

WELCOME...

to the first issue of the Knowl Hill Village Association's newsletter. If you are not already aware of the Knowl Hill Village Association (KHVA) it exists to promote the village and to act for the benefit of everyone in Knowl Hill.

It aims to ensure that local bodies such as the Parish Council and regional bodies such as the Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead hear the voice of Knowl Hill. Indeed we represent the village on a number of bodies such as the Hurley and the Walthams Neighbourhood Planning Group and the West London Aero Club Consultative Committee as well as working with Hurley Parish Council on village matters.

We also aim to help bring the residents of the village together for both the common good and for some fun, organizing events such as the Diamond Jubilee village fair in June of last year, Village Walks around the local area and Pub Nights where you can come and meet your friends and neighbours.

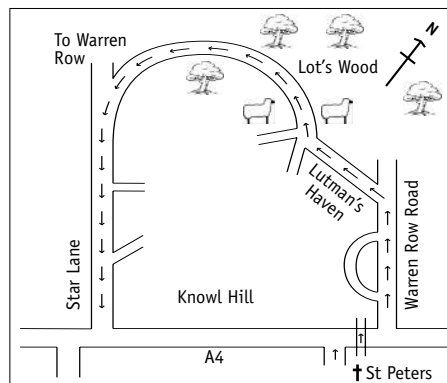
You may well ask, "What is the point of another piece of paper being delivered through my door?" The answer is that via this newsletter we hope to be able to provide a means of letting people know about upcoming entertainments, events, meetings and matters of interest and importance to Knowl Hill.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter, or would like an event being organised by your club or group to be publicised, please do get in touch by emailing us at knowl.hill@gmail.com

Nick Flook
Chair – Knowl Hill Village Association
www.khva.org



THE FIRST VILLAGE WALK



For a first venture we decided to test the village walking enthusiasts with a gentle stroll up the hill to Lot's Wood. We gathered at the Royal Oak and started by crossing the A4 by way of the foot bridge, which many confessed they had never used before! From the top of the bridge there are wonderful views of farmland and Ashley, Pudding and Bowsey Hills - well worth the effort.

As we walked up hill through Lutman's Haven more people joined us and a group of twenty villagers with children and dogs posed for a photograph by a fallen tree. Once over the stile in Lot's Wood we splashed through the mud until we joined the footpath that led us back down the hill to Star Lane

and the end of the walk. On the way, we were amazed to see that Meadow View cottage had been demolished as it was in a dangerous state of repair, and the new owner who was part of our group, explained that a new house was replacing it. The walk finished at the Seven Stars, which is also waiting for renovation and we reviewed our first venture.

We decided that it was enjoyed by all but that we would have to consider the following points for future walks:

- We will leave at the given time, late comers may be disappointed.
- Each family is responsible for the safety of themselves and their children.
- Each family will carry their own first aid, mobile phones, drinks etc.
- Every dog owner will bring leads and ensure group 'dog happiness'.
- As longer walks are planned a vehicle needs to be available at the furthest point.
- The Village Association and the walk leaders will plan the walk carefully but not be responsible for unforeseen incidents.

We look forward to you joining us on our next walk!

Dawn Gray and Ann Griffin
Knowl Hill Village Association
www.khva.org

KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE

There are approximately 11 million dogs owned in the UK and almost 40% of UK households own at least one dog. It is a sad fact that many dogs are stolen every year and dog theft is on the increase and recently there have been a number of incidents reported within Knowl Hill and surrounding areas. The emotional consequences of losing a beloved family pet are simply heartbreaking.

Why are dogs stolen?

The reasons include obtaining dogs for fighting, breeding or even for hunting purposes; sometimes a ransom is demanded. On occasions dogs taken for no apparent reason other than the perpetrator just likes the dog.

More often than not the dog is never reunited with its owner and the fate of the dog is unknown. Every owner should treat their dog as a valuable possession. I am surprised how many dogs I see tied up outside shops. You wouldn't leave your handbag unattended in the street for somebody to take, so why leave your dog? Dogs are known to have been taken from owners gardens, some from locked cars! Of course we can't keep our eyes on our dog all of the time, but owners should be vigilant continuously.

So what can you do as prevention?

- Ensure that your pet is micro chipped or tattooed. Although this will not prevent a theft taking place there is no doubt that the chances of getting your dog back will dramatically increase.
- Have your dog neutered.
- Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop.
- Keep an eye on your dog even when it is left in your own garden and ensure that your fence is in good order.
- Be vigilant on walks and keep your dogs close to you.

As a community what can we do?

- Be alert and aware that this crime is going on in your area.
- If you hear of a local theft/lost dog, put the message out on social media (facebook) including an image of the dog. Tell your friends to share. Tweet too.
- Use your local knowledge of the area to think where these lost dogs may be.
- Contact friends/neighbours and start an immediate search of the area.
- Poster, poster and poster again all over the local/surrounding area. There is not a bigger deterrent than making a dog, 'too hot to handle'.

The quicker we act as a community, the better chance we will always have of getting back our pets. The good news is that the police are now taking this crime seriously and are doing their best to combat it within the Thames Valley. www.dogwatchalert.com is a site that has been set up 'to help stem the rising tide of dog theft and rural crime in the Thames Valley area'. Please sign up to receive the free email alerts.

We also need many more volunteers within the RG10 area. Dog Lost was set up in 2003 and in that time thousands of missing and stolen dogs have been reunited. Dog Lost is run by volunteers. 1000's of volunteers work really hard every day to support its efforts in reuniting dogs with their owners. Dog Lost and the team have close working relationships with dog wardens, local rescue centres and the Police and, at a time when dog-napping has become a widespread crime, the website www.doglost.co.uk is providing an increasingly vital service. It receives over 100,000 visitors a month and reunites over 100 lost or stolen dogs every week. Please sign up today to help make Knowl Hill and surrounding areas a place that dog thieves do not wish to visit.

NB: Two Plummer Terriers were stolen from kennels in a garden at Knowl Hill on Sunday 3rd March 2013. Amber is a copper and tan female, 18 months old and microchipped. Becky is a female, 3 years old with scarring on her nose and the top of her tail is worn. She is also microchipped. Police believe that the same offenders are likely to have been involved in several dog thefts in recent weeks. Any information to 01865293955. Police Reference: LC4214406/13.

Meriel Johnson
Knowl Hill Village Association
www.khva.org



COMMUNICATING

to a village of about 1000 people would, on first inspection, appear to be a fairly simple task. That is until you think about how people like to get their information. Some prefer web-based communication, some like email, others are not keen on any computer-based information at all and prefer a piece of paper.

Then you get to the thorny issue of how often you communicate, little and often or in larger blocks but more infrequently. The Communications Group of the Knowl Hill Village Association has set about the problem by trying to cater for as many tastes as possible.

For those people who like to browse the news at their leisure there is the Knowl Hill Village Association website - www.khva.org.

For those who like the news to come to them, we publish the Knowl Hill Village News free email bulletin, as and when there is news to circulate. This is a short email based publication that you can subscribe to by going to the KHVA website www.khva.org and putting your email address into the 'Subscribe to our mailing list' box on the home page.

For those who like a paper based approach we are offering this newsletter. We plan to publish this 3 to 4 times a year, with delivery right to your door. In between these publications, we plan to post notices about individual events and items of local interest in the Village Hall, the Village Shop in Choseley Road and Local Pubs such as the Royal Oak.

If you are interested in being part of the Communications Group or have articles or events that you would like to share with the village please do get in touch. You can contact us by email at knowl.hill@gmail.com

Nick Flook
Chair – Communications Group
www.khva.org

EXHIBITION OF EIGHT ARTISTS

Local resident Rosemary Harper is hosting a Bucks Open Studios exhibition in June, a visual arts event in which artists, craftswomen and craftsmen open their studios and run exhibitions for the public to visit. The exhibition is at Micklems Farmhouse, Knowl Hill Common. In addition to Rosemary's creative work, there will be displays from 7 other artists. The exhibition runs from 8-23 June and is open from 11am - 6pm each day. Tea and homemade cakes will be on sale and entry to the exhibition is free. Come and view some original creative work by local professional artists in a characterful 18th century barn, with a chance to meet the artists and chat to them about their work. This is a wonderful opportunity to treat yourself or buy a present for a friend. Or you can simply relax in beautiful surroundings.



BUCKSOPENSTUDIOS
Countywide exhibitions and events by local artists and makers

An exhibition is being held at Micklems Farmhouse, Knowl Hill Common, Knowl Hill RG10 9YD
8-23 June 2013 from 11.00-6.00 daily

A group of eight artists are showing paintings, printmaking, glass, jewellery, felting, greetings cards and more.
Come and meet the artists, enjoy tea and homemade cakes and have a walk around the garden!

Artists include:

Carolyn Beale - Paintings in watercolour, acrylics and mixed media.

Prints including collagraph, drypoint and woodcuts.

Janet Richardson - Silver & 14ct Gold Fill Jewellery.

Jenni Pink Costello - Unique, handmade, lampwork glass beads and silver jewellery.

Rosemary Harper - Contemporary sterling silver jewellery combined with beads, enamels and semi-precious stones. Watercolour paintings, lino prints, collagraph and drypoint prints.

John Eastwood - Inventive contemporary stained glass and kiln formed glass objects and pictures using a variety of materials included in the design.

Jo Sinclair - Fine silver jewellery with enamel work and semi precious stones. Needle felt accessories and decorations and illustrated greetings cards.

Simon Harper - Still life and portraiture in oils and acrylics. Pencil life drawings. Commissions undertaken.

Caroline Loveys - Jewellery, mirrors and decorative pictures using glass, mixed paper collage with beads and embellishments.

See our entry on the Bucks Open Studio website www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

- you can use the search facility, enter our postcode of RG10 9YD, and view the pages of all eight of the artists.

LANDSHARE - LET'S GET GROWING TOGETHER

Landshare brings together people who have a passion for home-grown food, connecting those who have land to share with those who need land for cultivating food. Since its launch through River Cottage in 2009 it has grown into a thriving community of more than 55,000 growers, sharers and helpers in the UK.

Landshare is for people who:

- Want to grow their own fruit and veg but don't have anywhere to do it.
- Have a spare bit of land they're prepared to share.
- Can help in some way - from sharing knowledge and lending tools to helping

out on the plot itself.

- Support the idea of freeing up more land for growing.
- Are already growing and want to join in the community.

Visit www.landshare.net to find out if there are people in your area who have land to offer or who are looking to use land to grow fruit and vegetables.

General groups are a great way to get together with other Landsharers. You could start up a group of growers in your area (tip: include a helper or two!) to swap tips and advice online, and perhaps arrange to meet up to share experiences,

seeds and produce.

Your group can have its own blog and forum, and you can display listings from all your group members there as well as list events and upload photos, documents or videos of interest to your group. You can also connect with groups and organisations that are related to yours.

It began with the tiny seed of an idea - and it's growing and growing.



PROMOTING GOOD SPIRIT...

The idea behind the KHVA Community Group is to build and promote good community spirit in the village. This is a fairly wide brief and includes a variety of activities such as planting the verges through the village with bulbs for some spring colour, supporting local charities as well as regular litter picking expeditions. The group is very active and has a number of current and planned projects all of which could use additional volunteers.

Community affects us all and makes the village a better place to live. We know that there are already plenty of people who check on their neighbours and help them when they need things like a lift to the doctor's surgery or help with filling in a form or even just a chat



Villagers planting bulbs by the A4.



over a cup of tea. However, extra help is always needed, sometimes in bad weather, sometimes when it gets very hot, sometimes just because. Knowl Hill is already a lovely community, but in these difficult times perhaps we all need to do just a bit more to help out.

If you would like to volunteer in any way at all please do get in touch by emailing us at: knowl.hill@gmail.com

Ted Sulley
Community Group Chair
www.khva.org

GET INVOLVED

Hurley Parish Council represents the five villages of Knowl Hill, Hurley, Littlewick Green, Burchetts Green and Warren Row. The council is made up of ten members drawn from each village who represent not only the residents of their own village but also those of the whole parish. The council is non political and deals with many local matters such as planning (supporting or objecting to planning applications

which are then decided by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), looking after play areas, reporting on the state of footpaths and rights of way, trying to find solutions to problems such as parking in Hurley Village during the summer, providing a link with the Royal Borough and receiving reports on Royal Borough matters from Borough Councillors and much more.

Monthly meetings are held around the villages and residents are welcome to attend and raise matters of concern during the Open Forum held at the beginning of each meeting. Minutes and agendas are displayed on noticeboards in each village and can also be found on the Hurley Parish website www.hurleyparish.org.uk

Sandra Baker
Parish Councillor
www.hurleyparish.org.uk

A HELPING HAND

Could you spare a few hours every month to keep the valuable service of the Twyford, Wargrave and District Volunteer Centre available for us in Knowl Hill? Living in Know Hill and the surrounding country districts is wonderful whilst you have the convenience of driving your car. However it only takes a small change of circumstance to limit your freedom to enjoy this independence.

It happened to me. I needed eye drops for a test at Royal Berkshire

Hospital whilst my husband was away in Africa and as a driver for the service for several years, I knew how easy it is to access an escort to a hospital or medical appointment.

We need to keep this service for Knowl Hill residents and it is only fair to find some more drivers to augment the Twyford and Wargrave volunteers. Brian and I only accept a drive once every few weeks, so it is not a vast commitment. We are paid mileage and we escort the patient to the appropriate waiting room and wait for them.

You will find more information either by phoning the office which is in the Lady Elizabeth Day Centre in Twyford (0118 934 3010) or accessing their website www.twyfordvolunteerdrivers.org.uk Please give this serious consideration, you, like us, may need the service one day.

Ann and Brian Griffin
www.twyfordvolunteerdrivers.org.uk



GARDEN SUPPER PARTY

The Knowl Hill Village Association offers you a fantastic opportunity to visit the organic gardens of Richard Sandford at Lower Lovetts Farm, Knowl Hill, from 6-10pm on Sunday 28 July. There will be a welcoming glass of bubbly when you arrive and Richard will be giving a guided tour of the gardens between 6-~67pm. A delicious supper will then be served including a fine selection of cheeses, dips, salads, strawberries and cream together with wines and cordials.

You can stroll round the gardens, sit in the marquees on the lawn and soak up the atmosphere! Tickets will be on sale soon from the village shop or from Kim Simmons-Hodge on 01628 824655 or simmons-hodge@sky.com

The gardens

In a spectacular grow-your-own experiment, Richard has turned half an acre of his farm into a productive plot.

The plants are defended against deer and rabbits by a tall fence and the garden contains a polytunnel, large fruit cage and a central flower bed to attract pollinators. Espaliered pears and apples edge beds that rotate tightly packed crops of brassicas, herbs, salad and garlic, while great pylons of scrambling vines produce shelling beans for year-round use.

The polytunnel is home to over 70 chillies including 'Hungarian Hot Wax' and 'Aurora'. It produces in excess of 250kg of tomatoes, such as 'Black Krim', 'Purple Russian' and 'Red Zebra', which are eaten fresh, dried and preserved. Home-made passata is a favourite, using 'Jersey Devil' and 'Speckled Roman' tomatoes. "We cook the tomatoes and strain off the juice to make tomato stock – nothing is wasted. And we also reduce passata with chilli and spice to make harissa paste," Richard comments.

Fabulous recipes featuring concentrated flavours and feisty combinations emerge from the kitchen. Roast tomato and garlic sauce, and tomato and chilli jam are favourites. Sugar and salt are kept to a minimum while flavour is added with horseradish, black cumin and fresh herbs.

Rows of neat glass jars keep Richard going all year: he is self-sufficient apart from rye, flour, rice, oil and chick peas. Apples and plums are picked when they are perfectly ripe and preserved without sugar, while a steam juicer converts soft fruit into juices and cordials. Pears are preserved as purée, in stock syrup or bottled in Poire William liqueur. He even uses dried edible flowers such as violets, marigolds and echinacea to make natural teas.

Kran Sondh
Events Group Chair
www.khva.org



Fundraising event for
KNOWL HILL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
Knowl Hill residents, their families and friends are invited to a

GARDEN SUPPER PARTY

LOWER LOVETTS FARM
by kind permission of Richard Sandford

SUNDAY 28 JULY 2013
6-10PM

All food and drinks included in ticket price
6-7pm guided tour of the gardens by Richard Sandford
Tickets available from Knowl Hill village shop or Kim Simmons-Hodge on 01628 824655

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Mrs Pam O'Brien



We are a small Victorian school, catering for up to 91 children aged between 5-11 years old (Reception to Year 6). Our families come from a wide catchment area including Henley, Littlewick Green, Twyford, Wargrave, Maidenhead and Knowl Hill village.

The school has strong links with Wargrave Parish, Hurley Parish and St Peter's church located next door to our school. We celebrate Christian values

through the promotion of our 'Golden rules' which fosters high expectations of behaviour, courteous, consideration, respect and good manners of which we are renowned.

Our school has an excellent reputation for providing high academic standards through a stimulating and inspiring curriculum. We are very proud of our school and welcome the involvement of Knowl Hill residents in our activities.

On 29 April we held a Jumble Sale - thank you to everyone who supported us - the event made a fantastic £410 for school funds. We will also receive payment in due course for the 32 bags of left over clothing and textiles which were collected by Wastebusters. A great result!

Our Family Fun Day takes place on Saturday 29 June from 1pm-3.30pm - Please do come along and join in.

How you can help

We would very much appreciate offers of assistance from Knowl Hill locals with our vegetable garden and our

wildlife space, both of which are works in progress. We are extremely keen to establish both areas but, unfortunately, their development has been on the slow side because of staff time constraints. We only have a small team of staff who sometimes are not able to devote as much time to such extra-curricular projects as they would like.

We would be most grateful for practical help with the garden and wildlife areas, preferably on a regular, weekly basis. If there are any local Knowl Hill residents who could offer assistance, we would be delighted to hear from them! Please ring the Headteacher, Mrs Pam O'Brien on 01628 822584 if you would like to find out more.

Pam O'Brien

www.knowlhillschool.co.uk



EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

Monday 13 May 9.30am Badminton
Wednesday 15 May 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
Thursday 16 May 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Friday 17 May 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up - sewing group
6-6.30pm The Cookery Club Kran (07411 151276)
7-9pm Girl Guides
Monday 20 May 9.30am Badminton
Tuesday 21 May 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Wednesday 22 May 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
Thursday 23 May 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Friday 24 May 7-9pm Girl Guides
Monday 27 May 9.30am Badminton
Tuesday 28 May 7.30pm Organ Club
Wednesday 29 May 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
Thursday 30 May 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Friday 31 May 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up - sewing group
6-6.30pm The Cookery Club Kran (07411 151276)
7pm Village drinks night at the The Royal Oak

JUNE

Monday 3 June 9.30am Badminton
6-10pm Thames Dogs Training (01628 631804)
Wednesday 5 June 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
Thursday 6 June 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Saturday 8 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Sunday 9 June 10-5pm West London Cycle Association
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Monday 10 June 9.30am Badminton
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Tuesday 11 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
7.30pm Womens Institute
Wednesday 12 June 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
Thursday 13 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
Friday 14 June 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up - sewing group
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
7-9pm Girl Guides
Saturday 15 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Sunday 16 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Monday 17 June 9.30am Badminton
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Tuesday 18 June 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
Wednesday 19 June 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD

CONTACTS

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EVENTS CALENDAR CONTINUED

JUNE

- Thursday 20 June 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
- Friday 21 June 7-9pm Girl Guides
Sweet Pea Show
11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
- Saturday 22 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
- Sunday 23 June 11-6pm Art Exhibition Micklems Farmhouse RG10 9YD
- Monday 24 June 9.30am Badminton
- Tuesday 25 June 7.30pm Organ Club
- Wednesday 26 June 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
- Thursday 27 June 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
- Friday 28 June 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up - sewing group
7pm Village drinks night at the The Royal Oak
- Saturday 29 June 1-3.30pm Knowl Hill Primary School Family Fund Day

JULY

- Wednesday 3 July 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
- Monday 8 July 9.30am Badminton
6-10pm Thames Dogs Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 9 July 7.30pm Womens Institute
- Wednesday 10 July 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
- Thursday 11 July 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
- Friday 12 July 7-9pm Girl Guides
- Wednesday 17 July 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
- Thursday 18 July 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
- Friday 19 July 7-9pm Girl Guides
- Tuesday 23 July 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
- Wednesday 24 July 9.30am Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30 - 3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society dog training
- Thursday 25 July 7-9pm Dog training (01628 631804)
- Friday 26 July 7pm Village drinks night at the The Royal Oak
7-9pm Girl Guides
- Sunday 28 July 6pm Garden Supper Party at Lower Lovetts Farm
Tickets available from Kim Simmons-Hodge
Email: simmons-hodge@sky.com Tel: 01628 824655

Whilst we make every endeavour to ensure that the information provided is up to date and accurate, please check with the relevant organisations as sometimes dates and times change.

If you would like email updates between issues of the Knowl Hill News, go to our website: www.khva.org and enter your email address (bottom left hand side of the home page) for regular Knowl Hill Village News updates.

If you would like to submit an article for future publication please contact Nick Flook at knowl.hill@gmail.com



GRUNDON WASTE MANAGEMENT IS PLEASED TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE KNOWL HILL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER