

WELCOME...



...to the second issue of the Knowl Hill Village Association's newsletter. In this edition, you will find details of a full calendar of events coming up over the next few months. It would be wonderful to see these events well supported. We also have some reviews

of events that happened earlier in the summer and some other more general articles that I hope will be of interest.

We have had many articles put forward for this issue and unfortunately have not had enough room to publish them all. If you have submitted an unpublished article, thank you very much, we will try to use it in the next edition. I would also like to say a personal 'thank you' to everyone who has been involved in and supported the Knowl Hill Village Association over the summer months, including those who have contributed to producing this issue of Knowl Hill News.

Every Village Association lives or dies by the efforts of its volunteers. We are always looking for new ideas and talents to help with our activities. If you can spare some time to help I think you will find it a rewarding experience. There are four main areas of activity and below you can find the main contact for each group. Please do get in touch: Events Group - Lesley Bell 01628 822500. Community Group - Ted Sulley 01628 822643. Communications Group - Nick Flook 01628 824662. Common Land Group - Simon Dore 01628 826007.

If you are pressed for time and don't feel you can commit to permanent membership of a group, you can simply put your name down as a part-time volunteer. However much time you feel you can give, it will be gratefully received. So go on... get involved!

Nick Flook
Chair – Knowl Hill Village Association

SUPPORTING LOCAL CAUSES

As explained in our last issue of the Knowl Hill News, the idea behind the Community Group is to build and promote good community spirit in the village. As part of this very broad role, the Community Group identified two worthy local causes which received a charitable donation from the Village Association in the past year.

The first of these was the Hurley Relief in Need Charity. This very old charity was started in Knowl Hill in the 1880's to help pensioners in the village. Originally, this help took the form of regular allocations of essential items, such as coal and cloth. However, over the years this practice was phased out and now the eight beneficiaries, who the charity supports, receive a twice-yearly financial

donation to help with general living expenses.

The second cause which the KHVA supported was our local church St Peter's. The church is in dire need of redecoration both inside and out and, in fact, re-pointing has already started on the outside. Christopher Westacott, Church Warden at St Peter's said "we are very grateful for the kind donation given to us by the Village Association. The money is being put to very good use in the redecoration of the church and this will hopefully be of benefit to the whole community of Knowl Hill in years to come".

Ted Sulley
Community Group Chair



A GENTLE OUTING...

The Royal Oak to the Dew Drop Inn walk was planned as a gentle outing for Knowl Hill villagers around Ashley Hill, with a drink on the way. The bluebells were stunning, the herd of deer, magical and the flock of rare Loaghtan sheep interesting but these sights were not experienced by all our members. A few

started and finished the walk, some joined in at some point and disappeared at others. Some arrived at the Dew Drop by car and one dog never arrived. He decided it was too far and walked home! Thanks Dawn, where are we going next?

Brian Griffin

1ST KNOWL HILL AND WALTHAM GUIDES

Every year at the end of the summer term, girls and leaders venture off on another exciting holiday. This year we travelled to the Brecon Beacons, staying in a bunkhouse on a working farm. The week was crammed packed with activities, such as horse riding, indoor climbing, a 10 mile hike, canoeing along the River Wye and gorge walking. The girls were all personally challenged in every activity, as were the adults! But we all had a great time. The girls were so enthusiastic and well behaved, it made our week very enjoyable.



If any girls between 10 and 14 are interested in joining us, we meet on a Friday evening between 7-9pm at Knowl Hill Village Hall.

Please contact Nina either by phone or email (07988068326 ninalwhite@hotmail.com)

Nina White, Unit Leader



SCHOOL REUNION

Former pupils and friends of Knowl Hill School from the mid eighties to the mid nineties gathered there on Saturday 6th July for a picnic in the playground. Organised by former pupils Samantha Newell and Ian Dawson it was started by a School photo from 1993 being uploaded onto Facebook and quickly escalated into a reunion, once many of those who were on it were identified

and 'tagged'. Amongst the guests was former Head Teacher Jean Broome who was delighted to be reunited with her former pupils. Many had not seen each other for 20 years yet they were all able to recognise each other! Knowl Hill School generously opened their doors for a few hours to show what it looks like in 2013 and also displayed some historic documents including the original registration book.

Ian Dawson



SAVE OUR LOCAL CHURCH

Our lovely local church - St. Peter's - is under threat of closure due to low attendance and the on-going cost of maintenance. This would be a terrible shame as the church dates back to 1839 and is a very beautiful landmark in the village.

But we can stop the threat of closure if we use the church more extensively. The St. Peter's Strategy Team is very keen to open up the church for use by the whole community and for purposes other than church services. Ideas so far include: a place where our local school children can put on plays; a meeting place when the Village Hall is full; a place to hold concerts (apparently the acoustics are really good!)

In order to try and make this happen, the St. Peter's Strategy Team have applied for and are hoping to receive permission from the church authorities to remove some of the pews at the front, in order to open up the space for these other activities. They are also trying to raise money to install a toilet.

But they need our support. If you can help on any of the following areas, please contact one of the Church Wardens, either Christopher Westacott (01628 822725 westacott@frogmore-farm.co.uk) or David Manning (01628 823997 davidmanning@hotmail.co.uk)

- Do you know any musicians, bands or choir groups that might like to put on concerts?
- Do you know any organisations or groups that might like to hold lectures?
- Do you have any other ideas on how the church could be more widely used?
- Do you know any musicians who would like to play alongside the church organist at church services?
- Do you know any plasterers or decorators who would be prepared to give up some time to help with the redecoration of the church?

Adrienne Yentis

SUPPER PARTY DEEMED A GREAT SUCCESS



On 28th July the Knowl Hill Village Association ran a super fund raising event - a Garden Supper Party at Lower Lovett's Farm. The first of its kind, this turned out to be a great success and raised nearly £1400 for the village.

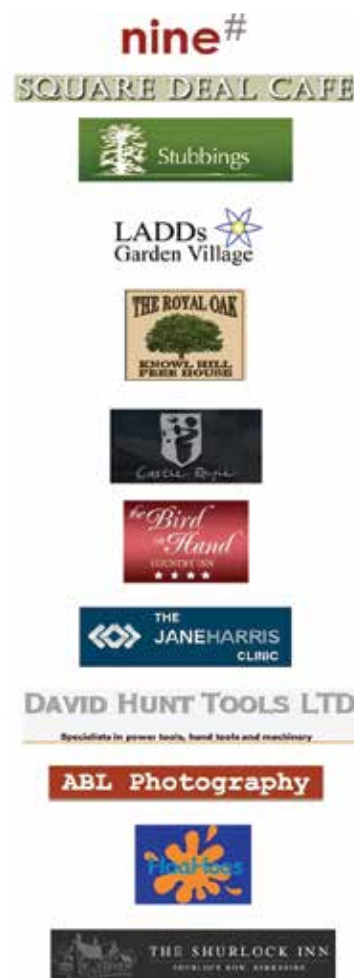
By kind permission of Richard Sandford, the lovely gardens at Lower Lovett's were opened up especially for party guests. After touring the gardens, guests were offered a glass of bubbles and some nibbles and had a chance to mingle and meet up with old friends.

Dinner was then served in the candle-lit marquees and consisted of dishes like Coronation Chicken and mung bean salad. Dessert consisted of strawberries and cream with homemade meringues. The general verdict was that the food was delicious and the wine continued to flow generously!

After dinner, the results of the raffle were announced and 17 super prizes - kindly donated by local people and businesses in the community - were handed out to supper guests. The raffle itself raised a terrific £585 towards village funds. First prize to be chosen was a complementary 4 Ball at Castle Royle Golf Club.



Thank you to all our supporters:

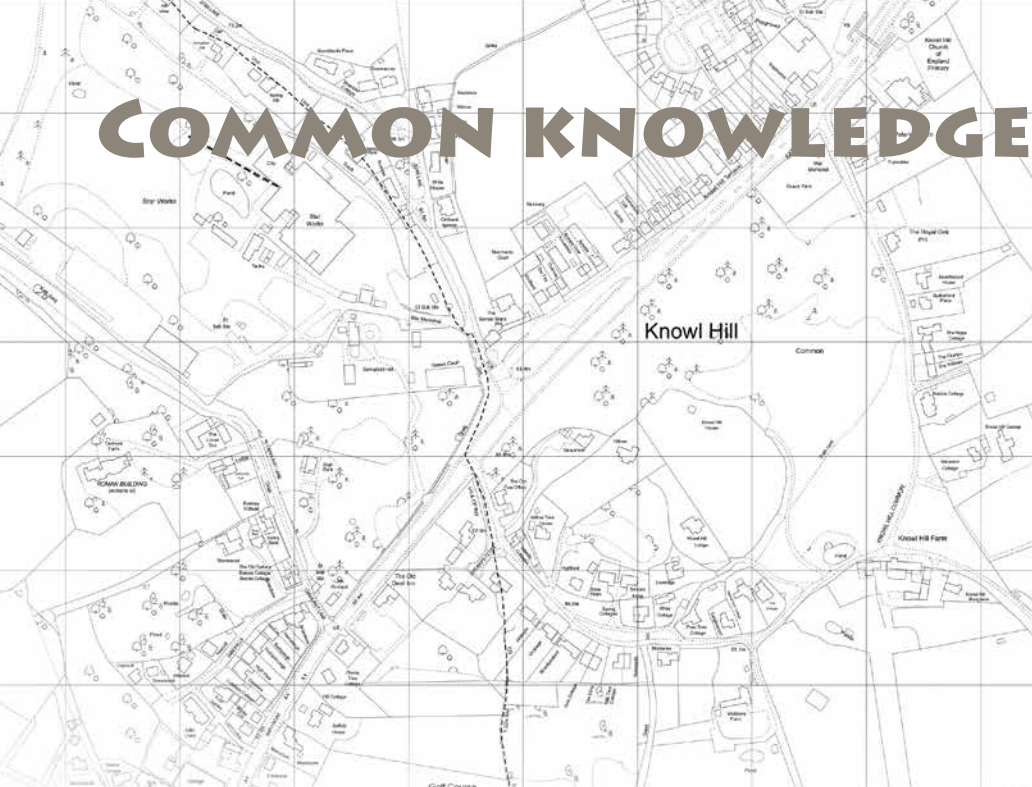


The event was a sell out with 100 tickets being sold. This was the exact number that the Events Committee - whose job it was to organise the event - had planned to sell, so their target was fully achieved. In fact, the 100th ticket was sold on the night itself, to Audrey Hodgson who has lived in Knowl Hill for over 50 years!

And finally, a big 'Thank You' to everyone who supported the event by attending, donating a raffle prize or helping to set it up!

Adrienne Yentis

COMMON KNOWLEDGE



...Well, not really. It's not easy to be sure which bits of land have actually been registered as common land. It is really only through usage that the term 'common' has come to mean land and other resources that a community has rights over or access to. The land in front of your house might well be common land, it might also be waste of the manor or it might even be privately owned - by you. Common land is always owned by a private individual or organisation, never the state. The owner - or landlord - has responsibilities and we, as commoners and citizens (see above) have rights. Your verge might therefore be; yours, yours but with responsibilities to maintain it as common land or it might belong to someone else altogether - it's hard to tell.

If, like me, from time to time you furrow your brow at the state of the verges outside your house or raise your eyebrows at the poor condition of the grassy area in the middle of your square, or tut at how the footpath behind your garden has become so overgrown, you may well also be familiar with the same 'they' as I am.

"They really should do something about that" is a phrase I would often hear myself muttering as I went about my way, presumably feeling that in making the observation, I had entirely discharged my public duty.

However, following the formation of the KHVA's Commons Group and our initial research, there are a few things that have surprised me. The first is who 'they' turn out to be, or could turn out to be. It is completely possible that 'they' may be you, or me.

You see, it's really not that simple. Even in a village the size of Knowl Hill, there are countless small packets of land which seem to have no clear boundary, ownership and which sit outside of the curtilage of any property we can identify. There are also many different types of land that your verge or green could be: Common, Waste of the Manor, Pannage, Mast, Pasture Common, Arable Common and doubtless a few more we haven't discovered yet.

It was with an interest in understanding the ownership, rights and responsibilities of 'the Common' that the group was set up but it quickly became evident (especially with the acquisition of a detailed planning map of the whole

village) that there were many other areas of land which served a valuable public purpose and we widened our remit to include all those detailed on our lovely new map. The aim then of the project is to create a register of ownership of each bit of land, the type of land and its consequential rights and landlord's responsibilities. This will mean that next time you're plagued with thistledown blowing in from the overgrown mass next to your garden and want to get something done about it, we can tell you exactly who has the responsibility to keep it in check and what your rights are. Oh and, if possible, to gather a list of 'commoners'.

To try to make sense of that, let's go back a bit. The origin of common land in medieval England was land legally held as part of the estate in land of the Lord of the manor over which tenants were given certain rights, to list a few for example; piscary rights gave the right to fish, turbary rights, to take sods of turf for fuel, common-of-marl to take sand or gravel and estovers are the right to take wood for the personal use of the tenant. Anyone holding such rights was termed a 'commoner' and although, technically until the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 it was only the commoners who held such rights and these did not necessarily include the right to go onto or pass over common land, most people did. The passing of the Act in 2000 enshrined in law the right of access (on foot only) over registered common land. Excellent, that's clear then...

Hmm, so this starts to look like a task akin to Thor counting all the stones in Wales.

Yes, but all is not lost. As recently as just before the Second World War commons were still being actively worked by commoners and only became neglected following the war because, as they could find better-paid work in other sectors of the economy, commoners largely stopped exercising their rights and the 'common knowledge' faded with their passing. But this does mean that the records and the people who remember, may well still be available to consult. And it's this that we'd love to get your help with.

Perhaps you actually know who owns your verge - or maybe you remember something about the ownership of a particular grassy area. Do you have references to odd bits of land on your deeds? Have you been in the village long enough to remember who used to graze their cattle on the common? We're dividing the village into six areas and assigning each member of the sub-group one area to research. They will be knocking on your door at some stage to ask whether you have any information which could help us complete our register. So, when they do, please do everything you can to help us to help you to know who 'they' are.

But if you're itching to tell all, don't wait for the knock - you can email us anytime at knowl.hill@gmail.com with your common knowledge. Thanks.

Simon Dore, Commons Group Chair

A FAMOUS GARDEN IN THE HEART OF KNOWL HILL

Did you know that Knowl Hill is home to a famous garden that has been featured on TV? Well, Lower Lovett's Farm – owned by Richard Sandford – has one of the best organic vegetable gardens in the country and Monty Don came to spend a day with Richard last September to film a special piece for BBC's Gardeners' World.

Monty was very impressed with the size and quality of Richard's vegetables and, in particular, with his tomatoes - saying they were the best he has ever seen in the UK!

This year Richard opened his garden to the public for 2 days in July, as part of the National Garden Scheme and people came from as far away as Wales and Cornwall in order to visit. Across the 2 open days, Richard received about 400 visitors and a further 350 have come on other days, strictly by appointment.



I sat down with Richard one evening in August and asked him some questions...

You have a very large vegetable garden - 2000 sq m. What is it about vegetables that attracts you rather than, say, flowers? I think I am a relatively practical person

and so, for me, growing vegetables has a real point to it. Flower growing is more about beauty and aesthetics. So, whilst I really like looking at flowers, I enjoy the utilitarian aspect of being able to eat my vegetables once I have grown them!

Why do you think it's so important to be organic? Modern chemicals have a lot to answer for and I think that companies these days, with the pressure they are under to make money, may be introducing chemicals



that are unsuitable for humans in the long term. It's a bit like DDT – in the 70s it was hailed as a fantastic world saving product and 20 years later it was banned as it was so dangerous. I have also found that, since being organic, I actually get less pests and diseases than when I sprayed!

That's very interesting Richard, why do you think that is? The answer is very simple. If you think about how many pests and diseases there are in the world, you can be forgiven for wondering why we are not all dead – both plants and animals! But nature, left to its own devices, will find a way to fight back. So my belief is that when you spray, you are weakening the natural resistance of the plant as well as killing the predators. Also, with an organic style of gardening, you are improving the soil all the time (say with leaf mould and horse manure) and this creates healthier plants that can withstand the bugs.

How much time does it take you to manage your veg plot? This may sound rather strange, but it's what I do at the moment. I live here in what some people would think of as an old fashioned way - in that I actually spend the vast majority of the time at home. And so my garden is my lifestyle. It's what I do at home every day.

For aspiring vegetable gardeners in Knowl Hill, what is the best advice you can give? Put your effort into growing what grows well on your plot and don't keep plugging away at things that don't do well. So, if you struggle to grow say, brassicas, carrots or blueberries, then don't! Grow the things that like it in your garden and environment.

And what about if you are just starting out? The best thing you can do is to grow things that you like eating! And also try to grow some of the basics that we all use a lot of, like potatoes, onions and carrots.

Do you have any tips on the best varieties? Yes, your own! I am a huge believer in saving your own seeds, because if a plant is doing well in your garden, the seeds from that plant will do well too. Most seed companies get their seeds from places like China and India and often the



environment they were produced in is very different to yours. So a lot of seed you buy may not be as viable as you would hope. With your own seeds you can expect 90%+ germination.

What are the best vegetables to try and propagate yourself? Well I'd start with Beans, Tomatoes, Chillis and Peppers. The seeds don't hybridise and so they stay true to the parent plant and are easy to save. Just let some of the vegetables ripen on the plant and then dry the seeds. It's that simple.

What gives you most pleasure in the garden? Getting my hands dirty! I think there is nothing so uplifting and invigorating as grubbing about in the soil!

What is your least favourite job in the garden? I can't really answer that. There isn't anything I really dislike. I suppose some jobs are more fiddly or time consuming than others. Shelling peas would probably be a contender!

Adrienne Yentis



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS...



PEGGY

I grow fruit. I did not plant the trees which yield the fruit, I inherited them, and like much that is inherited at first you are delighted at the prospect, overwhelmed by the generosity, the thought that you have been remembered and subsequently the realisation that unless the bequest is financial, which can be reasonably secreted into an offshore account, you will have to find a place to put your inheritance or a man with a van to remove it. My inheritance grows steadily each year, blossoms with awe-inspiring beauty briefly in the spring, provides ample greenery through the summer and then lets itself down altogether in the autumn by producing mind-boggling quantities of fruit.

Fruit, I have discovered, for I am not one naturally attracted to our native species save perhaps a strawberry or raspberry dusted in sugar with a generous dollop of double cream and an ice-cold glass of Prosecco, comes in many and varied guises and my inheritance includes a broad sample of apple and a smattering of pear, cherry, damson and plum. The fruit in its many forms is captivating, with rich russet reds glowing in the greenery and I am even occasionally tempted to potter through the trees come October and pluck a swollen sample to taste, if only the little blighters just stayed put upon the boughs that bow to the ground under the weight.

To be fair the fruit appears on Peggy's radar before it succumbs to gravity and

she can be found rearing up on her hind legs in the manner of a browsing gazelle, plucking apples from the tree as soon as they become tolerably sweet. Quickly she starts to appear like a badly distributed sack of potatoes with her belly sagging under the weight of the fruit.

Wasps, what are they good for? As the song goes, they are certainly a deterrent to my workforce but I can only assume that Peggy has come to some sort of arrangement with them that she won't eat them if they don't sting her or perhaps she has developed a wasp resistant coating to her tongue? What ever the answer the wasps provide no deterrent to her feasting.

Peggy, our beloved yellow Labrador, gained her name as a pup when she developed a life threatening joint infection robbing her of a major role in an Andrex commercial. Recovery took many months and she remains slightly unsound on the affected foreleg, hence Peg for Peg-leg which became Peggy. A dog with an admirable constitution and no off-switch to her appetite she has regularly amazed us with her ability to find anything vaguely edible and often quite inedible.

Apples prior to pressing are chopped or crushed and it is in much this form that the fruit re-appears in sizeable piles across the lawn throughout October and November. The apple is clearly identifiable, if not the variety, for as I explained to Peggy she is a carnivore and her bowel is ill-equipped physiologically for digesting large quantities of cellulose. The normal one or two tidy piles develops into mass production of herbivorous quantities of chopped and pressed apples piled as if an army of manically burrowing moles have overnight created a city of tunnels and littered the resultant spoil hills across the lawn.

Apples have many uses not least of which is using them as missiles to throw at Peggy to try and discourage her from eating them, admittedly self defeating but when I watch her rise gracefully over the electric fence from a standing start I have been known to take aim. In return she looks at me, rather shocked and turns grabbing up the projectile and skipping back over the fence before dashing off to enjoy her spoils.

I have considered running amok in the orchard with a chainsaw - apple wood burns with a delightful fragrance but this seems rather unfair on the apple trees who have done me no harm and to be fair while Peggy is distracted by the fruit smorgasbord she is slightly less likely to steal the children's packed lunches or the bread and butter from the breakfast table.

There are other by products caused by her diet, gas and liquid as her capacious stomach acts as a fermenting bin for the ripe fruit and as she lies on the kitchen floor digesting her fruit cocktail she sounds like a Liebig condenser as fluids and gases wage war through the coils of her digestive tract. As the gas rises, her belly visibly swells and I am tempted to strum a tune on her distended abdomen or pop her with a pin and watch her disappear off around the kitchen flying like a burst balloon. The gas battles to find exit and periodically the gurgling stops as gas tension overcomes resistance and bursts from top or bottom.

Eructating belches of Falstaffian proportions fill the room with the aroma of a cider factory on bottling day and gastric borborygmi descends as litres of fermenting juice release invisible carbon dioxide clouds of flatulence. Once again I wonder if I could utilise the gases for some commercial enterprise, surely there must be some use for fruit flavoured carbon dioxide? If not then perhaps for the gallons of fluid which is the final by-product of her pica? It is two months since I have slept through the night undisturbed and as the children no longer demand nocturnal toilet breaks I sleep deeply and need to be encouraged with a sharp elbow in the ribs to rise and let the demanding creature out into the garden to avoid a flood of biblical proportions the next morning.

There is a happy ending to this sorry tale and it is Christmas, it approaches rapidly and in December only a few persistent cooking apples remain on the trees and they will soon disappear, baked and covered in cream and Peggy's attention will turn to the Christmas tree decorations.

Richard Best

If you would like your article published please contact Nick Flook at knowl.hill@gmail.com

EVENTS CALENDAR

Unless otherwise stated, events take place in the Village Hall

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.

OCTOBER

- Friday 25 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up Sewing Group
7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
7.00 onwards Knowl Hill Village Drinks Night at the Royal Oak
- Saturday 26 7.30 Jubilee Sailing Trust Quiz Night (07876 396892)
- Sunday 27 4.00pm Family Service at St. Peter's Church
2.00-5.00pm Short Mat Bowls Match
- Monday 28 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 29 7.30pm Organ Club
- Wednesday 30 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 31 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)

NOVEMBER

- Monday 4 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 5 7.00-9.00pm Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Wednesday 6 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 7 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 8 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up Sewing Group
7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Saturday 9 7.30pm Skittles Evening (Ann - 01628 825288)
- Sunday 10 10.45am Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church
- Monday 11 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 12 7.00pm WI Group
- Wednesday 13 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 14 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 15 7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Monday 18 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 19 7.00-9.00pm Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Wednesday 20 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 21 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 22 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up Sewing Group
7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Sunday 24 4.00pm Family Service at St. Peter's Church
- Monday 25 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 26 7.30pm Organ Club
- Wednesday 27 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 28 7.30pm Organ Club
7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 29 7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
7.30pm Knowl Hill Village Drinks at The Royal Oak
- Saturday 30 2.30pm Children's Christmas Party followed by Church Raffle

DECEMBER

- Monday 2 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 3 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Wednesday 4 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 5 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 6 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up Sewing Group
7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Saturday 7 7.30pm Knowl Hill Village Evening Event at The Royal Oak
- Monday 9 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 10 7.00pm WI Group
- Wednesday 11 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 12 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 13 7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Monday 16 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 17 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Wednesday 18 9.30 Zumba (Rachel 07970 872715)
1.30-3.30pm Bowling
7.30pm Maidenhead District Canine Society Dog Training
- Thursday 19 7.00-9.00 Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Friday 20 10.30-2.30pm Stitched Up Sewing Group
7.00-9.00pm Girl Guides
- Sunday 22 4.00pm Christmas Carol Service at St Peter's Church
- Monday 23 9.30am Badminton
6.00-10pm Thames Dog Training (01628 631804)
- Tuesday 24 7.30pm Organ Club
- Wednesday 25 Christmas Day Service at St. Peter's Church

Visit the Knowl Hill website www.khva.org



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Something for the Grown-Ups at HaaHoos!

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Corporate Party Package

At £29 per person it includes:

- Painting either a mug or a plate
- Paints, glazing and firing of items
- Glass of bubbly on arrival
- Hot main meal
- Min. group size of 15 painters

These can be booked at any time and date to suit you and your guests.

Pots and Pinot Evenings

At £10 per person the studio fee includes:

- Glass of wine on arrival
- Nibbles
- Paints, glazing and firing of items
- Pottery painting technical demos

These take place every last Thursday of the month from 6pm onwards. (every Thursday during Nov and Dec) Booking is advisable.

As we are licensed a pay bar is also available!

Call us or visit our website for more info.

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

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