MACION Residents Association

SUMMER 2025 ISSUE 79



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

LAND BETWEEN ROBIN HOOD ROAD AND LOCKFIELD DRIVE

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We have a circulation of 5,000 copies and a readership of ca15,000 that reaches throughout Knaphill and the surrounding villages twice a year, in June and December.

Please submit articles for the next issue to Hetty Lalleman at editor@knaphill.org
To promote your business, please get in touch via jon@knaphillprint.com

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. You will receive regular updates by email.

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Chairperson's Report



In 2024, when I agreed to take on the role of chair, I stated then that I would only hold the post for two years. Those two years have now come to an end and by the time you read this magazine the KRA will have a new chairperson. First, I want to say thank you for all your support over the last two years, especially all those who signed the petition to save our community centre, thank you. This petition was the first that the KRA has ever launched, and it received 1627 signatures. I am pleased to report that our community centre under its new name, Dramatize Community Centre, is going from

strength to strength. I am also pleased to report that the Well Baby Clinic will be remaining at the community centre.

In looking ahead, one of the biggest challenges will be the restructuring of local government in Surrey. Woking Borough Council, along with eleven other borough or district councils, will disappear and be merged into two or three unitary bodies. At the time of writing there remains more questions than answers. Once the structure has been agreed elections will be held and it is important that the residents of Knaphill have strong representation on the new body. See later article.

I hope you will continue to support the KRA, more information on what is going on in Knaphill can be found on our Facebook page **Knaphill Community – for Knaphill Residents Association** and our website **myKnaphill**.

Philip Stubbs



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Village Life



First of all, an admission. I've only resided in this village for 18 months. Indeed, English village life is something very new to me. That being said, I absolutely love it. And duly plan to stick around.

And now for some background on the new editor of MyKnaphill magazine. Stockholmborn and of mixed Swedish-English parentage, I've spent most of my working life outside of the United Kingdom. Mainly in print journalism (the only kind around, when I started as a journalist in the 1990s) and more recently in

photojournalism and straightforward photography.

I do have an accomplished act to follow, as my predecessor Hetty Lalleman set a high standard for the magazine. And, moreover, provided me with a wealth of useful advice and information during the handover. We'll miss her, and wish her all the very best in her native Netherlands.

A few folks have asked me what I most like about Knaphill. So, here's a brief list. (And if you or your business is not on it, chances are I'll give you a shout-out down the road.)

The pubs. My favourite is the last one I went to, of course. So that would be The Garibaldi. The epitome of a perfect English pub, as viewed through the eyes of a Stockholmer. Thank you Proprietor Martin for making my recent visit so enjoyable; I do love local history lessons.

Woodhill Church (previously Trinity Church). A marvelous hub of both faith and community life. And a commendable manifestation of the latter is the church-run Knaphill Community Fridge, organized and overseen by the tireless and ever-resourceful Jules Hopkins.

Thirdly, the greenery. It's marvelous living in such a leafy, verdant location. Especially at this time of the year with all the flora in full bloom.

And finally, something we perhaps rather take for granted. Our public transport. Personally I love taking the bus everywhere. A personal aside: on arriving in the UK, I encountered some culture shock, albeit of the nicest variety, both waiting for and on buses in Surrey. Small-talk is not a thing at Stockholm bus-stops (it denotes one as a possible serial killer), nor is thanking the driver on disembarking, so I love how differently bus etiquette works here.

Did I miss anything? Oh yes... be sure to attend the Knaphill Village Show, justly a highlight of the village calendar. And finally, wishing each and every reader and local business a terrific summer.



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THE KNAPHILL SHOW RETURNS

On Saturday 19th July 2025 at Mizens Miniature Railway, Barrs Lane, GU21 2JW from 1.00 to 5.00pm

At the time of writing, we still have places if you are interested in booking a stall but please book early as we were 'full' last year. For further information please see the stall booking form found at knaphill.org or email stalls@knaphill.org.

There is free parking on site, but we can get full at peak times. Why not take a leisurely walk-through Waterers Park or take the free minibus to and from the Vyne (Dramatize) starting at 12.45 that will run throughout the afternoon.

We are pleased to announce the following:-

Music entertainment

Local Pop Hero make their first appearance – check out their web site localpophero.co.uk

Ukejam are organising an interactive workshop on to play the Ukulele. Old favourites Scott No Fans and Ukeaholics return with their popular live music.

Dancing entertainment

We are pleased to welcome the Pandemonium Drummers and Dancers who performed in the opening ceremony of the London Olympics. They will be performing in the afternoon and 'marching'

Local school children from Alexandra Dance Co will perform their

Chobham Morris Dancers and Belly Tricks return to provide some fun in the afternoon.

Dog Show

Knaphill Vets will be hosting this year's fun dog show. Just turn up for registration at 1.30pm for a 2.30pm start.

■ Children's entertainment

The ever-popular Punch & Judy will give 2 performances.

Koala Kids Parties will provide fun entertainment under the marquee.

There will be a Bouncy castle & obstacle course including a penalty shootout competition.

■ Train rides

Mizens will be operating their train rides throughout the afternoon.

■ Stalls, Food & Drinks

Over 30 stalls will be present selling a wide variety of products, including food and drink.

Garibaldi have organised a BBQ and their beer tent.

A big thank you to all our sponsors:-

- **Seymours** they are familiar faces in Knaphill and are more than happy to chat and offer free property advice. When it comes to Estate Agents in Knaphill, you will be hard pushed to find anyone with more experience both in the industry but also in local area knowledge
- Butlers Chartered Accountants a local firm of Chartered Accountants with 30 years' experience, based in Knaphill helping clients of all sizes with their accounting and tax including self-assessment, company accounts and tax returns, capital gains tax, payroll and VAT.
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- Valentino's supply school uniform for numerous schools throughout the UK as well as an extensive range of Dance wear, Scouts and Guides uniforms and children's clothing. Next door you will find an elegant and cozy coffee bar perfect for a relaxing visit.
- Boorman's have an extensive range of quality gifts, jewellery, clocks and watches to suit most budgets. Also, clock and watch repairs and servicing with many years of experience in the jewellery trade.
- Penny & Hayter for over 30 years they have provided a friendly, personal and caring service for its patients. This is not just about eye testing and updating your glasses, but also about being interested in your general health and ensuring the best care for your eyes.



Don't forget the

Fun Dog Show

Registration from 1.30 for 2.30 start

Hosted by



Knaphill Village Show

Saturday 19th July

1 - 5pm

Mizens Railway, Barrs Lane, Knaphill



KNAPHILL VILLAGE

Mizens Miniature Railway, Barrs Lane, Knaphill GU212JW.

SHOW

SATURDAY 19th JULY 2025 From 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Music Tent	
Ukejam — Workshop	
learn to play the Ukulele	1.15
Local Pop Hero	2.00
Scott No Fans	2.25
Ukeaholics	2.50
Local Pop Hero	3.15
Scott No Fans	3.40
Ukeaholics	4.05
Fun Dog Show from Knaphill Vets	

Registration 1.30 for 2.30 start

Front Field **Alexandra Dance Company** 1.30 **Belly Tricks** 1.50 **Punch & Judy** 2.20 **Chobham Morris Dancers** 2.40 **Pandemonium Drummers** 3.15 & Dancers **Belly Tricks** 3.30 **Punch & Judy** 3.50 **Koala Kids Parties** 4.15 Garibaldi Beer Tent & BBO

Mizens Train Rides

Other activities

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KNAPHILL VILLAGE

A big thank you to all the local businesses for their support and the many volunteers who help to make the event the success it is. We would like to thank Knaphill Residents Show Committee for all the hard work in organising the event. Also, to Mizens and their volunteers for hosting the event. Finally, a thank you to our Sponsors —

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Local Government Reorganisation

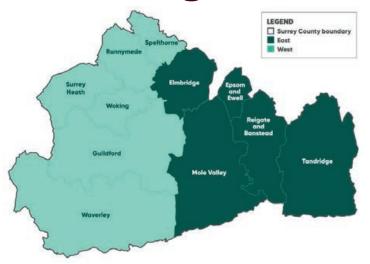
Surrey County Council and the twelve local councils decided that now was the time to seize the opportunity for greater devolution. To this end the County applied to Government to be in the first wave of counties to change their structure of local government by reducing the number of layers. Currently there is a two-level structure. At the top there is the County Council and underneath there are twelve borough or district councils. For example, Woking has a borough council while Surrey Heath has a district council. The national Government has agreed that Surrey will be in the first wave of change and that is why the County Council elections, that had been scheduled for 1 May, were cancelled. By the time you read this article Surrey will have submitted their final proposal for reorganising local government for the County. What we do know is that the current structure will disappear in 2027.

In the final plan, put forward by Surrey County Council to Government, their preferred option is to create two unitary authorities. SCC propose splitting the County East/West. The group in the west would comprise of Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking.

However, a group of borough and district councils in the county, including Woking, have recommended to Government that the County should be split into three unitary authorities. Under their proposal West Surrey would comprise of Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking.

It is now down to Government and a decision is noy expected until the autumn.

I stated earlier that this year's county council elections had been cancelled and elections to the new authorities will take place in 2026, with full transfer of duties and responsibilities taking place in 2027.



There is a lot of work to be done prior to the elections to the new authorities in May 2026. One basic question, what representation will Knaphill have on the new authority?

Key to a successful transfer to the new bodies will be impact on service delivery. Transition to the new arrangements must minimise disruption to service delivery. The new unitary authority will have responsibility of everything from education, social services to keeping our streets clean.

Finally, the one topic no one wants to talk about is the Council's debt. Woking is not alone in have a large debt; however, Woking's debt is the largest per head of population in Surrey. So, what happens to the debts once the new authorities have been form?

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Land between Robin Hood Road and Lockfield Drive

The following are notes from various sources.

Robin Hood public house - First appeared as licensed premises in 1861 and closed in 2018. The building was burnt down in 2019. The building was locally listed.

Brookwood Farm House - The house, located on Robin Hood Road was a Grade II listed building and in 1975 it was bought, as part of the Goldsworth Park development, in a dilapidated state. The farmhouse dates from 16th century with extensions recorded as being added in 19th Century.

Queens Head public house - there was a second PH in the area, The Queens Head was situated at 75 Robin Hood Road and closed in 1992

The developers Rutland (Woking Ltd) a joint venture between Rutland Properties and the WBC controlled Thameswey Development. Rutland (Woking) had bought the property which was listed as for sale at £900,000. The developers wanted to build housing and community transport facilities on the site of the Robin Hood PH but have been forced to stop work at the site wrongly assuming they could demolish the existing building and later applied for planning permission, October 2018.

A local resident, who asked not to be named said that they were very alarmed at developments on the site where trees have been felled and land cleared. (Local newspapers)

Goldsworth Park - In February 1967 Woking Borough Council (WBC) produced an outline plan for the creation of a new community. In June 1970 New ideal Homes Ltd, then one of the largest private house builders in Britain, entered into partnership with the Council to build a scheme according to a detailed master plan. The Council undertaking to guide the provision of infrastructure and amenities so that the development was properly placed. The government approved the scheme in June 1973 and development started in the autumn of that year.

Interesting aside, in 1980 the Government approved a new outer London greenbelt, and it was a view at the time that the Government would not have approved the plans for Goldsworth Park if it had been presented post the new outer London greenbelt regulations. (This piece on Goldsworth Park is taken from A History of Woking by Alan Crosby)

Conclusion - The site of the old Robin Hood Pub was bought either by WBC direct or via Thameswey and there is no evidence that it has been sold. I remember it as an operating public house it had a narrow entrance off Robin Hood Road but spread out after the building to a large garden.

I find it difficult to believe that WBC officers cannot lay their hands on, what must be a large file, the paperwork for the development of Goldsworth Park, given they had to seek Government approval for this large development. Given that the park includes several green areas I find it hard to accept



that James Veats, WBC Arboriculture Officer, does not have the plans for the greenbelt protected land in and around Goldsworth Park. That is assuming Mr. Veats is still with WBC. I wrote earlier of Brookwood Farmhouse; the house was brought back into use by extensive rebuilding of the interior whilst retailing out external features. The developer also built a second house on the same plot, and this is side on to Robin Hood Road with the rear garden going towards the Robin Hood PH grounds.

The newspaper cutting states that planning permission was sought to knock down the Robin Hood PH, this was before the fire, and therefore these plans should be held by WBC.

Going back into history, Inkerman Escarpment. The name is probably taken from the barracks that were built around Raglan Road. The site was originally a prison and what I found in Alan Crosby's book was that in 1858 the Government purchased almost 65 acres of Knaphill Common between Robin Hood Road

and the track to Crastock and Bridley. The War Department took over the prison between 1889 and 1895 and converted the buildings into Inkerman Barracks.

Why is this relevant? Woking Brough Council and their developers wanted to build Goldsworth Park as a green environment and the retention of the escarpment all the way down to the flat land that was the nursery would have been part of the plan.

Returning to Robin Hood Road. As you travel along the road towards St. Johns you have the rear of houses on Mint Walk and Tolldene Close. Why do they stop short of the two old cottages? One can only assume to provide a green space and a link to the escarpment. Further into the development the houses in Overthorpe Close run further towards what were the grounds of the Robin Hood Public House. In fact, the large maps around Goldsworth Park show these 'green areas' as wooded areas.

Phil Stubbs



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Knaphill History Quiz

1. The village name was first recorded in 1225 as...?

- A. La Cnappe
- B. Le Knappé
- C. Olde Knaphille
- D. Northwest Woking
- 2. Which local pub used to have greatly extended licensing hours for the benefit of shift-workers at Brookwood Hospital?
- A. The Anchor
- B. The Crown
- C. The Royal Oak
- D. Woking Wetherspoons
- 3. Knaphill's Sainsbury's was built on land previously owned by:
- A. The Duchy of Chobham
- B. The Ministry of Defence
- C. Brookwood Hospital
- D. Author HG Wells



- 4. Anchor Hill is so called because ...
- A. The Anchor Family owned the hill in the 18th Century.
- B. The hill was so steep that anchors were used behind horse-drawn carriages to slow their descent down the hill.
- C. The HMS Victory's anchor was made at a nearby blacksmiths.
- D. Its spelling has changed over time from Archer's Hill.

5. Which well-known band used to rehearse in Knaphill's Youth Arts Centre?

A. Iron Maiden

C. Bucks Fizz

B. The Stranglers

D. The Spice Girls

6. "Far away towards Knaphill I saw the flashes of trees and hedges and wooden buildings suddenly set alight". This line comes from Chapter 5 of which famous literary work?

A. Pride and Prejudice

D. Harry Potter and the Goblet

of Fire

B. The Canterbury Tales

C. The War of the Worlds

7. In what year did Knaphill's largest church take the name "Woodhill Church"?

A. 1907

C. 1983

B. 1965

D. 2024

8. On May 12, 2019, what calamity befell the village?

A. The fiery destruction of the Robin Hood pub

C. The closure of the Knaphillto-Brighton bus service?

B. A 12-hour power cut

D. A lion escaped from a touring circus

9. Who was 19th Century resident Robert Lloyd?

A. The last highwayman convicted of highway robbery in Surrey

C. The first proprietor of the Robin Hood pub

B. The founder of the village's Baptist Church

D. The father of a HMS Titanic survivor

10. Among those watching the 2025 FA Cup final live at the Crown pub was:

A. Musician Paul Weller

C. Ex-Spice Girl Emma Bunton

B. Local MP Will Forster

D. The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh, Edward and Sophie





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