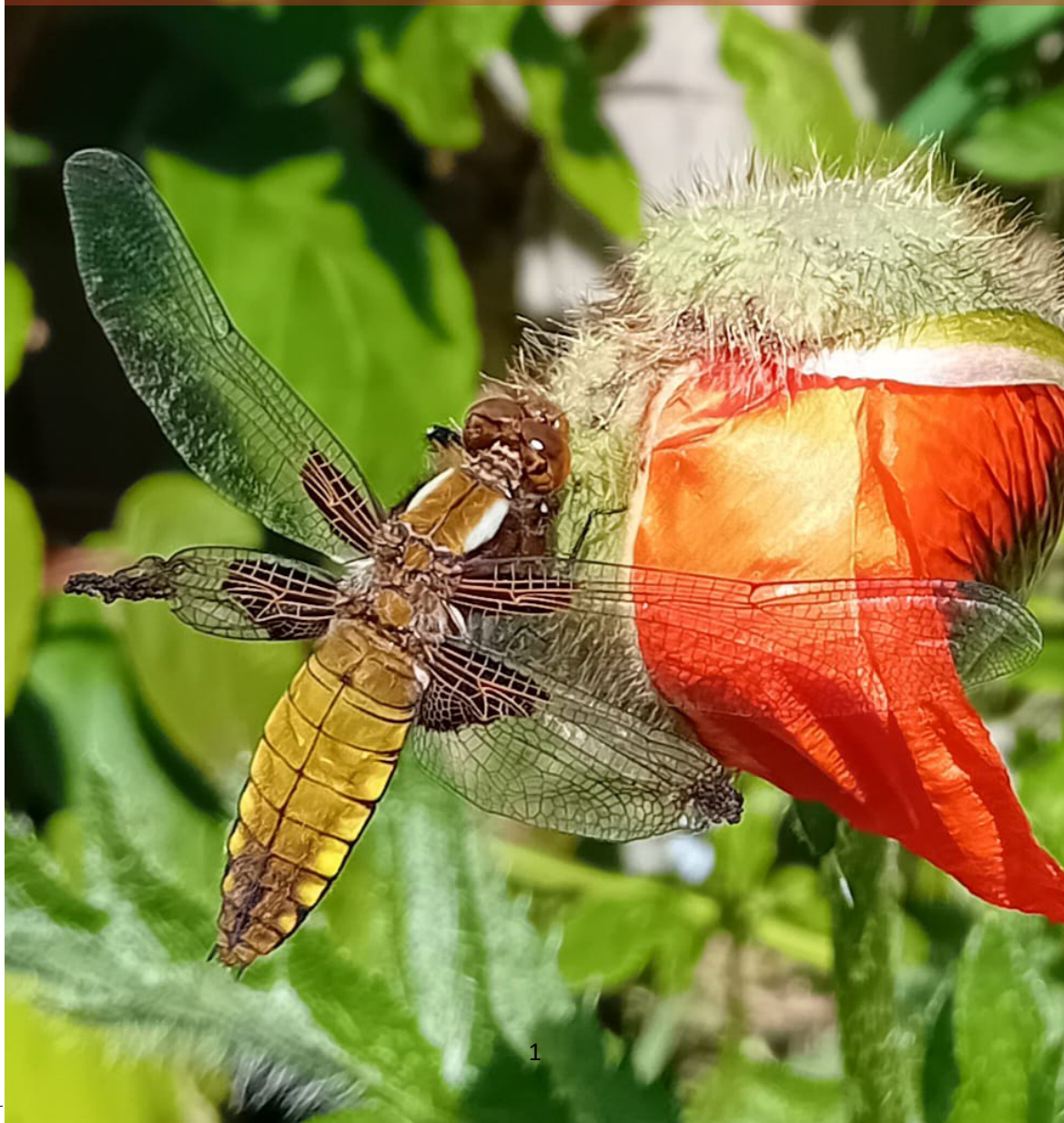


# HUGHENDEN NEWS

BRYANTS BOTTOM, CRYERS HILL & HUGHENDEN VALLEY  
SUMMER 2025

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## Chair's Roundup

Paul Woodford - HVRA Chairman and Treasurer  
E-mail: pbwoodford@icloud.com


## HVRA Updates

I am a long-term resident of Hughenden Valley, having moved into our house near the village hall in 1977, with Carolyn, my wife and our then 11-month-old son, James. Our family has since grown to three sons and five grandchildren.

When the children grew older, Carolyn joined the preschool over the road at the village hall and stayed there for ten years. During this time, she came to know many in the community and now is always pleased to bump into and be recognised by children she used to look after, now often parents themselves.

My career involved travel, much of which was spent commuting to London. Later on, there was travel around the UK but also with regular travel to Europe and USA. My early years were initially in procurement followed by a move into business planning and analysis. The latter twenty-five years of my career involved various positions in systems.

Leading up to retirement I worked as a presales technical engineer on storage systems and enjoyed the benefit of being based from home whilst covering UK and Europe. And I suppose it was during this period that I began to appreciate local issues and



**Olly Turner**

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the voluntary work done by members of our community. Till then I had done little by way of participation in community life.

In 2014 I joined local neighbours in creating the HVDIG (Hughenden Valley Drainage Improvement Group) because of our localised experiences with sewage flooding; I looked after the finances and the website. In 2020 I was invited to become Treasurer of the HVRA and in doing so, I brought the DIG under the umbrella of the HVRA.

Turning to the present day, the HVRA has survived a year without either a Chairman or Deputy Chairman, but we have continued merrily along. You may be surprised to learn that we do have plans for the future.

The core work of the residents association continues without interruption and typically involves news distribution (primarily via the Hughenden News), and representing residents' interests in key activities such as Planning, Speed Watch, Speed Limit Applications, Planters and the DIG.

The long-planned replacement of the planters for the village entrances is underway with the new, shiny planters already purchased. They should be planted up and placed by the time this issue of the magazine is published.

Longer term, our aim is to make the HVRA more relevant to our younger residents – here I mean families with school age children. We have a perceived need to:

Provide village activities or events that families want to attend and fit into their modern lifestyle

We foresee the need to modernise our communication with the community

Our first foray into a change in village activities is with the Family Summer Picnic on Sunday 10th August. Planning for this is well advanced and is for everyone locally but we want to especially welcome families. It is funded jointly by the HVRA and HVVH. We will be providing a range of free-of-charge activities. Look out for free kids' ice creams.

As a start on refreshing our communication we are working on a redesign of the HVRA website, which has remained largely unchanged for some years now. We are seeking to improve the look and feel of the website as well as incorporate some exciting new features. We expect this work to come to fruition later in the year.

Paul Woodford  
Chairman

Over 20 people attended the HVRA 2025 Annual General Meeting held on 6th May.

The full documents for the AGM are available on the HVRA web site  
<https://hughendenresidents.org/docs/documents-agm-papers/>

Some highlights are presented here:

Paul Woodford presented a round-up of the past year:

## Introduction

Despite not having a formal Chair & Deputy Chair, HVRA managed to sustain strong levels of activity in the past year through a combination of hard work and particularly teamwork.

The Committee would like to thank our Road Reps for the sterling work they do in delivering magazines and collecting subscriptions. We would also like to thank the Committee members who double up as Road Reps but also take on additional roles in bringing together all the activities that HVRA undertakes. It would be too difficult to mention every one of our volunteers in this report, some twenty in all, but they know who they are.

## Fundraising, Charitable and Social Events

This year we ran three events:

The Potter Cup Quiz. (Strictly speaking, we ran two Quizzes this financial year – in April 2024 and March 2025). The Quiz is important to us as a fundraiser; the 2024 quiz was the last prepared and presented by Al

Bowyer and his team, and we must give thanks for his and their work over the years.

The 2025 Quiz was completely new and created from scratch by a new team within the HVRA and ably fronted on the night by our newest Road Rep. The event was sold out, possibly because of the reputation of the excellent supper that was laid on.

Summer Barn Dance. This was a repeat of the 2023 barn dance which had gone down a storm. But this year the attendance figures were low and ticket sales greatly reduced. Having said that, those who went had a great time and a small profit was generated thanks to the raffle that was run on the night.

Christmas Gift Bags. For us it has become the norm to alternate the Christmas charitable works between the Seniors Tea and the Christmas Gift Bags. Doing both in the same year would be too much work and this year Road Reps delivered the Gift Bags to 130 recipients which were much appreciated, and the number is expanding year on year.

## Activities and Initiatives

HVRA works on a variety of activities on an on-going basis. These include:

**Hughenden News.** The magazine has had a great year with a subtle re-design, resulting in a pleasing freshness and a wider content. We must thank the Parish Council for the £500 grant we receive each year in support of the costs of producing the magazine.

**Speed Watch Sessions** continue to be run through the year, which, along with data from the Speed Device opposite Deeter provide useful stats to the Police and so contribute to overall road safety and, hopefully, reduced speed through the villages.

**Speed Limit on Cryers Hill.** A petition was raised this year to reduce the 50mph speed limit on Cryers Hill to 40mph, and was well supported not only by residents but also the North West Chilterns Community Board. It remains in process.

**Planning.** A continuous watch is kept on planning applications; the main focus presently is on Orchard Caravans to the rear of properties along Warrendene Road.

**Planters.** HVRA has planned to replace the existing planters as they have become worn out. We are purchasing fewer but high-quality galvanised troughs – initially at HVRA expense, but we hope that an exceptional grant may be approved by the Parish Council to fund this.

**DIG.** The Drainage Improvement Group has had a busy year, involved with:

- Overpumping outside the Surgery to ease pressure on the sewage infrastructure.
- Attendance at Chalk Stream Project workshops to assist planning of the Hughenden Stream Restoration.
- Work with affected residents and Bucks Council on the flooding in Warrendene Road with Valley Road and Bryants Bottom. Liaise with BC on road drainage improvements and Natural Flood Management planning for the two areas.

## The Future

The work done by the HVRA is exceptional considering the shortage of volunteers, something that is so frequently found in organisations such as ours. As always we would welcome new volunteers, especially younger ones, to help with the running of the HVRA.

We are aware that three social events are sustainable each year for the HVRA given our present volunteer level but no more than that. It is important that we continue to raise money to support our charitable spends, but that is not all. We want to be relevant to a wider audience and that means providing events that residents, particularly families, want to come to. As a result, this coming August we are planning a Summer Family Picnic which focuses



on being an event primarily aimed at families. A disco, bouncy castle, games and entertainments will be provided at no cost to the residents but funded jointly by the HVRA and Village Hall Committee.

We have the offer of help from a local resident to work on IT systems for the HVRA. We are starting with the re-design and updating of the HVRA website. This will include such features as online advertising and subscriptions payment. We hope to follow this up with the development of a digital archive and other projects.

## Treasurer's Report

Paul also prepared the Treasurer's Report (he's a busy chap) for Year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

The accounts were reviewed and signed off by Bob Hawkins. Many thanks to Bob for his continued support of HVRA.

The Accounts Financial Summary for the year ended 31st March 2025 shows a surplus of £2050. Cash in the current and deposit accounts have built up this year to £16801, which is up from £14751 last year. During this year we transferred £2000 to the deposit account. £138 in interest was added to the deposit account this year.

Advertising income received this year was £3336, which is comparable to last year, but less than we would like to see. We are seeking additional

advertisers for the Summer and Winter editions of the magazine. Subscriptions of £5 per household for membership of HVRA amounted to £2495. This equates to a 71% coverage of residences in our catchment. Thanks must go to our Road Reps for collecting subscriptions. Whilst large amounts of subs are paid online, it continues to be the case that many residents are happier paying at the door.

Income from Fundraising and Other sources included the two Potter Cup events held in 2024 and 2025 which raised net income of £623 and £714 respectively. The 2024 event income was put toward the Christmas Gift Bags and the 2025 event funds will go towards a Seniors social event later this year. The Barn Dance this year raised a net amount of £147. The Hughenden Parish grant of £500 was received this year, which helps offset the production costs of the Hughenden News magazine.

- Expenditure this year was £5962, slightly lower than last year. Notable expenditure included:
- Magazine print and distribution costs amounted to £2983
- Village Hall hire costs for HVRA meetings were £260.
- Flower planters expenditure was £485.
- Senior Citizens Gift Bags costs were £881 (paid for partly from 2024 Potter Cup income)
- Insurance costs were £158

Note that some of this Year's Surplus, of £2050, will cover the print costs of the Spring edition of the magazine.

Finally, the key points from the draft minutes of the AGM:

From September 2025, our meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of each month (apart from January and August), in the Committee room of the Village Hall.

The following were elected as officers of the HVRA:

Chairman	Paul Woodford
Vice Chairman	Brian McCollum
Treasurer	Paul Woodford
Secretary	Rosemary Hewitt

### Horatio's Garden

Once the formalities were completed, an interesting and informative talk was given by Nikki Blagg on "Horatio's Garden"

<https://www.horatiogarden.org.uk/>

Their work is summarised as:

"Horatio's Garden nurtures the well-being of people after spinal injury in beautiful, vibrant sanctuaries within the heart of NHS spinal injury centres".

Every year there are over four thousand new severe spinal cases, who are treated in 11 centres across the UK. Some cases require prolonged and / or repeated stays in hospital.

A key feature is that a garden environment is decidedly different from the clinical world in which the patient can find themselves spending long periods. Therefore, the gardens have space for wheelchairs and even beds. With the help of professional garden designers, the gardens are springing up and receive strong positive feedback from carers, families and patients. The first garden was opened in 2012 in Salisbury.

Their largest garden is at Stoke Mandeville, it was designed by Joe Swift. The gardens are provided by the charity - the NHS cannot not fund them.

## **HVRA Mission Statement**

Paul Woodford - HVRA Chairman and Treasurer  
E-mail: pbwoodford@icloud.com

**HVRA Updates**

### **Hughenden Valley Residents Association Mission Statement**

Our mission is to advocate for and support our residents by  
addressing planning and local issues,  
fostering safe and vibrant communities, collaborating with  
councils and authorities, and enhancing  
the wellbeing and environment of Hughenden Valley, Bryants  
Bottom and Cryers Hill for all.

#### **What We Do**

- Represent residents on planning issues affecting the community
- Helping residents with planning issues that affect them
- Liaising with the Parish Council and County Councillors on local matters
- Carrying out Speed Watch sessions in the locality and liaising with Thames Valley Police
- Applying to lower the speed limit from 50 - 40mph on Cryers Hill
- Reporting of Bucks Council and Hughenden Parish Council grass and hedge cutting where failing
- Monitoring and raising cases of highways issues
- Working for the community on watercourse, drainage and sewage issues
- Supply, plant up and water planters to beautify Hughenden Valley and Bryants Bottom
- Partake in Chiltern Society and chalk stream projects
- Organisation of events for residents such as the annual Potter Quiz and the Summer Family Picnic
- Charitable works for Seniors such as the Seniors Tea and Christmas Gift Bags each year.
- HVRA Road Reps can act as a conduit by passing on the concerns of their residents to the Executive Committee for help and advice.

## Treasurer's Report

Paul Woodford - HVRA Chairman and Treasurer  
E-mail: pbwoodford@icloud.com

**HVRA Updates**

### A message from our Treasurer

Annual subscriptions for HVRA membership are due on 1 st July – they remain at £5. Road Reps will be round at some point to collect, probably when they deliver this magazine. However, if you wish to pay online account details are as follows:

Account Name: Hughenden Valley Residents Association or HVRA

Sort Code: 30-99-55

Acct No: 25967260

Don't forget to identify your house no/ name and road in the 18 character reference section when paying online. If we don't have that information, it becomes difficult to allocate the payment against your membership record.

Finally, we are hoping that planned changes to the HVRA website will include a secure online payment facility from within the website and make your payments much easier.

## Planning Report

Rosemary Hewitt - HVRA Secretary

**HVRA Updates**

Warrendene Road – 25/05071/CLP –  
Certificate of Lawfulness

for the Proposed Use or Development  
of the Land as a caravan site

On 10 th January this year, the owner of the Orchard site engaged new Planning Consultants who submitted a Supporting Statement that contained 198 pages plus 115 pages of supporting evidence, making a total of 313 pages for just one additional caravan (from 3 to 4).

Finally on Friday, 26th June, after analysing the lengthy submission, Bucks Planning Officer, Charles Power, signed the Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed use of land for the siting of four residential static caravans (an increase of 1 additional residential caravan). Unfortunately, this could be a maximum of 65' x 22' in size and located anywhere on the orchard site!

## Drainage Improvement Group

Paul Woodford, HVRA DIG

E-mail: pbwoodford@icloud.com Tel: 07789 544065

**HVRA Updates**

At this time of the year, one would normally expect the drainage issues in the valley to disappear so that we can all relax for the summer. Not so this year!

Last Autumn's heavy rain resulted in the stream flowing through the village quite early, during December I think. Then, the prolonged dry spell in the Spring caused the stream to dry up, again quite early as it will normally flow through to the Summer.

But on 12th May the Valley was hit by a monumental thunderstorm accompanied by exceptional rain and hailstones of an extraordinary size. It resulted in flash flooding. Sadly, we saw The Harrow flooded and nearby houses similarly affected yet again.

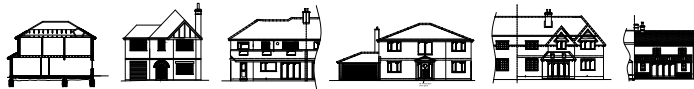
The work undertaken by Bucks Council on the Warrendene ditch was clearly insufficient to help prevent this flooding; more work is needed.

Additionally, we saw Deeters frontage and nearby houses along Valley Road flooded in their rear gardens where the stream flows. The latter flood was likely caused by the inability of the stream to cope with the sudden large flood of water. There is a possibility that this may have resulted from lack of maintenance of the stream bed in this area.

Further down the valley we saw the stream surge and carry down large amounts of flotsam and jetsam which can easily block the flow of the stream at pinch points. Near the Village Hall,



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houses normally affected by sewage issues saw inspection pits close to the road fill and spill sewage into gardens, prompting an unpleasant clean-up in ensuing days.

In this regard it is timely for us to print an extract from the Bucks Council document on the responsibilities of

homeowners with the stream running through their gardens, details below.

At the time of going to print, the promised and much-delayed Flood Management meeting had just been scheduled to take place on 17th June in Naphill Village Hall. We hope to report on the meeting in the next issue.

### **Bucks Council Advice - Your rights and responsibilities as a riparian owner**

You have the right to protect your property from flooding, and your land from erosion, if:

- Your land boundary is adjacent to a watercourse - it's assumed that you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless stated otherwise in your property deeds
- a watercourse runs through or underneath (through a culvert or pipe) land that you own.

However, you must get any plans approved by the relevant authority prior to starting work - see information about applying for land drainage consent.

As a riparian owner, you:

- must let water flow through your land without any obstruction, pollution, or diversion which affects the rights of others
- must accept flood flows through your land, even if these are caused by insufficient capacity downstream
- must maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks
- must keep the watercourse banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk, either on your land or downstream - this includes any litter or loose vegetation, even if they did not come from your land
- must keep structures, such as culverts, trash screens, weirs, and mill gates, clear of debris
- must control invasive alien species such as Japanese knotweed - we can advise you on how to manage and control these species

You may have noticed the new planters dotted around the Village and at Bryant's Bottom. They have been in the planning stage for a significant time but have finally come to fruition.

Brenda Morris pioneered the idea of placing colourful planters around the village and on behalf of the HVRA has been maintaining them over a number of years. She is now stepping back. We thank her for all her efforts in helping to make our Village look so beautiful.

HVRA has purchased five new galvanised troughs which we have placed at the gates into the village from North Dean and Cryers Hill, at the roundabout at the entrance to Boss Lane, the corner into Fryers Gardens and the entrance gate into Bryants Bottom. They have been filled with compost and planted up and hopefully with all the rain we are getting they will thrive.

During the summer months we are looking for volunteers to join a group to help keep them watered. If you live close to a planter and would be willing to help please contact Elaine on 07989 094316.



*Elaine filling a planter*

## **Planters in the Village**



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## Reduction in Speed Petition Update

Brian McCollum - HVRA Vice Chairman

HVRA Updates

### Cryers Hill and Valley Road Reduction in Speed Petition Update



It certainly seems like it's been some time since we launched the petition on 20th November last year. We were looking for support to get a reduction from 50mph to

40 mph. It was open until 18th December and received 186 supporters. The petition was then considered by the council who produced a report which suggested an official Speed Assessment was appropriate for Cryers Hill but not Valley Road.

This was discussed at the North-West Chilterns Community Board on 6th March. At the meeting I put forward our views again and the Board agreed to part-fund the Speed Assessment. However, the Board was closing and merging with another one to become a larger body called North Chilterns

Community Board. This new Board has not had its first meeting yet as roles have yet to be decided after the recent elections. At its first meeting they will confirm the support available. I will attend on behalf of our Association.

I recently met with the local Parish Council to ask for the other part of the funding required for the Speed Assessment. It was agreed that when the Community Board confirms how much they will give the Parish Council will match-fund. They did say that providing the part-funding for the Speed Assessment was not an agreement to necessarily fund further costs in the project once fully defined.

As you can see, we are in what is a long process, but progress has been made, and I will continue to push it forward to what I hope will be a happy conclusion.

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# Hughenden Weather Roundup

Paul Jenner - Website: <http://www.wycombeweather.co.uk>

E-mail: [valleyroadsouth@hughendenresidents.org](mailto:valleyroadsouth@hughendenresidents.org)

In the community

As I've been running a weather station for Hughenden Valley since 2018, in each edition of Hughenden News, I'll be looking at some of the trends and writing about anything particularly noteworthy.

After an incredibly dull February, March and April certainly made amends. Indeed, it was the warmest and sunniest Spring on record. In turn, the weather was remarkably dry too. In fact, it was the driest spring in more than 100 years, according to data from the Met Office and in Hughenden, we recorded just 12mm of rain in March.

The weather turned more unsettled in April with 45mm of rain but still much drier than average. With the clear skies during spring, we also had some particularly chilly nights. Being in a valley means that the temperature at night often falls further than in other areas, which is why we can sometimes experience a frost, when people in other areas don't have to scrape their cars in the morning!

In May, the dry couple of months ended dramatically. Thunderstorms had been forecast for later in the day on the 12th May and just before 4pm the skies darkened, and rain started to fall.

Not only that, but large hail the size of marbles blanketed much of Hughenden to my daughter's surprise when she came home from school! The sound was deafening and at one point I wondered if the car would be dented by the size of the hail.

June has been a mixed month so far, although the latter half at the time of writing is due to be much warmer and drier. We'll see how long it lasts!

If you'd like to look at weather data for Hughenden, log onto [www.wycombeweather.co.uk](http://www.wycombeweather.co.uk).



*A Chilling Discovery...*



*How about a game of marbles?*



## Village Spotlight: Wasim, the postman

In the community

Sarah Mustapha

### A 10 Minute Interview with Wasim the Postman (Wazz to his friends here in Hughenden)

The first time I encountered Wazz, he was doing his rounds at breakneck speed through Hughenden, with a huge smile on his face and a determined look in his eyes. Since then, so many residents have expressed their affection for Wazz and his cheery, efficient ways that I thought it was about time we found out a little more about him:

#### Tell me more about your background

I'm 37 years old and live with my mum and dad in High Wycombe. I was born and bred here and went to Oakridge School, followed by Sands Middle School (now Millbrook) and then onto Cressex. I have one lovely sister and three nieces. Originally, my family is from Pakistan.

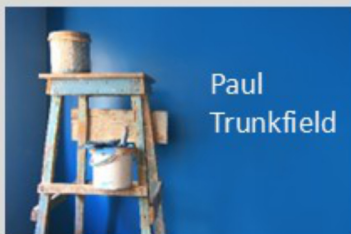


*Suited and booted*

#### What did you want to be when you were young

I don't know really. Life just came at me and when I got my job with Royal Mail 11 years ago I couldn't have asked for more. I love my employers and my job, especially the customers.

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#### You must be very fit, how far do you walk

The most I've ever done in a day is 30,000 steps (I looked at Wazz's step record and it's never far off that figure on most days!) I try to carry as much as I can all at once so that I can get the job done quickly.

#### I bet you burn a lot of calories doing the job you do. What's your favourite food?

Takeaways! Mr Cod, Domino's Pizza, Subway, Sidney's Burgers, Greggs. And my mum's Keema Matar (ground beef curry with peas). I don't take any snacks on my rounds (not even when I'm fasting!) Sometimes I'll make fishfingers, chips and peas in the air fryer. I love old fashioned desserts too: custard, rice pudding and sponge cakes.

Oh Wazz: what no vegetables?!

I am allergic to salad!!

**What's your favourite part of the job?**

The people. Everyone in this area is so friendly and I know them well and love the conversation and chat.

**Do you like dogs?**

Yes, but all posties have had an encounter with a dog – I've been bitten several times – I think they might go for the red uniforms! You just have to be sensible. I know all the good dogs in this area and my favourites are golden retrievers. (For an example of going above and beyond, see photo of Wazz sitting on my drive making friends with my new and very nervous rescue dog!)



*"Friend or foe?!"*

**How do you relax?**

I am lost without my routine (dad says I wear out the carpet pacing when I'm at home!) In November I take 3 weeks off to prepare for the busy Christmas period but that's it. My favourite way to relax is to watch old-school TV shows: Only Fools and Horses, Porridge, Fawlty Towers, Black Adder and On The Buses. I also like old computer games: Playstation 2, Nintendo and Super Mario.



*A sticky encounter*

**What's the strangest experience you've had as a postman?**

I got my arm trapped in a postbox for about an hour and had to be cut out by the fire brigade (photo attached)!

**Waz, tell me how you live your life:**

Keep a positive, clean mind. Live within your means, buy only what you need to buy and don't be foolish with money

Thank you Wazz for bringing so much cheer to the village with your sunny outlook and for always going the extra mile!

## June 2025 report

Already into meteorological summer and what a roller-coaster we're on. Having gone through the wetter than average winter, with associated floods and saturated ground for weeks on end, we have just had the driest and warmest spring since records began.

The spring dry spell tricked a lot of plants into precocious early growth, in some cases early flowering. This was pretty much manageable by gardeners (excluding the extraordinary damage caused by the freak hailstorm on 12 May) but for the conservation banking the story pans out a little differently. The banking went through February and March in an unusually saturated condition, this despite being essentially comprised of chalk and therefore normally quick draining. However, the relatively warm temperatures meant that plant growth was not unduly slowed ... trees were in leaf, grass and new understorey growth was looking suspiciously rampant. As soon as the dry spell took hold the chalk quickly dried out and the management team were able to put in some quality time keeping undergrowth in check and reducing stands of tall dogwood, in order to keep grassed areas clear, as well as continuing work along the football pitch/banking boundary. This latter effort is aimed at maintaining as wide a touch-line strip as practicable whilst clearing sufficient undergrowth, brambles and saplings to renew the growth of wildflower species in the bank margins.

The dry spring has cut both ways: a lot of the grass has slowed its growth, not a bad thing for us, but orchids seem, on the whole, to be late coming into flower; cowslips put on a very good show quite early and seemed to enjoy the good weather; dog roses, blackthorn and hawthorn blossom have all been magnificent but, conversely, the blackthorn fruit (the sloes) don't seem to have coped well with the wet/dry/hailstorm/wet again cycle. Is the sloe gin crop in danger!

June 2nd bestowed a good evening upon the Group. Usually the first Monday of June, the beginning of summer, sees the walk around on the conservation area fronted by John Moorby, the Group leader, for the Village Hall Committee and other invitees. The early evening sun was out and the grass was dry; there were indeed some orchids to welcome everyone and the birds were providing a background soundtrack. We think it fair to say that a pleasant and instructive time was had by all; John and the members of the Group are grateful for the levels of interest shown in, and appreciation of, the work we undertake on the bank.

We now hope for a good summer; some more dry weather perhaps with light showers overnight just to keep things ticking over (!!??). There is a lot of promise; many wildflowers, wildlife and invertebrates still to make their appearance. There is the likelihood that there will be new arrivals,

particularly flowers, especially in areas we have cleared of tall grass and undergrowth. Where the flowers lead the invertebrates won't be far behind and so we hope for even more variety in the moth and butterfly populations and maybe, an increase in glowworm numbers. Yes.....they are still there!!

Whilst not within our chalk bank management remit, we like to make mention in this article of the Hughenden chalk stream. The stream is right next door, the footpath from the Village Hall football field/the banking leads directly into the National Trust land by the water pumping station. Although it is not yet perfect (in health terms, no thanks to Thames Water) the stream is looking at its best for many years; all three springs, from the boundary of the pumping station, down the length of the field, to the edge of the old orchard at Church Farm, are "springing" and the water is clear (DON'T drink it!). It's a beautiful site and, like our banking, is a rare piece of our heritage. At any time, you are likely to see Mallard ducks; frequently see a Grey Heron, and recently Moorhen (benefiting from the taller grasses around the central spring). It's a joy, really, and due to all last winter's rain, the water table is high so the stream is still in full flow through the Valley. That too is fairly rare!

Remember, our banking (and the

stream) is in a National Landscape. Doesn't have much of the ring that its former designation did – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – but that's what it is. The name change has not affected what it is. We promise that we will maintain it for you to preserve both its beauty and its rarity. But we need your help...

We ask you to come along and visit the area, get to know it, understand it, and value it.

Please don't disrespect it, litter or foul it.

There is no payment required from you except that you leave a smile. Just come along, be happy, bring a smile, open eyes, and a light tread. And enjoy!



*Twayblade orchid: Ready to flower*



*Two cherry trees in full bloom*



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## May Elections & Vacancies

Following the elections on 1st May, six nominees stepped forward and were elected unopposed to the Parish Council. On 6th May, the Council started its Annual Meeting, where Councillor Gareth Cadwallader was elected as Chair. Former Chair, Stan Jones, was co-opted back onto the Council at this meeting, members voted to defer the rest of the meeting to the 13th May.

The Annual Parish Meeting also took place on the 6th May at Great Kingshill Village Hall, attended by residents, Councillors from the Parish Council, Ridgeway East Councillors David Carroll and Steve Broadbent. Councillor Broadbent was also the guest speaker giving a talk on highways focusing on the Parish. We sincerely appreciate everyone who joined us.

At the reconvened Annual Meeting on 13th May, four new applications for co-option were received, bringing the Council to eleven members out of a possible fifteen. While this is great progress, there are still four vacancies—one for each ward across the parish. Thanks to the increased number of councillors, we have been able to fully establish standing committees for Environment & Services, Finance, Human Resources, and Planning, along with working groups for Allotments, Road Safety, and Communication.

We would love to see more local residents stepping forward to fill the

remaining vacancies! Parish councillors commit one or two evenings a month for meetings, plus some time engaging with residents and the Chief Officer. Local knowledge and vigilance are key to addressing important issues such as development pressures, speeding, road safety, and maintaining green spaces.

Recent Parish Council contributions have supported the installation of two allotment gates, assisted the Grange Area Trust in securing land, funded Widmer End Residents Association for path improvements, and helped the Widmer End Lawn Tennis Club. We also continue working with local councillors David Carroll and Steve Broadbent to tackle speeding issues around the Parish. This is precisely the kind of work where more councillors can make a real difference.

If you're interested in joining the Parish Council or contributing as a non-voting member on a committee, please contact your ward councillor or reach out to Chief Officer Kate Rogers at [clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk).

Current Parish Councillors:

**Great Kingshill:** Stan Jones, Yvonne Wilding

**Hughenden Valley:** Simon Kearey, John Rowe, Naz Salauddin

**Naphill & Walters Ash:** Raheel Khan, Usha Prashar, Richard Wilding

**Widmer End:** Gareth Cadwallader, Aatif Kayyani, Sam Thomas



# Hughenden Valley Village Hall

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Mrs T

*"May I say what a pleasure it was working with you. You are a considerate professional, not to mention a lot of fun! Thank you for your unending patience."*

Mrs K

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Hughenden National Trust  
Easter Story writing  
competition



We were delighted to be involved with the National Trust and participate in their Easter Story writing competition. Each school participating were allocated an woodland animal, ours was the Glis Glis. Our children in Year 4 rose to the challenge and wrote some fantastic stories and the final entries were judged by the organisers.

The overall winner for Hughenden was Tillie Piercey, here is her story; The adventures of Loela the Glis Glis, that has been recreated onto a woodland

themed story board and is currently on display in the gardens at Hughenden Manor.

Well done Tillie, an amazing achievement to be proud of!



*Well done Tillie!*

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## The adventures of Loela the Glis Glis

*Once there was a cheeky little Glis Glis named Loela, who lived in a bright toadstool with white spots in the Chilterns forest.*

*One sunny day, Loela asked Grandpa Glis Glis, "Oh Grandpa, please can I go to the old, vacant bakery outside the forest?"*

*Grandpa reminded Loela about the Glis glis-eating badger who lives in the bakery and he refused to let her go.*

*Only because the badger had eaten Mother Glis glis!*

*One rainy evening, since Glis glis are nocturnal, Loela sneaked out of the toadstool house when Grandpa was taking a nap. They had run out of food.*

*Loela started thinking about the old, abandoned bakery, so she scurried out of the forest and decided to head to the old bakery.*

*The small Glis glis hurried up the path to the bakery and found a hole in the door that was big enough for her to squish through.*

*Out of the shadows appeared old, rusty machinery, wooden spoons and heaps of beautiful bread. Loela got extremely excited and devoured all the bread with a wooden spoon.*

*Whilst she took the last bite of her bread, Loela spotted the most golden piece of bread she had ever seen! It was perfect for her and Grandpa to ration at the toadstool house.*

*After a minute, Loela thought about what Grandpa had said about the Glis glis-eating badger and then heard a strange growling noise. She tried to tiptoe out of the bakery but tripped on a loose floorboard and a badger came out of the grey and tried to chase poor Loela!*

*"Give me back my bread!" the badger roared with fury.*

*Mischievously, Loela crept behind the badger and threw a big bag of flour at him. He fell to the ground and Loela ran out of the bakery with the bread.*

*When she got home. Loela and Grandpa had a very, very big argument until Grandpa Glis glis noticed the big piece of bread in Loela's tail and started to smile. "I thought we could ration it," said the Glis glis. They both smiled and then said... "TUCK IN!"*



## Summer Picnic and Raffle!

Peter Cannon

In the community

As part of the Village Picnic the HVRA is running a summer raffle across the three villages. Businesses and individuals are being very generous with their prizes. There are going to be at least twelve prizes, with a combined value approaching £1,500. Tickets are being sold by Road Reps during July, early August and on the day. Tickets will be sold in books of 10 so please have your fivers and tenners ready. Payment by debit or credit card is possible if that is preferred. The winners will be drawn on 10 August at 3pm.

We don't have control over the weather. If, as in 2023 with the Village Day, the Village Picnic is affected by bad weather the raffle draw will be held at 3pm on Monday 11 August in the Community Shop.

The profits from the raffle will be divided between the HVRA and HV Village Hall for further social events for residents.



*A portrait of Peter in acrylic*

Meanwhile to whet your appetite we can tell you that among the prizes are the following:-

- Afternoon tea for two at Hartwell House
- a fish and chip supper for two
- an oil and filter change at Hughenden Motors
- two bottles of red wine
- a crystal flower vase
- your portrait in acrylic
- two bottles of white wine
- a cream tea at the Community Shop
- a voucher for a meal at "Zaza" in Amersham
- admission tickets for a family of four at Hughenden Manor from the National Trust.



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In the community

# Hughenden Valley Summer Family Picnic

**SUNDAY 10th AUGUST 2025**

**1pm - 4pm**

**KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELD**

*Kids' Disco, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting,  
Children's Games, Raffle*

*Bring your own picnic and drinks. Cream teas,  
drinks and ices available from the shop.*

*Love your Valley*  
LEAVE NO TRACE





## News from St Michael's

Jane Tyrer

### Hughenden News for July 2025

Having just read what I wrote for the February edition, it seems it was weather obsessed!. Now it is high summer and nothing has changed: we are all having to have an eye to the weather as outdoor events are planned.

Luckily the weather was kind to our outdoor Easter Events - especially the Great Easter Eggventure: a celebration that brought together nearly 60 children and their families for an afternoon of laughter, creativity and community spirit; a brilliant scavenger hunt that had children darting about with excitement, searching high and low for hidden letters. Once all the clues were collected and the mystery word revealed, participants proudly claimed their well-earned Easter eggs—a sweet reward for a job well done.

It was created and led by our new Children and Families Minister, Chris Coyston, who has been bringing his own brand of boundless energy to all he does. He, wife Sue, and their children have become, in a few short months, an

exciting and important part of our church.

More recently, weather was also to the fore but a slight drizzle was not enough to put off the babies and toddlers, mums, grannies, a GREAT GRANDMA, the Tiny Tots team, and of course, an array of teddies, who enjoyed the annual Mothers' Union Teddy Bears' picnic held as usual in the MU garden.



*Teddy Bears' picnic*

Balloons, bubbles (soapy, not alcoholic), toys, a sumptuous spread, a story from Helen and music from Chris and Nikki accompanied by enthusiastic singing from young and not so young ensured a good time was had by all.

The sun soon came out again, take-home treats were handed out, tinies were snuggled down for afternoon naps, and older ones scampered off with calls of 'see you next week', for the usual Tiny

Tots meeting (hopefully also to be held in the garden).

Our next events include the Mothers' Union Ploughman's Lunch on 1st July 12-2pm in Church House and in the garden. All are welcome: a sumptuous ham/cheese/salads/fresh bread/cakes etc. all for £10 should not be missed.

Don't forget the Church Flower Festival, 24-26 August (Bank Holiday weekend). The theme is "Happy Bloomin' Holidays." To add YOUR entry, please see the church website. The Church will be open to view the exhibits over the weekend (the Church is always open in the daytime)

and refreshments will be available. This is the third such event and the exhibits (and indeed the refreshments) are always amazing!

The Big News from St Michael's, however, is the forthcoming departure of our Vicar, Keith Johnson, who after overseeing huge changes at our Church in the 9 years of his service, is taking up new challenges, caring for 8 (yes, eight!) parishes in the west country. He will not be leaving us for a few months, so more later. For now, I will suggest that the opportunity to be nearer his parents and his beloved Somerset cricket team has proved too much to resist.

## Hughenden Valley Village Shop Choir

In the community

E-mail: [info@villageshopchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@villageshopchoir.co.uk)



The Hughenden Valley Village Shop Choir is hitting all the right notes again this year! We've grown in numbers and in repertoire, regularly performing outside the shop and recently delighting residents at Hughenden Gardens Village.

We're a friendly group of about 20 singers covering Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, and we practice weekly at the Village Hall to bring a wide range of music to life. Our set-list spans classic

tunes like Sweet Caroline and Over the Rainbow, to modern favourites such as Circle of Life and Callum Scott's You Are the Reason.

We love to sing and support the local community through music. So, keep an eye on our Facebook page for up-and-coming events, including our appearance at the Summer Family Picnic hosted by the Hughenden Valley Residents Association.

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# Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Stan Jones

In the community

Our association is noted for innovations that have included the Bucks New University scheme and schemes at several mosques. This year we have set up our first Youth Watch Scheme at Cressex Community school, further extending our age range.

Thames Valley Police have redefined their borders within Bucks of their three police areas, Aylesbury, Wycombe and South Bucks, and we are working with them to ensure our operations are compatible.

We also work closely with Bucks Council Safety Team, regularly attending events they organise.

Cons and scams represent some 50% of all crimes with criminals dreaming up new versions every day. The general rule is if you get any communication you do not expect, phone, mail or e-mails, do not respond immediately, have a good think about whether it could be luring you into giving away personal details that could be used against you.

Burglaries continue and tend to happen in bursts as some criminals move around the country and sometimes descend on our area. If an area is covered by a NHW scheme, with members aware of the steps to fight back, it tends to deter burglars who would rather have an easier time somewhere else.

More expensive cars are still being stolen from drives because of the new remote door opening technology. You

can prevent it by making sure your car keys are inaccessible. Drug dealing continues to be commonplace and it is important to report it and any other crime to the police. All information is recorded and acted on based on its severity. If you see drug dealing in your area, reported it each time it is seen, and by all those who witness it, so it raises its level of severity and will be acted on accordingly – so keep reporting.

Apart from continuing to add schemes and scheme leaders, we also need to boost our committee, preferably with some younger members. Volunteers would be most welcome.

Being a member of a NHW scheme can make you feel safer and be safer in your home and neighbourhood.

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Hello Plotters,

## OH, SO SOON!

I received an email the other day.....  
"Please submit articles for the next edition of the magazine before 13 June".

Aaaaaaaaagghh! It can't be that time already! Oh, so soon! The ink's hardly dry from the last submission!

Still, here goes...

## FLYING TIME

Nothing to do with birds (of which, more later) but reflections on spring and how fast time seems to be going. The weather has, until this last week, been exceptionally good: we've had the driest and warmest spring (meteorologically speaking) since .....who knows; depends on who you listen to, but a long time. Many of us (so not just me) got going with the new season's planting. In my case, lots of non-stop begonias, quite a few pelargoniums, runner beans and lettuces. In pots on the patio, I planted a decorative solarnum, a honeysuckle and a summer-flowering jasmine. The abutilon which had been covered with fleece over winter I uncovered, as it was coming into leaf. My orange tree had lost all its fruit in the cold greenhouse but it was coming into flower so I brought it out to the patio too: at least I would get the smell but no fruit again this year. The azalea was in full, glorious flower. Of course, they all needed quite a bit of watering. Oh,

so soon! But a glorious April/May for all that. Also, I had mowed the lawn, so I didn't have that as a job.

Then 12 May.....the worst 35 minutes of the largest hail stones I remember in my 29 years in the Valley.

Goodbye begonias, most of the beans, young lettuce, shot-blasted rhubarb and a wrecked once-statuesque dill. The azalea was completely stripped, the solarnum and the abutilon both very ragged and the orange down to about a quarter of its leaves (though the blossom was untouched!). Part of the house drainage down-pipe came adrift, because it couldn't cope with the volume of water off the roof: this meant that the feed to the water butt was lost ..... So got no replenishment of what was taken during the hot weather.

Still, I was luckier than several friends and neighbours who, in some cases, lost more plants and garden equipment but also suffered building damage. The Harrow, unfortunately, was caught again in the cycle of valley flooding.

Now we're in the run-up to summer. Hopefully we will get back to some nice weather: the damaged gardens need replenishing and, in any case, holidays are fast approaching.

## FLYING TIME – BIRDS

Since the last magazine edition, the regular birds have all graced us with their presence: Gold and

Greenfinches, Chaffinches, Collared Doves, Dunnocks, all types of Tits, Fifth Columnist Jackdaws, plus newbies – several Magpies. But as they fly, so does time: they have, mostly, paired up and already raised chicks. You might even say that, for some of them, their holidays are approaching and it will be time to fly off. Oh, so soon!

Merle and Oberon? Although neighbours have reliably informed me that they have heard choruses of the Trimfone Rhapsody, I begin to think that my resident pair are not Merle and Oberon, since Oberon looks quite sleek and slim compared to previous years. He certainly plays a beautiful tune but not the Rhapsody of old.

I hate to be Darwinist about this but I think he might really be a descendant of Oberon the Jazz Great. He has not learned the subtle variations of the Trimfone chord changes. I just hope he works on his grandad's teachings - I don't want him coming in my garden with atonal, modernist mutterings or Punk reimaginings of anthemic Be-Bop. Anyway, Merle won't like it.

## HAGA

We are moving through our programme of talks and visits though, sadly, we have had to cancel our intended weekend away to Chester (insufficient people signed up to make it economically viable). We are due to visit Cambridge University Botanic Garden in July and, in September, Barn Farm Plants and National Herb Centre. Monthly talks range from Forests of Borneo; Colour in the Autumn Garden; Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Gardening the World; Evolution of the Independent Garden Centre; and Growing Citrus in the UK.

HAGA members continue to benefit from discounts offered by Dobies Seeds, Hildreth's Garden Centre, Peterlee Farm (Garden Centre), and Huws Gray builders' merchant. Specific details are available separately to members.

Please come along whether you're a member, a guest or a friend; all are welcome.



*Chalk and Cheese*



*The garden in mid-hailstorm, 12th May*

## TERRACYCLE BIN

By now you will have noticed that HV Climate group have removed the Terracycle recycling bin in the Harrow car park. Since its inception back in 2021, the onus for corporate responsibility over recycling has grown to the extent that many of the items that could be put in the bin can now easily be taken to some of the larger supermarkets. This, coupled with the fact that what is left on the recycling list is extremely niche (Kinder packaging, Babybel packaging, Pringles tubes etc) has meant that we've decided to close the project.



As promised, we've compiled a list of where some items can now be taken that once went in the bin (as well as a few extras!) Thank you to Karen at The Harrow for letting us use the car park for all these years and please share any recycling news that might benefit our local community on Facebook.

Always remember that we can't recycle our way out of the plastics problem but responsible recycling is a step in the right direction!



Sainsbury's High Wycombe	<p><b>Dry food, flexible plastics:</b> bread, cereal, rice and dry food bags, confectionary, biscuit, cake, crisp and snack packets.</p> <p><b>Other flexible plastics:</b> cheese wrap, peelable film lids, frozen food bags, fruit, vegetable, salad bags, flower wrapping, multipack film wrap, clingfilm and sleeves on bottles.</p> <p><b>Pouches and Sachets:</b> coffee, confectionary, homecare, sauce pouches, baby and pet food, microwaveable food pouches, toiletries, refill pouches, packets and sachets</p> <p><b>Non-flexible plastic:</b> carrier bags, clothes bags, bubble wrap, magazine and newspaper wrappers, toilet roll and kitchen roll wrapping</p> <p><b>Miscellaneous:</b> batteries, coat hangers, water filters, make up packaging</p>
Boots High Wycombe	<p>Plastic contact lens cases, plastic combs, plastic roll on and stick deodorants, body lotion, hand cream and sunscreen tubes, concealer/eyeshadow tubes including applicator, face and hair mask packaging, wipes packets, lipstick and lip bal tubes, sachets, samples and hotel bottles, minis, make up tubes and lip balm pots</p> <p>*Please note that you can donate any unwanted and unused beauty products/personal care items to Beauty Banks at the Bucks Student Union offices (blue gateway, Queen Alexandra Rd</p> <p>*I've had a few successes dropping off old glasses to the opticians at Boots (and a few failures!) so worth a try</p>





The end of June marked the end of the Rotary Year, which involves a change of President and the Club Council. Canon Tony Bundock, of St John's Lacey Green, is now presiding, and will be working to keep our lively members on the straight and narrow, whilst still caring for his parishioners and a busy parish. He has our full support, our thanks and good luck wishes.

The past 12 months have been exciting for a number of reasons: we have seen our numbers continue to grow, with an additional 6 new members and a further 4 in the "pipeline"; we have raised a record of over £40,000 through such events as Race Nights, Farmers' Markets, Street Collections and our Rotary Ramble etc. Much of this has already been donated to over 32 organisations, schools and individuals, the vast majority being local. We held the Ramble again this year, on the 6th of July in Wades Park, Princes Risborough, with an emphasis on something for the local community, including a Chocolate Hunt, "Tea in a Tent", and a Barbeque etc. There was a choice of walks from 6 and 12 miles, and a family walk of 3 miles.

Our lunch on the 7th of June for those over 75 in the town who live alone was a great success, and plans are already being worked on for our Christmas dinner for the same group. As was our Farmers' Market on June 21st, which focused on "Blood Bikes".

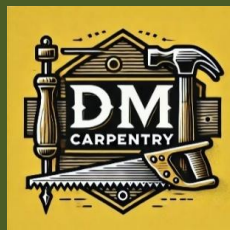
Readers of previous articles will recall that our Club comprises a group of lively, fun-loving men and women focussed on giving back to the community whilst having a good time. If you want to be part of this, and are considering joining us, visit our website and come to one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club to see if it might interest you. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity, please use the contact details below.

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

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The football season is over for another year, and we can look back on some terrific games across all our age groups. We are incredibly proud of everyone who

has participated in football training and matches this year – from our U6s to U18s – and while it's always sad to say goodbye to our U18s, it was fantastic to hear about the U18 Hawk's final game from the team's manager, Mark Bowring.

"U18 Hawks had their final game, double header vs Aylesbury," said Mark, demonstrating clearly that MOTD missed an opportunity when replacing Gary Lineker earlier this year. "2-0 down in the first game, pulled it back to 2-2, and scored the winner in stoppage time. Won the 2nd game 5-2, again, coming from 2-1 behind. Fantastic way to finish off, and it puts us as runners up in Div 2."

We also congratulate our U16 Hawks, who came top of their division this year. Great work, Hawks! Looking forward to see what you will achieve next year as our U17s!

As the U18 players themselves move on, we also say goodbye to many of their managers and coaches, most of whom have been supporting those teams for 10 years or more. Special thanks to outgoing managers Mark Bowring, Jon Dickinson and Ben

Curtis, and to all the parents of the players in those teams who have supported HVFC in so many different ways over the years.

Mark Bowring has also been responsible for organising our referees for all our age groups' matches, as well as providing 15 years of coaching (since his older son, now aged 21, played for our U7s), building our website, and organising the 50th anniversary celebrations last year. Mark received Manager of the Year award in 2024, and has his name etched on the Honorary Vice Presidents Plate. We will miss him a lot!

This year's Fun Day and Awards took place on 21st June. Our 2025 Manager of the Year was Andy Stockwell, in recognition of him running multiple age groups, and Ben Curtis received the Bellamy Award for Outstanding Contribution, for the vast amount of work he has done for the club – not just managing one of the U18 teams for a number of years, but also the additional efforts he has always made behind the scenes to help keep the club and our grounds running smoothly.

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the Fun Day, which is a highlight for many of our players. The Awards Ceremony recognises those players who bring heart and soul to the game every week. As well as an Awards Ceremony for every one of our Teams, there was a bar, a barbecue, and fun activities on the field.

The HVFC Fun Day was still free to attend this year. It was decided several years ago that the Fun Day should be held in recognition of the players' commitment to the club rather than as a fund-raising event and, since then, it has been free for everyone to join. We can only afford to do this because the event is run entirely by volunteers so the only 'paid for' items are the bar, barbecue and sweets/cake stalls, and of course the famous raffle. Free ice-cream for everyone was kindly sponsored personally by our Chairman, Graham Hall.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Fun Day a success – not least Paul Harding and Darren Toovey for running the bar, Andy Stockwell and his players' parents for the barbecue, Richard Cawley and his players' parents for the cake stand, Adam Sargent for the sweets stall, Andy Booth and James Warwick – and their players' parents – for running the inflatables, Ben Richards for running the boot stall and raffle, Sean Gourley for sorting out the trophies, and Rob

Henry for his brilliant photography.

In other news, HVFC was awarded a £2.7K grant at the recent Hughenden Parish Council meeting, held on 17th June. Our club is primarily funded by annual donations from the parents of players, with additional support from our very kind sponsors, but there is a constant struggle to cover the costs of renting multiple training grounds (in addition to maintaining our main Home ground behind the village hall). Hughenden Parish Council was made aware of this predicament and, as part of their initiative to support local organisations, voted to assist us with a generous grant that covers 20% of the previous season's additional ground rental costs. Thanks to Councillor Simon Kearey and his fellow parish councillors for their very generous support.

Personally, I would also like to thank my fellow committee members – Chairman Graham Hall, Treasurer Ben Richards and Safeguarding Officer Michael Rose. I have only been Club Secretary for a year, and they have all



*Good luck and best wishes to all of our fantastic U18s - thanks for the memories!*

been tremendously patient, teaching me how the committee works, and teaching me even more about football.

Every person involved in HVFC, from team managers and administrators to the committee members, is a volunteer. They all give up their time willingly and generously, and frequently find themselves doing more than they thought they'd signed up for, either due to unexpected difficult situations, or simply because there are rarely enough people willing to do what they do for the community. I have been repeatedly amazed by the commitment and dedication I have seen over the past year, and it is an honour to be part of that team.

Looking ahead, we have a new season starting in September 2025. If you are already part of the club, we look forward to seeing you again in a couple of months. If you are not yet a member but would like to sign your child (of any age) up to play, and to be part of this amazing local team, get in touch with us via the website [hvfc.co.uk](http://hvfc.co.uk) and we'd be delighted to welcome some new players when the new season starts.



*Thanks to everyone who supported our Awards and Fun Day in June*





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We have a lot happening this summer including day trips to Dorking Antique Centre (Antiques and Collectables Group) and to the art collections at Compton Verney (Discovering Art Group), as well as our annual holiday this year to Cheshire and North Wales. Then we held our annual picnic in the Wycombe Museum in early July. The Local History Group's final visit to the archaeological site at Cookham was scheduled for July prior to its closing later this year. This follows their invitation from the Earl and Countess Howe to visit Penn House, which is on our doorstep, yet few of us had previously visited it.

Our other groups are all thriving. If you are interested in Bird Watching or Walks you will find details of their programmes on our website [highwycombe.u3asite.uk], plus information about all our interest groups and contact details. Our outside speaker schedule for our monthly General Meeting is also advertised there. We are looking forward to hearing about Ruth Ellis the Last Lady Hanged, and Castles in London in the next few months. Reports of recent activities are on our Facebook page [hwd3a2022].

Our members have continued to



*Penn House*

attend the Silver Series of free monthly events available to older residents courtesy of Eden Shopping Centre. These include cinema viewings and coffee mornings. Contact customerservices@edenshopping.co.uk (01494 768068) for more information.

And finally ... we were very pleased to be invited to contribute again to the Hughenden Flower Festival at St

Michael and All Angels Church on the August Bank Holiday weekend. We will have a flower display in the church and examples of some of our members' crafts in the North Hall with news and information about what u3a offers. We hope to see you there.

## SHH (Speen Helping Hospices)

Gráinne Suter - Chair SHH Hospice Fundraising

E-mail: [events@shh-shop.org](mailto:events@shh-shop.org) Website: [www.shh-shop.org](http://www.shh-shop.org)

In the community



### SHH Summer 2025 Update

SHH Hospice Fundraising has held two very successful events so far this year. A Quiz evening in February that was co-hosted by Hughenden resident Al Bowyer, and the Annual Ladies Spring Lunch in May.

The group has been able to distribute **£4,000** to each of the four hospices it raises fund for from the 2024 events. - Helen & Douglas House for Children - Rennie Grove and Peace Hospice Care - South Bucks Hospice at Butterfly House - Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Last September a Comedy Night was held at Lacey Green and Loosley Row Village Hall. Elliot Wengler who organised last year's evening is hosting another this year. He will be bringing on a selection of different comedians and again it will be held at Lacey Green and Loosley Row Village Hall.

**Save the date:** Saturday 11th October, Doors open at 7pm and Showtime at 8pm. Tickets £20.00 per person ( No booking fees to third-party agencies) Further details at [www.shh-shop.org](http://www.shh-shop.org)

Finally, if you are interested in raising money by taking part in an event or finding out more about becoming part of our fundraising committee group at SHH, please contact me [events@shh-shop.org](mailto:events@shh-shop.org).



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## Ink, pens and paintbrushes; Writing history at Hughenden

**New exhibition launches 2 June 2025**

New exhibition shows how the use of pens and paintbrushes at Hughenden shaped both national and international history

Rare and never-before-seen objects on display for the first time

Includes personal correspondence with Queen Victoria and newly discovered personal histories from the Second World War mapmakers stationed at Hughenden

Launching on 2 June, Ink, Pens, and Paintbrushes; Writing History at Hughenden highlights the transformative power of the pen and paintbrush at Hughenden, shaping local, national, and international histories. This exhibition features key objects such as the Congress of Berlin fan, an original handwritten manuscript of Sybil, a gift from Queen Victoria (the book Faust), mapmaking instruments, maps, and letters.

Benjamin Disraeli, the Victorian Prime Minister, lived at Hughenden Manor from 1848 to 1881. In July 1878, Disraeli successfully negotiated a settlement at the Congress of Berlin, aiming to curb Russian aggression and secure the Ottoman Empire. Hughenden's Collections and House Manager, Rob Bandy, remarked that

the signature on the fan "was perhaps the most historically significant signature of his life."

The Ottoman delegate, grateful for Disraeli's decisive influence, had a cherrywood fan signed by each delegate. This unique memento, featuring signatures from numerous European politicians, including Disraeli's, is on display in the exhibition.

While Disraeli is primarily remembered for his political career, he was also a renowned author during the Victorian era. Rob noted, "Among his literary works, he notably critiqued the extremes of wealth and poverty brought about by the Industrial Revolution in his book Sybil." Visitors can view the original unbound handwritten manuscript of Sybil (1845) and enjoy comfortable seating to read the first chapter. For younger visitors, storybooks are available for all ages.

Disraeli's relationship with Queen Victoria, initially unfavourable, evolved into a close friendship, making him her favourite Prime Minister. Their personal correspondence is on display, including a special gift from Queen Victoria—a copy of the book Faust, signed and inscribed on the first page. This gift elevated Disraeli's social standing at a time when his credentials were uncertain.

During the Second World War, the penmanship of those who worked at Hughenden Manor changed the progress of the war. Hughenden was requisitioned by the Air Ministry and code-named Hillside. Its role remained shrouded in secrecy for decades after the war. Much of what we know about Hillside was discovered over 60 years later, when a volunteer room guide overheard a visitor recounting his wartime experiences at Hughenden. This chance encounter in 2004 led to the unravelling of a remarkable story.

Kathleen Hudson, Harry Levitt, and Kenneth Stevens were all mapmakers at Hillside. Kenneth Stevens donated his map-making implements and other mementos from his time at Hughenden. Additionally, Harry Levitt's family donated an original map from Hillside. These items are now on display. Through Kathleen's oral history, we have gained insight into the mindset of a mapmaker. She acknowledged the emotional impact of her work, despite her duty to the war effort.

The new exhibition highlights people and objects not included in the existing Hillside Exhibition, focusing on four staff members who worked at Hughenden during the war: Beth Heron, Harry Levitt, Kathleen Hudson, and Kenneth Stevens.

The exhibition connects both eras of Hughenden's history, highlighting the enduring power of the pen and paintbrush and the legacy of Hughenden across the world. Ink, Pens, and Paintbrushes; Writing History at Hughenden is on display until November 2025.

Beth Heron, a cook at Hillside, provided the only contemporary written history from that time through her letters.



*WRAAF officers Edna Howlett and Beth Heron  
© Caroline Jarman*

Hughenden's Senior Collections & House Officer, Pippa Slaytor, emphasised the importance of these letters: "Through Beth's writing, we have discovered day-to-day life at Hughenden during Hillside and the names of mapmakers and other RAF personnel who were otherwise unrecorded."

For further press information please contact:  
[katy.dunn@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:katy.dunn@nationaltrust.org.uk)



*Hughenden Hillside map rooms  
© Hugh Mothersole*

### High Wycombe awarded £230k to boost local culture and creativity

High Wycombe is set for an exciting cultural boost thanks to a £230,000 grant from Arts Council England. The funding, secured by Buckinghamshire Council in partnership with Bucks Culture and the town's creative community, will support a three-year programme to grow and celebrate local arts and culture.

The project, which has a working title of 'Place Partnerships High Wycombe', will bring together artists, venues, community groups, and creative businesses to strengthen the town's cultural life. From live performances

and exhibitions to workshops and festivals, the initiative will help ensure that residents can enjoy a wide range of exciting, high-quality cultural experiences right on their doorstep.

The funding will help:

- Position High Wycombe as a place where creativity brings people together and enriches everyday life
- Develop a new cultural hub in the town
- Support a wide network of local artists, venues, and organisations to thrive and grow
- Launch a development and skills-sharing programme to build capacity and collaboration across the creative sector

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Additional support from the Rothschild Foundation and investment from Buckinghamshire Council will help make this vision a reality.

Over the next three years, local partners will lead the project in close collaboration with the community to ensure it reflects local needs and aspirations. The goal is to create a more connected and sustainable cultural network that boosts pride in the town and ensures everyone can benefit from the area's rich creative offer.

Peter Brazier, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, said:

"This is a fantastic opportunity for High Wycombe's creative sector. The investment will not only support local artists and cultural organisations but also help foster a more connected and dynamic cultural scene. We're excited to work with our partners and residents to ensure this funding delivers real benefits for the whole community."

Peter added: "This investment will mark the beginning of more local events and activities that enrich the lives of our residents and showcase the incredible talent and creativity we have here in High Wycombe."

Lallie Davis, Director of Bucks Culture, commented:

"This project promises to be transformative for High Wycombe's

creative community. It's about more than just funding events – it's about creating a connected network in the town, promoting opportunities, sharing skills, bringing people together through creativity, and making culture a visible and valued part of daily life. We're proud to be working with such a passionate and talented local community to shape a vibrant cultural future for the town."

Hazel Edwards, South East Area Director, Arts Council England, said:

"The Arts Council is pleased to support the Culture Development Project in High Wycombe through our Place Partnership Fund, it is a testament to the power of collaboration in building a vibrant and inclusive cultural future. This investment will help nurture local talent, strengthen the creative sector, and create more opportunities for communities to engage with culture on their doorstep. We look forward to seeing the impact of our shared commitment to creativity across High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire."

The first steps will include setting up the cultural hub, launching network and knowledge share sessions, and creating a new identity for culture in the town.

To get involved or find out more, visit <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-and-tourism/culture-development/culture-development-in-high-wycombe/>

### Remembering David Lowe

5th Oct 1947 - 7th April 2025

David Lowe was born in Southend-on-Sea to Thomas and Florence. They already had a daughter, Sheila, born at the start of the war, but Tom (David's Dad) had to make his way back from the North Africa campaign, so Dave didn't make an appearance until October 1947. He was the apple of his mother's eye and she spoilt him rotten!

Growing up in Southend with his cousins, he was sorry to leave but his Dad had to go to High Wycombe for a job at the Post Office. There, David met his life-long friend, Alan, and with a few other boys went fishing and scouting.

When Dave turned 17, he bought a scooter and became a 'mod', wearing a parka and a hair-cut to go with it. A couple of years later, he met Hazel, also a 'mod' at the time, and they spent the next few years going off to see the bands of the day, notably The Who, The Stones, and Georgie Fame.

At the age of 23 and 20, Dave and Hazel got married. Having had lots of adventures doing long-distance walking, owning horses, belonging to an Archaeological Society, becoming hippies, lots of parties, and generally enjoying themselves.

Shortly after they moved to Hughenden Valley where their three sons were born. William, Jamie and Peter.

David had attended John Hampden school. After trying quantity surveying and a successful management career at Currys in High Wycombe, he started his own garden landscaping business, Valley Garden Services.

As well as running a local gardening firm Dave and Hazel were cub and scout leaders in both Hughenden Valley and Naphill for over 20 years. Both Dave and Hazel remained part of the scouting movement into their 70's. Recently, Bear Grylls sent them a letter of thanks for their long service to the scouting movement.

The many years living in Hughenden Valley were a rich and fruitful time, being involved in the local community, scouting, village events, (village day in particular,) the church bazaar and auction, and so many other things too numerous to mention. He also employed local boys on Saturdays to help with the mowing. Many of them were friends of his sons, and came to Fairholme for B-B-Q's and parties, often sleeping over in the house or garden. It became quite a social hub.

Dave was very active and always encouraging his boys to take part. They were lucky to spend a lot of time with him in that respect. They did a lot together including Scouting, surfing, ski-ing, hiking, camping, football and working together in Valley Garden Services. Creating lots of great memories.

At the age of 60, Dave was diagnosed with a serious lung condition which he thought had been triggered by a skiing trip. Unfortunately, it was more serious than that, but medication gave him more than 10 years of a good quality of life. During this time, Dave and Hazel downsized to a bungalow in Naphill. They bought a boat on the

Thames which they enjoyed for eight years. Throughout his life, Dave loved his garden, and the garden at Vincents Way is testament to his skill.

Through his involvement with the Church, Scouts and Hughenden Valley he touched a great many people with his optimistic outlook on life and will be greatly missed.

## Remembering Judy Biggs

Judy was born 1935 and grew up in Prestwood. She and Dad Barry got married in 1957 and lived in Challock with Nanny (Hetty) until 1959 when they moved to Trees Road. I was born in 1959 and Belinda in 1964.

In 1972 we moved to Fleetwood (next door to Challock) on the Valley Road.

Judy enjoyed joining in with lots of village activities like Bingo, Drama, Cricket teas on Sunday afternoons, Bazaars, jumble sales, HAGA, Hall dances and various committees. She was a Brownie leader with Jean Goodman for many years. She also helped the Multiple Sclerosis group for nearly 40 years.

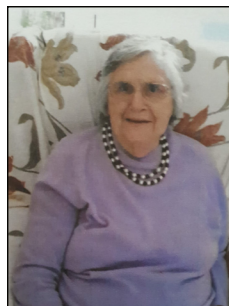
Judy worked as a receptionist at Hughenden Surgery for nearly 30 years.

Dad died in 2021, and on the same

day Mum had a bad fall hitting her head causing a bleed on the brain, she recovered enough to live at home for another year. She then moved into Little Oaks care home, where she joined in with the activities there, and we were able to join as well.

Sadly, after a month's stay in hospital, she returned to the home to be cared for until she died peacefully on the 20th April Easter Sunday.

Judy was a very special lady who enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.



Diana Gibbons

## Congratulations to Mrs Sharon Jarrett

Mrs Sharon Elizabeth Jarrett, Headteacher, Amersham School, and resident of Hughenden Valley, has

been awarded an MBE by Kings Charles III for services to Education. We congratulate her on receiving this honour.

## Summer Events

Village Life

### July

#### National Trust Events

**Ink, pens and paintbrushes; writing history at Hughenden**  
Hughenden

Free Event (Admission applies)  
6th July to 28th Nov 10:00 - 16:30

#### West Wycombe Temple Trail

West Wycombe Park  
Free Event (Admission applies)  
6th July to 28th Aug 14:00-16:30

#### Meet the Beekeepers

Hughenden  
Free Event (Admission applies)  
19th July

#### Group Led Walks in the Chilterns Countryside

Hughenden Manor & Upper Parkland  
Free

25th July 11:00-12:00

#### Musical Sundays: West Wycombe Brass Band

West Wycombe Park  
Free Event (Admission applies)  
27<sup>th</sup> July 14:30-15:30

#### Pann Mill Open Day

Pann Mill, Free  
13th July 11:00-17:00

### August

#### National Trust Events

**Fairy House Decorating Craft Workshop**

Hughenden, £4  
12th, 19th Aug 14:00-15:00

### September

#### National Trust Events

**Dragon Glider Decorating Craft**

Hughenden, £2  
2nd Sept 14:00-15:00

#### Heritage Open Days 2025

Hughenden, Free  
12th to 19th Sept 10:00-16:30

#### Guided Tour of Chesham Mosque

Chesham Mosque, £7.50  
23rd Sept 10:00-11:00

#### Heritage Tour of Old Tring

Tring Local History Museum, £15  
25th Sept 13:30-15:00

#### Pann Mill Open Day

Pann Mill, Free  
7th Sept 11:00-17:00

### October

#### Bucks Local History Network Conference

**"Fire! Fire! Bucks on Fire!"**

The High Wycombe Society will have a stand at this event, and Jackie Kay will be sharing her latest research in one of the talks.  
University of Buckingham  
4th Oct

#### Putting High Wycombe on the map

A talk by John Leighfield on "Putting High Wycombe on the map"  
Trinity URC  
11th Oct 14:30

## Grief Encounters

Angus and Janet Idle (proud grandparents)

Village Life

William Leighton, the son of Sarah Leighton and her late husband Richard Leighton entered in this year's annual London to Brighton Bike Ride, organised by the British Heart foundation.

The London to Brighton Bike Ride starts on Clapham Common, South London, and ends by the sea on Brighton Beachfront having crossed the North Downs and South Downs.

William completed the ride in just over 4 hours!

The charity for which he rode is called 'Grief Encounter' (<https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>), a pun on the famous film. It is a counselling charity, and he raised just over £1000 in donations from family and friends, in memory of his father.

### HVRA Committee

Very pleased to note that HVRA have now successfully filled the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

The election of dedicated individuals to these key roles marks an exciting new chapter for our community. With all key positions now filled we are better equipped to support community initiatives and strengthen communication among residents.

We look forward to a productive year ahead and encourage residents to stay engaged as we continue building a connected neighbourhood together. We always welcome residents who wish to get involved with the community.

You could act as a Road Rep, a volunteer at events (for example, the upcoming Family Picnic in August).

If you are interested - contact your Road Rep or e-mail our chair or secretary (see the list at the back of this issue)

### Reader Contributions

Thank you to Nancy Pomfret for the wonderful contribution of dragonfly photographs, one of which proudly features on this issue's front cover. Her keen eye and talent have brought a beautiful, local touch to the magazine that we're sure readers will enjoy.

We encourage residents continue to share your own photos, stories, or creative pieces for future editions. Whether it's a glimpse of nature, a community moment or something uniquely personal, your contributions help bring our magazine to life.

The magazine has introduced a community spotlight feature - a short 10 minute interview with a fellow resident, offering a glimpse into the lives and stories that make our neighbourhood unique. If you have someone in mind you'd like to see featured next, please let us know - we welcome your suggestions!

### MIDWAY CHIMNEY LINERS & SWEEPS

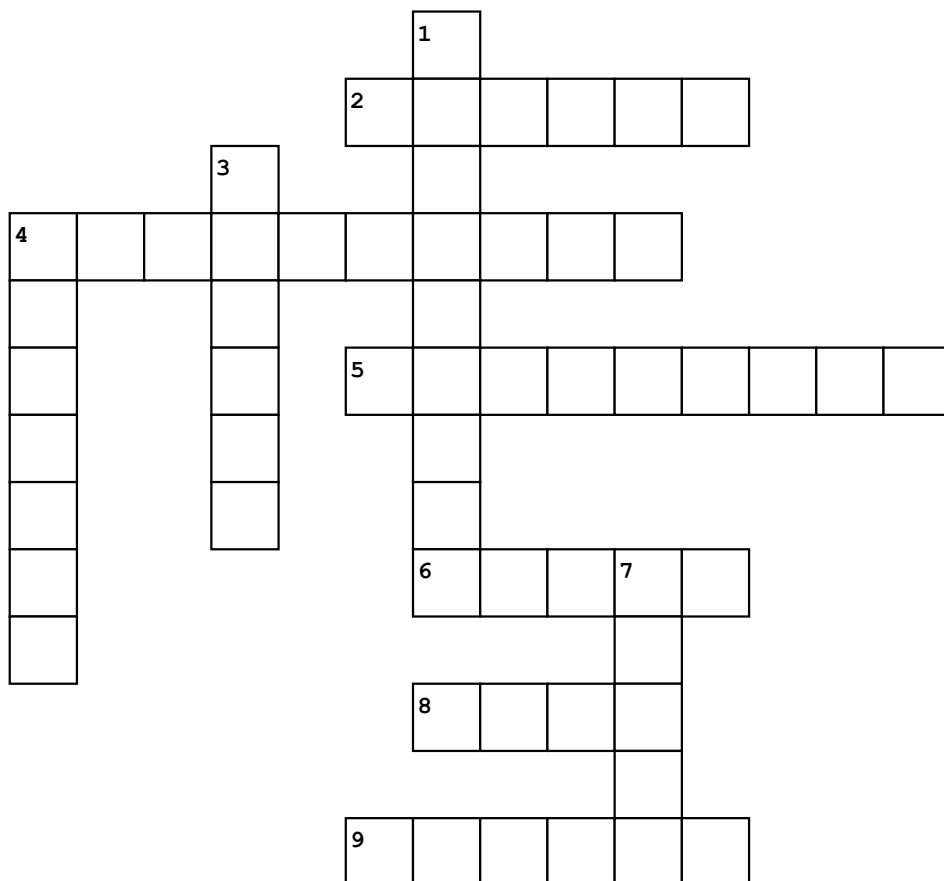


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### Across

- 2. Meal you eat outside
- 4. Goes well with cream
- 5. Beautiful winged insect
- 6. Small white flower usually found next to buttercups
- 8. The shape of ice in drinks
- 9. A food and a float

### Down

- 1. The person who sits up high at the pool
- 3. Summer shoes
- 4. A red summer rash
- 7. Something you would collect at the beach

Web site	<a href="https://hughendenresidents.org/">https://hughendenresidents.org/</a>
Magazine	<a href="mailto:magazine@hughendenresidents.org">magazine@hughendenresidents.org</a>
Bank	Account Name: Hughenden Valley Residents Association Sort Code: 30-99-55 Acct No: 25967260
Subscriptions	£5 per year, per household Due 1 <sup>st</sup> July

### For your diary

Regular Events	
2nd Wednesday each month, 7.30p.m. (not Jan or Aug)	HVRA committee meetings, Committee Room. Papers for meetings are at <a href="https://hughendenresidents.org/docs/">https://hughendenresidents.org/docs/</a>
Last Friday each month (not Dec or Jan).	HAGA, Large Hall, dates and topics can be found at <a href="https://hughendenresidents.org/calendar/">https://hughendenresidents.org/calendar/</a>
Annual Events	
10th Aug 2025	HVRA Summer Picnic, family Games Day
29th Nov 2025	Village Hall - Christmas Fete
May 2026	HVRA AGM
Other Dates	
4th, 5th, 6th December	Valley Players: Snow White and the Curse of the Ice Queen

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Chairman	[Vacancy]	
Vice-Chairman	[Vacancy]	
Secretary	Rosemary Hewitt	562752
Treasurer	Paul Woodford	562913

<b>Road</b>	<b>Road Reps</b>	
Boss Lane	Lyn Hawkins	562850
Bryants Bottom (South)	Jill Armshaw	488407
Bryants Bottom (North)	[Vacancy]	
Burnham Road	Andrew Capey	07414 788182
Cherry Tree Close	Catherine Hinds	297474
Church Farm	Geoff Wicketts	07813 818072
Coombe Gardens	Jerry Morley	
Coombe Lane	Julie Wright	07917 353088
Cryers Hill (North)	Brian McCollum	07816 961554
Cryers Hill (South)	Brian McCollum	07816 961554
Fleet Close	Jane Boughton	562991
Friars Gardens (West/South)	Sue Grace	562575
Friars Gardens (North/East)	Julia Grant	565746
Frogmore Close	[Vacancy]	
Hampden Road		
Orchard Close	Peter Cannon	563228
South Maundin	Brenda Morris	564893
Trees Avenue	David Mynors	562004
Trees Road	Mary Wright	563281
Valley Road (South)	Paul Woodford	562913
Valley Road (Mid)	Rosemary Hewitt	562752
Valley Road (North)	Nancy Pomfret	562117
Warrendene Road	Elaine Merrilees	07989 094316
Wedgewood Drive	Jerry Morley	
Whitfield Road	Julie Wright	07917 353088

Editorial Team	See Editorial	
Webmaster	Andrew Capey	07414 788182
Village Hall	info@hughendenvillagehall.co.uk	
Village Shop	Louise Jones	568653
Shop Choir	Jasper McGuire	07833 772993

Articles will be reviewed for: clarity, , semantics, punctuation, spelling, overall quality (e.g. rambling text that should be culled).

There is no guarantee about publishing - space, balance with other articles, quality & relevance all have an impact on the selection. Articles relating to HVRA activities will have priority, followed by items directly relating to village life, then general interest in the Chilterns & then the rest.

Guidelines for authors - size of article impacts the likelihood of publication. There's no need to waffle. If you supply images, consider how they will look printed on ½ (landscape) or ¼ (portrait) of an A5 page.

The editorial team's decision is final.

## DEADLINES

The schedule for the next edition is on the next page. It is not possible to guarantee that items received after the deadline will be included in an edition, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the team.

Remember that late copy delays the production of the magazine as we may miss our 'slot' with the printer. Thus late copy may not be accepted. Articles can be a report of events, describe planned events, your views, club or society events, your hobbies, etc.

## SENDING COPY

Please send copy in good time, in Word format as attachments to [magazine@hughendenresidents.org](mailto:magazine@hughendenresidents.org).

We can also handle .RTF or .ODT

formats. Images, photographs and artwork Pictures and other images should be sent, either as .pdf files, without any hypertext, or as uncompressed .jpg files, attached to an e-mail. Please always title them. They should not be embedded within the copy itself, but please provide some indication as to where they should be placed within the text. High-resolution images are preferred.

If you do not use a computer, don't worry, please phone the Secretary or other Officer to make arrangements.

Please contact our treasurer at [treasurer@hughendenresidents.org](mailto:treasurer@hughendenresidents.org) for all advertising issues.

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E-mail address for submissions: [magazine@hughendenresidents.org](mailto:magazine@hughendenresidents.org)

### Schedule for Winter 2025

Fri 17th October	Principal deadline for Copy and Adverts
Fri 21st November	Delivery of Magazines to Residents

### Schedule for Spring 2026

Mid-January	Call for submissions
Mid-February	Principal deadline for Copy and Adverts
Mid-March	Delivery of Magazines to Residents

Hughenden News is printed on FSC certified paper, using vegetable-based ink and chemical free plate-making. Our printers recycle wherever possible.

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## Useful Contacts

Buckinghamshire Council	
Cllr David Carroll	david.carroll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Cllr Steve Broadbent	steve.broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Fix my street	<a href="https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/">https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/</a>
Hughenden Parish Council	
Clerk to the Council	clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk 01494 715296
Councillors for Hughenden Valley Ward within Hughenden Parish Council	
Cllr Simon Kearey	simon.kearey@hughenden-pc.gov.uk
There is 1 vacancy	If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk.



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