

Magazine of the Knaphill Residents' Association

knaphill

Spring 2017 Issue 55 ————— news



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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



I am pleased we have a new Editor for this edition, Jim Binney who has kindly taken over the reins from Sue Stocker.

May I thank Sue for all her hard work as Editor over the last three years, which has seen the format and content of the Knaphill News improve and develop considerably. Thankfully we are not losing Sue from the scene entirely. I am pleased to report that she will be continue as Assistant Editor, and that she has also taken over the role of organising our stalls and entertainment for

the forthcoming Knaphill Show on Saturday 15th July at Mizens Railway.

We are approaching our AGM which this year will be on Wednesday 26th April at Knaphill Baptist Church, 88 High Street, Knaphill GU21 2PZ. Doors will be open (and light refreshments served) from 7.00 p.m. onwards. The AGM will commence at 7.30 p.m. with contributions from two keynote speakers – David Munro (who is the elected Police Crime Commissioner for Surrey, and who will be focussing on our local area and taking questions from the floor), and Mal Foster (our well-known local author who will be telling us something about his best-selling book The Asylum Soul set in Brookwood Hospital in Victorian times, and introducing his new book Fly Back and Purify which is also set locally in a newspaper office). This will be followed by the short AGM at 8.30 p.m. when the election of the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the KRA will take place. The whole event should be over by 9.00 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes

John Butler, KRA Chairman

chairman@knaphill.org

Knaphill Village Show
 Mizens Miniature Railway Grounds
 Saturday 15 July
 1.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Knaphill Residents' Association AGM
 Knaphill Baptist Church
 Wednesday 26 April
 7.30 p.m.

Church for Knaphill
 Good Friday Walk of Witness
 St Hugh of Lincoln RC Church
 9.45 a.m.

Knaphill Bowling Club
 Open Days
 Saturday 29th April
 10.00 am to 12.30 pm,
 Wednesday 3rd May
 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm.



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Editor's Jottings

I have a friend whose favourite book is the *English Dictionary*. Most nights he reads a couple of pages to expand his vocabulary, improve his spelling, and learn new words and their meanings. Not my idea of 'bedtime reading' I confess – give me a good detective or adventure story every time. Words and their meanings are very important however, especially 'good words' – words like 'love' and 'hope' that encourage us to face the future positively. So here is a 'good word' for us to 'get to grips with' – a word which is particularly apposite for those of us who live in Knaphill and value its 'urban village' nature. The word is 'regeneration' which at its simplest means 'breathing new life into that which is dead or dying'.

Many of us love living in Knaphill and value the numerous benefits of its unique atmosphere, but we would have to be 'wearing rose tinted spectacles' to fail to recognize the signs of decline that threaten the very existence of our village centre. A 2009 survey instituted

by Woking Borough Council indicated that at that time Knaphill was third (behind Woking Town Centre and West Byfleet) on the spectrum of importance in terms of healthy retail areas. In 2017, however, there has been a clear decline of financial and professional businesses, and whereas in 2007 there were no vacant shops in Knaphill Village there are now five vacant shops with the probability of several more going out of business if the suggested 190% High Street business rates hike is implemented? The future of the historic Anchor Pub remains 'up in the air' with suggestions that it could still be demolished and flats put up in its place thus reducing the centre of our village to little more than a set of traffic lights on a major road into Woking town centre?

The challenge we all face – residents, local businesses, shop keepers, faith communities, schools, counsellors, etc. – is how can we best work together to 'breathe new life' into our community? Is our 'urban village' worth saving? We may feel that 'in the great scheme of things' we are 'small fry' and the little we have to offer

individually cannot amount to much? But if we all pool the little we could offer, and work together in a sensible and informed way, a lot can be accomplished! Spring is here and everything about this time of the year – bulbs bursting into life, blossom on the trees, sheep giving birth to lambs, the Easter message in the Christian tradition of resurrection from the dead – all speak to us of hope for the future, the possibility of regeneration, breathing new life into that which is dead or dying.



Jim Binney, Editor

Village Bits & Pieces



Knaphill Residents' Association AGM

The Knaphill Residents' Association AGM will take place on Wednesday 26 April at Knaphill Baptist Church, 88 High Street, Knaphill GU21 2PZ. Light refreshments will be served from 7.00 p.m. onwards and the meeting will commence at 7.30 p.m. We have two Guest Speakers this year: David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey (who will discuss his past 10 months as Police and Crime Commissioner and then take questions from the floor), and Mal Foster, well-known local resident, author, historian, and journalist, who will share something about his books, old and new. This will be followed by a short meeting to appoint the key officers of the Knaphill Residents' Association.

Sussex Road Car Park

Good to know that the Sussex Road Car Park is now fully open morning/afternoon during term time so that parents etc. have somewhere to park when they drop off/collect their kids from school! Well done the Head Teacher and the Caretaker!

Path from Sussex Road to Sussex Road Recreational Ground

Great to see that the path leading from Sussex Road to the Sussex Road Recreation Ground and the local schools was re-laid during half-term. Well done everybody concerned!

Lorenzo Ristorante Italiano & Pizzeria

Sad to see that Lorenzo has closed? Should we be doing more to make use of our local shops and restaurants? Are the 'High Street rates' too high for our High Street shops? What can be done?

Crown Cleaners & Bozs Fruit & Veg

The Crown Cleaning Centre in Anchor Crescent is closing down in May, but the premises will not be empty for long as a branch of the excellent Bozs Fruit & Veg (who have outlets in Woking and Horsell) will be opening in June.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The Church for Knaphill Good Friday Walk of Witness through Knaphill on the 14 April will start from St Hugh's at 9:45 a.m. and finish with a United Service at Holy Trinity at 10.30 a.m.

Fresh Start

A great new initiative sponsored by Woking Borough Council providing the long term unemployed a chance to get back into a work opportunity by currently refurbishing the 230 acre Brookwood Cemetery site. Read more about it at www.freshstartsurrey.co.uk

STUBBS' STUBS

All the latest from our Knaphill Residents' Association Planning Expert, Phil Stubbs

The Meadows hospital has been put up for sale. The hospital on the Bagshot Road, next to the Nags Head has stood empty since 2013 and due to poor security and a total lack of any maintenance the building is probably only fit for demolition. This is a pity because it was a well-equipped NHS unit that has just been allowed to rot.

Staying with the NHS, the South-East Coast Ambulance Service (which serves Surrey) closed the ambulance station in Knaphill last November. Following representation from the Knaphill Residents' Association, and other interested bodies, the Ambulance Service told us that they were actively looking for a new site to the west of Woking town centre where they could build an ambulance community response post plus they promised to provide data on the impact of the closure on response times. Since that initial meeting there hasn't been any communication from the Ambulance Service and we do not know if they have made any progress on the establishing of such a post. In the meantime,

the Ambulance Service response to Red 1 and Red 2 999 calls continues to be well below the NHS target and the Service remains in special measures.

Woking Borough Council has still to publish their plans for changes to the A322, Bagshot Road, to ease the congestion problems between the traffic lights at Brookwood Crossroads and Bisley. In addition to the congestion on the A322 traffic using Limecroft Road/High Street to get to Woking is steadily increasing and at peak times the queue of traffic from the traffic lights at the top of Anchor Hill stretch beyond the Crown Public House. This amount of traffic cannot help with the air pollution problems which exist in and around the top of Anchor Hill. The County Council Highways Dept. has announced that they plan to make changes to the spur road that links Broadway with Redding Way. Currently the through road is for buses only and Surrey County Council plan to open the road to all traffic whilst at the same time enhancing safety aspects of

the junction.

The new block of apartments that are being built on the site of the old library are taking shape and it was a great feat of engineering skill seeing the large sections being put into place. Woking Borough Council has yet to announce what they plan to do with the additional land they bought at the rear of the old library site.

Staying with the centre of the village, we now have five empty retail units and this is the highest number of vacant premises we have seen in Knaphill for over 10 years. We understand from talking to retailers, part of the problem is the increase in rents plus the hike in business tax.

The footpath that crosses Brookwood Farm from Brookwood Farm drive to the canal towpath is being resurfaced and that is good news for all those residents who walk to and from Brookwood.



KNAPHILL CARE NEEDS YOU



Knaphill Care is our local, volunteer 'good neighbours scheme'. Older residents who need help and transport to the doctor, hospital appointments, hairdressers etc. tell us how much they appreciate the friendly help Knaphill Care volunteers give. They say that the support Knaphill Care provide helps them to stay active and independent.

Knaphill Care volunteers set aside just a couple of hours a month to enable this marvellous service to function. According to these volunteers the work is 'very enjoyable, flexible and easy' but the volunteers are getting older and need 'younger' volunteers to join the care team. They need: Volunteer Drivers with their own transport; Volunteers to answer the mobile phone; and General Volunteers to help with admin, new ideas, and so on.

If you can help, or simply want to find out more, please get in touch with Sheryl or Eileen (Knaphill Care Volunteer Team). You can call them on 07792 514166 (Monday-Friday from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon). If there is no answer, please leave a message and they will get back to you. Sheryl and Eileen are really looking forward to hearing from you. And, if you can't get through to them on the telephone you can email them at knaphill.care@gmail.com



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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE KNAPHILL VILLAGE SHOW 2017?



Sue Stocker reporting on preparations for our popular village show

The poet Shelley said, "if winter comes, can spring be far behind?", but taking that a step further and having passed the spring equinox, we prefer to say "if spring comes, can summer be far behind?" And as all residents know, summer in Knaphill means the annual Village Show!

The Knaphill Residents' Association have already started turning their thoughts to planning the show, as arrangements have

to be made well in advance to ensure the presence of the various stalls, amusements, events, singers and dancer and purveyors of refreshments both liquid and solid that go into making the day the great success it always is. As well as the usual favourites, we're hoping to have a couple of innovations this year of which more later.

The venue is as always the fantastic grounds of Mizens Miniature Railway in Barrs Lane,

and the date for your diary is Saturday 15th July, 1pm-5pm, so make sure to write it in now and keep it free for this terrific family day out.

If you'd like to have a stall on the day, you can download an application form from the Knaphill Residents' Association website (www.knaphill.org) and click on the "show" tab), or for any queries email villageshow@knaphill.org.



THE SECRET KNAPHILLIAN

Our intrepid Secret Investigator shops anonymously in Knaphill

Saturday was one of those mornings where you realise that you have only just about made it to the weekend, and consequently have made no plans for entertaining the kids or visiting grandparents (GPs), and to make matters worse you have nothing to feed them bar a slightly stale loaf of bread and enough milk to make a round of teas!

I do some quick mind planning whilst shampooing my hair, also hoping the fog from that extra Friday night glass of wine will clear too! I don't know whether it was the munchies that did it but *Stef's Bakery* popped into my head... who can resist the offer of a few fresh pastries for lunch and afternoon iced buns! Perfect! I tie my wet hair up and dash down stairs to intercept a grumbling baby before he wakes up the GPs! I very quickly spot another task for the day ... tears plus snot plus long hair equals dreadlocks! It was time for someone's first 'big boy' haircut!

The day was rapidly taking shape, layer on a promise to stop at one of the many local parks to the 3-year-old, and a lolly from the shop, and everyone is happy!

We are off... one on a bike, one in a buggy, shopping bags at the ready. We get to *Mopps Barbers* on Knaphill High Street

and unsurprisingly there is a queue of long haired men and boys waiting, with a steady stream of freshly clipped gentlemen leaving! We decide to split our group – some to *Stef's*, whilst others wait in line. I am pleased it is busy as it is a special day, money is being raised for Alix Manders, a local mum of three, bravely fighting cancer. The barbers is selling biscuits and collecting donations towards the target of £100K for urgently needed specialist cancer treatment. We buy a biscuit to keep the 3-year-old happy, and soon enough it is our turn in the chair.

Amber does an amazing job of trimming the baby's hair whilst I try to distract him with all sorts of hair dressing accessories! After collecting a few fresh snips of baby hair in a pot, it is done and we have left the baby stage for ever.... and I am staring at a freshly trimmed little boy face looking back at me from the mirror. I swallow the lump in my throat, pay for the cut and sling all change in the bucket.

The husband is waiting outside with a fresh bag of loveliness from *Stef's* along with a beautiful fresh loaf. We rush home and tuck into sausage rolls and pasties, and I hide iced finger buns ready for afternoon tea! I sit back, sigh and thank my stars for the fact we live so near to a great high street....

and then my husband says, 'What's for dinner honey?'

Stef's Bakery and Cafe is situated next to Knaphill Library (and also on the High Street). Fresh, healthy and homemade produce. Open 7am till 5pm weekdays and 3pm on Saturdays.

Mopps Barber Shop is situated on Knaphill High Street. Open 9-6pm weekdays, 7.30-5pm Saturdays, closed Sunday.



Amber from Mopps Barbers

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER VISIT TO KNAPHILL

Introducing the first of two guest speakers at the Knaphill Resident's Association AGM in April

Our Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey, is David Munro. David has lived in Farnham for the past 30 years. He started his working life as an Army Officer (Royal Engineers), reaching the rank of Major before moving onto a career in computer marketing. He then spent over twenty years heavily involved in Surrey public affairs, occupying several positions at Surrey County Council, including four years as Executive Member for Adult Services, and two years as Council Chairman. He has been a school governor for four local schools.

A successful professional career, together with a keen involvement in several community and voluntary activities across the county, undoubtedly helped lead towards David's next venture as Police and

Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey, after winning the election in May last year.

Away from the limelight, in his spare time David is also Treasurer of a classical music charity which gives grants to promising young singers, and when time permits, goes bell ringing and enjoys cycling.

David is one of two guest speakers at the Knaphill Residents' Association AGM, to be held at Knaphill Baptist Church on Wednesday 26 April at 7.30 p.m. David will discuss his past 10 months as Police and Crime Commissioner, the successes of his Police and Crime Plan so far, as well as his views on policing in Surrey and plans for future improvements. He will also take questions from the floor ... so come prepared!



LOCAL AUTHOR & A FASCINATING STORY

Introducing the second of two guest speakers at the Knaphill Resident's Association AGM in April



Well-known local resident, author, historian, and journalist, Mal Foster's debut novel *The Asylum Soul* is a harrowing account of Thomas Compton, a man whose life was 'ripped apart' when he was sent to Brookwood Hospital by his mother because

he had a speech defect.

Based on diary notes written by a patient at a mental hospital in the early part of the 20th century, and secreted in a hollow tree, Mal's book is a fascinating read. It was more than two decades ago that a tree surgeon discovered a rusty old tin containing the diary entries of the 23-year-old patient while clearing part of the former Brookwood Hospital grounds during the redevelopment in 1994. Contained in the tin, there was a lock of red hair, a dictionary and most importantly, some leather-bound books filled with diary notes of Mr Compton, who resided at the asylum as far back as 1929.

Mal is the second of two guest speakers at the Knaphill Residents' Association AGM,

to be held at Knaphill Baptist Church on Wednesday 26 April at 7.30 p.m. where he will speak about his debut novel, and also introduce his soon-to-be-published second novel *Fly Back and Purify*, a paranormal/psychological drama which begins in 1994 when Jack Compton, a troubled young local newspaper journalist gets his big break. An 'unusual incident' occurs at Brookwood railway station and Jack is sent to investigate. What happens next is a 'Pandora's Box' of implosion that will either make or break him. An event so strange that even those around him cannot explain or comprehend. But with Jack... is it all just a state of mind?

You can order Mal Foster's books at www.amazon.co.uk

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NEW LIFE & NEW HOME FOR THE CABIN

Ben Barnes shares the latest news from The Cabin – Knaphill's Youth Club



It seems fitting that I have been asked to write an article for the Spring Issue of the Knaphill News, which is all about the regeneration of Knaphill, as The Cabin is now entering a period of regeneration and transformation of its own.

After the Easter holidays, we will be moving into our new home at the newly refurbished Woking Youth Arts Centre (WYAC) on Trinity Road. The centre is a fantastic resource,

and the move will enable us to develop and enhance the great work the group has been doing. The refurbished centre will have a fully functioning kitchen, a computer suite, a music studio, one-to-one mentoring space, and access to the nearby playing field. The possibilities and potential for exciting new projects really is endless. Add to this a regular attendance of 45 young people each week, with no sign of this growth slowing anytime soon, and the future looks

very bright indeed for *The Cabin*!

Our hope is that *The Cabin* will become not just a place of entertainment, but a place of transformation where young people can come and discover who they are, what their gifts are, and where they can learn new skills and, as we build increasing links with the community, that they will also find their place and be recognised as valuable, contributing members of a regenerated Knaphill.

SIMON SAYS

Simon Stone, a Partner at Seymours Estate Agents, based in Knaphill shares some thoughts about the property market

It is always a pleasure to be invited to contribute to the Knaphill magazine and as ever, the property market is a hot topic at this time of year!

Since we opened the Knaphill office back in 2010 there has been steady change in the village, most of it positive thankfully. The progress with construction of Brookwood Farm has added much needed numbers to the family home market as well as several smaller developments. The village grows in popularity year on year as the local schools are highly regarded, and with Brookwood station receiving much needed improvements, London buyers see us as a serious alternative to mainstream Woking. This has steadily pushed up demand and with it prices in the last few years. It has also opened the door to higher levels of investors, all of which is good news.

With 2017 now in full swing we have been very encouraged by the numbers of buyers registering. The background noise of Brexit just does not seem to be a concern, and prices are holding up strongly.

We expect this trend to continue through the Spring and Summer and so anyone thinking of moving this year should feel confident in doing so.

We have over the last seven years enjoyed supporting as many of the local good causes as we can, particularly the Knaphill Village Show as it provides not only great fun to the residents, but also gives an opportunity for some of the less obvious village organisations to showcase what they do. Long may it continue! It is amazing to see just how many people are making a positive impact on the community, and anything we can contribute to help the Village Show go from strength to strength we are very pleased to do.

As we look ahead to the coming year we are confident the market will remain strong for those wishing to move. Anyone who would be interested in a free valuation, please feel free to call us.

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LISTENING TO LOCAL RADIO



Did you know there is a Radio Station based in Knaphill? Radio Woking is based at Winston Churchill School in Knaphill and is a community based station.

Radio Woking has a daily breakfast show running from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. each week day evening there are a variety of shows including the *Daily Drive Show*

from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. On Monday evenings, the *Crossing the Tracks* programme is from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and each Wednesday the *We Love Woking* programme runs from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The *Saturday Midday Show* runs from 12 noon to 2 p.m. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Woking Music Box plays music throughout the day.

Since Winston Churchill School teaches students a variety of subjects in the music rooms and radio studio perhaps we will have famous DJ in the making at Winston Churchill School?

The station is available to listen online via the Radio Woking website, the TuneIn Radio App, and on DAB. Radio Woking not only covers Woking Borough but also Rushmoor Borough, and Surrey Heath.

Radio Woking are always looking for Guests to appear on their shows so if you have an interesting story to tell, or an event you would like mentioned, fill out the events form online, or use Facebook or Twitter to get in contact during shows for a shout out or a song request.

For more information and a full schedule, or simply to listen online visit www.radiowoking.co.uk

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SC JOHNSON FUNDS FAMILY POD AT NEW HOSPICE

SC Johnson (the cleaning products supplier) has donated over £100,000 to fund the construction and furnishing of a family 'pod' at Woking & Sam Beare Hospices' new state-of-the-art 20-bedroom hospice, due to open in the Spring in Goldsworth Park, Woking.

Named the SC Johnson Family Room, the wood-clad curved structure extends out from the first floor of the hospice, sitting on diagonal steel legs which support and anchor it to the ground. The futuristic design was inspired by Woking author H.G. Wells' novel *War of the Worlds*, giving a nod to local history in the design of the building. It will provide a relaxing area for families to use, including a kitchen, comfortable seating area, toy box and television. The pod has one fully glass wall, creating a light and calming atmosphere.

Interim CEO and Director of Nursing Jayne Cooper said: 'SC Johnson's incredibly generous support has ensured that our pod is fully furnished and ready to welcome

patients' families. It will be invaluable to have a place where they can go for a change of scene and to be able to make drinks and food. We understand that supporting a loved one at the end of their life can be stressful and tiring and this pod will provide much-needed peace and seclusion. I'd like to say a very heartfelt thank you to SC Johnson for their wonderful donation.'

The SC Johnson pod is one of two family areas in the charity's hospice, with the other being situated inside the building. They are both on the same level as the patients' ensuite bedrooms, so that relatives can have a break while also being immediately on hand if they are needed.

If you would like to know more about how the new building is progressing or to donate to the ongoing New Build Appeal, please visit www.wsbhospices.co.uk



BISLEY LADIES CHOIR

On Saturday 8th April at 7.30pm, Bisley Ladies Choir, a local choir for female voices based in Knaphill is joining with Genesis Chorale for a performance of 'Samson and Delilah' by Saint-Saens conducted by Lewis Gaston. You are warmly invited to this event which takes place in St John's

Church, Camphill Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6EH. This is an exciting opportunity to hear a striking piece of music. To reserve tickets please email the hunties@virginmedia.com or ring Sylvia at 01483 725527, or visit Britten Music, 13 The Broadway, Woodham or contact any choir member you may know.

Bisley Ladies Choir normally organises two concerts a year at the Knaphill Methodist Church, the Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR, usually in the Summer and at Christmas,

when we also provide refreshments and raffles.

We welcome new Choir members at any time. There is no audition... enthusiasm is the main requirement. We also sing on many other occasions. We are privileged to be invited to sing at Woking Remembrance Day Service and for the Royal Naval Veteran's Parade – both of which are held in Woking town square. We also sing for the Guide Dogs' Carol Service at Old Woking Church, for local care groups, and in old people's homes.

We are a long standing local choir for female voices and we meet on Tuesdays, during term time only, at 7.45-9.45 pm at Knaphill Methodist Church. Our talented musical director is Lewis Gaston.

If you would like to know more contact, Brenda on 01483 474911 or Sylvia on 01483 725527 or visit the website: www.bisleyladieschoir.co.uk.



INCREDIBLE EDIBLE TAKES OVER THE POST OFFICE FLOWER BED

The group formerly known as *Incredible Edible Knaphill* recently fused with other local groups in Old Woking, York Street and Goldsworth Park.

At the beginning of March the first preparations took place at the flowerbed next to the Post Office on Anchor Hill in the centre of Knaphill. A group of volunteers cleared the overgrown path of weeds and cut half of the perennials that were partly covered in brambles. Over time some raised beds will be placed and planted, with runner beans, tomatoes, potatoes and other edibles that are easy to grow. The experience gained from last year's projects at the Scout Hall and other locations will flow into the plans.

Another new project this year is the cooperation with the Knaphill Junior School

and Knaphill Lower School. The Junior School is aiming to get the Eco Schools Bronze and Silver Awards this year. As part of this they are planning to improve their wildlife gardens and get pupils growing fruit and veg which *Incredible Edible* will help them with. The Lower School mainly focuses on tidying their pond and wildlife area to return it to a more usable state for pupils this year, but will also improve an existing herb garden and plant some vegetables.

Both schools are planning an open day in March and hope to get parents involved, and *Incredible Edible* will also be present. You too can get involved if you are keen on improving grey corners in Knaphill and Woking. If you fancy trying out gardening, and enjoy meeting like-minded people, get

in touch through *Incredible Edible Woking* on Facebook or send an email to ed.incred.knaphill@gmx.com

You can also find out more about the idea behind *Incredible Edible* at incredibleedibenetwork.org.uk



BOWLED OVER BY BOWLS

Sue Stevens, Keith van Gelder, & Mick & Krysta Garbutt
talk about a newly acquired interest

What do a college network manager, a former prison officer, a freelance exam invigilator, and a retired industrial officer have in common? Why, a love of the game of bowls of course?

This time last year Sue and Keith, and Mick and Krysta, had never played the game of bowls... but a chance conversation down at the allotment, plus an interesting 'flyer' from Knaphill Bowling Club, led to them all turning up for 'taster sessions' run by the club at their Sussex Road bowling green last Spring. Impressed by the warm welcome they all received, the friendliness of the existing club members they met, together with the fact that 'playing bowls' turned out to be great fun, resulted in them all eventually joining the club along with 20 plus other 'newbies'!

In the early stages, they really appreciated the helpful coaching they all received and grew to appreciate the subtle skills of the game and the clever tactics that need to be employed. Progressing well over the Spring and Summer Sue, Keith, Mick and Krysta found the encouragement they received from the coaches, together with the willingness of coaches and more experienced members alike to impart knowledge, so helpful. The four friends soon began to take part not only in 'in house' matches but also in 'club matches' which they found really exciting. Bowls turned out to be a far cry from the misconception that many people hold of a group of old 'doddies' staggering around the bowling green in the local park, all dressed in white, trying to remember whose bowls belong to who? Indeed, bowls is a game for people of all ages and attracts not just the elderly and the retired.

Apart from the game itself Knaphill Bowling Club enjoys a very active social life. It is not cliquish in any way and has been described as 'a sports club in the Summer and a social club in the Winter'. There are a number of social activities that take place throughout the year – everything from quiz nights to tours – and the 100 plus members all happily share in the running of the club. The club plans to hold other 'taster sessions' this April... so why not come along and give it a try yourself?



AN OPEN SECRET

One of the best-kept secrets in Knaphill is the village's bowls green, which is tucked away off Sussex Road. Every summer it is home to nearly 100 people, who are all members of Knaphill Bowling Club. In 2017, the Club will again be holding a couple of open days, when

anyone interested can come along and learn about the basics of the game. If you've ever wondered if the game might just be for you, why not come along for a couple of hours and find out – no obligation. However, over 20 people who did come to these events last year subsequently became members and are now keenly looking forward to their second season with the Club.

The open days will be held on:

**Saturday 29th April from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, and
Wednesday 3rd May from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm.**

Do come along and give the game a try. If these dates are not convenient, or if you have any queries, please phone **Norman Crawley** on (01483) 830040 or **Alan Bennet** on (01483) 480262.

Alternatively, have a look at the Club's website: knaphillbowls.org.uk

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SPORTS ROUND-UP

KNAPPERS ON THE UP & UP

Jim Ahmed, Vice-President of Knaphill Football Club, gives us an update on Knaphill FC



We would like to thank all the sponsors of the Club for their on-going invaluable support. Over and above Charcoal Grill, who sponsored this season's away kit, the other valued sponsors, listed alphabetically, are: A&E PC Repairs; Bella M; Boormans Jewellers; Cut 1 Hair Salon; Harding Auto Services Ltd; Headhunters; Karcher; Lyons Solicitors; RSM Domestic Appliances; Valerie French Hair Salon; Milano Pizza; Optimum Accountancy; Penny & Hayter Opticians; Princes Butchers; Select Carpets; Seymours Estate Agents; Stefs Café; Surrey



Advertiser; and Surrey Tiles and Woking News & Mail.

The 2016/17 season has been a reasonably good one for the Knappers so far, with the Club well placed in the top half of the league table. Gratifyingly, attendance has been increasing season on season.

The local derby against Woking FC, which took place in February, ended with a 3-1 win to Woking. We are nevertheless very proud of our team's performance, and of the fans who turned out in force to support us, and we would also like to thank Woking FC for their hospitality.

In other news from the Club, plans are well advanced to launch the Mini-Knappers training sessions for 4-6 year olds (Reception and Year 1) with FA qualified coaches. These will be taking place at the ground every Saturday from 9.30-10.30 a.m., starting on the 6th May, and will be continuing non-stop all through the summer. The cost is £4 per session, with the first one free. For further details or to enrol, please contact Tom Davies on 07979 724849 or email miniknappers@gmail.com.

KNAPHILL ATHLETIC CRICKET CLUB

Neil Thomas reports on preparations for the new season



2016 was our first year as a newly formed club. The good news is that we remained unbeaten in our first three matches of the season... the bad news is that they were all unfortunately called off due to the weather! We were, however, able to complete the rest of the summer's fixtures including a great local derby vs Brookwood Cricket Club, plus a Charity Match vs Woking & Horsell Cricket Club 2nd XI.

We have a wide range of fixtures coming up this year including matches against Yateley CC 2nd XI, a Woking Council XI, and Woking & Horsell 2nd XI. Our match in August is our Annual Charity Match, where we raise money for local charities.

As a club, we have managed to procure own shirts, a good range of bats... but we are always looking for new players, and for people to help by serving on the committee, or helping out in practical ways.

For more information about the club and to get in contact please visit the club's Facebook Page – Knaphill Cricket, or find us on Twitter @cricketknaphill or alternatively you can email the club at cricketknaphill@hotmail.com

We are always happy to welcome new people to join our friendly and community based club.



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Market Update

We are pleased to confirm the market is extremely buoyant in Knaphill and the surrounding villages. Prices remain strong with plenty of buyers across all price ranges. It is important to get good advice from local experts dealing specifically with properties like yours. With this in mind we would be delighted to carry out a no obligation market appraisal of your home. Please call either of the resident partners, Andrew or Simon to book in a valuation.

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