

NEWSLETTER

Number 153

MAY 2026

Chairman's Introduction

I can't believe that, as I write this, it's early May! It doesn't seem that long ago we were putting up the Christmas decorations.

Still, it looks as if the good weather has arrived and what better place is there than England in late Spring/early Summer? - the Scottish, Welsh and Ulstermen amongst you are excused having to answer that.

We've run our first trip of the year – to Wakehurst and what a lovely day that turned out to be. And now our programme for the year starts to pick-up pace. I look forward to welcoming many of you on future trips and walks too.

Never been on one of Phil's organised walks? You don't know what you're missing. Phil's an experienced walk leader; his routes are always well researched and tailored to match our capabilities. They always begin and end at a charming country pub so what's there not to love in good company, good food and good scenery? They generally take place on the Saturday following our monthly meetings.

Within each Newsletter, we generally include some photographs taken by members on trips out. However, space within the Newsletter is limited and sometimes we can't include all the pictures we receive. But there is an Image Gallery within our website, and I'd like to build it up with photographs taken by our members on trips out. It will help to secure memories of some of the lovely days we have enjoyed together and, for prospective members, demonstrate some of the things we get up to. So, if you have some photos of recent events that you'd like to share, then please let me have the details. My e-mail address is shown later in this Newsletter. Remember, though, that if you want to share images of people, you must gain their consent to do so. Thank you in anticipation.

Whatever you do and wherever you go, enjoy the good weather and stay safe.

Kindest regards

Graham Parsons

Chairman

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	Jane Jeeves	07791 304735	janejeeves@aol.com
Committee Member	Jen Robinson	01494 444936	ianandjenrobinson@gmail.com

Committee Supporters

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

Annual General Meeting

The AGM finally took place on Friday 24th April. For those of you who were unable to attend, the salient points agreed were as follows:

- The accounts for 2025 were agreed.
- A donation of £5,000 to the National Trust was agreed, the money to be split thus:
 - £3,000 to Hughenden Manor,
 - £1,750 to Cliveden and
 - £250 to Waddesdon Manor.

The donations to each of the house to be spent on projects (**not** everyday expenses) at the discretion of the appropriate General Managers.

The donation was paid on 12 May.

- We are looking at collaborating with the Beaconsfield Centre in the organising of future holidays to ensure we have sufficient interest to make them financially viable.
- We renewed our affiliation to the National Trust last August having self-certified that we had appropriate Data Protection, Diversity & Inclusion and Safeguarding policies in place.
- The Committee was re-elected in its entirety.

I stated my intention to stand-down as Chairman at the next AGM in 2027. I will have been in post then for 5 years at the same time fulfilling the role of Deputy-Treasurer as well. Undertaking both roles means I exercise more control over the activities of the Centre than I should, and I also feel that I have taken the Wycombe Centre as far as I can. By next year, it'll be time for new ideas and a fresh enthusiasm.

Graham Parsons

Booking & Paying for Trips

There have been some issues recently regarding the booking and paying for trips, so I thought it worthwhile to restate the rules.

Booking trips must be done via the appropriate application form – we don't accept bookings verbally or by e-mail. The application form tells us where you're joining the coach, your contact details and, importantly, your emergency contact details if there's an issue on the day. It's important information for the Committee Member organising the trip. If you're booking for other people as well, it's important to list all their names and not just record "friends".

If you've booked and paid for a trip and then, for whatever reason you can't go, please don't forget to let the trip organiser know as soon as you know. Don't rely on someone else to do this for you. Similarly, if you decide to change your pick-up point, you have a duty to let the trip organiser know **in advance** of the trip date.

Payment can be made by either cheque or bank transfer. If you're electing to pay by bank transfer, please wait till the trip organiser advises that you have a place before making the payment but then please do so **immediately** and certainly no later than within 2 days. We shouldn't have to chase payment from members who have booked trips and then have failed to pay for them. In such circumstances, we reserve the right to cancel a member's booking by reason of non-payment.

It's important to note, however, that payment by bank transfer in advance of getting notification from the trip organiser that you have a place **does not** guarantee a seat allocation.

So, what's our commitment to you? We realise that many trips are popular, and some seem to sell out within days. We will have a "On Sale From" date for every event and spaces won't be allocated until after that date has been passed regardless of how many applications arrive beforehand. Application forms will be available such that members who post their forms will still be able to get them to the trip organiser by the "On Sale From" date. If, on the first day of sale, there are more applications than places, then applications will be selected at random.

Once a trip has been sold out, we'll maintain a waiting list. If a member is slow to pay for a trip by bank transfer and there's a waiting list, then his/her allocation of tickets will be forfeited and passed to the first person on the waiting list.

No member should have a better chance of securing a place than any of their peers but, equally, no trip organiser should have to chase for payment or a missing application form.

Thank you for your understanding.

Graham Parsons

Outing to Wakehurst – Friday 17th April

We set off for Sussex on a cloudy morning but the sun arrived by the time we arrived at Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden. After the usual coffee we had lots to explore. Wakehurst is home to a globally significant plant collection and the Millennium seed bank had a very informative exhibition explaining their work.



After lunch we explored the various themed gardens including meadows, wetlands and woodlands where the bluebells were glorious and also an Elizabethan mansion which housed the original seed bank. We set off for home after an interesting and enjoyable day.

Jane Jeeves



Outing to Shuttleworth Collection – Thursday 14th May

On a showery day in May our group led by Janet Saul visited the Shuttleworth Collection and Swiss garden near Biggleswade .

The Shuttleworth Collection was founded by Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth in 1928 and is a collection of mostly vintage aircraft and also veteran cars and classic motorcycles dating from 1909 to 1950.

The collection is unusual in that most of the exhibits can be started and either driven or flown



The Swiss Garden is an example of a Regency garden in the 'Swiss picturesque' style and was created in 1820 and is now a RHS partner garden. Our group were entertained by various Peacocks that were resident of the gardens



Most of us managed to dodge the odd shower and we had a enjoyable day.



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 May through to December 2026 as it stands currently is shown below. Forms for trips are included in Newsletters and are also available in printed form at Meetings.

- MAY** **Friday 22nd** **Philippa Hitchen – “Our Woman in the Vatican”**
If you liked the film “The Two Popes” you’ll love Philippa’s stories of close encounters with three popes! Philippa, a non-Catholic, spent over 30 years working as a journalist for Vatican Radio, travelling on the papal plane and reporting on the role of churches championing democracy in different parts of the world. She watched close up John Paul II’s illness and death, Benedict’s surprise resignation and the election of Francis, the first Latin American leader with a radical reform agenda. More recently she was in Rome for the death of Francis and the election of the current Pope, Leo XIV.
- JUNE** **Thursday 11th**
Coach outing to Sudeley Castle and gardens in Gloucestershire .
Sold Out
- JUNE** **Friday 26th** **Tony Long – “A Midsomer “ Day in the Chilterns**
Midsomer Murders has been on our TV screens since 1997 and is still going strong. Tony’s talk tells the story of the show and its phenomenal success worldwide. ‘Midsomer County’ is largely filmed in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. His talk covers many of the filming locations, particularly around Thame, but also some in the Chesham, Amersham and Little Missenden areas. .
- JULY** **Tuesday 14th**
Coach outing to NT Knole estate & Tunbridge wells
Sold out
- JULY** **Friday 24th** **Rena Hume – “Tea for Two”**
Details to follow.
- AUGUST** **Tuesday 11th** A boat cruise on the river Thames from Maidenhead to Windsor.
After arrival at Windsor there will be 4 hours to explore Windsor before getting the Coach back home. See attached Booking form
- AUGUST** **Tuesday 18th** **Coffee Morning – 10:30 to 12 noon – Hughenden Village Hall**
- AUGUST** **Friday 28th** **Kamran Irani – A talk by the charity “ Blood Bikes”**
- SEPTEMBER** **Friday 25th** **Mervyn Edwards – “Walking the Beat to Nirvana”**
Details to follow.
- OCTOBER** **Thursday 15th** **Outing to the Mayflower Theatre Southampton**
To see the matinee performance of the musical ‘Moulin Rouge ‘
Details to follow.
- OCTOBER** **Friday 23RD** **Dilip Amin – “Enemy Engaged.**
The story of the Battle of Britain Bunker and how Fighter Command took the fight to the enemy”
Details to follow.

NOVEMBER Friday 27th Colin Oakes – “Ghosts, Ghouls and Graveyards”.

Details to follow.

DECEMBER Friday 11th Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will be held at Hazlemere Golf Club.

Rose Heard will be collecting names of members who would be interested
In attending at the meeting on Friday 22nd May.

Walks

Walks (usually a figure of eight with lunch in the middle) take place on the Saturday following the Friday 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:

Christina Bartlett

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

Newsletter Details

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

Parking at Hazlemere Community Centre.

Parking restrictions have been suspended but Look for any notice on entrance door.

Otherwise :

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.

Local National Trust Opening Times over the Summer

Hughenden Manor

Most facilities open from May

Morris dancing on 23rd May

Talks on Bee keeping May/June/July/August

Cliveden

Most facilities open from May

Try to avoid weekends and school holidays because of parking capacity

Waddesdon

Except for Mondays and Tuesdays, the grounds and House are open .

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Greys Court

House and gardens are open from May

Nuffield Place

Open from March 6th , Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only

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

Ascott

Open from March 17th

Basildon Park

All facilities open from February

Osterley Park & House

All facilities open from February

Ham House and Garden

Most facilities open from February 14th

BOOKING FORM FOR River Thames Boat cruise Tuesday 11th August 2026

This is a 1.5 hour cruise starting at 11.00 am from Maidenhead and arriving at Windsor at 12:30. The boat will pass the houses of stars before travelling through Bray lock. We will then pass Monkey Island and Oakley Court before going through Boveney lock. The boat then continues past Windsor Racecourse with spectacular views of Windsor Castle before arriving at Windsor Promenade at 12:30



This is a ONE WAY CRUISE , You will have the afternoon free to explore Windsors shops/restaurants and tourist attractions.

We will re-join the coach at Windsors Alexandra Car Park at 5.00 for the journey home

There is a bar available that serves tea/coffee/non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks . Payment is CASH ONLY
You cannot consume your own food or drink on board.

* A cream tea in a box consisting of 2 scones/jam/cream + tea/coffee is available at £10 pp *

Tickets on Sale May 22nd

Name(s)					
Wycombe Centre No(s)					
Telephone No		Mobile			
E-mail address					
Emergency Contact Name & Number					
No of Tickets Required at £38.00		No Cream Tea @£10		Payment Method Cheque or Bank Transfer	Choice
The Pick-Up Points and Times are as follows: Great Kingshill (9.40) / Hazlemere Library Bus Stop (9.50) Lucas Road (9.55) / New Park & Ride (10.00)			Choice		

Paying by Cheque?	By Post enclosing a SAE ONLY IF YOU WANT A RECEIPT If you don't send an SAE, you will be contacted by phone or e-mail to confirm you have a place Chris Patching , 14 Oakengrove Lane, Hazlemere , High Wycombe. HP15 7ND Tel : 07752 542544 Cheques should be made payable to National Trust Wycombe Centre
Paying by Bank Transfer	By e-mail to : christophermpatching@gmail.com 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 + Thames Please wait for e-mail confirmation that tickets are available before making payment

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.