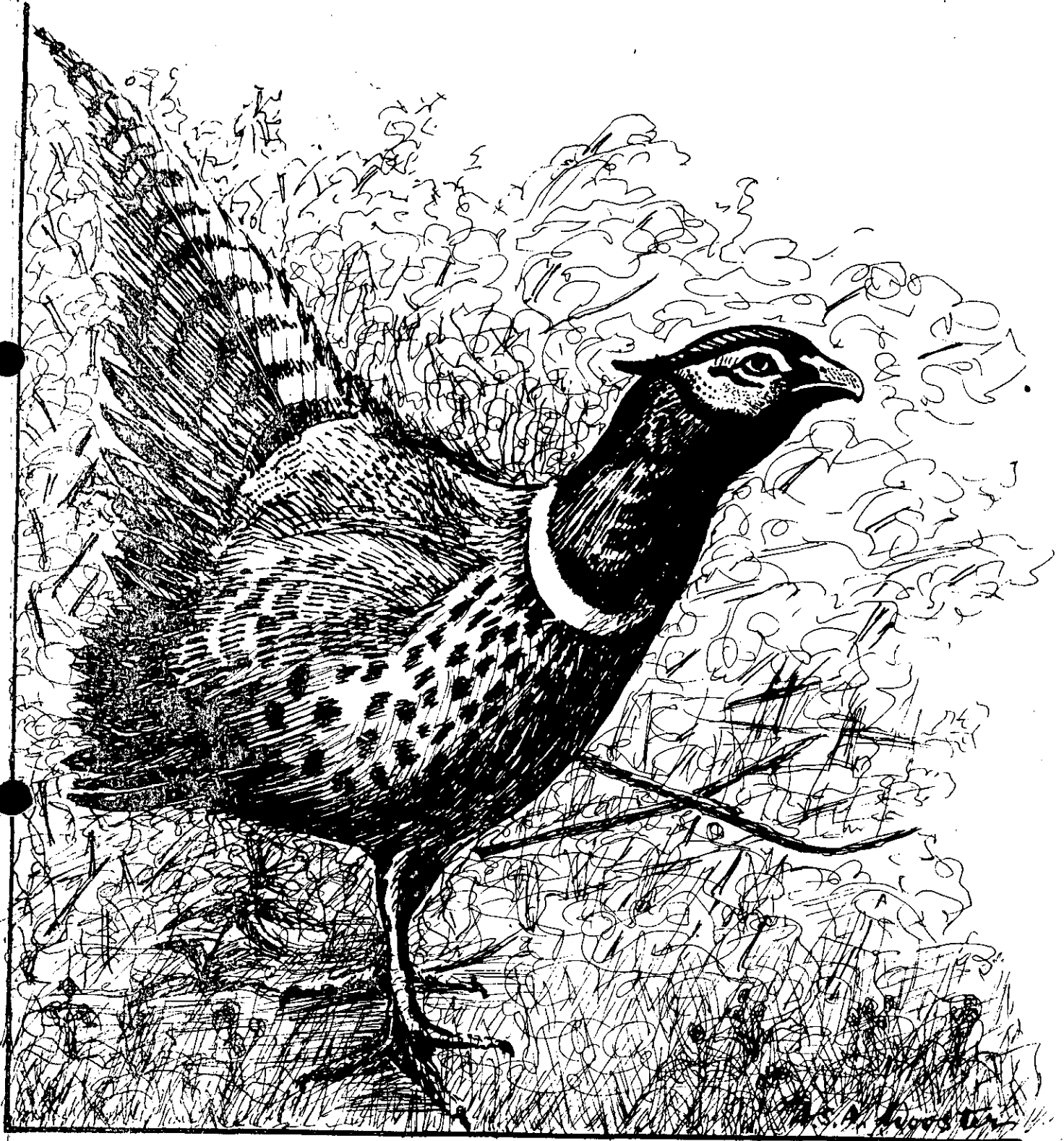


# NAPHILL — GAZETTE



THE WHITE NECK-RINGED MALE PHEASANT

**NOVEMBER 1974**

NAPHILL GAZETTE No. 378

AT THE VILLAGE HALL - NOVEMBER 1974

Over 60's	1st 15th 29th	2.30 pm
Methodist Bazaar	2nd	2.30 pm
Private Party	2nd	7.00-Midnight
V.H.C.	4th	8.00 pm
Youth Club	4th 18th 25th	7.45 9.45 pm
Dancing Class	5th 12th 19th 26th	3.00-7.45 pm
Welfare	6th 20th	
Youth Club	6th (C.R.)	8.00-10.00 pm
Bingo	7th 14th 21st 28th	8.00 pm
Art	Every Thurs. (B.R.)	7.30-9.30 pm
W.I.	7th	2.30 pm
Play Group	Tues.Wed.Thurs.Fri.	9.00-12 noon
Drama	5th 12th 19th	7.45-9.45 pm
Whist	8th 22nd	7.30 pm
Conservative Rummage	9th	2.30 pm
Private Party	9th	5.00-Midnight
Bucks Canine Soc.	10th	2.00-5.00 pm
Naphill Neighbours	11th	7.45 pm
Guides	13th 27th	7.00-8.30 pm
Drama Dress Rehearsal	13th	8.30 pm
Drama Play	15th 16th	
Private Dance	23rd	5.00-Midnight
W.I.	28th (C.R.)	2.50 pm
Cricket Club Dinner/Dance	29th	5.30 pm
Private Dance	30th	

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 All village hall bookings through MRS. D. BURGE,  
 BARBIZON, MAIN ROAD, NAPHILL 3130.  
 -----

NAPHILL CRICKET CLUB

A Dinner/Dance is being held at Naphill Village Hall  
 on 29th NOVEMBER - 7.30 pm to 1.00 am.

TICKETS: £2.50 Obtainable from Committee Members.

G.L. Brown  
 Hon. Sec.

COMMENTARY

At the end of December the Rangers will staple their last Gazette. The Gazette Committee is extremely grateful to Mrs. Hole and the Rangers who have performed this duty for the current year. We now appeal to any club, organisation or group who would undertake the task for the coming year. It is not an onerous job. It requires a team of 4-6 people to meet once a month for 2 hours - usually on a Thursday or Friday evening. Would any volunteer group please contact the Editor.

This month we print the last of R.E. Corder's contributions. These have been much appreciated and many of you have been curious about his identity. R.E. Corder is, in fact, Mr. W. Wood of Christopher Close. On behalf of all readers we thank Mr. Wood for the time and effort he has put into this entertaining series.

We have heard from Don and Ann Turner. They are obviously very happy to be a family again, were lapping up some welcome end-of-season sunshine and managing to enjoy life despite some very tiresome restrictions. Ann sounded very much her usual ebullient self.

Our former Editor, Mr. Ron Piercy and his wife, Muriel, leave for Tasmania on 7th November. Mr. Piercy has contributed an item to the Gazette, this month, under an interesting title. The Gazette wishes Mr. & Mrs. Piercy a happy and interesting stay "down under" and look forward to the promised report.

Please read about the POP-IN again so that you know what it is all about.

-----  
POP - IN - AGAIN !

Until last year it had been the custom of the Village Hall Council to hold a Christmas Bazaar to raise funds for the running of the village hall. Last year they had an innovation - a "POP-IN". It was so successful that they are holding a "POP - IN - AGAIN" on 7th DECEMBER.

Briefly a Pop-In is a give-and take. During November you will be asked, by volunteer collectors to give something and on 7th December you are invited to come to the village hall and for a 10P ticket have a cup of tea and biscuit and something from a "take" stall. There will, of course, be other stalls where it is hoped you will try your luck or be unable to resist a bargain. Children will have their own stalls, so please remember them in your giving.

We all - from the youngest to the oldest in our community - use and have need of a village hall, so please

contd.....

GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Be twiced blessed - give and come and take on 7th DEC. at 2.30 pm at the Village Hall.

If you are out all week and likely to miss the collectors, perhaps you would like to leave your gifts at one of the following addresses.

- Lawrence Auchinyell, Downley Road.
- Bridgman Louches Cottage, Hunts Hill Lane.
- Cook Kingston, The Glebe
- Bull Avonlea, Coombe Lane.
- Bullock 157 Main Road, Naphill.

A.M.L.

NAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

<u>Preachers for November</u>	<u>11.00 am</u>	<u>6.15 pm</u>
3rd	<u>Chapel Anniversary</u> Mr. S.R. Donoghue	Rev.P. Tucker (Holy Communion)
10th	Family Service Rev.P. Tucker	Mr.E. Andrews
17th	Dr. C. Sworn	Preacher from Hinde St.
24th	Mr.B.Sutcliffe	Mr.B. Rixon

There will be a Missionary Evening on Friday, 8th Nov. at 7.00 pm when the Rev. P. Tucker will give a talk, with slides, illustrating his recent visit to America. There will be refreshments and a Bring & Buy Stall.

THE METHODIST CHURCH BAZAAR on SATURDAY - 2ND NOVEMBER  
at 2.30 pm. To be opened by MISS MARGARET DARVILL.

M.G.B.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

With everything going up in price, it is nice to know one item is to be a little cheaper - the rate demands which will be arriving through your letter boxes in the next few days will be reduced by about 5.8%. This is a reduction on the whole year's rate, but could not be processed in time for the last half year. The rate varies slightly from Parish to Parish, depending on the Parish Council's precept.

My attention has been drawn to a number of overhanging trees and hedges encroaching on public footpaths. Where these are the responsibility of the County Council I have

contd.....

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (contd)

asked them to take action in cutting them back. Private trees and hedges are, of course, individual owners' responsibilities.

It was a shame to see the lovely old brick and flint "Firs Cottage" in Walters Ash going up in flames, but it is to be hoped that the old building is still capable of preservation.

AUDREY MOORE

-----  
PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

As most readers will appreciate, Hughenden Parish covers a wide area and includes the villages of Hazlemere, Widmer End, Gt. Kingshill, Cryers Hill, North Dean, Hughenden Valley as well as Naphill and Walters Ash. Hazlemere represents about a half of our total rate income and as such takes up a high proportion of our meeting time in matters relating to its problems. In contrast Naphill and Walters Ash could be considered to have no difficulties requiring solution. Our Village Hall and Playing Fields are managed locally: we have a roadside footpath throughout the length of the village and we have no vandalism of street lighting which is maintained.

There are, however, two important areas to which a solution must be found; first, housing for the elderly amongst us, who require smaller and more manageable accommodation, as was apparent in the survey conducted by Miss E. Cooper some little while ago. Secondly, Naphill Common, that priceless possession of an open space on our doorstep but which is now almost unpenetrable due to heavy rain and increased traffic. The latter we shall solve in co-operation with all interested parties, but the first item will require a longer and more sustained effort in order to achieve success.

Richard Pushman

-----  
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 10TH NOVEMBER

The Annual Service of Remembrance will be held at Naphill Village Hall at 3.00 pm on Sunday, 10th November. The Service will be conducted by the Revd. Michael Stokes of R.A.F. High Wycombe, who is already known to the residents who attend at the Station Church.

All are invited to this interdenominational Service, held to commemorate the men, especially those from our village, who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

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NAPHILL & WALTERS ASH OVER SIXTIES CLUB

The weather was grey and wet when we set off from the village hall for the Autumnal ride through the countryside,

contd.....

NAPHILL & WALTERS ASH OVER SIXTIES CLUB (contd)

but by the time the tea rendezvous was reached everybody was happily chatting away. The restaurant tea was excellent and the return home came all too quickly.

On 1st November we shall be entertained by Mrs. D. Smith and her organ and her sister-in-law with her wonderful dialogues.

The 15th November will be an interesting afternoon as Mrs. B. Showler will give a talk on "Patchwork" and will also have a display of work.

The last meeting in November, (29th) will be a talk given by Mr. G.T. Acland on the "Eye Bank."

A.G.

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NAPHILL W.I.

On 3rd October the Institute celebrated its 52nd Birthday. Members, along with friends from Hughenden, Hampden, Lacey Green, Loosely Row and Downley W.I's. enjoyed a musical afternoon. Mr. Todd entertained with "Sea Shanties" accompanied on the piano by his wife. Mr. & Mrs. Todd were thanked by Mrs. A. Bull. Afternoon tea was served by the Committee Members. The birthday cake was made by Mrs. K. McCue and beautifully iced by Mrs. K. Stewart. The cake was cut by two founder members, Mrs. Ted Brown and Mrs. Monger.

The President welcomed three new members - Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. P. Smith and Mrs. Latham.

A coffee morning held at the home of Mrs. Jean Cole raised £7.04.

The 7th November meeting will be the A.G.M. VCO. Mrs. Snow. Exhibition: Tomorrow's Heirlooms.

Tea hostesses: Mesdames Gillies, Shakeshaft, Dutton and Davies.

A Bring & Buy Stall will be held at this meeting, proceeds going toward the cost of Christmas presents for the patients in Booker Hospital.

J.M.R.

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The W.I. Drama Group will present "THE HOLLY AND THE IVY" a 3-act play by Wynyard Browne, in the village hall on Friday and Saturday, 15th and 16th November at 8.00 pm. Seats may be reserved at 40P each (unreserved 30P). Apply: Mrs. McCue, Seven Winds, Downley Road. Tel: Naphill 2213.

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NAPHILL NEIGHBOURS

At the October meeting, Miss Hubbard brought her collection of historical costume, dating from Saxon times to Queen Victoria. These were modelled by club members, all of whom agreed that although they looked very elegant,

NAPHILL NEIGHBOURS (contd)

they were most uncomfortable and impracticable.

The November meeting will be a Demonstration of Christmas Decorations and Dried Flower Arrangements, by Mrs. Barbara Tole.

The competition will be a hanging Christmas decoration.

Once again, we would like to invite any newcomers to the village. There is no age limit and any lady who would like to meet fellow villagers and enjoy a couple of hours of chat and light entertainment should come along. I am sure they will be made very welcome.

The coffee hostesses for November are: Jane Rushby, Marion Wilks and Olive Stratford.

6TH NOVEMBER Mrs. E. Chamberlen has offered to hold a coffee morning in aid of club funds. This will be held at Rowan, Stonefield Road (off Clappins Lane) between 1.30 am and 12 noon. The admission will be 10P and there will be a raffle and bring and buy stall.

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NAPHILL YOUTH CLUB

We now have a paid membership of 43 and the two meetings, so far have, I think, been a success.

A committee of members has been elected to plan the future events and outings of the club. At the date of writing only two meetings have been held, the first one included a musical quiz and the second was a games evening. We now have the use of table tennis, darts, chess and draughts etc.

The village hall committee has agreed that we fit out the hall with new speakers, wired up with the record playing facilities we already have.

Our next meeting on 4th November will be a "Hallo'een" night with special refreshments including potatoes, hot in their jackets with sausages.

May the senior members of the club committee take this opportunity of thanking all the volunteers who have helped with the refreshments, set out the games and cleaned up the hall each night after our meetings.

Brian Taylor.

P.S. Youth Club meeting dates for November are -  
4th 18th and 25th. 7.45pm - 9.45 pm.

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FOUND

Umbrella in the bus shelter, opposite the Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th October. Owner please 'phone NAPHILL 3163

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The winners of the '200' Club draw made on 5th October were:-

£50. E. Jarvis, 22 Friars Gardens, Hughenden Valley.  
£20. A. Lawrence, Auchinyell, Downley Rd. Naphill.  
£ 5. S. Dennis, 10 Beech Park, Walters Ash.

The next draw will be in January.

We would like to assemble a collection of photographs showing all aspects of Naphill village life over the years. If any reader has some old photographs on this theme we would be very grateful if we could borrow them for a short time so that they could be copied. The originals would be returned in good condition to their owners. Please contact H. Bridgman, Louches Cottage, Hunts Hill Lane. (tel: 2428) or any Committee member.

The local bus service is, once more, the subject of much complaint and we are, again, taking this up with the company. In anticipation of an unsatisfactory explanation, we are considering what further steps we can take, to try to ensure that buses are run to the timetable.

The combined fighting fund of the Coombe Valley Preservation Campaign now stands at about £1,200. a magnificent effort in so short a time. It places us in a strong position to defend our environment when the Public Inquiry is announced, which we hope will not be delayed much longer.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

21st November Wine & cheese evening, Hughenden Village Hall (joint event). Tickets will be available early in November.

22nd January 1975 A.G.M. Naphill Village Hall.

7th February 1975 An evening of entertainment by Aylesbury Dramatic & Operatic Soc. Naphill Village Hall. Refreshments.

We still have no Hon. Secretary - please will somebody volunteer for this not very irksome job? There must be some kind person who would be willing to keep the Minutes and write the occasional letter.

H.B.

-----  
FOR SALE

Fidelity portable record player	£8.00 ono
New hockey boots size 6	£1.50
New shin pads	50

Apply: 13 Louches Lane.

GARDEN NOTES - NOVEMBER

The necessity for tidiness and the quick disposal of all decaying refuse apply as forcibly to this month as to October. The atmosphere is moist, the leaves are falling and the utmost care should be taken not to make things worse by scatterings of vegetable and flower rubbish.

Begin to prepare for next year's crops by trenching, manuring planting and collecting stuff to burn. Land dug now for spring seeds and roots and kept quite rough will only require to be levelled and raked down to be ready for seed when spring comes. Protecting material must be ready in view of the fact that a few nights of hard frost may destroy lettuce, endives, celery and cauliflowers, worth many pounds which a few shillings of labour and litter would have saved.

November is a good month to plant all kinds of deciduous shrubs and trees. Planting rules are: dig deeply and break up the subsoil well; there will be no opportunity to improve the soil underneath after the plant is established. Provide stakes during planting operation, swaying in the wind breaks the roots. Plant firm and press the soil into actual contact with the root hairs.

I have yet to find the garden without a rose of some sort. This is the best month for planting. BLACK SPOT is a very troublesome disease among roses. The following are the most resistant.

- EXTREMELY RESISTANT: Allgold
- VERY RESISTANT: Goldilocks Jiminy Cricket  
McGredy Sunset Peace Pink Peace  
Rose Gaujard Violinista Costa  
RESISTANT: Ena Harkness Etoile de Hollande  
Gail Gorden Iceberg Korona  
Louis Laprierre Perfect Piccadilly  
Picture Queen Elizabeth Shot Silk  
Show Girl Super Star

C.P.

-----  
A SLEEPY LAGOON - A TROPICAL MOON..... and.....

just the wife !

My son has long been urging me to visit him in Australia, but I have never been very keen on that land of sun and sand. But when he wrote that the poultry firm he works for were sending him to Tasmania I began to feel an itch in the feet. Apparently the Tasmanians are great orchardists but somewhat backward in the poultry world and his job is to bring them up-to-date.

He wrote, "Dad, it's a big job and I could do with your help and advice." Now, I know a bit of 'flannel' when

contd.....

I see it as well as the next man, but the chance was too good to miss. So, provided I can sell my cattle for about half their real value, we shall be off in November and back in April, and in that time I should manage at least one report for the Gazette.

But there's a bit of a problem. I like to see my hens running about in the grass. How shall I conceal from the good poultrymen of Tasmania that I am just as old-fashioned as they are !

Agricultural Correspondent

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REMINISCENCES by R.E. Corder

So far, of all the people we have interviewed, Mr. Bert Day, known to many during his ten years as landlord of The Wheel, is the man with the longest memory and a fund of good stories to draw on.

We very fortunately met him during one of his visits to the village, at his son's home in Stocking Lane. In his youth, Bert Day was a member of the village detachment of the Boys Brigade, about thirty strong, which used to meet in the Church School at the corner of Louches Lane, and he still clearly recalls their drum, bugle and fife band, when Harry Munger was the drummer. The occasion of a summer camp at Shoreham was also remembered, as they were flooded out by torrential rain and were forced to take refuge in a nearby college for the rest of the night.

During his service with the Brigade, Bert held the rank of sergeant, until one Christmas Day when he fell out of favour and was asked to leave the Boys Brigade. On this particular Christmas Day, Bert had to choose between attending a church parade at Hughenden Church, or taking a position in the team he had formed, who were due to play a local match. The decision went in favour of the match, although it meant the end of his connection with the Brigade.

Naphill has good reason to be grateful to Mr. Bert Day for he was one of those who initiated the idea of building a village hall.

Life was very hard when he was a child, for when he was three years old his mother had to apply for Poor Law Relief at the Saunderton Workhouse. The regulations allowed the Guardians to provide relief only for children, so his mother was compelled to find work to support herself. Canon Blagdon of Hughenden Church heard of her troubles and made it his duty to provide work for her by bringing her all his own family laundry and he

contd.....

REMINISCENCES (contd)

arranged for other prosperous families in the parish to do the same.

Bert Day recalls, vividly, the continuous frost from November to March in the winter of 1894/5 and the heavy falls of snow. Coombe Lane, at that time, was only a single cart track with passing places at intervals. One particularly heavy fall of snow resulted in drifts, which filled the road to the level of the top of the hedges, making it possible to walk along the hedge tops. People who usually walked to High Wycombe for work were compelled to dig a road through to the valley to restore communications with the town. During this winter, skating became very popular, while the ice on The Dyke was so thick that a bonfire was started on the ice.

Until 1924, when a private bus service was started, many people had to walk to High Wycombe. The bus service was started with a Ford wagon which carried only seven passengers, three on each side and one at the front with the driver. The route from Wycombe was through North Dean, along Clappins Lane and through the village to the Church School, but the incline in Clappins Lane was too much for the bus with a full load of passengers, so everyone got out and walked. Later, another private bus company provided a service from the Church School to Wycombe by way of Bradenham Road, running a forty-five minute service. Finally the Thames Valley Company took over the route and provided us with the service we have today.

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NATURE INTEREST

THE RING NECKED PHEASANT

October 1st yearly marks the lifting, for a few months, of the pheasant protection law.

It was late one September when we in Walters Ash and Naphill were visited by this magnificent creature - the ring-necked cock Pheasant. Early one afternoon he came into our garden walking on the lawn. If I could have understood his language, I'm sure he was begging to be allowed to stay there, safely, until after the dreaded date of 1st October.

It proudly strutted around hunting for insects or sampling the berries, especially favouring the cotoneaster berries. I was able to approach him quite closely and managed to make a number of sketches. He was very tame and appeared to be quite familiar with humankind and stayed with us for quite two hours. I classed this beautifully multi-coloured game bird as second only to the magnificent peacock. Excuse my over enthusiasm, but as he slowly, jauntily, strutted around I felt I was

contd.....

NATURE INTEREST (contd)

watching poetry in motion. Each step was precise, carefully taken and all samples of food were selected with great care. As I watched my welcome visitor my mind wandered into the morbid. What could happen within just a few days the day when gamekeepers would lead their team of "drivers and stops" with sticks to the chosen acres. Opposite to this team would be gentlemen with their guns and their loaders, dogs ready to obey every command. These would await the forced flight of these beautiful birds. The gun triggers would click and many would come tumbling to earth. I took another look at our visitor and wished him luck. If it happens, at least he will know little about it.

I came back in doors, I did not see his going so the end of this story is like many of our television stories of today - you and I can finish it in our own way.

The pheasant was imported to Gt. Britain from Colchis, a country on the shores of the Black Sea, was plentiful near the River Phasis and, therefore, deserved its name from Colchis and the River Phasis, Phasianus Colchicus - Pheasant to us. It was the Athenians who endeavoured to acclimatize it for the sake of its beauty as well as the delicacy of its flesh. The Romans received it from the Greeks. It was little known except in Germany, France and then to England.

The custom of introducing it to the table decorated with its tail feathers and its beautifully coloured head, first came to us from Constantinople. It was then reserved as a special dish for Kings and Emperors, replacing the peacock which until then had always taken this place of honour.

The Kings of France greatly encouraged the naturalization of the pheasant in the Royal Forests and was given the title of "Royal Game of the First Class." The killing of the hen pheasant was forbidden at all times. Now the Royal Pheasant has almost disappeared and only a few remain within a few of the French walled parks. Should the pheasant, in this country, ever lose the protection of the Game Law, it will dwindle away exactly as it has done in other countries. Its predators are many, especially in the egg stage. The nest is on the ground in a shallow hollow, often 8-15 eggs, colour pale olive and easily seen. Incubation is by hen only. The Ringed-neck Pheasant, as shown on our cover sketch, at one time was thought to be a distinct species, but is now considered a mixture of the pure white and common pheasant. The cock pheasant is not a "true husband" but is a ready mate for any hen. Nevertheless, he is extremely handsome, a real beauty to behold.

A.S.A. WOOSTER

The family of the late Kenneth Hussey, 5 Oakeshott Avenue, would like to thank all neighbours, friends and relatives for their help and kindness. Grateful thanks for the beautiful floral tributes and messages of sympathy.

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