

Magazine of the Knaphill Residents' Association

knaphill

Winter 2014 Issue 46

news



*Merry Christmas,
Knaphill!*



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Merry Christmas!

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Advertising Fat Crow
Design & Layout FatCrow.co.uk
crowsnest@fatcrow.co.uk

Published by Fat Crow & Knaphill Residents' Association

Printed by Knaphill Print Co. Ltd, Lower Guildford Road, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2EG

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Join us

Have you ever thought of giving some of your time to help out the KRA to make your home village even better? We'd love to have you on board and need your continued support to run projects, events and the annual village show.

I/we hereby wish to join / renew* membership with the Knaphill Residents' Association (*tick or circle)

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Read & Recycle

From the Chairman



Did you know there are no other places in the world called Knaphill? We are totally unique! The nearest is Knap Hill which is an extremely steep hill just north of Alton Barnes in Wiltshire. Over the years there have been various name changes: 1225 - la Cnappe, 1440 - Knephull, 1475- Kneppehill, 1548 - Kneppes, 1600's - Knephill, and Knob Hill, 1765 - Nap hill

Prior to 1860, the village of Knaphill was mainly at the foot of Anchor Hill, due to the thriving nurseries in that locality employing large numbers of workers. The soils around the settlement proved ideal for their establishment. The earliest nursery was founded by John Waterer in the 1760s. In 1870 John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales described Knaphill as having a nursery occupying about 120 acres, famous for American plants, especially notable for rhododendrons and azaleas. With the building of Brookwood Asylum and its opening in 1867, houses began to be built at the top of the hill.

A very brief local history in this Christmas edition brought to you by the Knaphill RA!

May I wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Best wishes,

John Butler

KRA Chairman

chairman@knaphill.org



NEEDED!
Volunteers for Cabin Youth club.
volunteer@knaphillcabin.org.uk

Remember to vote on the bollards survey on the KRA website!

Scouts litter pick
3rd January
2015

Volunteers for Cabin -
More always welcome!

New Secretary needed for KRA

Possible Village Quiz in Spring 2015?

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11am every Sunday Morning & 17.30 Dec 21st & 10.30 Christmas Day

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As we approach the end of another year, we naturally think back over the events of the past twelve months, about things we'd hoped for that didn't work out, some things we wish hadn't happened... Our Chairman John Butler mentioned a brief history of Knaphill; our series of articles on local churches also reminds us of the Village history, and in this issue we have some fascinating personal memories of the Village over the last seventy years.

We've all also looked back a lot recently, on a national level and some on a very personal level, with the 100th anniversary events of World War One. We are all to some extent the product of our history, so to properly plan and build our future, it's helpful to understand our past. But it's also only natural as a New Year approaches to think of what the future holds - for us personally, and in a wider social context.

Some of us have been through challenging times and still face an uncertain future, and some aspects of life are changing in a way we couldn't have foreseen a short while ago. It sometimes feels that we have very little control over many aspects of our life nowadays. All the more reason then to try to do what we can to help ourselves and others in our own social, professional and religious groups, and closer to home make an effort to support each other in our own families, friendships and neighbourhoods for our mutual benefit.

Best wishes for Christmas and throughout 2015.
Sue Stocker, Editor



Village Bits & Pieces

New on the High Street

"Benvenuto" to the Italian restaurant "La Bella Amalfi" which opened a few weeks ago at 42-44 High Street, and which is already proving very popular. See our Business Focus article on page 11 for more information.

Old Coral shop premises

The gubbins have been removed from the shop, but nothing definite yet on what might be moving in...

CAB office in Knaphill

Woking's Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), which celebrated its 75th birthday this year, has opened an office in Knaphill. Over the last 18 months, it has been opening mini Bureaux around the Borough, and this month they opened their third outreach unit in Knaphill.

The Knaphill unit is based in the Methodist Church, The Broadway, and is open Mondays 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Just call in or make an appointment on 01483 541 666.

The CAB aims to provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities with respect to problems they face in various areas of life.

The CAB's main office is in Provincial House, Commercial Way, Woking and is open five days a week.

Smartening up the village centre

Progress on specific items so far:

- Replacing the tree stump outside the old Coral shop. IN HAND**
- Tidying flower beds and replanting where necessary PARTLY DONE
- Removing rubbish deposited around the village DONE!
- Renovating the rusting village sign outside Barclays bank IN HAND

** In hand, so I'm assured by WBC, but sadly not yet "in ground". Come on, WBC, we're talking **one** little tree, compared to the hundreds that have gone into Woking Park!!

(Oh, and the village sign is definitely "in hand" - we know that because the KRA are taking care of it themselves!) If you have any suggestions to add to the list, please drop an email to editor@knaphill.org.

Headhunters

Ben Madle of Headhunters in Knaphill was delighted when he was recently nominated for three national hairdressing awards, made it through to the final four of the "Global Synergy 2014" award, and led a team for eight shows at London Fashion Week. Ben, who also won the National Hairdressers Federation Photographic Stylist of the year in

2011 and was nominated for the same award in 2013, has been hairdressing for 6 years.

Headhunters are an independent family business that has been established in Knaphill High Street for 20 years this year. It's great news that a small local business is seen competing on a national level, not only for Headhunters but for all local businesses, as it proves there is quality on the local high street!

New KRA Secretary needed!

Phil Stubbs, who's been the KRA's indefatigable Secretary for 4 years, has decided to stand down from this position in March 2015 to spend more time with his grandchildren - and who can blame him?! Phil will luckily continue on the Committee as our Planning Expert, but that does mean that we are looking for a new Secretary as of next spring. This is a interesting position within the KRA, involving taking notes at Committee meetings and preparing some meeting documents, but also like all the Committee members being prepared to get stuck into various activities and events as required; in other words, a general all-round good egg with some admin experience! Please contact the KRA if you think you could help with this.

Stubbs' stubs

Our planning guru and secretary to the KRA, Phil Stubbs, has a few updates...

Vyne Bollards

First we would like to say thank you to all those who have written to the KRA with their views on the bollards that separate Broadway from Redding Way. Apart from the basic question, should the bollards be retained or removed, the discussion has brought other issues to the attention of the KRA.

Parents are asking for a pedestrian crossing on Redding Way close to the doctor's surgery. They say that walking to and from Knaphill School require them and their children to cross both Redding Way and The Broadway, and while there's a crossing on the Broadway there isn't on Redding Way. Why?

Secondly, residents living on the old hospital site have difficulty parking close to the Vyne because the car park off the Redding Way is frequently full. One reason is that this car park is used by Alpha hospitals for staff parking.

So where does this leave the debate on the bollards? Currently both sets of bollards are down, but it is of course still an offence for drivers to use this junction as the no entry signs still apply. We would welcome more views from local residents either via our website or by e-mail to the Residents' Association (secretary@knaphill.org). Surrey County Council who are responsible for the bollards, are monitoring the situation, and therefore the views of residents are vitally important.

20 High Street (old library site)

In our autumn edition of this magazine we reported that Councillors who make up Woking's Planning Committee had voted, by an overwhelming majority, to reject the plans of New Vision Homes to build a three storey block of flats on this site. The Councillors concluded that the proposed development by reason of its density, layout and design would result in an over-development of the site and a cramped contrived form of development which fails to respect the character and appearance of the street scene. The proposal therefore fails to accord with Core Strategy policy CS21 'Design'. New Vision Homes use the Tesco building as one of their reference points, but who thinks

that the Tesco building is an example of good design?

Given the very clear message from the Councillors, it is difficult to see on what grounds New Vision Homes are appealing. WBC has confirmed that an appeal is in progress but at the time of writing they have not disclosed the grounds.

Government Ministers keep telling us that they want to see local planning decisions being made by local people. Since New Vision Homes are the Council's agents for managing social housing, can someone explain why the decision of local people i.e. Councillors, was not acceptable in the case of the old library site?

Memorial Garden

On Tuesday 11th November, over 60 residents were joined by pupils from St Hugh of Lincoln and Knaphill Schools, local clergy and cadets from the army barracks at Pirbright in a service of remembrance. This service has been held for several years on the lawn in front of the old library. If the Council's plans go ahead, there would be a permanent memorial in front of the new build but insufficient land for the number of people who gathered this year to meet in prayer and remembrance.

Help wanted

Over recent months, members of the KRA Committee have been involved in numerous events and issues for the benefit of and affecting residents of Knaphill. These include stepping in to help run the Knaphill Cabin youth club, contributing to the debate on the proposed changes to Knaphill's boundaries, and the fight to slow down the loss of shops in favour of takeaways. Helping groups of residents fight unwanted development in their area probably takes up the majority of our time.

The reason for raising these points is because we are stretched to the limit of our involvement in activities in and around Knaphill, so we really therefore need more volunteers to join the Committee. We're particularly looking for a secretary and a person with expertise in web sites and social media. If you think you could help, please contact Phil Stubbs at 'secretary@knaphill.org'.

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A jolly Knaphill Litter pick

On Saturday 8th November, and despite the somewhat inclement weather, a dozen or so stalwart residents aged from 6 to 66 assembled by the library intent on cleaning up the Village streets. With equipment provided by Kate Wilson, Knaphill's Neighbourhood Officer, the group sallied forth along the High Street and down Anchor Hill to wage battle on bottles and cans, crisp packets and cigarette butts. And they came back victorious, with 10 bin bags of rubbish to show for their efforts. A big THANK YOU!! to all those volunteers.

It's planned to have this litter pick twice a year in future, in spring and autumn, on dates to be announced. In the meantime Knaphill Scouts will be doing a litter pick of their own on 3rd January – more power to your elbow, boys and girls, put those litter bugs to shame!!



Coming up roses...and tomatoes...and...

Knaphill's green-fingered gardeners celebrated the fruits of their labour on 11th September at the annual Woking in Bloom and Allotment Awards. Open to all residents, the competition aims to transform and improve the local community. Winners received their prizes, garden centre tokens and trophies, at a special presentation evening, attended by the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Tony Branagan.

Knaphill gardeners did spectacularly well this year, romping away with the following awards :

Best large front garden: *1st – Mr and Mrs Gray, Knaphill*
Best tub or container: *1st – Mr and Mrs Stevens, Knaphill*
Tunis Cup for best allotment site in Woking Borough : *1st – Knaphill*

Ted Smith Shield for best cultivated plot in the Borough :
2nd – Mrs M Williams, Knaphill Allotments

Ashley Slocock Cup for best cultivated plot by a lady: *2nd – Mrs M Williams, Knaphill Allotments*

Benstead Scroll for best cultivated plot by someone over 70 years old : *Joint 2nd – Mr B Gray, Knaphill Allotments*

Leam Challenge Shield for best newly cultivated plot:
1st – Mrs J Demery and Joint 2nd –; Mrs J Roe, Knaphill Allotments.

Pentangle fundraises for the Hospice



Nick Forrest always kept fish and loved animals, which led to him acquiring his shop 6 years ago, now a well-known specialist business in the Village.

His other passion is supporting Woking & Sam Beare Hospice, and Nick recently had a fund-raising day for the Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Children in Need, ably assisted by Danielle Stone, raising approx. £1,200.

Nick is no stranger to fund-raising for the hospice – he used to run a football club in Bisley and organised fund-raising pre-season games, and continues to support it in every way he can to show his gratitude for the help given to family and close friends. On 20th December, Father Christmas will be visiting Pentangle so bring the children to see Santa and hold the reptiles, and help Nick raise more money for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice.

Pentangle's website is www.pentangleaquatics.co.uk

Beat the Draughts...



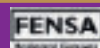
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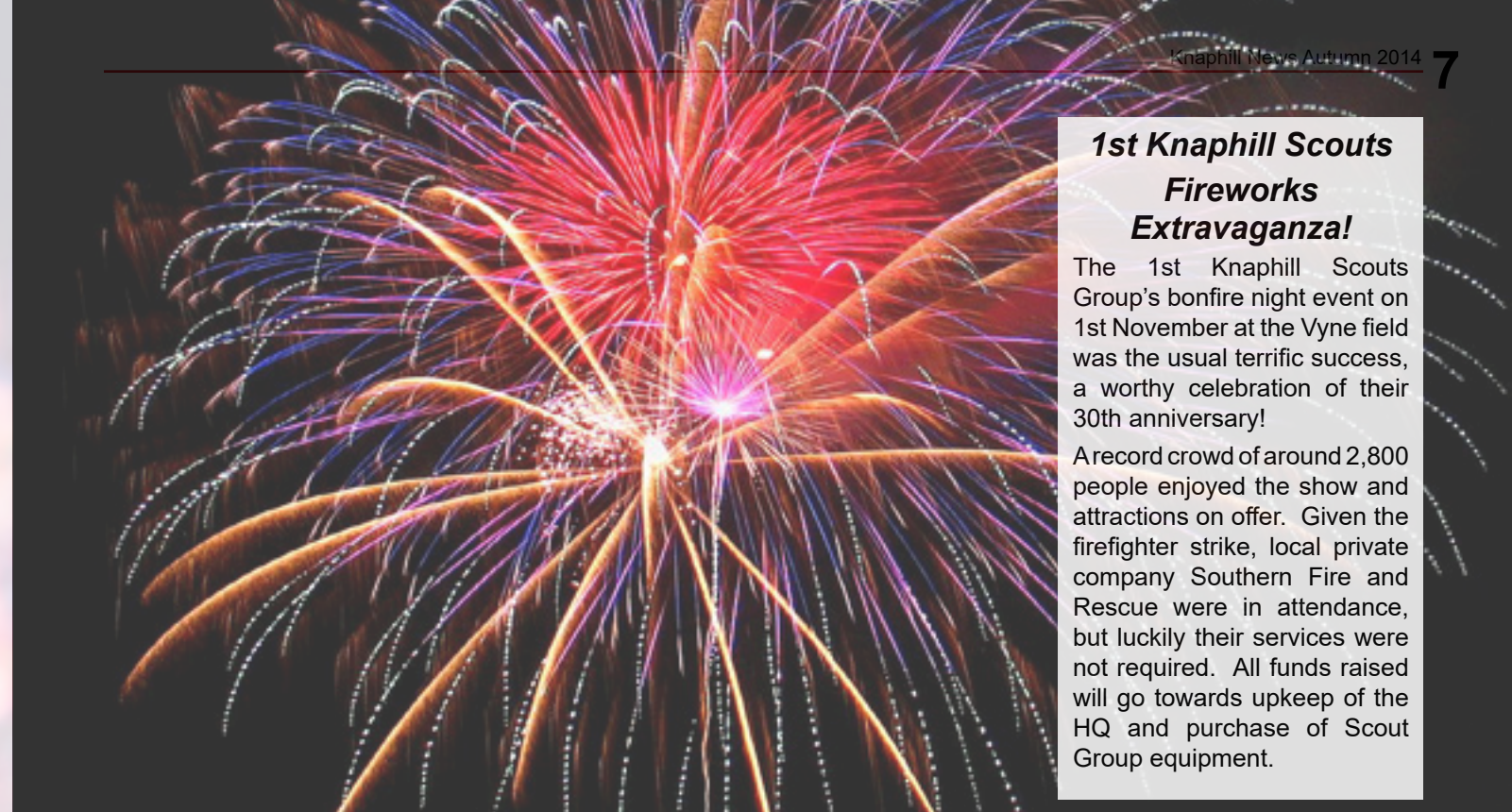


Windsor Windows

1st Knaphill Scouts Fireworks Extravaganza!

The 1st Knaphill Scouts Group's bonfire night event on 1st November at the Vyne field was the usual terrific success, a worthy celebration of their 30th anniversary!

A record crowd of around 2,800 people enjoyed the show and attractions on offer. Given the firefighter strike, local private company Southern Fire and Rescue were in attendance, but luckily their services were not required. All funds raised will go towards upkeep of the HQ and purchase of Scout Group equipment.



In the second in a series on our local churches, we look at The Knaphill Baptist Church

Knaphill Baptist Church was founded in June 1867 by Robert Lloyd who came to Knaphill to be Head Gardener at the newly opened Brookwood Hospital. Robert Lloyd was a committed Christian with a passion for sharing his faith, and a member of the Churches of Christ, a reform movement which originated in Scotland in the early 19th century.

When the present church was built in 1882, at a cost of £370, "Hope Chapel" as it was called was the most modern building in Knaphill! It is thought that the land was given by John Potts, who was governor of the women's prison on the site of what became the Inkerman Barracks. Three generations of the Lloyd family were closely involved with the church, and all continued to work at Brookwood Hospital.

Conditions in the church were somewhat spartan initially: no musical instrument was allowed for many years, although finally a grand piano was introduced followed by a harmonium in 1931, and the water in the baptistry was unheated until recently!

The actual fabric of the building has stood the test of time well, but over the years facilities have naturally been updated: neon lighting, central heating, stacking chairs, classroom and kitchen facilities, the chapel was redecorated and carpeted, and the manse was acquired.

In the 60s and 70s, closer links were established with local Baptist churches, and in 1973 the church changed its name to the Knaphill Baptist Church. Membership and activities subsequently increased, and cooperation was fostered with other neighbouring churches. Today Knaphill Baptist Church has a thriving and lively congregation, and a wide programme of faith and community activities and events for all ages.

In 2008, the present Minister, Richard Sherlock was inducted, and has been an inspiring and popular leader these past six years. Richard has also taken a very active part in the life of the Village, having initiated the 11th November Remembrance Service and heading up the annual Village Meeting. Richard has recently announced that he is to move on to a new ministry end January 2015. The thanks, friendship and best wishes of the congregation and wider Knaphill community go with him and Larrie.



PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

Lord Pirbright's Hall, The Green, Pirbright
Every Thursday, 10.15 to 11.15 am

Home baked, cakes and savouries
Preserves and free range eggs
Wonderful selection of handmade crafts
Home grown seasonal plants and garden produce.

Friendly coffee room,
Present this advert for a free coffee.



Mizens Railway

A successful Oktoberfest and Santa's coming!

The Mizens Railway's seventh annual Oktoberfest took place on Sunday 19th October; attracting hundreds of local families as well as visitors from all over the UK.

This year's Oktoberfest was centred around six large fairground organs playing at various locations around the site plus a gathering of smaller street or busker organs that were put on show by members of the British Organ Grinders Association (BOGA). Some of these were on show in a newly created central picnic area of the Mizens site, which is accessed by the footbridge over the railway line.

Additional attractions included an old time children's fun fair complete with a vintage carousel and traditional swing boats which kept the children happy - and of course the Mizens Miniature Railway was in operation giving train rides throughout the day.

The superb Fairground Models exhibition made a welcome return, proving a great hit with children and adults alike, and Brooklands Motor Museum was also present with their mobile display unit and some fine exhibits from the Spirit of Brooklands collection of vintage vehicles.

Additional attractions included a small craft tent, Chobham Country Farmers Market and other produce stalls, and a beer tent, and among the refreshments on offer were the traditional hot snack of the original "Oktoberfest" in Germany - authentic Bockwurst sausages! With something on offer for everyone, the event proved to be a great local "day out with a difference" for all the family.



And don't forget, **Mizens Railway Santa Specials** will be running on three Sundays in: December : 7th, 14th and 21st. Rides can be pre-booked via the Mizens Website www.mizensrailway.co.uk. All tickets, adults and children, are the same price. In addition to the train ride to Santa's Grotto, all child ticket holders receive a present from Father Christmas, and adults receive a hot drink (tea/coffee or mulled wine) and a mince pie.

KASJOG!

Going gothic

Rederring, a village in Cornwall with a unique feature - a corps of professional bridesmaids, but with a shortage of weddings they are getting desperate. This improbable scenario is the opening scene of Gilbert and Sullivan's darkly comic operetta, Ruddigore, KASJOG's forthcoming show.

Melodrama and parody were popular features of Gothic literature during the Victorian era, and in this vein Ruddigore boasts a cast of colourful characters and scenarios: wicked baronets under a witch's deadly curse, aforementioned bridesmaids, a prim heroine obsessed with a book of etiquette, a bashful hero who must transform from innocent to villain, his old faithful servant Adam, and the eccentric Mad Margaret.

As ever, Kasjog's audiences will be entertained by atmospheric sets and lighting, and music ranging from dark and dramatic to stirring, poignant and tender. The director, Gloria Smith, will be staging a traditional version, but with an occasional contemporary reference in the dialogue!

The show runs from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th March 2015 at Woking's Rhoda McGaw Theatre. Tickets on sale now. Further details at www.kasjog.org.uk



Kasjog's 2014 production of Brigadoon. Photo: Charles D Twigg

Woking Lions Club Initiative

Woking Lions Club, assisted by Woking Citizens Advice Bureau, is repeating its winter initiative "Project Wenceslas", to help people who are behind with their payments and struggling to meet the cost of heating and lighting. They are asking people who receive the winter fuel allowance and can manage without it, to pay this money into a special account set up by the CAB. Cheques should be made payable to Woking Lions – CAB, and taken or posted to the CAB office at Provincial House, 26 Commercial Way, Woking GU21 6EN. Last year the initiative raised £3,700 towards helping fellow Woking residents over the winter months, and your support again this year is most appreciated.



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[@FatCrowDesign](https://twitter.com/FatCrowDesign)

From our regular young contributor Vivienne Mathews



Christmas is generally regarded as the season of giving. Based around very Christian beliefs and the general human moral of helping those in need, Santa Claus is the role model figure that inspires the generosity in people. Derived from Saint Nicholas, a bishop from the fourth century who left anonymous gifts for those in need, Santa Claus or Father Christmas has become the trademark image for this season. Whilst children see him as the gift-giver, and are generally overjoyed at the prospect of receiving gifts, for adults the joy is probably in giving those gifts.

I say probably, as it has been statistically proven in psychological experiments that the act of giving makes people happier than receiving. Remarkably, Christmas is the one time of year when families can give their children presents without getting the credit. You might think that this is exactly what you would want, the happy smiles and "thank you" and "I love you" in return. However it seems that Saint Nicholas really did have the purest of approaches

in granting, since he did all his deeds anonymously.

I said at the beginning that Christmas is generally known as the season of giving. However, I believe a different and perhaps even more important aspect of Christmas, is forgiveness. Whilst giving presents and love to friends and family greatly increases happiness, it is the spirit of forgiveness that allows us to make amends with those with whom we had differences. More broadly, it is a time where we come to terms with ourselves, and can celebrate peace. In fact, it is the time of year where anything can happen, as the magic of selflessness transforms even the worst of people. Many of you will recall the story of the "Christmas Truce", the extraordinary event that happened exactly 100 years ago, in war-torn France in World War One. After months of conflict, loss and torment, there came a brief glimmer of hope. In the approach to Christmas 1914, German and English troops began to exchange seasonal greeting and and singing carols between their trenches, giving food and trinkets to each other in the spirit of Christmas. Possibly the most well-remembered and significant event was on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, when soldiers from both sides actually ventured into no-man's land to play football. While this may seem like a very out-of-place and crazy occurrence, it is in fact the most human thing anyone could have done. The human nature of companionship and togetherness, in combination with forgiveness, gratitude and generosity, are the characteristics Christmas brings out in all of us.

So in the words of Dale Evans, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas: "Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

Knaphill Armistice Commemoration 2014

Like many communities across the UK and elsewhere, Knaphill gathered to remember last Tuesday, 11th November at 11am. Led by Rev'd Richard Sherlock, a short service of Remembrance was held outside the old library site on the High Street, with contributions from Knaphill Junior School, St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School, The Royal British Legion, The British Army, Jonathon Lord, MP, Cllrs Debbie Harlow and Saj Hussain, and representatives of Knaphill Methodist Church and Holy Trinity Church, Knaphill.

All those present were very moved by the texts that the schoolchildren read, their own work, so we are reproducing them here.

Remembrance day

We celebrate remembrance day on Tuesday, November the 11th. We do this to thank all the people who took part in the war and to remember the soldiers who died in the poppy fields. We observe a minute of silence to think of those who fought in the war and lost their life fighting for their country. On the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month the guns of Europe fell silent.

by Alanya

Remember those who fought,
Beneath them a precious time,
Waiting, hoping patiently that the eternal war would end,
So they could get back to their beloved family.

Remember those who fought,
Fought for their ancestral country,
They gave up their brave lives,
To protect those who they loved.

Remember those who fought,
In wars, leaders of the dark, dark, dark trenches,
Those who stood by their fallen, new-found friends,
Death was drawing nearer and nearer every day.

Remember those who fought,
Never forget those who fought,
Families waited at home for letters that would never come,
It was every man for himself but not for good.

Remember those who fought.

Written by
Alanya

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Written by
Alanya

What news, Councillor..?
News and information from your local councillors

Cllr Saj Hussain

Work will be starting shortly to address the flooding on the Sussex Rd play area, and we are working with the officers to find a long term solution for school time traffic congestion. Councillors are also working with relevant agencies to introduce speed reduction measures where the High St is being used as race track. Anchor Hill, Littlewick Road, Creston Avenue, Robin Hood Crescent and Woodside Close have been resurfaced. Bollards have been installed to reduce parking in the High St and around the fast food outlets. A parking review has taken place and once new measures are implemented congestion should be reduced; it is also proposed that an extra warden be employed to enforce parking especially in the evenings. We are disappointed with the situation on the old library site but all is not lost, and hopefully HM Inspectors will ensure New Vision Homes submit a more acceptable plan for the site. Residents in Florence Court /Way are jubilant at the planning officers' refusal for houses on the open space in the front. On Highway or Street Lighting issues, please contact Saj on 07960 214261 or email Saj.hussain@surreycc.gov.uk.

Cllr Melanie Whitehand

It has been an eventful year for Knaphill, with the occupation of the flats over the Tesco Store and the building on the old Almond Villa now showing some activity, not to mention the suggested plans of the old library site for a small block of flats. All have not been without some justified concerns of residents, but hopefully things will ultimately prove to be of benefit to the Village. On a more positive note, I was very pleased to have been able to have added to the Council's statute books a 'Supplementary Planning Document' on the establishment of 'Hot Food Take-aways', following representations made to me from residents who are having their lives seriously disrupted by these premises. This effectively means that if and when a new application is submitted to open a hot food take-away, consideration will be given to its proximity to residences and the impact of anti-social behaviour and litter, as well as to existing numbers of such outlets. Hopefully this will put a block on the ceaseless expansion of such premises blighting our village. On that note, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues if there are any issues on which you require our assistance.

Cllr Debbie Harlow

It's been a whirlwind year for me. I was quite sad to leave the KRA after 8 years but very happy to still be involved in the community, both with the Village Show and by becoming a Councillor. Being elected by the residents is both a humbling and exhilarating experience. I have learned so much over the last 6 months that I am hoping to put to the good of Knaphill. I am also very grateful that I am working with Councillors Melanie Whitehand and Saj Hussain, who have loads of experience and extra help as Saj is also a County Councillor. It is also very satisfying to see that decisions are made in a very democratic way and every council member has a chance to have their say, always considering the needs of our residents. I have worked on a number of issues that crop up in our day-to-day lives and found it very rewarding, such as rehoming, and supporting residents in the proposed Waterer's Way development.

On the Buses in Knaphill, by Mal Foster



2001 with the launch of the Arriva corporate brand with the now familiar livery of Aquamarine and Cotswold stone. The company was later incorporated into the Arriva Southern Counties division, trading as Arriva Southern Counties. On 07 March 2007, the vehicles at Horsham transferred to Arriva Guildford & West Surrey.

Whilst some may say that the service is sufficient, 2014 has seen cancellations, late running, breakdowns, before-time running with potential passengers left behind at bus stops, diversionary routes not being advertised and numerous reports of erratic driving and rudeness by some drivers. So, is the service satisfactory? Arriva and Abellio can be contacted via their websites respectively at www.arrivabus.co.uk and www.abellio.co.uk or you can contact Surrey County Council direct to raise concerns on their website at www.surreysays.co.uk (local-transport-review)

Knaphill has a rare advantage over most villages in Surrey in that no fewer than eight different services pass through its village centre, mostly run by Guildford based Arriva. Buses in the area had been operated since the pre-war period by the expanding private operator Aldershot & District Traction, which in the late 60s became a subsidiary of the National Bus Co. In the early 70s the company was renamed, becoming part of the expanded Alder Valley NBC subsidiary. With deregulation of bus services, services in the area passed to a smaller NBC subsidiary, Alder Valley South, which was then privatised in 1987, and reverted to the Alder Valley name.

The Guildford & West Surrey brand name was first created in 1990, when the Guildford operations of Alder Valley were sold to London & Country, which was then owned by the Drawlane Group, one of the predecessor companies of Arriva. Buses in the area began wearing the Guildford & West Surrey fleet name and livery in the style of the new London & Country colours, although London & Country branded buses also operated in the area. The company was renamed Arriva Guildford & West Surrey Ltd in

BUSINESS FOCUS



La Bella Amalfi – Benvenuto!

The Italian restaurant La Bella Amalfi was a welcome newcomer to Knaphill High Street earlier in the autumn. Owned by brothers Nino (some residents may remember Nino's previous restaurant in Knaphill at the Anchor Hill junction) and Salvatore Lanzatta, and assisted by Nino's son Alfonso, La Bella Amalfi offers a truly authentic Italian cuisine expertly prepared by chef Franco.

The restaurant is open for lunch 12pm-2.30pm, and for dinner 6pm-10.30pm, with something for all tastes from the a la carte menu, and as of January there will be a set menu option Monday to Thursday.

From 1st to 24th December, La Bella Amalfi offers a tempting 3-course pre-Christmas lunch at £19.95 or dinner at £22.95, a very special Christmas Day 4-course meal at £55.95 and a gourmet New Year's Eve 7-course dinner with live music for £65.50.

La Bella Amalfi has a special Elvis-themed evening planned for 26th February, and can also cater for special large private parties including for Sunday lunch.

On presentation of this article, customers visiting La Bella Amalfi throughout January 2015 will get 10% off their bill.

www.stjohnsknaphillchildrenscentre.co.uk
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Those were the days - Knaphill from 1933-1951

Keith Sadler, a Knaphill boy now a long-time resident in Canada, sent us the following memories of the Village...

When I was born in 1933, my mother and father were both nurses in the Hospital, and we lived in one of the Hospital houses on Oak Tree Road until 1951. My first real memories are at the age of 5 starting at the Infants School near Holy Trinity Church.

In 1939, things started to get scary, and my father built an air raid shelter at the bottom of our garden. When the first air raid alert was announced via a huge siren in the village, we went into our little shelter in the garden, but water had seeped in soaking the floor, so we quickly fled to the main public shelter. This was more substantial, built of brick and concrete, in the field just outside our house, and could accommodate most of the local residents.

Lots of German bombers came over day and night, and even if you couldn't see them, you could hear the droning noise their engines made. One night we heard that one of the bombers had been shot down and crashed nearby - it had been targeted by one of the many anti-aircraft guns in the area. I seem to remember that the bombers used to turn round and return on their raids on London. The lead bombers dropped huge flares which lit up the sky, and the sound of the aircraft seemed to change as they turned around, and then died off as they headed to London. From the top of Anchor Hill, there was a scary scene of the fires burning in London. On a clear day the English and German fighter planes could be seen trying to outmanoeuvre each other. Their machine guns and cannon were very audible, and their spent shells whistled to the ground, and then we kids would run around to pick up the shell cases much to the annoyance to our parents.

I remember that the air raid sirens would often sound during school hours, and we had to run across the playing fields to the large air raid shelters that were a long way from the school, in plain view of the German planes overhead. On one occasion the siren didn't sound, and all of a sudden we heard the whistling sound of a bomb coming down, and then a huge explosion. At lunchtime we kids all ran in the direction where the bomb had crashed, and found that it had demolished a house on Bagshot Road, killing all the inhabitants...

The air raids went on for years but we kids used to go about our business. In the village, there was a YMCA where we'd go to play games (the last time I was in Knaphill this hut was a library). We also built a cycle speedway track on the Common at the end of Oak Tree Road where we challenged other teams from the area. We would also help pick apples in the hospital orchards which we got paid for. The land girls worked with us, as well as being employed in many tasks on the hospital grounds. Throughout these years, there were many evacuees billeted in houses around us, and they went to the local schools.

During the war there were many aircraft that crashed near the village: a Typhoon came down near the rec in lower Anchor Hill, as well as a Spitfire in the area.

Another plane landed in the brickyard on Lower Guildford Road, and a Heinkel on the rec in West End. The most memorable for me was the Mosquito that crashed in the Hospital grounds on Lower Guildford Road, when we kids were actually watching a movie in the Hospital Hall (they put on movies for the patients every Saturday afternoon and we were allowed to sit on the upper deck). There was an almighty bang, we ran out to see what it was and were told a plane had crashed nearby. We all ran to the site only to be told not to get close because of the debris everywhere (this aircraft was mainly built of balsa wood) and also the poor aircrew's bodies... a horrible sight. Towards the end of the war, there was one very dramatic event nearby - a German V1 (buzzbomb) crashed in a field near Brookwood Rec and the blast from the explosion travelled up a large drain that ran into the nearby stream and blew out the windows of the butcher in the High Street! Thousands of planes also flew over our house on their way to targets in Europe. During the day, these were Flying Fortresses, Liberators, Boston and Mitchell aircraft in formation. Sadly, many did not return to their bases, and some that did had pieces missing from the wings or tails. In the evening it was the turn of the Lancaster bombers on their way to targets in Europe, and again many of these flew back in the morning with bits blown off, or didn't make it back to base, with the loss of the crew. The local skies were also home to Tiger Moths from Chobham (Fairoaks); these were the planes that were used to train young airmen from all over the world to be fighter pilots.

On the ground there were dummy tanks in the fields nearby and poles erected in the open fields to prevent paratroops landing. There were mobile barrage balloons everywhere that could be moved to various locations as needed. On the nearby roads there were many tanks filled with personnel, along with supply trucks on their way to the coast. We didn't know it then of course, but they were massing for the D-Day invasion. At the same time, there were also truckloads of German and Italian prisoners-of-war going by after working



in nearby fields. They all seemed very happy as they waved to us as on our way home from school. No doubt they were glad to be out of the war.

Inkerman Barracks was filled with Canadian Troops, all very friendly, and I remember them giving us chewing gum. Later, after D-Day, many of these troops would be hospitalised in the nearby hospital. I also remember seeing the Canadian Nurses in the village with their black, red and white uniforms. When the troops went off to D-Day, they had to leave all the equipment behind which was dumped in piles to be burned. This is where I got my very first pair of ice hockey skates (more on that later).

At the end of the war in Europe, we built an enormous bonfire on the common at the end of Oak Tree Road to celebrate; another load of kids built a similar bonfire on the corner across the road from the Garibaldi Pub at the junction of Chobham Road and the High Street. We built huge bonfires on the same sites when VJ day was declared.

Moving on now to post-war and beyond Knaphill, when I was 14 I left secondary school and was at Guildford Technical College for the next 2 years. In 1948, I remember watching the Olympic Flame being carried along Bagshot Road on its way the Wembley, a great sight to witness.

At 18 I joined the RAF for three years, trained as a Radio Mechanic and was based in Germany, Holland and Belgium. In 1954 I worked at Peto Scott in Addlestone for a while, and then joined AWRE (Atomic Weapons Research Establishment) in Aldermaston as a Research and Experimental Mechanic for a number of years. While at Aldermaston, I married my wife Janet who worked at Meg Scott hairdressers in Woking. I then worked at Vickers Armstrong (later British Aircraft Corporation) in the TSR2 Flight Test Instrumentation section, where I was fortunate enough to witness the first flight of TSR2 on Boscombe Down in September 1964. In 1966 I joined Klippon Electricals, and in 1975, I was transferred to Canada to set up a new division for them near Toronto, where we've lived ever since.

If anyone in the Woking area, including schools, would like to learn more about Canada, please get in touch, and I'll be glad to help them learn about this wonderful country. However, I should add that we still love England very much and have travelled back many times to visit relatives and friends.

To all my and Janet's old friends in West End and Chobham, and also of our sons Russell and Mark, know that we wish you all good health, and please drop us a line when you get a chance as we would love to hear from you (ksadler75@gmail.com).

KNAPHILL AREA SPORTS



In the good summer of 2014, **Knaphill Bowling Club** had another successful season. Two of our ladies played in Surrey teams that won National competitions and the men won the Surrey County Top Four competition. The club was runner-up in the competitive West Surrey League, in which we have a good record over many years, and also won several local trophies.

During the season, we were pleased to recruit 8 new members to the Club. None of them had played bowls before, but they all became very enthusiastic supporters of the game by September. Anyone interested in bowls, but who missed our open days last spring will be most welcome when we repeat them at the end of April 2015. Please see our website (knaphillbowls.co.uk) for details.



In the previous issue of the magazine, **Knaphill FC** had just got our 2014/15 season underway. Having started their League games in the Combined Counties League at the beginning of August, in our first season following promotion we are continuing our trend of progression.

of our Combined Counties League programme of 40 games, and face two more Cup competitions, the Surrey Senior Cup and the Southern Combination Cup. Our December schedule of League games will round off 2014 with a local derby game on Saturday 27th December when we play Westfield at Redding Way, having already gained a 2-1 win away to Westfield at the end of October.

So, by end December, Knaphill will be into the second half of our League programme and looking onwards and upwards as we continue our fixtures from January through to end April 2015.

KNAPHILL YMCA FC



Sent in by **Bernard Warden** (back row second from right - the good- looking one, as he says himself!), this photo of the Knaphill YMCA football team when they won the Woking & District league 1947/1948. Bernard wonders where they are now, and would be pleased to hear from anyone on 'bernard_warden@o2.co.uk'.

next125

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Strictly Come Dancing, X-Factor finalist topping the charts, the Snowman, furniture sales, turkeys, family, presents, the office party, fairy lights, great expense and **HOLIDAY!**

All of this happens because of one day, one day out of 365, one day which most of the world has declared as a 'special' day. But why? I mean, we all know the answer is that Christmas causes this fun (or chaos!), but why do all this?

It's all about remembering isn't it, marking an occasion. There are different ways in which we remember things, aren't there. This year has been a poignant year in remembering as we have recalled the start of the 'Great War' 100 years ago. Then there was that celebration in which you remembered the day of your birth (no matter how long ago!), or perhaps the exuberant lighting up of the sky as we remembered Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. Or possibly the visit you paid to the resting place of a loved one to mark an anniversary... there are many different ways in which we remember things, appropriate to the event which we are marking. So, what does how we remember Christmas tell us about the event which we are marking?

The TV is full of Christmas specials and family friendly films. This makes me think that Christmas is about people coming together, to have a laugh and enjoy one another's company. And when family come round there is always a bit of a buzz and excitement in the air, which the TV shows just add to. In remembering in this way we highlight that Christmas is about there being a buzz and excitement, whether consciously or not, we are almost recalling the excitement and buzz of welcoming a new baby into a family.

The parties, food and presents! Not usually elements used to remember something sad, but a way to celebrate and mark something new happening. Presents on your birthday, I like to think, are to remind you that you are a gift to others. And presents at Christmas show we're remembering a time when a gift was given to us, in the form of a baby. Whether you think he was the son of God or not, he was still a gift, to those parents, those around him and to us, through his impact on history.

For Christmas people really splash out. Whether on food, presents, one off TV shows or furniture warehouses offering sales, Christmas is marked out by generosity, sometimes, at great cost. I believe that Christmas is an anniversary of an event which came at a great cost. Just as you may splash out that little extra for someone you care about, so did God when He gave us Jesus. He splashed out with the most important part of Him, for us.

Whether you believe that or not, this Christmas, think about why we do what we do, and what that means about the 'event' in which we are remembering.

Rev'd Chrissie Lacey,

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

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

Nativity and Crib Services

[Anticipating with wonder]

07 th Dec. Methodist's Nativity & Toy Service	10.00am
21 st Dec. Holy Trinity's Nativity Service	9.30am
21 st Dec. Baptist's Nativity Service	11.00am
24 th Dec. St Hugh's Children's Nativity Mass	6.30pm
24 th Dec. St Saviour's Crib Service	3.30pm and 4.45pm

Christmas Morning

[Celebrating
the birth of the King]

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

Carol Services

[Sing your hearts out as the story unfolds]

St Hugh	20 th December 4.00pm
Baptist	21 st December 5.30pm by candlelight (all age)
Holy Trinity	21 st December 5.00pm
Methodist	21 st December 6.30pm by candlelight
St Saviour's	21 st December 7.00pm by candlelight



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 by candlelight
St Hugh	11.30pm

Christingle Services

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

Holy Trinity	20 th December 4.30pm
Methodist	24 th December 4.00pm

