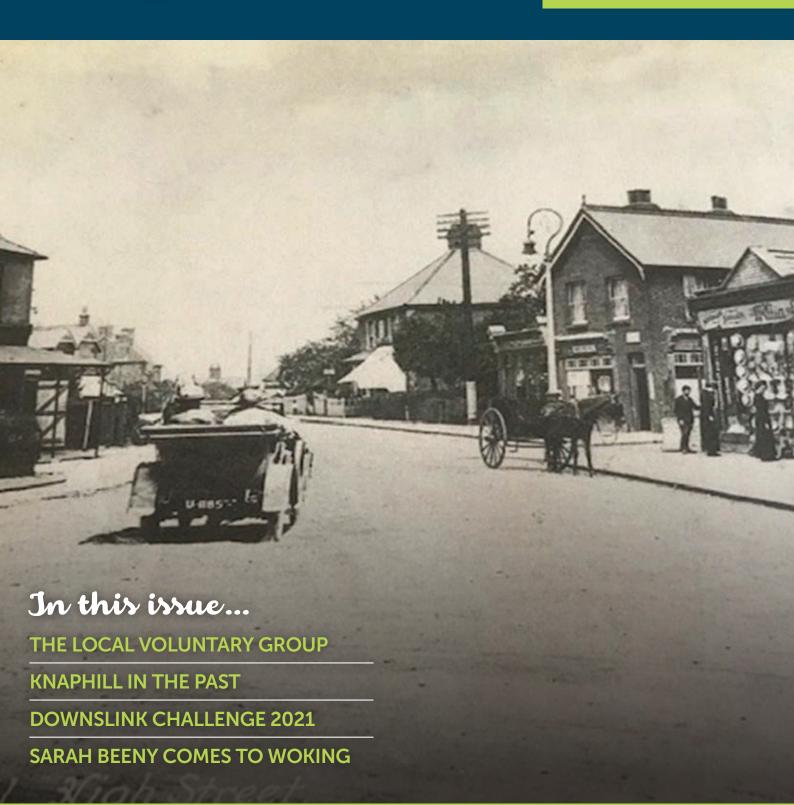
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Chairman's Report

Summer 2021

Over the last few months, we have been collecting old photos of Knaphill from a variety of sources so we thought we would share some of these in this edition. Interesting how Knaphill has developed over the last couple of centuries but you will see many of our current streets are still easily recognisable. Some buildings like the Crown and Garibaldi have not changed at all. However,

since the 1960's many of the old buildings have disappeared replaced by inferior buildings with no thought given to their appearance.

If any residents can share any old photos of Knaphill we would be pleased to receive them. We hope to organise a presentation later for the benefit of all residents. Please do share photos or comments with me at chairman@knaphill.org

The Knaphill Residents Association is alive and well as restrictions are eased. We hope to be more active over the coming year and welcome more Committee members who have an interest in supporting the local community. The one disappointment is that we had to cancel this year's Knaphill Show at Mizens Railway. The uncertainty of whether the show could go ahead and trying to organise the show in a short space of time, if it were allowed, was too much this year. Our efforts will now be channelled to organising a bumper show next year on Saturday 16th July 2022.

Very best wishes for the rest of summer **lohn Butler**

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Here's a group of people who wouldn't know where to start if asked the question: "So what did you do during the Covid lockdowns?" The local voluntary group, Knaphill St John's and Brookwood Volunteers, has been running since March 2020 in response to the first Covid-19 lockdown. While helping neighbours with prescriptions, shopping and errands has been a constant, quite a few other initiatives were started by the group during this period.

- A dedicated Care Calls Team was started that regularly contacts residents for a chat and to check on their welfare. This helps and supports vulnerable and isolated people and gives them a friendly voice to speak to.
- The founder, Sonal Sher, raised over £1100 for her birthday fundraiser through friends, family and residents. The funds were used to donate hampers and packs of treats that had been beautifully wrapped by a team of volunteers to CSH (Central Surrey Health) at two locations in Woking. They were gratefully received by Steve Flanagan, CEO, CSH for our #NHSHeroes.
- The group raised money for Art Kits for the community initially by Sonal donating her Eindie handmade chutneys, which neighbours could pick up from Ernies cafe. This fundraiser was supported by the family of a volunteer, Claire Dockley who sadly passed away last year. The generous contribution of this parallel fundraiser enabled the group to donate to more residents, who were nominated by friends and family. Other kits went to the women's refuge, Your Sanctuary and to The Hermitage School.
- 131 pairs of socks were donated to the York Road Project for the homeless to help them

Volunteers



in the winter, over £210 worth of donations in kind.

- The group organised a virtual musical evening and quiz nights for the volunteers during the first lockdown as a morale booster for both volunteers and residents.
- Care Notes, an initiative to engage residents was started, encouraging local residents to write letters and send cards to neighbours which were then dropped off by volunteers.
- As libraries were closed, Sonal and her children donated a few books to start up a local Lockdown Library which was very much appreciated by residents. Supported by the Post Office staff and Cllr. Saj Hussain, this initiative ran very successfully for 5 months until libraries reopened for residents.

This fantastic group of people has deservedly been featured in the Woking News & Mail, The Telegraph, BBC Radio Surrey, the BBC News and has appeared in a documentary featuring Martin Kemp on the BBC. It has also been acknowledged for its contribution to the community by the residents, Woking MP Jonathan Lord, The High Sheriff of Surrey and the Mayor of Woking, who sent thank you letters to the volunteers.

A dedicated helpline: **01483 380801** and an email address **wokingvolunteers@gmail.com** where people can reach out for help are still in place. There is a team of volunteers managing requests via the helpline and email each day to support this effort until such time as it is not needed.



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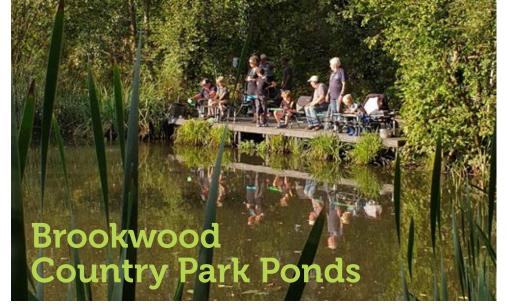
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It has been some time since my last article for MyKnaphill, largely due to Covid-19 which has compromised our lives and continues to do so, from our normal everyday activities whether going to work, popping down to the shops, meeting friends for a chat or pursuing our favourite pastimes and hobbies. However, now that restrictions are easing and the weather is improving, we should be able to, subject to government guidelines and common sense, get back to many of the things we once took for granted.

We at the Goldsworth Park Angling Club, who for a few years now have managed angling on ponds 2 and 4 at Brookwood county park, have been able to continue fishing through-

out much of the lockdown which proved a huge benefit to people's mental health and general wellbeing.

Nevertheless, much of the club's undertakings had to be put on hold such as site maintenance and improvements; for example it was hoped that by now we would have completed all the platforms on pond 2 and refurbished those on pond 4 including tree and reed trimming round both. However, I'm pleased to say we can now legally form small working parties, so as soon as is possible we will be cracking on with getting our hands dirty and our backs aching.

Back in 2019, before the pandemic, the club was able to hold its "Let's Go Fishing" events,

where beginners to the sport were given the opportunity to learn the basics of angling from our coaching team free of charge on pond 4. It is hoped we will be able to start up again in August 2022, so do check our website nearer the time if you are interested in taking part on: www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com

Throughout the pandemic, we have noticed the number of people using the site has increased considerably, whether fishing, walking the dog, jogging or just going for a stroll, which has been wonderful to see; we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful open space to enjoy with all its diversity here on our doorstep just waiting to be explored. The next time you visit the park, take a few moments to look and see how many different wild flowers grow on the meadows, the trees and shrubs, the abundance of birds and insects who have made it their home, and if you are very lucky a deer or two hidden in the undergrowth. But please always remember, all is to be admired but never to be disturbed: we are just visitors.

Any finally we wish to offer a well-deserved THANK YOU! to the growing number of you who have taken it upon yourselves to don a pair of gloves, a grabber and a bin bag, litterpicking around the park helping to keep Brookwood Country Park and all its glory a pleasure to enjoy.

Roger Westcott

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A selection of old Knaphill photos from various sources, including residents. If anyone has any old photos they are willing to share, please email chairman@knaphill.org. We would like to organise a presentation in Knaphill of old photos later in the year. Any comments on the photos can also be shared with the chairman.

- 1. Knaphill Map. This is one of the oldest detailed maps of Knaphill probably in the early 1800's. You can see most of the roads today exist but there is no Broadway or Limecroft Road. 2. One of the oldest drawings at the bottom of Knaphill with a view towards Royal Oak is today.
- 3. At the bottom of Knaphill Hill thought to be huts where coffins were made. 4. An incredibly quiet High Street with the Crown on the left.
- 5. At the bottom of Knaphill. 6. Barley Moor pub now a private House on Chobham Road. 7. Old Knaphill Post Office it is the house in the middle.
- 8. Where Broadway meets the High Street. 9. One of the most interesting photos looking down Victoria Avenue towards Inkerman Barracks.

British Legion





The Bisley, Knaphill and West End Branch of the Royal British Legion is actively seeking to increase membership in this friendly Branch to ensure that it

continues to thrive and can deliver its much needed voluntary service of welfare support as well as fundraising during the annual Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion was founded 100 years ago by veterans after the First World War. In this Centenary year, the Legion is still helping today's Service men and women, veterans, and their families in almost every aspect of daily life. We also champion Remembrance, safeguarding the memory of all those who have given their lives for our freedom through Remembrance education and events.

There is no need for members to have served in the armed forces, just an interest in the military, in joining a local Branch and in making new friends. We usually meet quarterly at the Knaphill Working Men's Club with a guest speaker and refreshments, but of course this past year has seen us holding our meetings online by Zoom in line with many other local organisations. Hopefully we will get back to face-to-face meetings before too long.

Pictured are the Branch's Poppy Appeal Collection Stand at Sainsbury's Brookwood in 2019, where we are hoping to resume our annual



collections for this year's Poppy Appeal and Branch Chairman John Kingsbury at the Bisley War Memorial alongside our newest Branch Member, Cathy, who completed an amazing 133 mile 'Dunkirk to the Cenotaph' walk last month, walking between the War Memorials in Bisley and West End, and raising over £3,000 for our Poppy Appeal this year. If you are interested in joining us, please call Branch Chairman John Kingsbury on 07967-723999 or email him on john.kingsbury36@googlemail. com. We would be delighted to hear from you!

Sue's interview with John Goodridge, **Publicity Officer for Mizens Railway**

Sue John, how have you been managing at Mizens during the Covid epidemic?

J.G. Well, we haven't been able to run since 2019. It's been tough with no income and a lot of ongoing expenses, such as insurance, security, maintenance, upkeep of the grounds, electricity etc.

Sue So, what's the position now?

J.G. Luckily we have had some generous donations from our lovely public and from some of our members to help us keep abreast of things. In addition we have had a hard core of members who have regularly been helping with maintenance and refurbishment. Our dedicated team have been busy overhauling the engines, rolling stock, signals and track. We are now back up to our usual operating levels and so decided to have a full, albeit private "dress rehearsal" which we scheduled for May 30th.

Sue Can you tell me more about that?

J.G. There was a lot of preparation as you can imagine. It involved introducing a lot of safeguards for the public, after all safety of our visitors is paramount. One-way systems, sterilising of trains after each journey, social distancing involving a large number of marshalls and much more. We have also had to introduce pre-booking, which will probably be with us for the rest of this season. (See website for further details).

We invited friends and family only for the test run, and I'm glad to say it all went very well. We are now confident that, with all our new precautions, we are ready to open to receive our visitors in a safe and secure manner.

Sue That's great news then! So, what plans do you have for this Summer?

J.G. As a result of our dress rehearsal, we were able to open to the public on 27th June, with great success. We now therefore plan to open every Sunday 2pm-5pm as usual, as well as Thursday afternoons of course for our "Teddy Bear's Picnic" events" during August.

Sue And what about the very popular "Santa Specials" at Christmas?

J.G. Well, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our "Santa Specials", would it, and given Government plans we hope to operate these on 5th,12th and 19th of December. Please remember, these are all bookable in advance only via our website.

Again, keep up to date by checking our website for further news.

Sue Many thanks John. So, word to the wise, check out the Mizens website and get those dates in your diary!



Ernie's Café and Bakery has always been a family business. It was first established 35 years ago as the only village bakery in the area. It became Ernie's Corner Café in November 2018 after taking over from the original owner, but it remained a family run business. Keeping it in the family, the management changed in March 2020 and so has the menu.

A completely revamped menu, full of freshly prepared food; bread and pastry baked in the bakery overnight by our professional baker with many years' experience, soups, sandwiches, pancakes, breakfast and salads freshly made on the premises by our chef, cakes, pies, biscuits, cookies and all things sweet made by our own patisserie chef. Main meals are also available to take away or for delivery. Deliveries are available via our website or the main delivery lines such as Woking Eats, Deliveroo etc. Our friendly staff are happy to help with special requirements, all sandwiches made to order so they are prepared as you like them. To enjoy your delicious coffee and homemade cakes and bread, come in and check us out.

Helping Hands

TEN YEARS OF **Woking Street Angels**

Have you, your family or friends been out in Woking town centre on weekend nights over the past ten years? If so, you may well have encountered Woking Street Angels chatting, listening, giving out lollies and flip flops and occasionally calling for ambulance or police support.

Street Angels are trained volunteers who walk round our town centre every Friday and Saturday night, from 10pm till 4am, offering help, or a listening ear, wherever needed. Typically, they help those who are intoxicated, lonely, sick, vulnerable, troubled or sleeping rough. Working with police, door staff, CCTV, Council and medical services Street Angels help night-time visitors have a safe and pleasant experience in the town. They have also made a valued contribution towards the impressive reduction in violent crime in Woking town centre.

It is ten years since the first team of Angels set out on their first shift. One volunteer who was on duty that first night has this memory: "I stood at the top of Chertsey Road with the rest of my team, and the noise that was coming up from the clubs and the crowds hit us like a thud. I wasn't sure I could go down there, but we were a team, and we did it together. Soon people got to know who we were and what we were doing, and now they show their approval with shoutouts and hugs. It's a great feeling to go home at dawn knowing that because of what we did during that night, we prevented bad things from happening to vulnerable people!"

Once trained, Woking Street Angels commit to one shift per month, and are always in teams, never alone. They are in radio contact with CCTV and only walk in the area covered by cameras. Street Angels are gratefully supported by many local churches, but volunteers can be of any faith or none.

New volunteers are always needed, and the next training programme starts in October. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a street angel, please visit the web site **wokingstreetangels.** org.uk or email the Co-ordinator, wokingstreetangels@gmail.com.

An update from Citizens Advice Woking

Citizens Advice Woking (CAW) is delivered by a group of 60 volunteers supported by paid staff and during a normal week typically helps more than 175 people.

CAW provides free, confidential, and independent, general advice. Their well-qualified volunteer force has undertaken nationally recognised training to guide clients through their problems providing them with options to help make those difficult decisions.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, they remain closed to the public for face-to-face advice at their offices in Woking

However, CAW can be contacted Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm by

- Completing the form on their website at **www.wokingcab.org**; or
- Sending an Email to bureau@wokingcab.org; or
- Ringing their Adviceline on 0800 144 8848



Knaphill Community Fridge

Knaphill Community Fridge opened in May 2019. Our aim is to take food that is still safe to eat and redistribute it to the local community before it goes into the bin. Food that ends up in landfill emits greenhouse gases as it rots down, in particular methane, a gas that is at least 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. A horrifying 1/3 of all food produced for humans globally goes to waste (Hubbub)

As the pandemic hit in March 2020, the Community Fridge was in a prime position to respond to our community's growing food needs. Initially we ran a weekly food delivery service to those shielding and in greatest need; over 900 food boxes were delivered between April - July 2020. Each month we repurpose over four tonnes of food and drink that would have otherwise gone to waste, that's over 67 tonnes since we opened. As restrictions eased, we were able to return to our permanent site, but it became clear we had outgrown it.

Now, Knaphill Community Fridge has had a transformation! We are delighted to be operating out of our new Community Fridge cabin. Huge thanks to a local volunteer for the time and effort he has put into constructing the new cabin, and also to our over 30 volunteers who make this project possible - including HRH Countess of Wessex who joined us on the morning of 4th March.

Money has been raised to enable this project via Co-op local cause: you can still choose Knaphill Community Fridge as your charity of choice through your Coop membership or if you'd like to donate to this project, please email knaphillcommunityfridge@htandstschurch.org.

Knaphill Community Fridge is open 11am-3.30pm Monday - Friday, and you can follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

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Two new ministers for the Baptist Church

In early 2021, two new ministers arrived at Knaphill Baptist Church, and not for the first time: the previous ministers Julia and Jim Binney also shared their positions in the church. Yet this time the roles are reversed: Pieter Lalleman is 'the minister' for four days per week nominally, his wife Hetty is the Community Pastor for a day per week. But who exactly are they?



Hetty Lalleman was born in the Netherlands, where she went to university, but she then completed her studies with a PhD from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. For seventeen years she was part-time Old

Testament tutor at the Baptist Seminary of the Netherlands. Other positions in her home country included a teaching post in secondary education and working with senior citizens. Most of her time however was spent writing Bible study aids, articles, a book for children and two books for adults, as well as translating books from English.

When Hetty moved to London in 2000, she taught the Old Testament at Spurgeon's College. In London she developed many warm relationships in the local area and she is aiming on doing the same in Knaphill. Recently she gained a Postgraduate Diploma in Autism and Education. She loves playing everything with keys (organ, piano, keyboard) and walking their ageing greyhound Lucy. She also loves working with children and as you will see below, she is starting a choir for 5-9 year olds.



Pieter J. Lalleman hails from the West of the Netherlands, the region of big cities, but he lived in villages until he went to university. He also holds a PhD. After various posts at home, such as teacher

of Religious Education and Social Affairs, and part-time Baptist pastor, in 2000 he became New Testament tutor at Spurgeon's College, London. His specialism is the origin and background of the books of the Bible. Like Hetty, he has written many books and articles on the Bible for a general audience. Pieter's hobbies include classical music, public transport, watching cricket and sudokus.

Their daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren live in the Netherlands, as do their sisters and brothers-in-law. During the current pandemic with its travel restrictions, this has been rather unfortunate... For both Pieter and Hetty, Knaphill is an oasis of calm where they have been made very welcome after hectic London. They have joined the KRA and are hoping to play an active part in village life, learning more about Knaphill and its residents and history!



NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTING!

After the Summer, if Covid-19 regulations allow, a children's choir will be starting in Knaphill, for children from about 5 to 9 years old. We will sing Christian songs, but everyone is welcome to join in! The plan is to meet from September onwards in order to prepare a Christmas performance.

Place: Knaphill Baptist Church, 88 High Street, Knaphill GU21 2PZ.

Time: Saturday mornings from 10-11am. Costs? None, it's free!

Interested? Questions? Please e-mail me at hettylalleman@blueyonder.co.uk or phone the church on 474.083.

I'm really looking forward to meeting you and hearing your voices join in to make a lovely choir! Hetty Lalleman, community pastor at Knaphill Baptist Church



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SQUIRE'S

Some of you may already be aware that the area around Knaphill has a rich horticultural heritage with nurseries and market gardens stretching back over a century. The Woking branch of Squire's Garden Centres is a relative newcomer, having been in situ near Knaphill for a mere thirty years or so. But the family business behind it goes back much further, and indeed celebrates its 85th Anniversary this year!

D.J. Squire (1905 – 2003) started the business. He was head gardener at the Police orphanage in Twickenham, but when the orphanage closed he was made redundant, so he started his own nursery and landscape gardening business. During World War Two, Squire's built Anderson air raid shelters in the Twickenham area and turned the nurseries over to food production, helped by Land Girls and later Italian and German prisoners of war. D.J's son, Colin Squire OBE, who is also 85 this summer, developed the company into one of the first garden centre businesses in the UK when he opened Squire's in Twickenham in 1964

Today, the company operates 16 garden centres throughout Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and Berkshire, under the chairmanship of Sarah, Colin's daughter. Sarah believes the tight geographical location is important in keeping the family feel of the business; she is proud that 80% of their plants are grown in Britain, many very locally indeed, thereby supporting local producers and ensuring lower plant miles.

In 2018, Squire's were thrilled to re-launch their garden centre in Woking/Knaphill, with a traditional light and airy glasshouse structure extension to the shop and Café Bar designed to reflect the horticultural heritage of the area. And just in time for the "Beast from the East" to play havoc with Charlie Dimmock's visit on a snowy day in March!

SQUIRES

GARDEN CENTRES

Chairman Sarah said, "I am so proud of Ed, our garden centre manager at Woking, and all our colleagues in the centre and Café Bar who have done, and continue to do, their utmost to keep our customers and each other safe during these extraordinary times. They have faced everything the last eighteen months has thrown at them with care, commitment and great good humour."

To celebrate their 85th year, Squire's is offering a special Anniversary Cream Tea in July and August. It includes a scone with jam and clotted cream, Eton Mess gateaux and a pot of loose-leaf tea, all for just £7.95. Book a table instore or online at www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk



Sarah Beeny comes to Woking! When Inspire Kitchens, in Knaphill, was approached by Sarah Beeny's Production company with a request to be involved in a kitchen renovation in Woking, for her new series of Renovate don't Relocate, they were thrilled to be given the opportunity to work with the celebrity property developer. Jamie Baker, owner of Inspire Kitchens said that Sarah had been wowed by the kitchen transformation but he wasn't permitted to give away any spoilers! The programme, which was aired on Monday 12th July at 8pm on HGTV, follows the renovation of a Woking resident's ground floor and kitchen.

Thank you from your elected Knaphill Councillors

Cllr Saj Hussain was re-elected at the last local elections as a Woking Borough Councillor as well as your Surrey County Councillor. It is really advantageous to have Saj fill both roles as he is able to bridge the gap between the different services provided by both bodies. It also gives residents direct access to someone who can provide assistance with various issues in many different areas.

We are also very excited for Saj as this also means that he will take up the prestigious position of Mayor of Woking next year, having been the longest serving Deputy Mayor, ie for three years. With Covid having affected elections and because of another councillor's commitments, the new mayor had to be in post this year, and Saj kindly agreed to step aside for him.

Saj will therefore be Mayor of Woking in the next municipal Council year 2022 – 2023, the first Knaphill Councillor to hold that position since the late 1980s. It is incumbent on the Mayor to be politically impartial, and we know that Saj will ensure that this is the case with total respect and dignity.

It is also gratifying that Saj has been appointed Vice Chairman of Surrey County Council, a similar role to being a Deputy Mayor. This will also raise the profile of Knaphill throughout the whole of Surrey.

While our colleague takes up these important roles, he will still be available in his Post Office, to take all those important questions from the many residents who pop in to see him for assistance.

You can however be assured that Councillors Melanie Whitehand and Debbie Harlow will also be available to help with residents' issues, as they are both experienced in an wide range of areas. Councillor Harlow holds the Portfolios for Housing, Health & Well Being, and Licensing. Her main aim this year is to re-establish the Youth Club in Knaphill, which she believes youngsters in the village would greatly benefit from, and she is working with a number of partners to this end. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help on any issue, as our sole focus is to help our community.



Downslink Challenge 2021



This annual charity cycling event is taking place once again this year after having had to be cancelled last year for reasons that we probably don't need to spell out...

Some riders will be setting off from The Garibaldi Pub in Knaphill at 6am, riding down to Brighton off-road, utilising the old Downs link railway line and then cycling back to Knaphill.

Other will be transported down to Brighton with their bikes and will cycle back using the same route.

An additional ride has been added this year called the Downs link Pro Edition, where 7 riders have chosen to take on the 128-mile off-road ride to Brighton and back but using the canal and river systems as well.

Event organiser Steve McKeown said, "Despite the global pandemic we are doing our best to keep the event running safely while ensuring all riders are able to complete their challenges. We did it last year by completing 7 rides in as many weekends to ensure we were able to raise the money for the charities we had committed to, and we managed to raise £16.000."

The annual event is in its 6th year now where an overall total could topple the £100,000 mark. "We're very lucky in Knaphill having such a supportive community helping to make these events happen", Steve added. Martin Durrad of The Garibaldi said it was a privilege to be part of this event, as

always, and he was as thrilled to know the riders will be returning as he was to see his regulars returning after these challenging time.

The ride dates are as follows:

3rd July - Sponsors/Organisers ride, which enabled those working on the day of the event to complete their challenge.

10th July - Downslink ProEdition, where 7 riders left Knaphill at 5am to ride the Basingstoke canal, river Wey, the Downs link to Brighton and back again... 128 miles of offroad riding in one day. Ouch!

The main event originally planned for 17th July, where 70 riders will ride both ways or one way back from Brighton, to raise money for our chosen charities, will now take place on 4th September. It will be followed by the usual fun event with live music in the evening at the Garibaldi Pub, Knaphill. Keep a close eye on the Downslink Challenge website for updates!

Other events organised by Downslink team members Gail Smith \uptheta Carolyn Long are the Gin Festival on 27th November 2021 and a Quiz Night in January 2022.

Information on all our events can be found at www.saddlesore.bike

The two charities we're raising money for this year are Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and the Baby Roo Neonatal unit at St. Peters Hospital. All funds raised will be divided equally between these charities. If you'd like to make a donation, please follow the link below:

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/downslink2021

STOP PRESS!!

Woking Football Club will be represented in this year's Downslink Challenge, with a specific ride being organised in October (date TBC). Riders will be new club owner John Katz, Alan Dowson (manager), Josh Casey (Captain) and former players Lloyd Wye and Scott Steele.

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KNAPHILL MARKET UPDATE 2021

Knaphill and the local villages have seen some incredible market activity in recent months.

The stamp duty holiday has been a major factor in encouraging not only new buyers to the market, but also local people keen to make an upsize. The results are increased asking prices with many properties receiving multiple offers due to demand outstripping supply. As we go into the summer this 'head of steam' which has been built up, will in our opinion continue to see the market remain strong. Anyone thinking of selling will benefit from good market knowledge and experience, and to that end we can offer free, no obligation valuations at a time to suit you. Please call any of the team on 01483 798969.

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