

NEWSLETTER

Number 148

APRIL 2025

Chairman's Introduction

Our AGM was held at the end of March, and I know not everyone was able to attend. I thought, therefore, I'd take this opportunity to summarise the main points I covered in my address.

The Centre has held its own over the past year having faced a number of difficulties. These have included recruiting and retaining members, falling interest in trips and events, uncertainty about the future of the Hazlemere Community Centre, the recruitment of committee members, problems with getting venues to commit and conditions being imposed upon us centrally by the National Trust.

Our membership to-day stands at about 180, down from just over 200 at the end of last year and well down on our pre-Covid peak of 280. We continue to appeal for and try to recruit new members. Two of the Committee stood down at the AGM. We said a huge thank you to Agnieszka Kearney for her many years of dedicated service as Raffles Co-ordinator and goodbye too to Kathy Minall who resigned for personal reasons. We have significant gaps in our committee which are only filled by certain people doubling up on roles. The National Trust is trying to impose new conditions upon us for us to maintain our affiliation status. These include but are not limited to formulating safeguarding policies and procedures, a complaints procedure, policies to comply with the Equality Act and a Values Statement (whatever that might mean!). There does seem to be a lack of understanding about what we do and how we operate as a group.

But all was not doom and gloom. We managed to run a full programme of events from the Spring Lunch in March through to the trip to see the Wisley lights in December and had a whole range of stimulating and varied talks. We hope to run as full and interesting programme of talks and events this year and, of course, if you have any suggestions and/or comments to make then we'd be happy to listen to them.

I spoke at last year's AGM about developing a website for the Centre. I'm pleased to be able to report that a shell has now been completed, and I'll be starting to populate the various pages with information over the coming days. The site will advertise who we are and what we do and, hopefully, will be instrumental in the recruitment of new members. Once it's been completed, I'll provide you with more information.

The AGM also agreed a donation of £5,000 to be paid to the National Trust, the money to be split £2,500 to Hughenden Manor, £2,000 to Cliveden and £500 to Nuffield Place.

-----ooOoo---

The current spell of glorious weather encourages us all to think about trips out and two new trips are advertised in this edition of the Newsletter. I hope they will both be sell-outs!

But, whatever you plan to do, enjoy yourselves and stay safe.

Thanks for your continued interest and support.

Kind regards

Graham
Chairman

Late Breaking News

I heard at the end of last week that Hazlemere Community Centre has been awarded the status of Asset of Community Value. The status has legal status, the centre is on a formal register that is governed in law. The status is awarded for 5 years but the Centre can apply to renew at the end of that period.

So, what does the status mean and how is it of importance to us? The status gives the Community Centre a level of protection against external threats and covers the area of both the building and the car park. The landowner cannot do anything with the land unless they express a clear intention to do and there is a consultation period of at least six months. This will prevent a recurrence of such situations as when Bucks County Council made the land over to Sir William Ramsay School without referring to the HCA. In such circumstances, there would be penalties on the landowner that breached the restrictions now in place. Given the sometimes fraught relationship the Community Centre has with the school, this change of status is something that's really important. It helps safeguard the future of the Community Centre and that's important to us because it's been our home for some many years. If the Community Centre were to close, then it would probably mark the end of the NTWC as well.

If you were one of the people living locally who wrote in support of the application, then my sincere thanks to you. The NTWC submitted a note of support arguing the importance of the Community Centre for our very existence. I'm told that over 302 letters/statements of support were submitted.

I spoke at the AGM of the difficulties we face as a centre. It seems as if a resolution to the problems at the Community Centre at least in part, is at hand.

Graham Parsons

Payment for Membership Subscriptions and Events

At the start of this year, our bankers – Lloyds – changed our two accounts from Business Accounts to Community Accounts. They have also started to charge us for banking services.

The charges are based on how much work we ask the bank to do. The more work we perform ourselves or which happens automatically, the less we are charged.

One of our greatest costs involves the paying-in of cheques. Not only does this involve us in listing the details of all cheques paid-in but the bank must also manually verify all of the details. If a cheque contains an error which we haven't previously spotted, the bank writes to us with the details. Costs are involved both in verifying cheques and in notifying us of errors.

It's for this reason that we ask, whenever possible, you pay your membership subs. and trip costs by bank transfer rather than by cheque. Internet banking is quick, easy and safe and all payments made show on your statement. For us, checking payments by bank transfer is also a simple process and avoids us having to visit the bank to pay-in cheques. We will still accept payment by cheque if there's no other way open to you, but we do urge you to use bank transfer if possible if only as a means of reducing the dreaded bank charges!

Thank you.

Graham Parsons

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Graham Parsons	01628 810886	graham.m.parsons@googlemail.com
Vice-Chairman	vacant		
Hon. Secretary	Janet Saul	01494 260388	janetsaul29@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Green	01494 819151	mo_green51@hotmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	vacant		
Membership Secretary	Chris Patching	07752 542544	christophermpatching@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Chris Patching	07752 542544	christophermpatching@gmail.com
Speaker Co-ordinator/ Committee Member	Lynne Davies	01628 533466	lynned.okr@talktalk.net
Raffle Organiser/ Committee Member	Sue Smith	01494 712267	suesmith8080@gmail.com
Committee Member	Kathy Minall	01494 256314	kath.minall@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Jane Jeeves	01494 715226	janejeeves@aol.com
Committee Member	Jen Robinson	01494 444936	ianandjenrobinson@gmail.com

Committee Supporters

Alan Davies; Philip Roberts (Walks Organiser); Ian Robinson (Equipment and Rose Heard

Parking at Hazlemere Community Centre

A reminder that if you are parking at the community centre that charges do not apply but you do have to register your vehicle via the terminal in the Reception Area to avoid facing a fine of up to £100. It's very simple and straightforward to register your vehicle but you must do this within 10 minutes of arriving at the Centre. There are cameras in the car park that not only log your vehicle but also its time of arrival.

Please note that, if you are a member of the Hazlemere Community Centre and have provided your registration details to them, you don't need to log in via the terminal at our monthly meetings. It does no harm, however, if you do.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Outing to MILESTONES MUSEUM, Basingstoke – 5th March

42 of us went on a trip down memory lane when we visited the Milestones Museum, Hampshire's Museum of Living History, last month.

Milestones takes you back to what life used to be like in Hampshire from the Victorian era to the 1930's and 40's. There were cobbled streets to walk down to explore the many houses and all kinds of shops typical of the period. There was a sweet shop, Abrahams, where you could buy a 1940's ration of humbugs, gobstoppers etc., and a wonderful teddy bear museum. You could also, as we did, go into the Baverstock Arms (named after James Baverstock, the first person to make use of a hydrometer in the brewing process) to enjoy a leisurely pint, play vintage pub games or just listen to a pianist playing popular old tunes.

There were more than 60 vehicles and steam engines on display, as well as the tools and equipment used to make them. Taskers of Andover (tractors, steam engines, road vehicles and lorry trailers), Thornycroft of Basingstoke (commercial and military vehicles and high-quality cars) and Wallis & Stevens of Basingstoke (traction engines and steam rollers) were the three manufacturers of note. There were also vintage motorbikes and bicycles to look at and admire.

On one side of the main area was a fantastic penny arcade where you could stroll along the boardwalk as well as learn about the history of piers and view traditional seaside scenes. There were vintage arcade games from claw grabbers and shove pennies to table football, all operated using "old style" money.

There were several parties of school children visiting the museum whilst we were there, most dressed as they would have been in Victorian times or the early 1900's. One group of children was outside a shop where a game of hopscotch had been drawn on the pavement. Needless to say, some of our lady members could not resist showing them how it was done! Also one of our more mature ladies, whose name I will not mention, was seen demonstrating how to spin a hula hoop round her waist and arms.

I hope everyone enjoyed their trip into the past. I know Alan and I did.

Lynne Davies



What's Coming Up

Monthly meetings take place on the fourth Friday in the month, apart from December which is on the second Friday.

The programme April through to September 2025 as it stands currently is shown below. Forms for trips are included in Newsletters and are also available in printed form at Meetings.

APRIL **Tuesday 8th**
Coffee Morning – 10:30 to 12 noon – Hughenden Village Hall

Donations of Easter eggs for the Tombola will be gratefully received

APRIL **Friday 11th**
Coach outing to Batsford Arboretum & Chastleton House

A visit to a Arboretum in the morning and then a short ride to Chastleton House in the afternoon. Cost : £35 NT members.

Organised by Jane Jeeves

APRIL **Friday 25th** **Colin Pawson – “Coaches and Coach Horns”**

The talk tells the story of four-in hand coaches, i.e. the fast Royal Mail Coaches of the early 19th century and Stage Coaches, the equivalent of today's public transport. It tells of their disappearance with the coming of the railways only for “coaching” to be taken up again as a sporting activity towards the end of the century. The talk finishes with a demonstration of some of the traditional coach horn calls and tunes that would have been heard as the coaches travelled “down the road”.

MAY **Thursday 15th**
Coach outing to Wilton House

Wilton House , home to the 18th Earl and Countess of Pembroke with a history going back to Henry VIII Cost : £40 pp

Please see separate application form

MAY **Friday 23RD** **Drew Burnett – “Wildlife from around the World”**

Join wildlife photographer, Drew Burnett of Wild Eye, as he introduces some of his favourite locations around the world, from working with penguins in the Falkland Islands to the Plains of the Masai Mara. As well as lots of details about the wildlife, Drew will also give tips on how to get better wildlife shots yourself as well as plenty of anecdotes from his travels around the globe.

JUNE **Tuesday 17th**
Coach outing to Rockingham Castle

A visit to Rockingham castle which has a history of 1000 years and has been in the same family for 450 years Cost : £40 pp

Please see separate application form

JUNE **Friday 27th Jeff Rozelaar ‘Princess Margaret – A Controversial Life’**
On his third visit to us, Jeff takes an informative and amusing look at the life of the Queen’s sister which will arouse much discussion. Sometimes called “Princess Marmite” because there were those who loved her and those who didn’t.....

JULY **Wednesday 16th July**
Coach outing to the Queens house Greenwich
See separate application form

JULY **Friday 25th Bill Lacey ‘Laceys Farm’**
Will is coming to talk to us about life on Lacey’s farm, a 7th generation family farm in Lane End, milking cows - they have a pedigree herd of Guerseys - caring for the environment and anything else that may come up! They have had a farm shop on site since 2016, which in 2024 was voted the best farm shop/deli in Bucks and Oxon, and there is also a butchers.

AUGUST **Friday 15th August**
A half day boat trip on the Grand Union Canal starting at Hemel Hempstead.
Details to Follow.

AUGUST **Friday 22nd Andy Thomas - ‘Paranormal Mysteries and Cover-ups’**
(Talk postponed from June 2024)
In this thought-provoking and lively presentation, Andy explores some of the most famous global mysteries, finding intriguing linking threads between them. What is the truth about real-life ‘X Files’ – UFO’s, ghosts, the Bermuda Triangle, strange creatures, religious apparitions, physic phenomena and historical enigmas. Are we really told the truth about the world we live in, and if not, why not?

SEPTEMBER **Friday 26th September**
Through the Stage Door
A Dramatic History of London’s Theatres” by Pete Allen

OCTOBER **Saturday 11th October**
Outing to the Oxford New Theatre
To see the matinee performance of the musical ‘The Bodyguard’
Details to follow

Walks

Walks (usually a figure of eight with lunch in the middle) take place on the Saturday following the meeting. They commence at 11 a.m. and are led by Philip Roberts. Details of these are announced at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to walk - please telephone Philip on 07549 704478. You don’t need to do all the walk, you can opt to do the first section only and then stop at the lunch break.

New Members

We should like to welcome the following new members, who have joined the Centre since the last Newsletter was published:

*Linda Hughes
Philippa and David Marfleet
Clare Mullen
Robert Cooper
Tony and Elaine Barnwell
Richard Glenister
Barbara Goodwin*

We hope very much that you will enjoy the programme of events and discover new friendships amongst the other members.

Newsletter Details

If you have any comments or would like to contribute an article then please let us know.

Please would you let us know of any change of email address so that we can send you the Newsletters and updates as soon as possible?

If you cannot read/open the PDF file, please let us know and I'll paste the copy into the email.

Also, if you don't want to receive these newsletters please email me.

Chris & Christine Patching

Bits and Pieces

Stamps – if you would like to donate old postage stamps for the Scannappeal Charity you can give them to Lynda Hayes.

Local National Trust Opening Times over the spring

Hughenden Manor

All facilities open from April

Cliveden

Most facilities open from April

Try to avoid weekends and school holidays because of parking capacity

Waddesdon

Except for Mondays and Tuesdays most facilities open from April

Summer fest June 21 & 22nd .

Greys Court

House and gardens are open from April

Nuffield Place

Open from April – closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Nuffield Place was the home of William Morris who founded the Morris Motor company.

COFFEE MORNING

**Tuesday 8th April from 10:30 at
Hughenden Valley Village Hall**



**Easter Egg themed Tombola
Plus other attractions**

See You There with plenty of loose change

Contributions of cake and Easter eggs for the Tombola gratefully received.

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY 2025

For any holiday attendee who missed the AGM meeting, below is detailed the final itinerary.

The cost of the booked activities will add £67 per person (better than my estimate of £76!!)

i.e. **HOLIDAY COST NOW:**

£887.00 per person sharing a twin/double. Single occupancy add £210.00.

BALANCE REQUIRED by 10 July 2025 please.

ITINERARY

<u>Sunday 7th</u>	Depart: Swan Theatre at 09.15. Loo breaks as required. Lunch stop at Coughton Court (NT) , Alcester.
<u>Monday 8th</u>	Visit: Powis Castle (NT) and Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.
<u>Tuesday 9th</u>	Visit: Ironwork Centre and Sculpture Park, Oswestry. and enjoy a trip on the Llangollen Wharf Boat Cruise.
Wed'day <u>10th</u>	DAY AT LEISURE. Explore the hotel's leisure facilities, visit Telford's huge shopping centre or take a local bus into Shrewsbury.
<u>Thursday 11th</u>	Visit: Stokesay Castle (EH) and Ludlow Market Town.
<u>Friday 12th</u>	Visit: Blists Hill Victorian Town and Iron Bridge & Toll House.
<u>Saturday 13th</u>	Visit: Severn Valley Railway, travel Bridgnorth to Kidderminster. Lunch stop at Webbs of Wychbold Garden Centre , Droitwich. Return journey to High Wycombe.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the holiday please do give me a call to discuss – 01628 533466 (ansaphone) or 07305 696257.

**Best regards
Alan D**

PS. We still have 7 twin / double occupancy rooms available. Do you have friends or relatives who might like to join you / us on this holiday? Get them to give me a call and we will do our best to make them welcome.

Trip to Queens House, Greenwich

Wednesday 16 July 2025



Maritime Greenwich is a UNESCO world heritage site and rightly so, steeped in history and magnificent architecture. At the centre is the Queen's House designed by Inigo Jones for Queen Anne of Denmark in 1616. We have reserved places for the tour and afterwards you'll be free to explore the other attractions Greenwich has to offer. There are museums to explore, the park to enjoy or a chance to browse in Greenwich market – one of the very best in London.

There are countless places to eat including a café in the nearby National Maritime Museum 'though you might want to go down to the river to enjoy one of the local hostelrys there.

All in all, it should be a great day out!

Tickets - £25 per head - on sale now

BOOKING FORM FOR GREENWICH – QUEEN’S HOUSE & TOWN WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2025



Part of the Maritime Greenwich UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Queen’s House is widely regarded as an architectural marvel. Commissioned by Queen Anne of Denmark in 1616, it was designed by architect Inigo Jones and was the first classical building in Britain. Today, the palace houses a gallery of artistic masterpieces.

There will also be time to explore the other attractions Greenwich has to offer – the beautiful park, the Naval Museum with its cafe, the Cutty Sark and the fabulous Market where you’ll find shops and stalls full of art, antiques, crafts and clothing – they’ve got almost everything! If you’re a foodie, fashionista or collector there’s no better place to visit in London.

There are also some wonderful pubs down by the river.

The coach can’t pull-up outside the Queen’s House so there is a short walk of 5-6 minutes to reach it.

Name(s)			
Wycombe Centre No(s)			
Telephone No		Mobile	
E-mail address			
Emergency Contact Name & Number			
No of Tickets Required at £25		Payment Method Cheque or Bank Transfer	Choice
The Pick-Up Points and Times are as follows: Great Kingshill (09:15) / Hazlemere Library Bus Stop (09:30) Lucas Road (09:35) / New Park & Ride (09:45)		Choice	

Paying by Cheque?	<p>By Post enclosing a SAE ONLY IF YOU WANT A RECEIPT</p> <p>If you don’t send an SAE, you will be contacted by phone or e-mail to confirm you have a place</p> <p>Graham Parsons, Woodlands, 7 Chapel Rd, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AA 01628 810886</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to National Trust Wycombe Centre</p>
Paying by Bank Transfer?	<p>By e-mail to graham.m.parsons@googlemail.com</p> <p>The Account Details are as follows: Account Name: High Wycombe Centre National Trust Sort Code: 30-94-28 Account No: 57498860 Payment Reference: Applicant’s Membership No + GREENWICH</p> <p>Please wait for e-mail confirmation that tickets are available before making payment</p>

In making this application, I confirm that the above-named people can undertake the trip without assistance and understand that participation is at my/our own risk.

BOOKING FORM FOR WILTON HOUSE and Gardens Thursday 15 May

Home to the Earls of Pembroke for over 450 years Wilton House is a Grade 1 listed building, still a family home open to visitors during the summer months. We will have the opportunity to see a sculpture collection of a wide range of styles and subjects; it will be interesting to investigate Lord Pembroke's personal classic car collection in the Old Riding School.

The house is a perfect environment for film and TV use and has featured in many popular films and television programmes especially those in historical settings such as *The Crown*.

In the landscaped gardens you will find the River Nadder with Palladian bridge, a rose garden, water garden and woodland area.

There is a café for refreshments.

Name(s)			
Wycombe Centre No(s)			
Telephone No		Mobile	
E-mail address			
Emergency Contact Name & Number			
No of Tickets Required at £40		Payment Method Cheque or Bank Transfer	Choice
The Pick-Up Points and Times are as follows: Great Kingshill (9.15) / Hazlemere Library Bus Stop (9.25) Lucas Road (9.30) / New Park & Ride (9.35)		Choice	

Paying by Cheque?	<p>By Post enclosing a SAE to Janet Saul 21 Downs Park, Downley, High Wycombe HP13 5LU 01494 260388 mobile 07773151295</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to National Trust Wycombe Centre</p>
Paying by Bank Transfer?	<p>By e-mail to janetsaul29@gmail.com</p> <p>The Account Details are as follows: Account Name: High Wycombe Centre National Trust Sort Code: 30-94-28 Account No: 57498860 Payment Reference: Your Membership No + Wilton House</p> <p>Please wait for e-mail confirmation that tickets are available before making payment</p>

In making this application, I confirm that the above-named people can undertake the trip without assistance and understand that participation is at my/our own risk.

BOOKING FORM FOR **ROCKINGHAM CASTLE, CORBY - TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025**

Rockingham Castle was built on the instructions of William the Conqueror and was held by the Crown for 450 years. It was bought from James I by Lewis Watson and has been in the family ever since.

Whether it is images of knights in shining armour, a Tudor House, a Victorian home staffed with servants, or contemporary art, Rockingham has it all.

There are 13 acres of formal gardens and wooded ravine to explore, with stunning herbaceous borders, roses, yew hedges, terraces, a stumpery and spectacular views over the surrounding countryside.

Charles Dickens visited Rockingham Castle on several occasions and often performed his plays in the Panel Room. The Castle has been used as a principal setting for the BBC civil war period drama "By the Sword Divided" and also featured in "Top Secret".

TICKETS ON SALE: 1 APRIL

Name(s)			
Wycombe Centre No(s)			
Telephone No		Mobile	
E-mail address			
Emergency Contact Name & Number			
No of Tickets Required at £ 40		Payment Method Cheque or Bank Transfer	Choice
The Pick-Up Points and Times are as follows: Great Kingshill (9.15) / Hazlemere Library Bus Stop (9.25) Lucas Road (9.30) / New Park & Ride (9.35)		Choice	

Paying by Cheque?	<p>By Post <u>enclosing a SAE if you require a receipt to</u> Lynne Davies, 19 Old Kiln Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9NR Tel: 01628 533466 Mobile: 07305 067530</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to National Trust Wycombe Centre You will be contacted by phone or email to confirm you have a place</p>
Paying by Bank Transfer?	<p>By e-mail to lynned.okr@talktalk.net</p> <p>The Account Details are as follows: Account Name: High Wycombe Centre National Trust Sort Code: 30-94-28 Account No: 57498860 Payment Reference: Your Membership No + Rockingham</p> <p>Please wait for e-mail confirmation that tickets are available before making payment</p>

In making this application, I confirm that the above-named people can undertake the trip without assistance and understand that participation is at my/our own risk.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR 2025-2026

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

- The Membership Year runs from 1st January through until 31st December and this applies to all members.
- If you join or renew your membership after January, you will not be offered a reduced membership fee and you have to pay the full fee to renew your membership the following January.

MEETINGS

- Talks and meetings are held in the hall at the Hazlemere Community Centre, Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, Bucks, HP15 7UB.
- **Meetings will take place at 2.15 – 4.15 p.m. on the 4th Friday in the month (Except December when it will be 2nd Friday in the month)**
- If the weather is bad on the day of the meeting, please telephone a Committee member to check if the meeting is taking place. Their names and telephone numbers will be listed in the Newsletter.
- Car parking at Hazlemere Community Centre is free to NTWC members – but you do have to insert your car registration number on the machine inside the door to the Centre unless you are a paid-up member of the Community Centre when your vehicle registration number will be held permanently in the system.

OUTINGS

- Pick up points for outings are listed below and are at the time specified on the ticket issued when booking.

The Common car park in Great Kingshill.
Hazlemere Library Bus stop; *Please park behind shops in Beaumont Way*
Lucas Road/Amersham Hill bus stop,
Cressex Park and Ride - the layby outside the Leisure Centre.
- Non-refundable payment for all outings is to be made at the time of booking by means of a cheque – a separate one for each outing please. (Post-dated cheques cannot be accepted). Bank Transfer facilities are available also – please see booking form. **Please supply SAE if you require a receipt.**
- Payment for Membership Renewal also needs to be made by cheque – with SAE if you are unable to attend a meeting. Bank Transfer facilities are available also – please see booking form.
- **CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO “NATIONAL TRUST WYCOMBE CENTRE” – Bank Transfer available – no cash accepted for outings or membership renewals.**
- **TICKET PURCHASE POLICY** – Effective 27 November 2013
A Wycombe Centre member may only purchase a MAXIMUM of TWO tickets for any one trip (one for the member and a second for a spouse / friend etc). Any tickets unsold, 30 days before the event, will be available to non-members of Wycombe Centre.

PLEASE NOTE - Disclaimer notice for holidays and outings

Members are advised that many properties and grounds have steps, slopes and uneven surfaces which require extra care. Good sturdy shoes are a must if the outing involves a significant amount of walking, especially across unpaved ground. If any member is not entirely mobile and independent, then the committee requires that the member invites a nominated carer to accompany and assist him or her for the entire trip.

The leader(s) are not available to escort members around the properties or gardens and they accept no liability. All members must be in good health in order to go on a day trip / holiday. For the latter, holiday insurance is your responsibility.

We remind members that it is their responsibility to board the coach in good time to avoid delaying the departure.

There have been occasions when the committee have refused an application and had a polite word with the member concerned. This has always been taken well as the members themselves realise that, although the spirit is willing, sadly the body is not able anymore. If in doubt the committee's decision will be final.

Please make sure you have any medication you may take with you in the boxes provided in case of any emer