



Winter 2017

KNODISHALL PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council would like to thank you for your support during 2017, and to wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year

Knodishall Common

Clearing of overblown gorse on the Common will recommence in January and February. This is to comply with Natural England guidelines and to fulfil our Higher Level Stewardship obligations. As in previous years Community Payback workers will give their time cutting and clearing, and weekend village work parties will be organised to burn and tidy before the nesting season. Keep an eye out for work party dates on posters and on the village website. All help, however small, will be much appreciated.

Cancer Research UK Support Group

The recent Christmas Fayre held in the Village Hall, in aid of Cancer Research UK, has raised to date a wonderful £3105, with donations still coming in. The group also raised £760 by holding an Art Exhibition in Aldeburgh in early December.

Well done to Jo Mayhew and her team of helpers.

Knodishall Parish Council is made up of nine councillors, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman. They are all volunteers and give their time and expertise to help make Knodishall a pleasant place to live.

If you'd like to know more, or to be involved come along to a Parish Council Meeting. The

public are very welcome to attend and although they cannot speak during the meeting, questions can be asked at the end. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on January 9th in the Mission Room. Subsequent meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August, when there is no meeting.

Here is some of the work the Parish Council has done during 2017

- Sourced and installed the Community Defibrillator and run a CPR awareness session in the Village Hall.
- Installed several new, larger doggie bins
- Organised a village litter pick
- Cut and maintained open spaces and the Play Area
- Continued clearance and maintenance of the Common
- Planted fruit trees near the pond as part of the Scattered Orchards project.
- Provided financial support to several village groups via 137 grants.

Knodishall Flower Show

It will soon be the start of another year and time to think about Spring and the garden. What to grow? Time to choose your seeds and while you're choosing do keep the show in mind and maybe think about entering. As usual it will be on the first Saturday in August and it's never too early for a diary entry. For

those cooks in the village it will soon be seville orange and marmalade making time. Maybe try a different recipe this year and keep a jar aside for the Flower Show.

The schedule of classes to enter will be available after Easter, and will include many old favourites in the vegetable sections as well as some easy recipes for you to try out and enter. We hope to see many of you in August with an entry you've made or grown yourself.

Jackie Bell

The Common Rambler

During the second half of October you might have seen what appeared to be large black caterpillars moving through the grass near Black Barn Cottage. On closer inspection, reddish brown hairs ran down the back and small bright orange stripes marked the side. These are the caterpillars of the Fox Moth, a drab brownish yellow moth. If you see one, don't pick it up, the hairs are highly irritant.

You might also have noticed during the summer and early autumn small heaps of very fine soil, shaped like a volcano with a crater. In the centre is a single hole. The heaps are often made on impacted soil such as a path. These mounds are made by the Minotaur Beetle, a type of dung beetle. The beetle is shiny black and almost square in shape. Its food is rabbit and sheep droppings and as far as the common is concerned it will be rabbit droppings. These are placed down the hole in the heap and provide food for the larvae which hatch from its eggs. If you want to look up information about it use its latin name, *Typhaeus typhoeus*. Although I haven't seen Fieldfares close up this year the recent cold spell has begun to move them down from Scandinavia. They arrive in groups and are quite noisy chattering away.

Knodishall Village Hall

Every autumn the Trustees prepare a rolling maintenance programme for the following year. This might include redecorating an area of the hall, both inside and out. Many small improvements and repairs are carried out and suggestions from the public are taken on board, such as the new baby changing facility. Most of this work has been done by the trustees, however we have been helped in different ways by several Knodishall residents including Mike Hart, Graham Smith, Colin Emerson, David Drage and Peter Heffer, whilst Alan Smith and Richard Laws Smith have cut the hedges on each side of the field. Byron Smith kindly refurbished and painted the Village Hall sign. We are

extremely grateful for this help and will probably be 'twisting arms' again!

Our caretaker, Anna Kersey, continues to keep the hall in an excellent state of cleanliness, her work is much appreciated. During the summer Mike Easy maintained the field by mowing and feeding to a standard where it was a picture to behold. Soon the Trustees will be selling the 300 Club tickets for 2018. These are an important source of income for the hall. Tickets are priced at £6 for the year with chances of winning the monthly prizes of £25, £10 or £5, and a six-monthly prize of £100 or £40. If you wish to join please have a word with one of the trustees.

Knodishall Playgroup

The Playgroup, housed in the Mission Room, is flourishing. We are currently supporting about 30 families in the area. There will be over 35 children on roll in the new year and others keen to start are on a waiting list. We are so pleased that our manager Karen Pearce is back with us full-time leading the team. Our deputy supervisor Jess Kersey successfully completed her Early Years teaching qualification with an outstanding grade. We are pleased that Alice Balls has joined the staff and is working to gain practioner status. Debbie Godbold, who is very experienced, is our other professional.

We are a registered charity and although some money is forthcoming through funded places and parental contributions we are always in need of money to maintain our out-of-date building and buy resources for the children. We are very grateful when the village is able to support our fund-raising activities, for the group has a good reputation and is a great asset for families in the community.

Use it or lose it

Did you know that the Suffolk Libraries mobile library visits your area regularly, giving access to hundreds of thousands of books, including large print, audio books and children's books? You can also hire CDs and DVDs for a small charge. If the items you want are not on the van you can reserve them from the library catalogue free of charge and have them delivered on the van at a later date. The staff are friendly and helpful, and offer a warm welcome to anyone who visits. The steps convert into a lift for those with limited mobility. This is a valuable service to rural and isolated communities who have lost many of their other local services, and can

also be an opportunity to meet up with other people and catch up with the local goings on. Come along to visit us and help to keep this service running for YOUR community – all are welcome! Please do give the service your support – the more people use it the less likely we are to lose it.

The Mobile Library is parked outside the Mission Room from 11.10am to 11.40am on Fridays January 19th, February 16th and March 16th.

Help please!

Knodishall Local History Group is now in it's fifth year. With the help of local people we have amassed a large digital collection of photos, audio recordings and documents relating to the village. The group is now putting out a call for help.

We would like to create a searchable online database to make the collection accessible to anyone (our facebook page has attracted visits from around the world) But we don't have the knowledge to do so within the group at present. If anyone out there could spare a little time to give us some advice and guidance we would really appreciate it.

Contact Julia Pipe, Co-ordinator, 830639

Villager's Notes

As some of us sing our favourite carols at Christmas one in particular is perhaps more resonant with us in the country than it may be to our town-bound cousins - and it can lead us to consider all the greenery that adorns our churches and houses at this festive time of year. The carol of course is The Holly and the Ivy – but what of Fir, Yew and Mistletoe.

Holly is quite obviously the big one and hugely symbolic in the Christian faith. Its sharp prickles representing the crown of thorns and the red berries, the drops of Jesus's blood. Not so obvious is the inclusion of Ivy which is not mentioned again after the very first line. Some say, with its ability to cling that it represents faith – this is at least a benevolent interpretation of an exasperating plant. Fir and Yew, being evergreen, are thought to represent eternal life.

Finally, Mistletoe which seems to be the odd man out and indeed was banned from churches in early times. According to recent newspaper reports its reputation is not much higher today and we should all be very confident as to whom we may kiss under its berries this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Knodishall WI

Knodishall WI has had an enjoyable year, with a good mix of talks, hands on meetings and outings. Next year we will have our annual meal out in January. In February we are having a talk about Garretts of Leiston and the Long Shop Museum, while in March Sonya Burrows is coming to talk about drought gardening. In May we have a presentation by Health Watch Suffolk.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, where visitors and potential members will find a warm welcome.

St Lawrence Church, Knodishall

Our Christmas services this year are –
Sunday 17th December at 6pm, Carol Service followed by mulled wine and nibbles.
Sunday 24th December at 9.30am, Morning Praise with Blessing of the Crib.
Christmas Day at 9.30am, Holy Communion
You will be most welcome at any of them.

News from the Methodist Church

Instead of the usual 10.30 morning service there will be a Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 17th December and our Nativity Play will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve, both followed by refreshments.

Regular activities continue as follows -

Scrabble Tea is on the second Friday of each month, 2pm-4 pm, everyone welcome. £1.50

Open House is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm with games, quizzes, fun and laughter followed by tea. £1.50

Messy Play welcomes those aged 5 to 12 with fun, craft and stories. Saturdays January 13th, February 10th, March 10th.

Youth Club meets on a Friday evening twice monthly January 12th and 26th, February 9th and 23rd, March 9th and 23rd, April 27th.

Ladies Group is on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. No meeting in January. There is information in the church porch regarding most of these activities.

Knodishall Parish Newsletter is published by the Parish Council four times a year and distributed free to every house in Knodishall. Contributions of village interest are welcomed. We reserve the right to edit as necessary. Views and opinions are contributors own and not necessarily shared by the editor. Please email jane.ohear@gmail.com or deliver copy to The Forge, Mill Road, Knodishall

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Mission Room on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August when there is no meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend. In addition to being displayed on the Knodishall noticeboard, notification of all meetings plus subsequent minutes can be accessed at knodishall.suffolk.cloud

Highlights of recent meetings

September

Cllr Staff reported that the VAS was displayed on School Road for nearly a month. As the traffic on School Road does not generate much speeding it was agreed to move it to the noticeably busier Aldringham Road for a second trial. The Clerk shared outline details of how to organise a local speedwatch team and the need to partner with another parish council.

Councillors discussed how best to deal with an increase in anti-social parking and agreed that barrier posts at the worst affected places was probably the best solution.

Cllr. Baly expressed concern about the SCDC Local Plan Reveiw in that the proposal indicated more than 500 new build homes in Knodishall. Cllr Lister advised that the earmarked land is not high status for development and at this stage all the plans are potential rather than confirmed.

Concerns were raised over uncontrolled and

frequently dangerous parking in Judith Avenue at school times. As KPC has no direct control over parking regulations or their implementation, Cllr. Hayward elected to liaise with Headteacher, Mrs Fewkes to establish the most effective way of addressing the problem.

October

In response to SCC Highways lack of immediate remedial action following another disruptive flood episode on Leiston Road on September 29th, KPC councillors will aim to submit photos of all future incidents to Drainage@suffolkhighways.co.uk In addition, the Clerk had written to SCDC MP Therese Coffey about the ongoing, unsatisfactory lack of constructive help from Highways.

The Clerk advised that suffolkroadsafe.net has been introduced to manage community speedwatch initiatives and that further KPC speed control efforts need to be based on its procedures, including conducting a coherent risk assessment.

Cllrs Mayhew and Staff would follow up required Play Area repairs and maintenance highlighted in the recent annual ROSPA Play Area safety inspection.

Cllr Hayward reported that a new climbing frame is the most popular item requested for the Play Area. It was agreed that more research into the most appropriate model and cost is needed before applying for grant support.

The meeting agreed with Cllr Mayhew's suggestion that unless it was deemed necessary nearer the time, the parish council meeting in August 2018 would be suspended

November

Cllr Wigg said volunteers would be repairing car park surfaces, and that he and Cllr Staff would organise purchase of telegraph poles for bollards to deter anti-social parking.

The annual Common inspection by Susan Stone from Suffolk Wildlife would be co-ordinated by Cllr. Wigg and Cllr Black agreed to arrange support workers for the annual winter clearance work.

Cllr Baly had conducted a straw poll about installing a mini-football pitch on the Play Area and the result was positive. He also re-expressed his concern about the impact on the village environment of potential housing developments shown in the SCDC Local Plan Review, as well as the two impending windfarm substations. All the councillors agreed to monitor further developments carefully.