

Magazine of the Knaphill Residents' Association

# knaphill

Winter 2015 Issue 50

news



*Merry Christmas  
Knaphill*

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*Merry Christmas!*

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# Knaphill News

knaphill.org

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## From the Chairman



With Christmas coming up, let's all try and support our Knaphill traders and businesses; a busy festive period can make a big difference for them. An idea for a Christmas present – the recently published book by our local author Mal Foster based on the diary of an inmate of Brookwood Hospital. It is a fascinating account of day-to-day life in the institution. Please see page 10 with details on how to purchase it.

So, looking forward to next year, what can we expect in Knaphill? Well, the Brookwood Farm estate of 300 houses, which is actually in Knaphill, will be completed in May, increasing our population considerably. 2016 will also see elections to elect three Knaphill Councillors, and the KRA, in its independent capacity, will be organising a hustings for the benefit of residents in April. Who knows, it may even be the year the bollards issue will be resolved!

May I wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year from the KRA.

Very best wishes,

**John Butler, KRA Chairman**

chairman@knaphill.org



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## Editor's Report

Well, we're fast approaching the end of a year that's seen a lot going on in Knaphill. Several new businesses have opened, and for the first time in a few years there are no empty premises on the High Street. Let's make sure it stays that way by using our local retailers and service-providers as much as possible. There have also been more community events: starting in May with Jim's amazing charity head-shave, followed in July by the annual Village Show, always a great fun-filled family day out and which this year broke all previous attendance records. August saw the first Knaphill cricket match taking place, with plans well in place for a permanent team to play regular games through the 2016 season, and by the time you read this the first Knaphill Christmas market will have brought some seasonal festivity to the village centre on 28th November. What else might 2016 bring – other events under consideration are a Village Quiz, a BBQ and a boot-sale... Let us know your thoughts!

In the meantime, my best wishes of the season to you all.

*PS: You may have noticed we have used a smaller typeface in these last two issues, basically so that we can fit more in the magazine. However, please do let us know if you find it not so comfortable to read, and we can always revert to the larger one and/or try to magic up some more pages!*



**Sue Stocker, Editor**

## Village Bits & Pieces

### PTA Christmas Fair

The Knaphill Schools PTA Christmas Fair will be taking place at the Junior School on Saturday 12th December, 10am – 1pm. There will be stalls selling gifts, jewellery, sweets, a raffle, a dressing-up photo booth and refreshments. And of course Father Christmas will be there for all the children who've been good this year!

### KRA Annual General Meeting

This is scheduled to take place next March at a date and venue still to be confirmed, so keep a lookout on our website and for notices around the village.

### Hustings

In May 2016 we will have elections to elect our Councillors to Woking Borough Council, but unlike other years this time we will be electing the whole Council. For Knaphill this means electing three Councillors to represent us for three years. Given the importance of these elections and to allow residents to question those standing, the Residents Association will hold a hustings evening in April. We will invite all those political parties who have candidates standing in our village to explain their policies and answer questions from local residents. Further details will be published nearer the time.

### KRA donates £1,100 to village charities

Knaphill Residents' Association is pleased to announce that we have been able to distribute over £1,100 to local charities in 2015, including Peer Productions, Knaphill Cabin and Face the Future. Warm thanks again to all the businesses and residents who made this possible by supporting us in our various activities.



KRA donates £1,100 to village charities

### 1st ever Knaphill Christmas market!

By the time you read this, the Knaphill Retailers' Association first ever Christmas Market will have taken place on 28th November. Knaphill has been somewhat later than other Woking villages to get such an event off the ground, but undoubtedly it will have been such a success that everyone will wonder why it never happened before and want to ensure that it becomes a regular event!

### Village litter-pick

The bi-annual village litter-pick took place on Saturday 7th November, and despite the more than inclement weather a few stalwarts braved the elements and removed a quantity of litter from the streets. Thanks to Kate Wilson, our Neighbourhood Officer, for providing the equipment. It is good however to note that the streets of Knaphill are much cleaner than they were a couple of years ago, thanks to SERCO and their efforts. Now, if we could just get that bin in the car park emptied more regularly...

### New landlord at the Garibaldi pub

Debbie Harlow has left the Garibaldi Pub after over 10 years as landlady. Debbie has been an integral part of the Knaphill community and an enthusiastic and hands-on supporter of many village events over the years. She would like to thank everyone for their support and friendship, and hopes they will extend the same to her successor Martin Durrad. Luckily we shall still be seeing Debbie regularly, as she intends to return to live in Knaphill as soon as possible, and to continue her work for and with the community as Councillor and her involvement with the Village Show.

### Sainsbury gets permission for dry cleaning pod

In September 2014 Sainsbury's applied for permission to build a Timpson's pod in its car park. Despite WBC's opinion that such development would have a significant adverse impact on shops and services within the Knaphill Local Centre, on appeal in September this decision was overturned and Sainsbury's can now go ahead with this development. See the full story on page 9.

### Knaphill Care concert delayed until February 2016

The Knaphill Care fundraising evening of entertainment has had to be put off until February 2016 for unavoidable reasons. Watch out for confirmation of the date on our website and on posters around the village.

### Chobham Road traffic/parking issues

Residents in Chobham Road, Trinity Road, and Ivydene have asked Woking Borough Council to consider options to address their parking concerns at school times. Chobham Road in particular experiences chaotic traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times, and the surrounding roads also endure increased parking from parents. A group of residents, working with local councillor Saj Hussain, are keen to put in place new measures that will provide a safe environment for the school children, allow for more fluid traffic movement and ensure residents can access their homes. Various options are currently under consideration, and it is hoped that a proposal will be presented to the residents for consultation before Christmas.



# STUBBS' STUBS

*All the latest from our KRA planning expert, Phil Stubbs*

**Almond Villas, the nine brand-new houses at the top of Broadway,** have been completed and at least four are now occupied, making a huge improvement to the former brown-field site. However, the section of road and pavement in front of the new houses is in a very poor state of repair and could be argued that it is dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians going down the Broadway. In agreeing to this development, Woking Borough Council should have included a condition that the developer resurfaced the pavement and make good the road once the works were complete. However, now the developer has left, it will be down to Surrey County Council to carry out, and pay for, the repairs.

**Staying with the Broadway and the enduring saga of the Vyne Bollards,** in mid-October there was some activity when workmen fitted new sensors in the road either side of the bollards. However, they remain down, and there has been no sign of the formal consultation on the future of these bollards, as promised by WBC.

**The team at SERCO do a good job in clearing litter from the centre of the village.** Staff visit the village every morning, rain or shine, to empty waste bins and pick up larger pieces of litter. However, there is one waste bin that for some reason is not included in the daily trip, namely, the one at the entrance of Englefield Road car park, to the rear of the Co-op. Local Councillors have been unable to get this particular one

added to the daily SERCO route, despite it often being overflowing and located less than 100 yards from the High Street. The KRA has been informed that emptying waste bins within car parks is the responsibility of a different council department, so rather frustratingly, for a small matter of admin, it appears that the matter of this waste bin is to become unresolvable.

**Looking towards 2016,** roads and congestion will be high on the agenda; Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council should announce their plans, early in the New Year, for easing the congestion on the A322, Bagshot Road / Guildford Road, which will undoubtedly generate a great deal of debate!

## Oktoberfest at Mizens

On Sunday 18th October, Mizens Railway held its traditional Oktoberfest. There was once again a splendid display of large fairground organs, along with the smaller street or busker organs. The Fairground Models exhibition always amazes with their minute and detailed construction, and Brooklands Motor Museum had some fine exhibits from its collection. Craft tents, produce stalls and the beer and traditional German sausages on offer completed the attractions of this superb day.

And don't forget, tickets for the Mizens Santa Specials on 6th, 13th and 20th December need to be pre-booked, ho ho ho!!

Photo: Ron Dewar



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## Comings and goings at two of our local churches...

### At Knaphill Baptist Church

#### Good news of great joy – we have a new minister!

By Eric Moore, Knaphill Baptist Church

Knaphill Baptist Church (KBC) is delighted to announce that the Rev. Julia Binney will soon be arriving as our new minister. Julia and her husband Jim, who is himself a retired Baptist Minister, will be moving

into the village before Christmas and Julia will formally take up her new role early in the New Year. Her induction service, where she is formally inaugurated as the church's minister, will be on Saturday 9th January 2016 at 2.30pm at KBC. As a church we are very much looking forward to their arrival and to getting to know them both. We hope that you will all join us in welcoming them into our local community.



### ...and at Holy Trinity Knaphill and St Saviours Brookwood

By John Durrant, Church Warden

After 16 years as Vicar of Holy Trinity and St Saviour's Church in Knaphill and Brookwood, the church said a sad farewell to Rev Nick Grew and his wife Christine at a special service on 8th of November.

Nick and Christine are moving to a new Parish, St Francis, in Luton, where they will doubtless provide the same level of love and care that they have given to the church and its community here.

The church will miss them, but the community will have good reason to miss them too. Nick was a familiar sight cycling around

Knaphill and Brookwood, visiting people in their homes, especially in their times of need. He was also, for many years, a school Governor; and Christine was one of the leaders of the church's Breakfast Club, which welcomes children from families in the community as parents leave for work and children prepare for their school day.

Many people will have been married at the churches, and held baptisms too. Nick's trademark baptism included also splashing those in attendance with water, and carrying the baby around the church for all to see! Others will have attended funerals, which Nick always handled with great sensitivity and a huge heart for those grieving.

School parents will have met Nick when both the Lower and Junior Schools held their Harvest Festival and Christmas celebrations in the church building. Nick and Christine touched this community in so many ways. They loved being here and working for the benefit of everyone.

The church said their farewells with gifts of money, in gratitude for what they have done for us; a plant, to remember the young people; and a specially made plate so that they will always remember their time with us.



Photo: John Stocker

### 11th November service

A large crowd attended the traditional Remembrance Day service in the centre of Knaphill on Wednesday 11th November, led

by Father Alexander Lucie-Smith of St Hugh of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church in the presence of representatives of the Military from Pirbright Barracks. There were also

readings from the other Knaphill churches, and contributions from The Royal British Legion, Jonathan Lord MP, our three Knaphill Councillors and the Knaphill schools.





## KASJOG HAVE A SONG TO SING-OH!

*By Hilary Witts of Kasjog*

Knaphill and St Johns Operatic Group began the year with Gilbert and Sullivan's parody of melodrama, Ruddigore (or The Witch's Curse) in March. We treated audiences to an array of colourful characters despite the gothic setting.

From the ridiculous to the sublime; May saw the start of our very successful new collaboration with the Egham Brass Band in a concert of excerpts from several of the most popular Gilbert and Sullivan operas, including two from Kasjog's forthcoming production of The Yeomen of the Guard (or The Merryman and His Maid). Set in the 16th Century with the Tower of London as a backdrop, Yeomen is different from other Savoy operas in that the usual satirising of British institutions is absent and although there is still plenty of wit and humour. The score is considered by many to be Sullivan's finest,

and the memorable climax to the show begins with I Have a Song to Sing-Oh! an exchange between travelling player, Elsie Maynard, and jester, Jack Point.

Director, Val Hitchcock, whose production for Kasjog of Die Fledermaus won a NODA award, is dedicating the show to the memory of her daughter, Sally-Ann, who was a popular and dynamic presence in local theatre. After each performance we will be collecting for Woking Hospice.

**The show runs from Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th March 2016 at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre. For further information and tickets, please visit [www.kasjog.org.uk](http://www.kasjog.org.uk) or contact the box office on 01483 473657.**



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# St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church

The earliest records of Catholicism in what is now the Parish of St Hugh of Lincoln date back to the time of Henry III, when there was a hermitage owned by the Dominican Friary of Guildford, hence the Hermitage Estate. It is believed that both St Thomas More and St John Fisher visited the hermitage in 'Brooke-wood'.

The first public services were celebrated in the Inkerman Barracks chapel in the early 1900s, until the first church and presbytery were completed in 1912, built by Father Henry Drage who was Knaphill's first resident priest. However, from mid-1920 to mid-1940, the church was closed; services were offered at Inkerman Barracks, and Knaphill remained part of the parish of St Dunstan's, Woking. St Hugh's was reopened in 1956, and due to the growing congregation masses were offered in the British Legion Hall. The new parish hall which opened in 1958 served as the mass centre, and in the same year the land was purchased on which the new St Hugh's church would be built.

St Hugh's was made a separate parish in 1967, the new church was built in 1971, and St Hugh's First School was opened in 1977. In the early 1990s, many material changes and improvements were made to the premises, extending the Presbytery, refurbishing the hall and kitchen, replacing the gas heaters, installing a new sound system, landscaping the grounds and tarmacing the car park.

The large friendly parish of St Hugh now covers Knaphill, Brookwood, Pirbright, Bisley, West End, Chobham, St John's and parts of Goldsworth Park and Horsell, and includes many families. The church has numerous groups providing sacramental care for the different ages and requirements of its parishioners, as well as various social and community activities.

A little background history on St Hugh of Lincoln: French by birth, he became Prior of the Witham Carthusian Charterhouse in Somerset, which had been established by Henry II as part of his

penance for the murder of St Thomas a Becket. He subsequently became Bishop of Lincoln, and was canonised in 1212. St Hugh is the patron saint of sick children, shoemakers and swans. The emblem of the white swan is in reference to the story of the swan of Stowe, which it is said had arrived at Stowe near Lincoln when Hugh was Bishop, and subsequently became lame. Hugh, who had a great love for all animals, adopted it as a pet. Tradition has it that the swan became his constant companion and would follow him everywhere, eating from his hand and even watching over him while he slept.



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## Developments at Sainsbury's Redding Way

By Phil Stubbs, KRA

Sainsbury's have been given the go ahead to build a standalone pod, outside the main store, to house a Timpson concession, despite permission being rejected by Woking Borough Council (WBC).

Back in 2012 when Sainsbury's were given planning permission to build their extension, the terms and conditions of the decision prevented Sainsbury's offering certain services (eg. dry cleaning, watch repairs, key cutting, engraving etc) in their store because of the possible impact on shops in Knaphill. Sainsbury's senior managers actually went as far as stating that they would not include any additional concessions.

In September 2014 agents for Sainsbury's in Redding Way submitted a planning application to build a standalone Timpson pod in front of the store to "provide a valuable additional service for local residents and visitors to the store" despite the majority of those services being already available from independent retailers on the Knaphill High Street.

In December 2014 WBC rejected the application stating that it was not an essential part of Sainsbury's business model and would

outweigh any potential harm to the viability of Knaphill local centre, and the Local Planning Authority was in agreement of the significant adverse impact on local shops.

Sainsbury's appealed and in September 2015 a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government overturned the decision of WBC and granted permission to build the Timpson pod. The Planning Inspector saw the pod as functionally linked to the store but refused to acknowledge the conditions imposed on the store. She acknowledged the concerns by local planners in relation to the health of Knaphill local centre, but dismissed the argument by adding that in her opinion the centre of Knaphill appears to be operating successfully, based purely on the number of empty retail units, and also refused to carry out a retail impact assessment.

Who is right? We will only know once the pod is built and we see if there is any impact on local shops, but by then it will be too late. What we do know is that the Government's statement that they want to see local planning decisions being made by local people appears to be nothing but a PR stunt.

## Knaphill Guides

By Eilish Wade

1st Knaphill Guides have had a very busy term leading up to Christmas with hosting a 'Welcome to Guides' night for the local brownies who are turning 10. They enjoyed a night of games such as "malteser" races, as well as a game which the Guides had designed as part of one of their badges this term, followed by roasting marshmallows and playing with sparklers.

They also had an incredibly successful fundraising night at the Scouts firework display, raising approximately £170 from selling hot drinks and homemade cakes. Some of the girls will also be going on a trip to Woking Fire Station on the 19th November to earn their Fire Safety Badge.

If you have a daughter aged between 10-14 and are interested in her joining Guides, please contact me on eilishwade@hotmail.com for more information.



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# BEES ON THE ALLOTMENT

By Martin Dunham

## Part 2

...So, there I was, surrounded by my beekeeping paraphernalia; all I needed now was some bees....

Well, according to the book all you do is to wander down to your local expert and after serious negotiations and tea-drinking, you come away with what is called a "nuke". This is a small box with five frames in it, one of which is covered in bees, busily doing what bees do, and you are reliably informed that in amongst these two or three thousand bees there is a Queen. So, you now have a box of bees but you're not sure what to do next. The feeling is somewhat like when you arrive home from hospital with your new baby, lots of advice from everybody, but still a feeling of total panic. A bit like now still really, because although I've read all the books about beekeeping, unfortunately the bees haven't.

You may think that a bee is a bee is a bee, but no, there are about 250 different types of bees in this country, and about 20,000 known specimens throughout the world. Bees are found on every continent except the Antarctic and in every habitat on the planet that contains insect-pollinating plants. They fall into two groups: The social bees which, as their name suggests, live in groups. Honeybees are particularly sociable and live in groups of between 15,000 to 60,000 in a single hive. Bumblebees are also social, but live in smaller groups of 50-150. Both types depend upon queen bees that lay all the eggs for the group. Then we have the solitary bees who, as the name implies, live on their own. They can make burrows underground, or live in quarry faces, old wood, and even masonry.

The bees we keep in this country are mostly natives of Italy or New Zealand, as during the First World War the local honeybee, known as the Black Bee, was wiped out by the Isle of Wight plague, so-called as, yes, it was first discovered on the Isle of Wight. The reason we use Italian and New Zealand bees is because bees from central Africa, although very productive, are extremely aggressive, whereas bees from the Nordic countries and Siberia are of a very easy temperament but have a low rate of production. So we settle for the happy compromise of having relatively non-aggressive bees but with a reasonable rate of honey production.

So, thanking my friendly expert and re-assuring him that I know exactly what to do, I tentatively place my "nuke" in the back of the car and drive off gently to the allotments. After lots of checking and re-reading the book, I decide on the position of my hive; ideally it should be in dappled shade during the hottest part of the day, but of course catching the early morning sun. So, what I do with this "nuke"? Well, not knowing any better, I put my "nuke" inside my hive and wait for the girls to settle down. Early next day, off I go to the allotments, lift the frames out of the "nuke" and gently place them into the brood boxes, which will become their home, and wait to see what happens.

Not surprisingly the bees do what they have been doing for the last 150 million years and start to make a comb in which the queen could lay eggs. At last I can call myself a proper beekeeper... (to be continued)

*My girls hard at work*



## OUT NOW! – The Asylum Soul – a novel by local author Mal Foster

Lunatic asylums were an inescapable hangover of Victorian Britain and they harnessed a certain stigma borne from an environment of fear and shame as well as the great unknown.

For many families the asylum system helped create their darkest 'skeletons', and for Thomas (Tommy) Compton, it was unforgiving. In 1929 he was twenty three years old when his mother had him sent to the Brookwood Lunatic Asylum in Surrey, his only ailment – a simple speech defect.

Based on Tommy's own diary notes, The Asylum Soul is a disturbing account of an innocent young life ripped apart by unthinkable institutional failings, false hope and ultimate family betrayal.

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## Knaphill Methodist Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As was mentioned in the last issue, this year the Knaphill Methodist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and is hosting a number of special events to which everyone in the community is invited. So get your diaries at the ready! For all the events listed below visit the website for more details, and in all cases the events are taking place at the Knaphill Methodist Church in the heart of the village.

**Sunday 21 February, 10am** – Special guest preacher, Rev John Hellyer, Chair of South East Methodist District.

**Saturday 27 February, 7.30pm** – The church is excited to host a concert given by the Almac Bisley Brass Band, raising money for band-nominated charities and church funds.

**Saturday 12 March, 7.30pm** – A fascinating talk on the history of Knaphill by local historian and author, Iain Wakeford.

**Easter Weekend, 25 – 28 March** – Visit an exhibition on throughout the weekend, depicting Methodism over the years.

**10 – 12 June** – The Flower Festival weekend will be a centrepiece event in 2016, and local traders, churches, schools, fellowships and groups which are connected to the church are invited to make donations of floral arrangements. Plus on the Sunday there will be an extra special service at 10am to celebrate the church over the last 150 years, as well as a Songs of Praise style of service at 4pm that day.

**24 – 25 September** – The harvest weekend events, which will include Harvest Supper

**Saturday 15 October, 7.30pm** – A concert with Dave Bilbrough

All events take place on the church premises. Keep an eye out for local publicity and on the website nearer the time: [www.knaphill-methodist-church.com](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com)

## FACE THE FUTURE

A Knaphill charity you might not be familiar with

Face the Future is a Knaphill-based registered charity set up in 2005 by Alison and Gary Lane when their youngest son Jake passed away aged only 3 years old. Jake was born with Treachers Collins syndrome, a very rare condition which causes facial abnormalities. He required a tracheotomy tube to breathe, and had to be fed through a tube directly into his stomach as he was unable to swallow food. Jake went through numerous operations in his short life, but this did not stop him from being a happy, friendly little boy, full of fun.

The aims of the charity are to give care to children with various facial physical needs, support their families and organise and fund holidays for the children and their families. They also recently provided a specially adapted car for a family whose son has other physical special needs as well as the facial abnormality.

Based on their own experience, Alison and Gary are also able to provide invaluable advice and support, and can point parents in the right direction for medical and practical assistance. Alison was also instrumental in having the law on Blue Badges changed to enable them to be given in cases where the child does not have a physical special need as such, but due to the facial abnormality requires medical equipment to be kept constantly available and which cannot easily be carried any distance.

Apart from donations which are always very welcome, Alison and Gary raise money by organising various events such as an annual ball, concerts and discos and golf days, and have raised well over £50,000 over the years thanks to the support of friends and family and a number of volunteers.

If you would like any help or advice, or want to get involved in any of the events and support the charity, further details can be found on the website [www.facethefuture.uk.com](http://www.facethefuture.uk.com).



[www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk)

[childrenscentre@stjohnsknaphill.co.uk](mailto:childrenscentre@stjohnsknaphill.co.uk)

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## Welcoming New Parents

By Becky Dolphin

NCT (National Childbirth Trust) is a charity supporting parents with information and support in pregnancy, birth and early parenthood.

I have lived in Knaphill for 6 years and became involved with the NCT through the antenatal classes. I am now the coordinator for the local branch covering Knaphill, Brookwood and Chobham, and we offer a range of services, supported by a great number of volunteers. It's a great way to meet people and get involved with supporting other parents in the area.

Our services and groups are open to everyone, not just members, and include:

**Buddy Scheme** – A free service to new parents who would like some friendly advice and support in the early months after baby arrives. We put you in touch with experienced mums in your area who can offer some advice where needed, give information on amenities and places to go. Or simply offer a sympathetic ear and a cup of tea!

**Nearly New Sales** – Four times a year we run Nearly New Sales where you can sell your old children's toys, clothes, shoes, maternity clothes and larger items including prams, travel cots etc. Or come along and bag some great bargains! Our next sale is on Saturday 5th March, and if you are interested in selling at any of the sales please contact NNS.Knaphill@nct.org.uk who can answer your questions, and direct you to our online booking site.

### Sling and Real Nappy Library Coffee

**Morning** – This is an opportunity to hire or take a look at slings/carriers and cloth nappy sets. Kate, who runs this group, has a wealth of knowledge so whether you know what you want, or you want to try before you buy, or you aren't sure and want to get some advice, just pop along. It takes place on the first Thursday of every month 10.30-12.00 at the Garibaldi pub and again at our baby group, The Nest, on the third Thursday of every month (see below).

**The Nest** – A group for parents/carers with newborns to early movers to come and meet in a safe and warm environment. Grab yourself a hot drink and a yummy biscuit safe in the knowledge your baby isn't going to be knocked by older children. It's a great place to meet other mums, dads and carers from the area and chat about parenting. The group runs every Thursday 1.30-3pm at St John's Memorial Hall.

**Fun & Explore** – The newest group to our branch NCT Fun & Explore was created by two mums who wanted to organise weekend activities for the whole family to enjoy. Whether you are a single parent, a couple, new to the area, your partner works at weekends, or you are just looking to

socialise in a fun and relaxed environment with other families, this group is for you! Our next event is our Christmas Party bake off and photoshoot on Saturday 5th December 3pm at Christ Church Woking town centre. Dust off those Christmas jumpers and get ready to have the most amazing pictures taken for this year's Christmas cards. Suggested donation of £2 per family.

**First Aid Courses** – Run in partnership with the British Red Cross, it is designed to build parents' confidence in dealing with emergency situations. All our first aid courses are facilitated by British Red Cross trainers, and provide first aid training for helping babies, under one year, up to children aged 12 years. These courses are held locally, and will provide plenty of opportunity to practice techniques and ask questions. Our next course is taking place on Monday 14th March, 7-9.30pm. For more information, contact [firstaid.knaphill@nct.org.uk](mailto:firstaid.knaphill@nct.org.uk).

The Committee meet at The Garibaldi every 6-8 weeks to go through our current events, as well as eating too many nibbles and comparing stories of what our little ones are up to! We are always looking for people to join our small but very friendly team, and we welcome anyone who wishes to join in. If you've ever thought about volunteering, or would like to find out what's involved, why not come to our social night on Tuesday 8th December, 8pm at The Nags Head Inn and have a drink, and see what it's all about. We would love, and really need, your help to ensure this fantastic branch of NCT continues.

For more information, including further details on any of our services and activities, please contact General Enquiries [knaphill@nct.org.uk](mailto:knaphill@nct.org.uk).

## Volunteering Works Wonders

By Dorte Johansen

Woking & Sam Beare Hospices are excited to launch a brand new campaign for new volunteers to join our existing supporters, who give their time on a regular basis to support this vital local charity. Under the headline 'One of your five-a-day', Volunteers Services Manager Mary Morgan hopes to convey the fun and wellbeing people gain from volunteering and will in the coming months be out and about in her banana suit to spread the message.

"We have a fantastic group of volunteers helping us, but as we're expanding our services to reach more people, we need to increase the support in our teams. This campaign is specifically focussed on recruiting more fundraising and retail volunteers" explains Mary. Did you know that helping others has been scientifically proven to lead to enhanced wellbeing? It also benefits the charity, which provides hospice care free of charge though out northwest Surrey. Mary adds "volunteering is fun, rewarding and purposeful, good for you, good for us and good for everyone!"

Every year we support around 5,500 local people and their families, and look after patients in their own homes, in the hospice buildings, as well as through day care services and counselling. Volunteers play a major part in raising funds for the clinical services and we are therefore looking for people to support their fundraising and shop teams. If you would like join our team then please contact Volunteers Services on 01483 881750 or email [volunteer@wsbhospices.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@wsbhospices.co.uk)



## Knaphill Allotments – A thriving community

By Chris Kersley



Tucked away down the back streets of Knaphill, between Creston Avenue and Ryde Heron car park, is the site of allotments which have been there since the 1940s. The Knaphill Allotment Association (KAA) has over 109 plots of various shapes and sizes and, using the members' annual subscriptions, we manage the mains water, electricity and fencing, a members' toilet block, a small shop selling sundries and a few machines available to hire. Our community of members grow many vegetable and salad crops, as well as soft fruit, apple, pear and plum trees. We are incredibly proud that we have won the prize for Best Overall Woking Borough Site for the last three years due to the high quality of individual plots as well as the site overall, along with many other prizes in different categories. We believe we have some of the best women growers in the area, as the ladies frequently win local competitions (but the men aren't bad growers either!). The waiting list has just recently reopened, so get in touch to put your name down or find out more about this thriving local community activity at [Rydeheron.allot1950@gmail.com](mailto:Rydeheron.allot1950@gmail.com).

## BUSINESS FOCUS

By Gillian Wren

St John's Knaphill Children's Centre is one of many SureStart Children's Centres across Surrey and one of six in Woking. At the centre we work hard to provide support to children aged 0-5 years and their families concentrating on child development, school readiness, healthy lifestyles, and parenting aspirations and skills. We run regular sessions at the centre throughout the week, most of which are free, including Bumps & Babies, Parents & Toddlers & Little Lunchers.

We are also able to offer support to local families with free early education including FEET for two year olds, child care, employment, training, health, parenting and everything that affects anyone caring for young children under 5.

Come and visit the centre Monday-Friday 9-3.30pm to find out more about our services or check our website for up to date information [www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk) You can also find us on Facebook.



## SPORTS NEWS

By Alan Bennett

### Bowls Club's 90th Anniversary

Knaphill Bowls Club has been part of the village since 1926, and we are now preparing for our 90th anniversary next year. With matches against the county and other special games, we hope it will be a memorable season.

Although our green was built all those years ago, it is still regarded as one of the finest in the area. It was enhanced this year with new edges and ditches and we hope it will be better than ever next year.

Bowls is a social and competitive game for all ages and backgrounds. If you've ever played football, cricket or other sports, you'll have a good start. Even if you haven't, you could have hidden talents! Why not come along and see us in April and find out if bowls could be for you?

In the meantime, do have a look at our website [www.knaphillbowls.co.uk](http://www.knaphillbowls.co.uk) for more information, or call Norman Crawley on 01483 830040 or myself on 01483 480262.

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## A Game-changing Opportunity?

*When the Virgin Mary pushed the crown of God's head into the hay, when Jesus came as a babe onto this orbiting globe, a new kingdom order was birthed along with his slippery skin, and his first squalling cry rewrote the human lexicon. The earth turned over, and all the systems and traditions of humankind went cattywampus with the entrance of the infant whose tiny shoulders suddenly carried the government of the world. Since that day two thousand and some odd years ago, the sincere worshippers who trail behind his dusty feet have been on the hunt to understand all the ways this one Christ-man changed the game.*

So begins Erika Morrison's brilliant recent book *Bandersnatch*. And I don't know about you, but I need those reminders that Christmas isn't sentimental slush, it's a game-changer for all of life. Here is not a remote God who barks orders from afar, but One who dwells with us. Here is One who – if anyone were entitled to throw his weight around – chooses not to lord it over people, but come in humility. Here is One who lived not in a palace or gated community, but spent much of his early life as a refugee. I don't suppose his parents packed the gold, frankincense, and myrrh when they escaped from Herod.

I'm not sure we treat Christmas like the revolution it is. It's the economic lifeline many shops and businesses depend on, from year to year. It's an occasion for parents to develop mental toughness in the face of the various whining, demanding, and smiling tactics used to wheedle the desired presents out of them. (And that's just the behaviour of their spouses.) It's a time when people like me long to crash out after an endless succession of church services and sympathise with Ebenezer Scrooge's cry of 'Bah, humbug!'

None of that is a revolution. It's a treadmill. And unlike the treadmills at the gym, there is no ultimate benefit.

If you want to stay on that treadmill, then fine. Just remember that shiny things rust, and that the adage, 'He who has the most toys wins' is wrong. 'He who has the most toys still dies' is more accurate. Why settle for another Christmas like that?

As the Canadian singer Bruce Cockburn once put it,  
*Redemption rips through the surface of time  
In the cry of a tiny babe.*

I'm looking for a Christmas with Jesus where the earth turns over and time is ripped open. That's much more exciting than another treadmill, and I won't have to do my 'Bah, humbug' routine.

How about you?

Revd David Faulkner

on behalf of:

*Holy Trinity & St Saviour's Anglican Church, Knaphill Baptist Church,  
Knaphill Methodist Church & St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church.*

**A very Happy Christmas to you**

# Happy Christmas from

Holy Trinity & St Saviour's Church - Chobham Road, Knaphill &  
Connaught Road, Brookwood - Tel: 473489

Knaphill Baptist Church - 88 High Street, Knaphill - Tel: 474083

Knaphill Methodist Church - The Broadway - Tel: 472524

St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church - Victoria Road, Knaphill - Tel: 472404



## Christmas Eve

### 'Midnight' Holy Communion / Mass

*[Welcome in Christmas Day  
with awe and wonder]*

Methodist	11.00pm
Holy Trinity	11.15pm
St Saviour's	11.15pm <i>by candlelight</i>
St Hugh's	6.30pm <i>Vigil</i> 11.30pm



## Christingle Services

*[Filled with oranges, candles  
and delight for all ages]*

Holy Trinity	19 <sup>th</sup> December	4.30pm
Methodist	24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm

## Christmas Morning

*[Celebrating  
the birth of the King]*

St Hugh's	9.00am
Mass	11.00am
Baptist	10.30am
Holy Trinity	10.30am
Methodist	10.30am
St Saviour's	10.30am

## Carol Services

*[Sing your hearts out as the story unfolds]*

Baptist	20 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm <i>by candlelight</i>
Holy Trinity	20 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm
Methodist	20 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm <i>by candlelight</i>
St Saviour's	20 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm <i>by candlelight</i>



## Nativity and Crib Services

*[Anticipating with wonder]*

19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	St Hugh's Children's Carols & Nativity	4.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	St Saviour's Crib service with puppets	3.30pm and 4.45pm