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**INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW  
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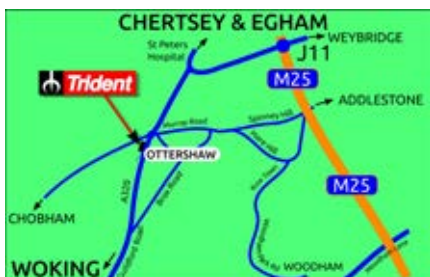


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## ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE!

We have a circulation of 5,000 copies and a readership of ca15,000 that reaches throughout Knaphill and the surrounding villages on a quarterly basis in March, June, September and December.

Please submit articles for the next issue to Hetty Lalleman at [editor@knaphill.org](mailto:editor@knaphill.org)

To promote your business, please get in touch via [jon@knaphillprint.com](mailto:jon@knaphillprint.com)

### Contact the KRA

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By email: [news@knaphill.org](mailto: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.

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# Chairman's Report

## Summer 2022



A warm welcome to Hetty, the new Editor of our MyKnaphill magazine, and a big thank you to Rebecca Ward our previous Editor who has done so much over the last couple of years for the benefit of Knaphill.

The Knaphill Residents' Association (KRA) is now focussed on organising the Knaphill Show at Mizens Miniature Railway in Barrs Lane on Saturday 16th July from 1 to 5.00pm. You'll find a full page in the magazine on the events and activities in the afternoon for all the family. As I write this there are a few spaces available for new stall enquiries. Please email [stalls@knaphill.org](mailto:stalls@knaphill.org) and we can provide further details.

The KRA meets every six weeks or so with the Knaphill Councillors to discuss local issues. We are currently looking for a secretary to help organise meetings and the agenda/minutes and as a point of contact for residents. If you might be interested in helping out in this role, please email: [chairman@knaphill.org](mailto:chairman@knaphill.org)

Looking forward to seeing you at the Knaphill Show for a great day out!

**John Butler**



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# The Knaphill Residents' Association NEEDS YOU!

Yes, you are right: here is a new name you haven't heard before, Hetty Lalleman. I am the new editor of the KRA magazine. My husband and I moved to Knaphill in July 2021 after having lived in London for more than twenty years. Moving from a city like London to a village like Knaphill is quite a change, but we love it! And slowly we are getting to know more people in this lovely village. When we knew we were going to move here, we thought a good way to make ourselves familiar with Knaphill was becoming a member of the Knaphill Residents' Association (KRA), so I'd read this magazine already before moving here.

Have you ever considered getting involved with the KRA? I was surprised at how much the KRA does: they were instrumental in organising the

hanging baskets in the village and planting trees, clearing rubbish, pursuing traffic speeding issues, dealing with issues such as anti-social behaviour together with our Councillors, and so forth – and not forgetting of course organising the Knaphill Village Show! So: if you want to make your voice heard, why not become a member and support the KRA, or what about becoming an active member by joining the Committee and getting directly involved with village projects?

In this issue you can read about the upcoming Village Show (please, put 16 July in your diary!), but also lots of news about new businesses and new initiatives, as well as a special interview with our new Mayor, Saj Hussain. Happy reading!

**Hetty Lalleman**



Editor, Hetty Lalleman. Photo: Chris Gander.

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Many people in Knaphill and neighbouring villages connect Saj Hussain with Knaphill's post office, where he has been sub-postmaster since 1986. Saj has also been involved with the Knaphill Residents' Association, which he chaired in 2006-2007. Saj loves helping people and in 2012 became a councillor for Knaphill. The following year he was elected as Surrey County councillor for Knaphill and Goldsworth West.

Saj vividly remembers arriving in Woking from Pakistan at the age of 11. He didn't speak any English but met some lovely neighbours who helped with this.

Saj is married with four grown-up children and is blessed with nine grandchildren.

Saj is the 48th Mayor of Woking and holds the record for being the longest serving deputy mayor of Woking: three consecutive terms. I asked Saj what his hobbies are, to which he responded: helping people. The main reason he went into politics is to make Knaphill a vibrant, safe and prosperous village. Saj is very appreciative of the four churches in Knaphill, the Knaphill Residents' Association, Knaphill Care and numerous other volunteer groups who are giving their time to help other, less fortunate people.

His chosen charity for this year is LinkAble ([www.linkable.org.uk](http://www.linkable.org.uk)), a Woking charity organizing activities for children and adults with learning disabilities, thus providing respite care for parents and carers. The KRA wishes Saj a fruitful and enjoyable time as Mayor of Woking.

Hetty Lalleman

## Project for new eco-friendly canal boat on The Basingstoke Canal



The Basingstoke Canal Society has been promoting and campaigning for the sustainable future of the 32-mile Canal as a navigation and public amenity since 1966. Through the John Pinkerton Canal Cruises operation, it raises money to fund the maintenance and improvement works undertaken by more than 250 volunteers. The volunteers also support the works undertaken by the owners – Surrey and Hampshire County Councils.

The Society operates two boats providing trips and this is our main source of income. Kitty (named after the last horse to tow barges on the canal) operates from The Town Wharf in Woking, and John Pinkerton II operates from Odiham.

However, a canal boat can only go on for so long before repairs become almost impossible to sustain. Kitty is nearing the end of her life and we plan to replace her with an all-electric boat. As well as making the new Kitty non-polluting and all-electric, we also plan to install several charging points on the canal in Woking which will represent the first step towards making the canal fully electric for all users. The new Kitty will also be much better adapted for the less abled, being designed from scratch to allow easier wheelchair access and provide enough space for an on-board toilet.

Sadly, canal boats don't come cheap! The boat will be produced by a UK-based boatbuilder and together with installing the charging network, we need to raise over £200,000 to replace Kitty. To prime this, the Basingstoke Canal Society is contributing £70,000 from its own funds and we are aiming to raise the remaining £130,000 from a variety of sources including grants, individual and corporate donations.



In November 2021, we launched a Crowdfunding campaign to raise part of the £200,000 needed to replace Kitty and this first stage of our fundraising project has finished with a great success! Our target was £20k and with your generosity we successfully raised £12,447 (+ est. £2180.50 Gift Aid) with 196 supporters in 42 days.

If you would like to contribute to the Kitty II fund, please visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kitty](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kitty), and for more general information on the Society and canal trips, please visit [www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk).

Ian Moore, Director, The Basingstoke Canal Society



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# KNAPHILL VILLAGE SHOW

SATURDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup> JULY

The Knaphill Village Show returns this year on



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Mizens Miniature Railway, Barrs Lane GU21 2JW.

This year's show is as always full of entertainment for all the family and is a great occasion to bring the whole Knaphill community together.

**The attractions include:**

- Musical performance by Ukejam, Ukeholics, Scott No Fans and the St John's Choir
- Dance performances by BellyTricks and the Chobham Morris Dancers
- Popular fun dog show sponsored by OSCAR and organised by Dottie Doodles Dog Care.  
The show starts at 2.30, just turn up on the day to register from 1.30
  - Punch & Judy show, roundabouts, bouncy castle & play area
  - Beat the Goalie, organised by Knaphill Athletic Football Club
- Numerous stalls selling a variety of articles as well as culinary delights
  - Beer Tent and BBQ, hosted by The Garibaldi pub
  - Train rides by Mizens



If you're interested in **booking a stall**, please email [stalls@knaphill.org](mailto:stalls@knaphill.org), but don't wait any longer, as spaces are filling up very quickly!

**There will be a free minibus shuttle service operating on the day from The Vyne to Mizens & back between 12.45 and 5.15.**

Car parking at Mizens is free but can get full at peak times.

Why not take a gentle stroll down to Mizens through Waterers Park?

Entrance fee is £2 for adults, £1 for Senior Citizens and free for children and dogs!

Any profits from the show always go to support a local charity.

*Our thanks go to Seymour's Estate Agents who are once again kindly sponsoring the Knaphill Village Show.*

# A short history of Mizens Railway

Summer 2022 **7**

Mizens Railway started life in 1988 on the actual Mizens Farm, just off the A322 between Woking and the Otter Roundabout – the site now occupied by the McLaren Factory – following a meeting of 25 like-minded people interested in starting a miniature railway.

The owners of Mizens Farm very generously allowed them the use of a barn for secure storage of locomotives and rolling stock, and also paid for the purchase of the 7 ¼" gauge running track. Building works commenced in 1989, with the formal opening in May 1990. The public were invited to ride the trains on the first and third Sundays between May and September, and at special firework and Santa events later in the year. Membership steadily increased and the railway became a huge local success.

In 1998 the farm was purchased by McLaren, and in 1999 the Society's lease for the land ran out. Fortunately, a condition of the sale was that an alternative site be provided for the railway by the purchasers. With support from Woking Council, planning permission was given for the development of a ten-acre site of a former nursery on Barrs Lane in Knaphill.

Work started in earnest in autumn 2000, and through one of the wettest winters on record, the club house was built, a railway layout was completed, and the extensive car park laid out. Trains recommenced running in 2001, and around this time Mizens Railway Society was joined by the Brooklands Model Railway Group who moved onto the site. By 2002 membership had grown to 100, allowing completion of the inner and outer track circuits.

A full-size coach was donated to the Railway in April 2006, with members raising over £3,000 to have it delivered to its present location at Mizens. This was followed in 2012 by the acquisition by the North British Locomotive Group of a full sized South African Railways locomotive no 196, currently positioned near the entrance to the car park.

Mizens Railway welcomes people with an interest in railways or railway modeling, as well as volunteers to help us run and maintain this comprehensive undertaking. For further information, please contact Hannah Stacey at [mizens.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mizens.membership@gmail.com), and for more general information about rides, running days and special events, please see our website: [www.mizensminiaturerailwaysociety.com](http://www.mizensminiaturerailwaysociety.com)



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## Geek Retreat in Knaphill!

Many of you will have spotted the new 'business' in the building of the previous Lloyd's Bank on the corner next to the Methodist Church. It calls itself: Geek Retreat and was opened on January 22, 2022. I say 'business', but after having spoken to the owner Al, I conclude that it's not about commerce, but about community.

Al worked in the music industry, but that came to a standstill through Covid. He is now the enthusiastic owner of the place where people of all ages can play games like tcg (trading card games), comics, Dungeons and Dragons, Warhammer. I must confess I only thought this was something for young people, but Al assures me people of all ages come in, have a nice drink (I tried their cappuccino, which was great!) and have a good time together. Apart from the typical 'Geek games', board games like Scrabble are provided and there is even a knitting group!

Does Al not think Geek Retreat distracts young people from doing their homework? Not really, says Al, because on Thursday and Friday morning it turns into a quiet place to do coursework and to study. There is also a room for free for a smaller party.

Geek Retreat is open all year round, except for Christmas day, from 10 am to 10 pm.

Geek Retreat are Vegan Friendly and welcome anyone and everyone from all backgrounds and ages. They run events daily (usually £5 entry with a free item including booster packs, exclusive items or drinks), or you can pop in, grab a coffee and enjoy their free-to-play board games, comics and atmosphere!

Hetty Lalleman



## New grocery shop in Knaphill

You may have spotted one more empty shop filled in the High Street of Knaphill. Nasir Basheer, whose family owns a similar shop in Woking, started a fruit and vegetable shop in our village. Every day fresh fruit and vegetables are brought in by his partner who goes to the market at 4 am!

Nasir's shop is open 7 days a week. Apart from fruit and veg, he sells a wide variety of international spices, with particular emphasis on Asian cuisine. I spotted a variety of well-known and lesser-known spices. The latter ones, such as bajra seeds, black cumin seeds and urid dal chilka will, however, sound familiar to those who love a good, spicy curry! Why not pop in, say hello to Nasir and see what he has to offer?

Hetty Lalleman

## New book by local author

When Knaphill author Mal Foster completed his first book, *The Asylum Soul*, he thought the publication of his acclaimed historical novel would be a once in a lifetime experience. "I was really happy with just that," he says. Seven years later, he has just released his fifth title, *Fluke's Cradle*, which tells the story of a local man who wakes up from a coma, believing he is the person he was in a previous life.

*Eddie Noble had always wondered who his father was. His mother had died shortly after childbirth, and those shielding him from life's future challenges were not always forthcoming with any answers.*

*Following a mysterious medical episode whilst searching for his mother's grave, Eddie becomes increasingly convinced he is the person he was in a previous life. He then undergoes an enforced period of regression therapy to aid his rehabilitation.*

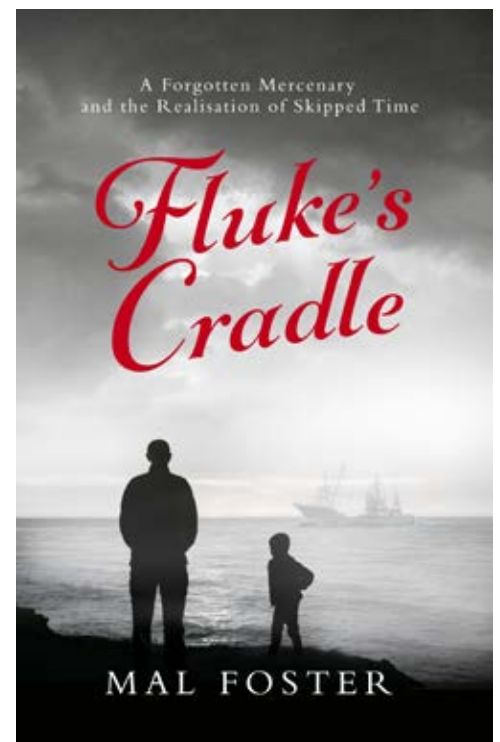
*Enter Marianne Borg, a beautiful psychic medium, Nathaniel Bream, a quirky psychiatric paranormal research specialist, and Professor Allan, a mental health scientist who all take a particular interest in Eddie's plight.*

Only published in April by *Publish Nation*, *Fluke's Cradle* has already received numerous five-star reviews and has been labelled Mal's best writing yet.

Mal also hosts the *Woking Writes* book blog which helps promote the work of other local writers as well as running low key 'Writing as Therapy' sessions in the area for people with mental health issues.

*'Fluke's Cradle'* is available in ebook, paperback, and hardback versions from Amazon.co.uk. The paperback is also stocked at the *Lionsheart* bookshop in Commercial Way, Woking.

Sue Stocker





# New monthly market in Knaphill!

Alzati Markets is a new regular market brought to you by Stefs Enterprises – many locals will remember Stef and his family who used to run the café and bakery in the High Street.



Following the success of earlier Christmas markets in Knaphill, we felt that a regular market would be a great way to bring more people to the village. We are strong supporters of local businesses, and wanted to offer a platform to help small businesses become better known, whilst at the same time supporting the local businesses in the village. We are working alongside Knaphill Post Office, who are sponsoring the markets, and we would welcome other shops getting involved in various ways.

The name Alzati means 'rise up' in Italian, and we chose this name as our aim is to support small businesses to rise again after the pandemic. One of the key ways we are doing this is by offering a VIP package where businesses can become regular stallholders at a reduced price and with added online promotion.

The markets will take place on the last Saturday of the month 11am-3pm from April to June and then again September to November.

To begin with, we will have approximately 20 stalls with a variety of products including children's items, bath and body products, clothing, candles, gift items and some food stalls. We have also partnered with ShyneFest to add a musical touch to liven up the atmosphere. We have a few exciting plans up our sleeves and will also be offering visitors to the market the chance to win a freebie on each visit – they simply need to visit our information stand outside the post office to enter themselves into the draw.

We hope to create a regular, fun event for the community and encourage others to join us in helping local businesses to "rise up"! Check out our website [alzatimarkets.com](http://alzatimarkets.com) and visit our Facebook page [fb.me/alzatimarkets](https://fb.me/alzatimarkets).

**Josie Trovato and Dueyna Chinere**



## Easter market

On Easter Saturday, Anchor Crescent hosted a lively Easter market with an attractive selection of stalls, organised by Ash and Timea from Ernie's café. Several hundred people turned out to enjoy the varied stalls including arts and crafts, refreshments and entertainment. The children's choir The Little Lights performed, and people from the various Knaphill churches sang Easter songs. It was a great day of sunshine and fun, which also raised £170 for the Knaphill, Brookwood and St John's volunteer group charity.

**Hetty Lalleman**



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As another season comes to a close, Knaphill Athletic FC youth section coach, Molly Ufton, has reflected on how it's gone. "We have sides ranging from U7s to U12s at The Vyne, and the passion and drive the teams have shown is something to be proud of, and is reflected in the performances and results throughout the season," she said, adding that friendlies and tournaments will continue throughout the summer months. "The coaches and managers have worked hard to ensure all the sessions are fun and enjoyable whilst also working on development, confidence and resilience, which ensures the teams are ready to

progress into the next season and their new age groups."

After a successful stint overseeing all the youth team coaching at The Vyne, Molly's own side, the U12 All Stars, are now progressing to U13s and will move to Waterers Park from next season to join the club's other 11-a-side teams.

Knaphill Athletic FC is also proud to work with local businesses, and the All Stars were

thrilled to be sponsored by RSM Domestic Appliances and receive a full training kit.

Knaphill Athletic FC always welcomes new players at any level, and we are looking forward to the season ahead.

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## Eco treasures in Chobham Road

Like many of us no doubt, I've passed by it several times when walking the dog: Kate's Eco shop at the end of Chobham Road, near the junction with the Bagshot Road. Time to get to know more about Kate's shop, attached to her house, Eddystone.

Kate Kett, the owner, tells me with enthusiasm about her desire for an eco-friendlier world. She has always been interested in environmental issues and she wanted a local shop to sell eco-friendly products. She sells products made by local people, such as facemasks and gift bags, but her main business is selling a wide range of eco-friendly cleaning products, washing-up liquid and anything you can think of, as well as coffee, pasta, muesli and other foodstuffs, organic where possible.

You come with your empty bottles and Tupperware, and she refills them. By profession she is a pharmacist, so her shop is only open on Thursdays from 9 am till 3 pm, but people can always leave a bag with empty containers at the doorstep with a shopping list inside, and then come back later to pick it up.

You'll find a full list of products available with pricelist on her Facebook page. Why not check out what Kate has to offer to help you move towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Hetty Lalleman

[www.knaphill.org](http://www.knaphill.org)



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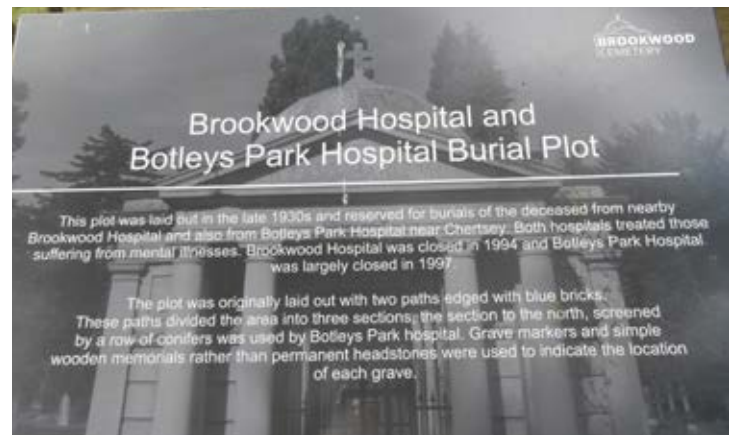
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I became aware of the mass graves at Brookwood Cemetery and the link to Brookwood Hospital over five years ago. The cemetery and the hospital, which opened in 1854 and in 1867 respectively, have always had links until the hospital finally closed in 1994, and Brookwood Cemetery is the final resting place of over 1300 patients from Brookwood Hospital, Botleys Park Hospital and other asylums and workhouses of the time.

There are a couple of plots in the Cemetery, and for the one we originally identified I worked with Woking Borough Council officer Ian Tomes, who helped organise the plinth, identifying this space for these poor souls who were overlooked in life and forgotten in death.

No relatives generally came forward to give a burial to the people whose lives ended in such places. The stigma of being placed in a mental institution/lunatic asylum – to use some of the many derogatory words that described the hospitals – meant that the patients who entered there were abandoned by their families, possibly never seeing them again.



After talking to the Churches 4 Knaphill, they were very keen to organise a memorial service at the site. Our thanks go to our relatively new Baptist Minister Pieter Lalleman who worked with Neil Hopkins and Julie Levett from Holy Trinity Church, and we are also grateful to Reverend Father Gerard Hatton of St Hugh of Lincoln RC church for joining us for the service as well.

We should also thank Lucy Talbot, who works in the Cemetery Office, for coordinating this event and keeping us on track, and Bustler Buses who provided the transport from the car park to the site. Particular thanks also to the Friends of Brookwood Cemetery, who provided lots of background information and did research on the people who are interred in the mass graves.

Debbie Harlow

*(One of the speakers in the service was Rajendra, known as Raj Chhetri, a former member of the nursing staff at Brookwood Hospital. Just recently he was re-elected as a Governor in the Council of Governors in the Surrey and Borders Partnership, NHS Foundation Trust.)*



## Dumbledor needs help!

At the Easter market in Knaphill, did your (grand)children enjoy cuddling Dumbledor, the horse dressed as a unicorn? Dumbledor needs on operation on his knee, which costs a lot of money. Find out more on: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-dumbledor>



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