

Knapton News



Issue 1

June/July 2007

Welcome to the Knapton Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of Knapton News!

When the Village Plan Questionnaire was circulated last November, and the results subsequently collated, one of the most popular requests was for a village newsletter. The first task of the Village Plan Steering Group was therefore to give this a try!

Sadly, the leading item we have to

report in this, our first edition, is the sudden death of our Steering Group Chairman, David Spencer. He will be very greatly missed.

The Village Plan was very important to David and we are committed to completing it in his memory.

To learn how you can become involved, please see the article overleaf.

Inside this issue:

WELCOME TO KNAPTON NEWS!	1
OBITUARY DAVID SPENCER	1
THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS	2
THE VILLAGE PLAN	2
THE PARISH COUNCIL	3
GREEN ISSUES	3
RECREATION	4
WHAT'S ON IN KNAPTON?	4

Obituary David Spencer

11 May 1947—30 April 2007

The gentle giant that was David has touched many lives. His role within the Parish Council was wide and his knowledge of so many subjects was second only to Henry Wild. Never ceasing to gather more information when available, his latest plan for the council was to become our fountain of knowledge on recycling and composting. His own job description was 'The Compost Czar of Knapton' - we all thought it would be rubbish!!!

David's role within MADRA helped it through a difficult period and his ability to cut to the chase with his quiet, definitive, concise words impressed me time and time again.

At council meetings, I have suddenly realized that listening to David, I have been administered a mild telling off without being aware of it. His 'word-smithing' was well forged and his words will remain with me.

His project for tree planting was well received. We would like to help to see it through and plant a tree for each person in the village—a fine monument for a fine man.

Alan Young, Knapton Parish Council



*David and his first grandchild
April 2007*

Parish Council Elections

The Election of Councillors for Knapton on Thursday 14 June will no longer take place. The election is classed as uncontested, as only seven candidates were standing for election.

The Returning Officer, Philip Burton, announced on 21 May the new Council will consist of Norman Dodd, Sally Dodd, Bea Gatfield, Karen Herbert-Okey, Peter Kaye, Clyde Venvell and Alan Young.

The existing Parish Council will meet on Tuesday 5 June and the new Parish Council will meet for the first time on Tuesday 3 July, which is also the AGM. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings!

The Village Plan

The Village Plan

Last November, the Village Plan Questionnaire was circulated. The response was extremely encouraging, with 116 completed forms being collected out of 150. When the questionnaire results were presented at a village meeting on 28th November, it was suggested that a steering group be formed to decide how to use the information gathered to prepare the Plan.

The Steering Group

The members of the newly formed Steering Committee are Bea Gatfield, Pat Spencer, Richard Elliott-Smith and Tricia Doidge. We are always looking for more members!

Questionnaire results

The results of your questionnaires asked us to look at the following areas:

- Affordable housing; speed restrictions; bus service; ambulance response times; information re NHS dentists.
- Lobbying for connection to mains drainage.
- Village amenities – bus shelter; village hall; play area; shop/post office.
- Communications – newsletter; web site.
- Footpaths – creation of new footpaths; footpath map; verges and hedges; Millenium Field.
- Recreation – youth group; toddlers group; mother and baby group; activities to suit older villagers.

As you can see, the list is long and we are a small group! We really do need more help if we are to complete the Village Plan.

We need YOU to become involved

Maybe you cannot spare the time to be on the Steering Committee, but have an interest in one of the topics listed above? For example, do you feel strongly that the Village should have a bus shelter or a better bus service? Possibly you are a new mother, who would really value a mother and toddler group, or a teenager who wants to get together with other young people in the Village? It would be great if you could be involved with just one project – the more villagers who become involved, the more likely we are to succeed.

Please do come along to our next meeting at the Village Hall on to see how you can become involved.

If you are cannot come to the meeting but are able to help in any way, please contact Bea Gatfield (722458), Richard Elliott-Smith (720622) or Tricia Doidge (721855) or email pbd49@btinternet.com.



**Art
Exhibition**

*Knapton Village Hall
Saturday 25
& Sunday 26 August
All Welcome!*

The Village Plan: The Parish Council

The Parish Council will undertake various tasks, following the result of the recent questionnaire.

In the short term, enquiries will be made to gain information regarding ambulance response times and the availability of the NHS dentists.

The campaign to extend the use of speed restrictions and traffic calming will continue, with the backing of our District Councillor.

Bus companies will be contacted to inform them of the questionnaire results, to establish whether they intend to enhance the services available.

A site will be found to erect a new bus shelter and grants will be sought to cover the cost.

Longer term initiatives, which will be undertaken by the Parish Council, will be to seek funding for a Community Centre and the provision of affordable and sheltered housing.

A Community Hall could include space for indoor sports and recreational activities, an area for youth and young children to use and perhaps space for a community shop/Post Office.

The Parish Council will establish the need for affordable and sheltered housing. They will lobby the County Council and Housing Associations to provide suitable housing, within the village, for residents and their families.

Women's Own Strawberry Tea

Tuesday 3 July at 2.30 p.m.
Village Hall, Knapton

Raffle Bring and Buy
All profits in aid of the charity 'BREAK'



Latest update on the Lottery Grant!

With regard to the possibility of a Community Centre, a submission was made for a grant of up to £500,000 to the Big Lottery. The Parish Clerk has received confirmation in the past few days that the submission is being considered and has been allocated a project number. Project staff will be in consultation with the Clerk at a later date—watch this space for updates!

The Village Plan: Green Issues

Volunteers will be needed to enhance and maintain our environment

The hedgerow trees are increasingly falling prey to old age and need replacing. If a sensible planting/replacement scheme can be agreed, and implemented each year from 2008 to 2013 then, in time, our roadside verges will once again become tree lined.

A map of existing footpaths will be compiled and distributed.

New footpaths can be created. This will be a long term project but, by 2013, it is hoped that footpaths will link 'The Green' to 'The Street' and, more ambitiously, a footpath/cycle way will link Knapton to Mundesley.

The future of the Millennium Gardens poses problems. In order to keep the Council Tax precept to an acceptable level, it would not be possible to employ the services of a gardener. So, unless volunteers are willing to come forward to carry out occasional maintenance work, then other solutions may have to be explored.

The Millenium Field will continue to be maintained and an expansion of its use explored.

Residents of Knapton will be given the opportunity to reduce the amount of landfill waste produced by composting kitchen and garden waste. This will also provide free nutrients for their gardens.

The Village Plan: Recreation

The Village Plan Questionnaire highlighted many issues. The one which caught my eye was that of a requirement for social activities for children, families and the elderly. Many different ideas were mentioned from a mother and baby group and youth club to a whist club and senior citizens' club.

Using the Village Plan as a spring board, I would like to compile a list of feasible ideas and then arrange a questionnaire to decipher who would actually be interested in said events and would turn up etc. As for children's activities, I feel it would be of more benefit to find out what the children of Knapton really want, so I am hoping to arrange a meeting for the children to come to with their ideas (further details to follow, but please note that 8's and under would need to be accompanied by an adult).

This will all take time, but I am hoping to gather a group of interested people to help with organizing ideas and then to partake in running events. Obviously, there is a requirement with children's activities for the adult supervisors to be police checked, but this is something to be looked at nearer the time of putting things into place.

If you have specific ideas, or wish to come on board as part of the 'Recreation Team', please phone Bea on 01263 722458 or 07789 674 637.



What's on in Knapton during June and July?

JUNE:

- 5th Knapton Women's Own 2:30 p.m. The Chapel
- 18th Knapton Ladies Club 7:30 p.m. Village Hall
Mike Cunningham speaking on Pigney's Wood
- Mondays Pilates 1:45 p.m. Village Hall
- Wednesdays Keep Fit 7:00 p.m. Village Hall
- Thursdays: Art Class 7:00 p.m. Village Hall

JULY:

- 3rd Knapton Women's Own Strawberry Tea
2:30 p.m. Village Hall
- 16th Knapton Ladies Club Summer Supper
6:00 p.m. Toghill, The Street
- Mondays Pilates 1:45 p.m. Village Hall
- Wednesdays Keep Fit 7:00 p.m. Village Hall
- Thursdays: Art Class 7:00 p.m. Village Hall

KNAPTON SUMMER FETE

Need the date and
text from John

**Remember to visit the
Knapton website
www.knapton-village.co.uk**

The future of Knapton News!

We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of Knapton News.

The newsletter is very much in an experimental stage. Whether it is successful depends on everyone in the Village and how much you all contribute to it.

What can be included? Well, pretty much anything! There are serious topics, many of which will be raised as part of the Village Plan, and you may like to have a 'letters to the editor' page to let us know your thoughts on these topics. How about also including the following:

- Advertising events within the village
- Items for sale
- Church news
- Celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries etc.
- A letters page
- Memories about the village
- Amusing anecdotes

We are trying out the newsletter initially for six editions, as follows:

- June/July 2007
- August/September 2007
- October/November 2007
- December/January 2008
- February/March 2008
- April/May 2008

If you would like to include an article, advert etc. in the next edition, the copy deadline is

STRICTLY Thursday 20th July.

Please either bring/post your copy to 'White Rose House', Hall Lane or email it to me at pbd49@btinternet.com.

If you would like to include something in the newsletter (maybe your memories of the village or interesting anecdotes), but you are not confident at putting pen to paper, why not give me a call on 721855 and I will arrange for a member of the Steering Group to come round and talk to you.

There is, of course, a cost to creating newsletters! We do have some funding to help with the trial, but it would keep costs down greatly if those of you with email could receive the newsletters by email rather than as a hard copy. If you would like to do this, please either complete the form below or email me at pbd49@btinternet.com.

We are also looking for volunteers to deliver the newsletter. If you can help by delivering to a few houses near you, please let me know.

Constructive feedback (whether good or bad) is gratefully received! We are wearing 'L' plates at the moment and we need your help to make this newsletter a success!

Tricia Doidge

(on behalf of the Village Plan Steering Committee)

If you have Internet access, don't forget to visit our new Knapton website:

www.knapton-village.co.uk

I would like to receive the Newsletter via email

Name

Email address

Home address

Please return this form to Tricia at 'White Rose House', Hall Lane or email pbd49@btinternet.com with the above information