

Knapton Newsletter

Summer 2002

This Newsletter is for KNAPTON VILLAGE only and is about Knapton, what has gone on in the past and what is happening now and over the months of JUNE, JULY and AUGUST.

Any broadsheet needs editorial material to succeed and flourish. So, if you would like to add something, please submit your contribution by sending or handing it to one of the Parish Councillors.

WHY IS LAWN CLOSE SO NAMED? by Roger Dixon

In the days of horse-drawn carriages and pony traps, most substantial farmhouses and all the local Halls had a "lawn", usually on the opposite side of the road to the house. There the horses and ponies grazed. There was one in front of White House Farm. The one opposite the Old Hall is now covered with trees. The rather grand piece of rising ground opposite Knapton House is now cultivated as a field.

The Lawn, which gave its name to Lawn Close, played quite a significant part in village life. Celebrations for national events such as coronations and royal jubilees were held there, and school sports too. Some in the village will remember the event held on Coronation Day in 1937, and I have some snapshots taken on one of those occasions, including a ladies tug-of-war! I consulted Henry about this and he can remember school functions of various kinds taking place on the Lawn.

Quite apart from all this, the Lawn was an attractive piece of land. Two large sycamore trees stood half way across it, exactly in line with the Hall drive, and a dip in the land at the gate gave the impression of a continuation of the drive. There was a large spread of wild violets, some of them white, under the hedge and the "country house" iron railings – railings like those restored opposite the Old Hall.

In the corner near Autumn Cottage (transformed out of where I lived as a boy, with the Gedges and then the Thomsons next door) was a copse of oaks and sweet chestnuts with anemones growing beneath them. Along the west side of the meadow was a line of trees sheltering the gardens there, and on the eastern boundary lay a deep and wide hollow where I remember playing with Llewellyn Kirk. My great uncle ("Dan") Dixon pastured his horses and cows on the Lawn during and after the war. It seemed a very big space to a child, and Miss Montford or Herbert and Margaret Hicks, behind that row of trees, seemed a long way off. Lawn Close – it must be the name which contracts it!

OUR CLUBS & SOCIETIES

KNAPTON LADIES CLUB

PROGRAMME FOR JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2002

- 17th June Speaker: Mr. Peter James – Quidenham Hospice plus
'Bring & Buy' Stall – Plants & Produce
- 15th July Summer Supper at The Grove, Knapton (Members Only)
- 21st July Stall at Mundesley Volunteer Inshore Lifeboat Day –
on the Green, Beach Road. Profits split between the Club
and M.V.I.L.

There is no meeting in August.

Meetings are held every third Monday of the month in Knapton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Raffle every month. Bring & Buy every other month – proceeds donated to various charities. New members and visitors are always welcome provided it is not a 'Members Only' meeting.

Telephone Mrs Marion Cheesman on 01263 722089

(Mrs. Kate Drayton – President)

ART CLUB

*If you feel you have a hidden talent, why not talk to Denis Haynes
(tel. 720040)*

*who runs the ART CLUB.
This may be your chance to develop that latent talent!*

Denis lives at Gardeners Cottage in The Street.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club is open to villagers over school age. Snooker, billiards and darts are available. Those wishing to join should contact the Secretary or Treasurer for details. Membership costs £5 a year and 20p per night per person for snooker and billiards.

Knapton Parish Church

By the time you read this, the Jubilee celebrations in Church (and Chapel) will be over – we hope successfully. Our next Church event is our patronal festival – in effect the church's birthday – on the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Peter and St Paul, when our Methodist friends will join us for Communion Service at which Revd. Graham Thompson – the Methodist Circuit Minister – will be the preacher. Please come and join us!

KNAPTON VILLAGE HALL

The summer is the 'off season' for events in the Village Hall, but it is available for hire to you all if you wish to hold a private event – children's birthday party, wedding reception or family get-together. There is a kitchen, crockery and cutlery, chairs and tables and, of course, cloakrooms fitted to accommodate disabled guests too. Bookings can be made either via the Secretary – Betty Hammond (tel. 720487) or via the Chairman – the Revd. Roger MacPhee (tel. 720045). There is a full programme of events coming up for the Autumn and Winter, starting in September. Please watch the noticeboards or rattle the grapevine!

and finally... news from your Parish Council!

Congratulations are in order as District Councillor Don Venvell (Pastonacres Ward) takes the Chair at North Norfolk District Council. We wish him well in his year of office.

We welcome Mrs. Angie Smith as Clerk to Knapton Parish Council. Angie can be contacted at 11 Harbord Road, Cromer, NR27 0BP Tel. 01263 511269.

Millennium Project

The Millennium meadow and garden are taking shape. Thanks to a dedicated few, who regularly spend time there, weeds are being kept at bay and the trees and hedge plants growing. It is requested that parishioners remember that the area is under cultivation as a wild flower meadow and should not be used as a play area, nor as a place to exercise dogs.

We would welcome others interested in helping with the maintenance or donations towards upkeep.

Welcome leaflet

The Parish Council has updated the 'Welcome to Knapton' leaflet. Councillors try to deliver these to newcomers but are not always aware of their arrival. Please alert your nearest Councillor if you have a new neighbour.

Footpath 7

Yes! ... after nearly 20 years of wrangling, the footpath has been re-established, marked and fenced! The path leads from the Old Hall Lane (opposite the 'Butterfly Walk') and across to Green Lane, completing a round village walk. Do use it, but please remember that it is a footpath; no horses, no bicycles, no motorbikes etc. and please ensure that dogs are kept on a lead. Happy walking!

Clyte Venvell – Chairman