

Magazine of the Knaphill Residents' Association

knaphill

Summer 2015 Issue 48

news



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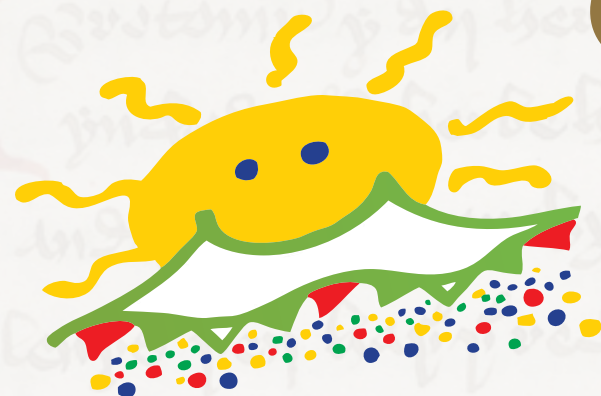


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Knaphill Village Show 2015



Olde English! theme

show sponsors



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trade & craft stalls,
BBQ & beer tent, food &
refreshments, Oscar's dog show

Entertainment from
Belly Tricks, Bisley Alzac Brass Band, Chobhar
Morris Dancers, Music from Stormy Waters,
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18th July 2015 1 - 5pm

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Proud to sponsor the Knaphill village show!



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We have a circulation of 5,000 copies and a readership of c15,000 that reach throughout Knaphill and the surrounding villages on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December.

Please submit articles for the next issue to Sue Stocker at editor@knaphill.org

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Contact the KRA

By post: c/o Knaphill Post Office, 1-2 Anchor Crescent, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2PD
By email: news@knaphill.org

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

Walking round for this event. You will find more details of the entertainment including music and dancing and other events in the middle pages of the magazine. Organising a show such as this is incredibly hard work for members of the Residents Association, but it's all worth it to provide a fun day for all ages and to bring together the residents, local business, charities and voluntary organisations. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mizens are a voluntary organisation we work closely with in organising the Knaphill Village Show, which this year is taking place on Saturday 18th July from 1.00 to 5.00pm. We are indeed fortunate to have such a picturesque location, including the steam trains,

John Butler, KRA Chairman
chairman@knaphill.org



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So, Knaphill village can once again hold up its head with pride as it were, in the form of its rejuvenated village sign! It would be nice to think that this could also be a sign (yes, pun intended!) of a rejuvenation of the village spirit. There was certainly plenty of that around on 16th May for Jim's charity headshave, and it was great that so many in the village pulled together for it with such a brilliant result. And we hope to have a good turn-out also for another community event, the cricket match on 11th August.

In the meantime of course we've got the year's main event coming up on 18th July in the form of the Village Show. The programme in the centre of the magazine gives you the information you need to plan your day, all the old favourites with a couple of new events, so we look forward to seeing you there to share the fun on the day.

In the meantime, here's wishing you all a great summer making the most of what's going on, both at home and away wherever else you might be heading for the summer break.



Best wishes,
Sue Stocker, Editor

Village Bits & Pieces

Village sign refurbishment

Thanks to the money raised by Tesco, the village sign has been refurbished and is now in place in its fresh new colours. Thanks also go to Jeff Duke who carried out the work, and to the two willing volunteers Paul Chapman and John Baker for putting it back in place. (And yes, the post will be repainted, bear with us!)



CAB moved to The Vyne

The Citizens Advice Bureau has moved from its office in the Methodist Church to the Vyne Centre, where it is open 2.00 – 4.00 Monday afternoons for free impartial advice on a wide range of subjects.

Royal Oak pub

The Royal Oak pub on Anchor Hill has recently gone under new

management with Carol and Mark. Read more under Business Focus on page 9.

Argos and Habitat new in Knaphill

Argos and Habitat have recently opened outlets inside Homebase in Knaphill, Argos being a click-and-collect facility and the "mini-Habitat" being a retail outlet, the 50th in the country in fact. This has led to the creation of some new jobs in-store, which is of course always good news. At the same time it is to be hoped that this extra retail opportunity doesn't impact negatively on existing village businesses or mean a heavy increase in delivery traffic causing a nuisance to local residents.

PCC Meeting 11th August

The next PCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th August at 7.30 pm at Stefs Café, 14 High Street, Knaphill. All residents are welcome to come along and share any concerns with neighbours, councillors and our local police officers. We hope that this will be an opportunity for us to meet our new Sergeant, Gary Chennells.

New Italian restaurant

The word on the (High) Street is that the previous premises of Zeytin and Knaphill Food & Wine, currently under refurbishment, are to become an Italian restaurant with associated delicatessen.

Oh yes, it IS cricket, sir!

On Sunday 16th August, for the first time in many years a Knaphill Eleven will be playing on the pitch in Waterers Park against an Army Eleven fielded by the troops stationed at Pirbright barracks. There will be a bbq and beer tent, plus other possible attractions, still to be confirmed (check out our website), no charge to watch but donations will be gratefully received in aid of a local charity. So come along and enjoy the sound of leather on willow on a balmy August afternoon in what we hope will be the first of an annual community event.

KNAPHILL CARE fundraising event

The SingAlong Community Evening event has sadly had to be cancelled for the time being, but will hopefully be rescheduled for late October. More on this in our next edition.

Sussex Road playground and carpark

Work has been carried out as planned to help alleviate the flooding problem in and around the playground; hopefully next winter will prove that this will do the trick. On the negative side, our hope that some minor work in the carpark and grassed area would provide, albeit minimal, tennis and basketball facilities has not come to fruition.

To make matters (look) even worse, the few trees between the school and the playground have been unceremoniously hacked – one can't say pruned – and the only shrub on the whole area has been removed.

We do not however despair that eventually something can be done to put this green space to better use and to make it more attractive, and to this end we have discussed with the Council the possibility of installing additional benches and a few shrubs around the green.

Stubbs' stubs

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

What is "good design" when it comes to development in Knaphill?

In dealing with planning issues in our village and faced with an application for a new building be it a house or apartments, I have one basic question: does the proposed development make a positive statement to the street, neighbourhood where the developer wants to build? Often you feel that planners and politicians are only interested in reaching their target for new homes, and the history/character of an area is less relevant. This isn't new, of course, but there are a number of examples where since the 1950s, one questions whether the 'new build' actually fits into that area. This isn't to say all 'new build' is poorly designed; there are examples of good design.

First what is Knaphill? The Design Supplementary Planning Guidelines (SPD) recently published by Woking Borough Council go into detail in dealing with the town centre and West Byfleet, but the rest of the borough is just listed as 'suburbs and villages'. Clearly the authors of the SPD do not recognise the differences in the character of the separate villages; in fact they usually just refer to Knaphill as 'urban area'. Knaphill was in fact one of the original pre-Victorian villages in this part of Surrey. Although it is now mainly centred on Anchor Hill and the High Street, this area did not develop until mid-19th Century through the prosperity of the local brickworks. A smaller and older settlement was in Lower Knaphill where Anchor Hill joins Barrs Lane. That area has a strong character with several Statutory Listed buildings from the 16th and 17th C together with a number of 18th C properties on the local historic buildings list, and is now a conservation area.

Knaphill's development to become one of the largest villages in the Borough has been piecemeal, with a number of estates, such as the Birds Estate and more recently the development of the old Brookwood hospital site, being created over a number of years. A further large estate, Brookwood Farm, is now being built within the Knaphill boundary.

For me, an example of good modern design is Strathcona Gardens, off Redding Way. Given the terrain, I feel the developer made good use of the land, and it is a good neighbour to the country park which separates the 'urban area' from the Basingstoke Canal. Where deserved, praise should be given to planners and the country park is a piece of good design and good planning. Staying with the hospital site, I must mention Florence Court. This comprises two of the old hospital buildings that have been converted into 58 flats. The building is locally listed, but I feel that it should have national status as a building of historic importance.

An example of where planners and developers got it wrong is along Queens Road. Entering Queens Road

from the Broadway, you still have a substantial number of the original cottages, especially on the left, built over 100 years ago. The builders took pride in their work and a number of the cottages were given names. However over the years, developers have moved onto the land to the right of Queens Road and we now have Queens Court, St Denys Close and Powderham Court. In building these houses and maisonettes, the developers and planners ignored the setting of the road. Planners call it 'modern infill'. The majority of pre-1940s built properties in the village were along linear or slightly curved roads which were quite narrow, and thus as car ownership increased parking became an issue. The so-called modern infill would remove a number of properties from the main street to create a cul-de-sac, giving scant regard to the character of the original street.

With the exception of the old hospital buildings, most properties in Knaphill were two-storey, but in the last few years this has changed. First there was Highclere House at 5 High Street, a block of offices set back from the High Street but in its own way blended into the street scene. Then came the 'new build' at 15 High Street. Clifton's shop and workshop was demolished and replaced by a new three-storey building containing a supermarket and flats. Agreed, the new Design SPD wasn't around when the local politicians were deciding whether to approve this building, but I question whether it would have made any difference because there was strong political pressure for this development to go ahead. But does the building that stands on the Clifton site meet the Council's criteria for good design, as it is the size and shape of this building that has influenced both Woking Borough Council and their agents New Vision Homes as to what they plan to build on the site of the old library.

Returning to "Clifton Towers", let me put some of the questions in the SPD to you and ask you if you feel the building passes or fails the test:

- Is the building's footprint appropriate to the size of the plot?
- Is the height of the development suitable for the location?
- Does the building respect the amenities of neighbouring properties?
- Is there adequate vehicular and cycle parking and is it suitably designed?

Is there sufficient amenity space incorporated into the scheme and is its location and design well considered?

Good design is of course subjective. What I see as a well-designed building may be ugly to someone else. In this article I have tried to outline what I see as good or bad design. If you think differently, please feel free to contact the KRA and let us know.



Don't forget you can check planned developments against WBC's Local Plan at <http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/policy/localplan/knaphill>

New book "The Asylum Soul" by local author Mal Foster



Our good friend, local historian and founder/editor of The Knaphillian, Mal Foster has recently published his debut novel, The Asylum Soul. As Mal tells us: "Lunatic asylums were an inescapable hangover of Victorian Britain, and they harnessed a certain stigma born 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 23 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.'

Mal held a very well attended launch and book signing in The Crown pub in the High Street on 15th June, and the book is now available in paperback and Kindle formats from Lulu.com and Amazon.co.uk respectively. It can also be ordered from any good bookshop. (ISBN 978-1-326-26219-8)

And while we're on the subject of books...

Record Breakers, Summer Reading Challenge 2015, kicks off in all of Surrey Libraries on Saturday 11th July 2015, celebrating the 60th anniversary of Guinness World Records.

The Summer Reading Challenge is for children between 4-11 years. Read six library books over the summer and collect rewards along the way. Children can choose any book they like from our huge range, including talking books, and it's completely free to take part. On signing up, they'll receive their own fold-out poster with facts both bizarre and incredible. They'll then collect stickers from the library after every 2 books they read and add them to the poster, and when they've read 6 books they'll receive a medal and certificate.

Surrey Libraries are joining in with The Reading Agency's attempt to set a Guinness World Records title for the most pledges received for a reading campaign. Check out our website to find out which libraries are taking part and become a real record breaker!

There is something for adults and teens as well so they don't miss out on challenging themselves. Also starting on 11th July, we are offering Surrey Reads. Sign up and read 2, 4 or 6 books of your choice during the summer months,

and you'll be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win iTunes vouchers or book tokens.

If you would like to get even more involved in the fun and are aged between 14 and 25, we are looking for volunteers to commit at least 10 hours over the summer to help run the Summer Reading Challenge at their local library. You might be asked to enrol children, chat to them about the books they've read or help with events and activities. We are also looking for volunteers of 25+ to help in similar ways with running Surrey Reads in libraries during the summer.

For more information about volunteering or taking part in either of our summer challenges, pop into your local library, go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries or phone 0300 200 1001.



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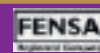


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BUSINESS FOCUS Royal Oak Pub, Anchor Hill

We asked Carol and Mark, the new landlords of the Royal Oak pub, to tell us a bit about themselves and their plans for the pub.

"We have a wealth of experience in the field of hospitality and are passionate about providing top-quality homemade food and excellent cask ales at value-for-money prices. We intend to offer a variety of meals daily between 12pm and 9pm that will evolve over the coming months, with a new menu launching very soon. We have revamped the large beer garden with new furniture for you to relax in on those summer days and nights, whilst enjoying a glass or two from our extensive selection of ciders, lagers and cask ales, and wines.

We offer quiz nights every Tuesday at 9pm, curry nights on Wednesdays, and intend to introduce 2-for-1 meals on Mondays. In addition to this, we will be looking to offer BBQs at weekends in the coming months. Come on in and try us out; we look forward to meeting you!"



Mizens Railway



After several years in preparation, the new Highland Route is open for limited passenger hauling this season.

A great deal of effort has been put into this project by volunteers over the past four years. The first two years was devoted to erecting the banking and building the viaduct, followed by a further two years building the track and points which needed to be connected to the signalling system.

To comply with strict safety regulations, vacuum braking systems had to be installed on all coaches and locomotives together with safety chains on all coaches. It is due to the dedication of those of our members who worked on this mammoth project in all weathers that this has been achieved.

The railway is currently running every Sunday afternoon, plus Thursday afternoons in August. In addition, Mizens is once again kindly hosting the Knaphill Village Show on Saturday 18th July (but you all knew that of course, didn't you?!), and Sunday 18th October sees the return of the ever-popular and colourful Oktoberfest, an irresistible combination of steam trains and fairground organs. Full details of other special events can be found on our website www.mizensrailway.co.uk

Woking Rotary Club Swimathon



The Woking Rotary Club annual fundraising event will take place on Sunday 11th October 2015 at the Pool in the Park in Woking. More than 340 people normally take part in this event, made up of teams of up to six people sponsored by family and friends to swim for 55 minutes with the aim of raising money for local charities.

The event is sponsored by our great friends at Trident Honda, Ottershaw and has raised more than £70,000 since it started.

We have six slots per hour from 9am though to 6pm. If you would like to take part, reserve a time slot or have any queries, please call Terry Smith on 01483 762832.

BUSINESS FOCUS Brilliant Sheen



Based in the heart of Knaphill village, Brilliant Sheen is an innovative window cleaning business. Owned and run by Adam and his partner, Melissa, the couple have invested in a Pure Water system and high-reach poles, which offer a superior clean without detergent or chemicals carried out from the safety of the ground.

Brilliant Sheen has been expanding its client base and establishing a reputation as a friendly and reliable team within the local community since they began trading last year. Their services also include cleaning of soffits/fascias, UPVC, solar panels and conservatories, all with a 100% satisfaction guarantee, pre-clean reminders and frames & sills included as standard.

Adam says: "We love what we do and we believe that this is reflected in the service we provide. We aim to go above and beyond, and our attention to detail is what we hope helps to set us apart".

For more information or a quote, call: 01483 489794 or e-mail: info@brilliantseen.co.uk, or you can find them at: www.brilliantseen.co.uk.

Olde English theme!

It's time for the 2015 Knaphill Village Show!

Saturday 18th July from 1.00 to 5.00 at Mizens Railway, Barrs Lane



Programme & general timings

1pm, Show opening by Jonathan Lord MP

1-5pm, Mizens Steam Trains

Music events in the Entertainment areas

Bisley Almac Brass Band from 1.45pm

Stormy Waters from 1.15pm

Ukeholics - Ukelele band from 2.00pm

2.15 & 3.45 pm Punch & Judy in the main field

Chobham Morris Dancers perform from 1.30pm

2.30pm Oscar Fun Dog Show in the central area (register from 2.00)

From 1.30 BellyTricks (Belly Dancers) in the main field

4.30 pm Raffle in the main field

5pm Show finishes



Fun Dog Show

Entry Fee - £1 per class
(registration from 2pm onwards)

- ☐ Class 1 Prettiest bitch
- ☐ Class 2 Most handsome dog
- ☐ Class 3 Temptation alley
- ☐ Class 4 Happiest dog (waggy tail/smiley face)
- ☐ Class 5 Best sausage catcher
- ☐ Class 6 Best 6 legs
- ☐ Class 7 Best condition
- ☐ Class 8 Dog the judge would most like to take home

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Residents' Association AGM



The Knapthill RA held its AGM on 22nd April in the hall of the Methodist church, to whom thanks once again for accommodating us. The evening started with a fascinating illustrated

talk by Robyn Higgs from The Basingstoke Canal Society. We learnt that the canal, completed in 1794, was built to connect Basingstoke with the River Thames at Weybridge via the Wey Navigation. One of the main cargoes carried was timber. It is 32 miles long and has 28 locks, 27 of which are located in the Surrey element. It was never a success however, and commercial use ended in 1910. During WW1 it was used to transport supplies from Woolwich and to train soldiers in boat handling. The canal was in private hands for a period and used for both commercial and pleasure purposes, before passing to the New Basingstoke Canal Co Ltd who tried to restore it but by the 60s it was essentially derelict. In 1976 it was purchased by Hants and Surrey County Councils thanks to the efforts of the Surrey & Hampshire Canal Society, and is now managed by the Basingstoke Canal Society whose volunteers do a tremendous job of

maintenance and repair. It has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and areas around the canal provide a habitat to many reptiles and birds. With regard to the AGM proper, Chairman John Butler and Secretary Phil Stubbs gave a round-up of the work of the Knapthill Residents Association over the past 12 months. The KRA Committee then stood for re-election, with all members being re-elected with the exception of Phil Stubbs who has decided to stand down after 5 years of service. However, we're we are very pleased to say that he will remain as a committee member in the capacity of planning expert. John thanked Phil on behalf of the Committee and all the residents, and presented him with a token of our appreciation. Phil's replacement as the KRA Secretary is Linda Parsons, to whom a warm welcome.

Big-hearted Jim's charity event

On Saturday 16th May, Jim Ahmed from the Knapthill Post Office shop "headed" out of his shop for a very good cause into a sunny Anchor Crescent, which was transformed into party central with bunting, fun activities, music, food and drink provided by local businesses and volunteers to support Jim in raising funds for the British Heart Foundation. Jim's locks were shorn to the delight of the crowd by Ben Madle of Headhunters, and Jim was so pleased with the result he says he might even keep his new look! But the result that particularly pleases him is the sum of over £3,750 raised by for the BHF. Well done Jim, you're a star! Jim would like to thank everybody - businesses, friends, family and public who came along on the day, but his particular thanks go to Josie of Steph's for helping to organise the event.



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Knapthill in "Bloom"

As in "you'll be blooming lucky" - as much to our disappointment, the promised hanging baskets did not materialise. The ways of local government and health and safety are indeed tortuous and ponderous, and this vast project obviously proved a challenge too far in the timescale available. We are however promised that an effort will be made to get them in place for summer 2016...



present is from the weeds... But we have at least succeeded in getting some colourful planters and hanging baskets on the mini-roundabout at the junction of Anchor Hill with Lockfield Drive, so all is not lost, and we will continue to pursue this matter.



The Residents' Association is still also fighting an on-going battle to have the village centre flower beds improved. A promising start has unfortunately not been followed through, despite many interventions on our part and promises from the authorities, and the biggest show of colour at



Morris dancers in Knapthill

Your editor must declare an interest here, being an avid fan of the Morris, so no apologies for giving them maximum coverage wherever possible! If you didn't come along to the Garibaldi Pub on 23rd April, St George's day, you missed a treat, but you can make up for it, as the same Pilgrim Morris Men will be performing in Knapthill again on Tuesday 28th July at 8.45pm at The Crown pub in the High Street. And if you still can't make that date, then third time lucky - the Chobham Morris Men will be performing at the Knapthill Village Show at Mizens on Saturday 18th July. I personally shan't miss either... three performances in 3 months in Knapthill - Morris heaven!!

Pied Piper Pre-School



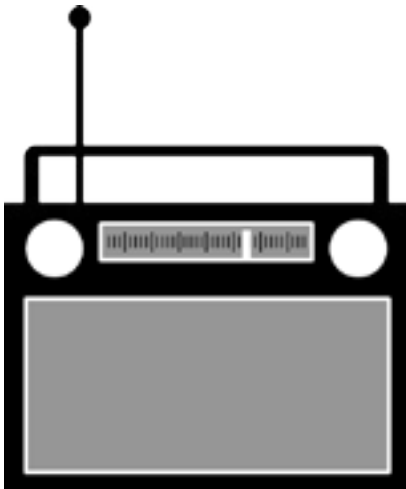
Pied Piper is a community pre-school established 20 years ago based in the Methodist Church hall in The Broadway offering sessional care for 2-4 year-olds. Pied Piper provides safe, stimulating and affordable child care in a secure, caring and fun environment. A wide range of activities is on offer to enhance all areas of the children's development and help them acquire independence, confidence and social skills. The play possibilities and games available all help to encourage the children's creative, physical and intellectual development, undertaken either individually or in a group. Karen Deluce and her team of four assistants, all qualified and experienced child-care specialists, will be pleased to meet you and provide further information. Tel no: 07946284636 / 01483-831875 Email: r.deluce@ntlworld.com

Radio Woking

Based at The Winston Churchill School, Radio Woking took over from the popular school station Yay Radio, which had run for close to two years featuring some very talented students from the school. Unlike Yay Radio, Radio Woking not only features the school's student presenters but also presenters from the local community. The station features a vast array of specialist programmes and features not heard on commercial or national radio - all with a real local flavour.

Radio Woking is about giving you an alternative to the mainstream. It's not trying to be something for everyone every minute of the day, it's about listening to a show that interests you. Hopefully many shows will find your interest across our broad selection of programmes. Students at The Winston Churchill School also present some ground-breaking programmes. Some fantastic ideas have come from our students, and it is great to listen to their ideas and opinions on Woking and the world in their shows after school during the week from 3-4pm. Radio Woking is here for the local community, in the local community, and we're about giving students and young people the chance to be part of a real radio station. That's The Radio Woking Way!

Catch Radio Woking on-line, with a full schedule 7 days a week from midday to 10pm, offering a wide range of modern music for all tastes, as well as slots on local news and events, sports, interviews and special features.



WBC home improvement service gets a makeover

Calling at homes across Woking is a brand new silver Ford Transit emblazoned with the new blue and bright green Homelink logo, with on board the Council's Homelink Handyperson ready to make improvements to people's properties.

The Homelink Handyperson Service supports the needs of older, disabled and vulnerable residents living at home, either in their own property or in privately rented accommodation. It carries out low cost repairs, adaptations and minor improvements to help people to live well and independently at home for longer.

Knaphill Cllr Melanie Whitehand, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Independent Living Services, said: "Key to good mental and physical health is keeping people safe and warm at home. Even small home improvements, like replacing a lightbulb above a front door, can make a big difference to a person's confidence and security at home." Handyperson Aaren Kimble averages 25 jobs a week in the van, ranging from minor repairs, home safety checks, lightbulb changes and adaptations including the fitting of grab rails, curtain poles, key chains, smoke detectors and other safety devices.

Trevor Knight, Commercial Sales Manager from TrustFord Cobham, had the pleasure of handing over the keys of the new Ford Transit Connect to Handyperson Aaren. Mr Knight said: "We're always happy to help local businesses. The Homelink team explained what the needs of its service were and the additional features it was looking, so we were able suggest various options from our range. The long wheel-base Connect is an excellent choice as it offers plenty of room for tools and equipment, improved access and fuel efficiency and added safety features."

To speak to a member of the Homelink team or to request the assistance of the Homelink Handyperson, call 01483 743668 or email homelink@woking.gov.uk.



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Donkey Sanctuary at Squires



You may well have seen the donkeys in the field by Squires Nursery on Littlewick Road and wondered how they arrived there, well here's a bit of their history. The first three donkeys arrived in 2004, Lady, Neddy and Penfold - mother, father and son. When Lady died in 2006, RSPCA Millbrooke asked if a 5-year old male called Chalky could be re-homed. Well, Chalky is now one of the stars and very popular with local children, and he just loves the attention! After losing much loved Neddy in 2012, it was very lonely in the field for Chalky with just ageing Penfold, so it was decided that Louis would be re-homed there too. He had been very badly treated and the RSPCA nearly lost him, but after a lot of care and attention, he was ready to start his wonderful new life. He is a very handsome young man, and now thinks he's top donkey! Chalky and Penfold are mostly happy for him to feel this but do put him in his place from time to time when necessary! Unfortunately about 6 months after he was adopted Louis developed a tumour and had to have 2 major operations followed each time by chemotherapy. Luckily, it seems that he is now out of woods although he needs to be checked out by the vet on a regular basis.

Penfold is now well into his 40s and needs special help with feeding and medical care. Everything is being done to make his life as comfortable as possible. The donkeys have a number of "carers" who love them and give their time on a voluntary basis. It's very expensive to look after "the boys" properly so any help is always very welcome - there is a donation bucket at the till in the Garden Centre, and a donations box on the fence by the donkeys' enclosure. In addition, they are now on the Just Giving website: www.justgiving.com/horsellrescuedonkeys. Be sure and pop along and say hello whenever you are passing through!

The Knaphill Invalid and Women's Prisons *by Mal Foster*

Construction of the Invalid Prison began in 1859 on 65 acres of land at the edge of Knaphill close to the village of St. John's, and by 1870 the Female Convict prison was also complete. Housing was built by the Home Office nearby to accommodate the large number of wardens, artisans and ancillary staff required to look after the more than 1,400 inmates.

The first inmates, from Lewes, Carisbrooke and Dartmoor prisons, actually constructed their own prison to reduce costs, and female convicts, many of whom were convicted of murdering their children, were often employed in laundry, cooking, tailoring and other duties.

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Contrary to local lore, no executions ever took place at the prisons; indeed some inmates arrived at Knaphill following reprieve from the gallows. However, many deaths did occur due to poor health and disease, and the bodies of many victims are interred in Brookwood Cemetery.

The most famous female prisoners were perhaps Madame Rachel (aka Sarah Rachel Leverson/Levison or Sarah Russell), a criminal and con artist in Victorian London, who operated a prominent beauty salon which guaranteed her clientele everlasting youth and simultaneously blackmailed many wives of London's "upper class", and the infamous Florence Maybrick who was convicted of poisoning her husband James with arsenic in Liverpool in 1889. Over 100 people lined the streets of the village when she was transferred to Brookwood. Nowadays, it's her husband who attracts the most interest as one of the main 'Jack the Ripper' suspects!

Another infamous inmate was the Irish Republican leader Charles J. Kickham. Kickham joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), or the Fenians, in 1860. In September 1865 the Dublin Police took possession of the Irish People headquarters at 12 Parliament Street and seized the entire contents of the office.

Two cheeky American brothers who swindled the Bank of England were also incarcerated at the Invalid Prison. In 1873, George and Austin Bidwell stole an incredible £500,000 from the bank. They achieved this by simply writing false cheques in the name of Horton & Co., and convinced the institution that they were running a reputable business. Their story was highlighted in the New York Times of 1892 as their sister fought tirelessly for their release.

In 1877, Harriet Staunton's husband Patrick and three others were accused of starving her to death in Penge, and lurid newspaper reports of the 'Penge Murder Mystery' trial as it became known had the nation enthralled. Patrick reportedly died of consumption in Knaphill Invalid Prison in 1881 at the age of 28. A bestselling novel about the murder, written in 1934 by Elizabeth Jenkins, has recently been republished.

In 1889, both prisons were transferred from the Home Office to the War Office and became Inkerman Barracks.



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KNAPHILL & SURROUNDING AREA SPORTS

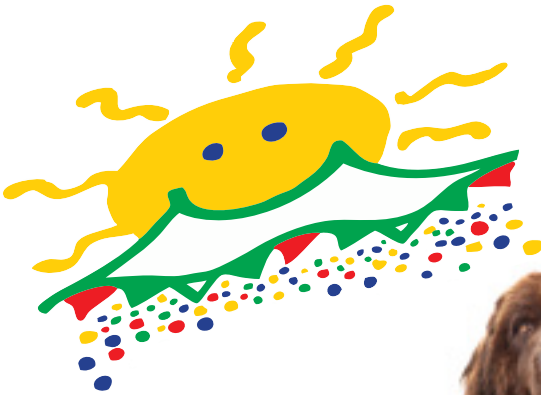


The sun has set on another season at Chobham RC, and club members can look back with a huge amount of pride in what has been achieved. Matters on the field are of course of the utmost importance and here the Chobham 1st XV had a wonderfully successful season finishing 2nd in London 1 South and devastatingly just failing to win promotion to the National Leagues after a nail biting 17-14 play-off defeat at Eton Manor on the East London/Essex border. For a community rugby club at the heart of village life in rural Surrey the players are punching well above their weight. Anyone who has seen them play this season will confirm that the skill levels are phenomenal and, thanks to the strength and conditioning work of local fitness and nutrition guru Steve Keywood, the players are excellent physical specimens able to cope with the rigours of rugby at this level. Hopefully another year in London 1 South division should give some of the younger players time to acclimatise, and the summer break will give the coaching team time to plan another campaign, hopefully one that leads to tears of joy rather than heartbreak. Chobham RC ladies and girls now also have several successful teams at U13, U15 and U18, as well as a thriving ladies touch rugby community with the Women Only Wednesdays training, a great way to keep fit. Much of the growth of the club in recent years has come from its excellent work developing young players, and the Minis (U6-U12) and Juniors (U13-U17) sections continue to thrive. Our U13s recently returned from a hugely successful tour of Dublin where they were fortunate to play on a wonderful new artificial surface at the prestigious Donnybrook Stadium (see photo). Off the field, the club has also been enjoying success; the Carnival has been and gone, with Chobham RC's lively bar the usual roaring success, and the Awards Season saw our touch rugby supremo Steve Cross pick up a prestigious RFU Presidents Award for his efforts in promoting the game at grass roots level. As always, visit the club's website to learn more about Chobham RC and get in touch and support your local club. www.chobhamrugby.co.uk



2014/15 was Knaphill's first season in the Premier Division of the Combined Counties League, and it was a tough baptism. The Club also played in three rounds of the FA Cup and the same number in the FA Vase, their presence in the FA Cup seeing their 'debut' in the competition in the Club's 90th year. One of our best performances of the season came at Chertsey Town where we triumphed 2-1, and definitely the worst was an 8-0 mauling by Molesey (who were to end their season as Premier champions). In between these extremes the season saw a mix of deserved wins and deserved and undeserved losses, with April being our best month of the season with a draw and four consecutive wins. The last month of league games gained 13 points allowing us to finish 13th, a couple of places away from mid-table. Overall League statistics were: Played 40, Won 14, Drew 6, Lost 20, Goals F58/A81, Points 48. Our Reserves had a good second season in the Suburban League Southern Div. finishing 3rd, and Manager Simon Martin can be proud of this high finishing place and for reaching the semi-final of the Challenge Cup. League statistics: Played 24, Won 11, Drew 6, Lost 7, Goals: F 36 A 27 Points 39. Gary Taylor, the U18s Manager, must also be pleased with his lads this season. They finished 3rd in the Southern Youth League, gaining 29 points from 14 games, plus they were involved in the League Cup and Grant McLellan Cup. They are pulling out of the Southern Youth League, and have applied to join the Ryman Youth League for 2015/16. Manager Phil Ruggles departed from the Club during January, and Keith Hills was installed as caretaker Manager to the end of season. Jim Hussein has joined the Committee as Community Coordinator. Good luck to all three of our teams for season 2015/16 - Onwards and Upwards! And be sure to visit our stand at the Knaphill Village Show!

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