

# Knapton Newsletter - Winter 2002

Welcome to the Third Edition of your village Newsletter. This Edition covers the Christmas and New Year period and contains useful times and dates of those village-based events taking place over the festive season.

My thanks, once again, to those who have taken the time and trouble to contribute, to collate and to print the Newsletter and to those who have spent the time and energy to distribute our Village broadsheet.

Please save up your jokes and interesting stories for the next Newsletter which will go to press in March and which will span the Easter period. Contributions from any source will be most welcome and the deadline date for contributions will be 21 February 2003.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Max Barrett

## KNAPTON PARISH CHURCH

Friday 13th December –  
Concert by North Norfolk Youth Orchestra

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 22nd December 6.30 p.m - Village Carol Service

CHRISTMAS DAY - Wednesday 25th December –  
10 a.m. Holy Communion for Christmas with Carols  
(sherry and mince pies will be served after this service)

Please join us at one or both of these services to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

## KNAPTON VILLAGE HALL

Friday 6th December 7.30 p.m.

Bill Drayton will give an illustrated talk on Birds of Norfolk - cost £3 to include refreshments.

(Pay on door or in advance to Don Venvell or Roger MacPhee)

### LADIES KEEP FIT

It is understood that there is no room to squeeze anyone else into the Keep Fit class!

## KNAPTON METHODIST CHURCH

There will be no service on Sunday 1st December, as we are joining our friends from the four churches of our section at Trunch Methodist Church for our quarterly service. On 8th December our preacher will be Deacon Gordon Wallace who is newly appointed to our circuit, with pastoral responsibility for the Hickling group of Methodist Churches and for a joint ministry on the Broads.

Advent is drawing near and as a church family we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with the traditional Village Carol Service in the Parish Church, and some services of our own. On Sunday 15th December, our service will be a musical 'Jazz Christmas' with the Christmas story as told by the animals (portrayed by the children). The following Sunday morning, 22nd December will be a service with carols and a nativity by the Sunday School.

On 5th January we welcome our Anglican friends to join our annual Covenant service, when we renew our commitment for the coming year.

Our Sunday School now has a 'Music Club' for children (not just Sunday School members, any children are welcome) on alternate Monday evenings. For more information contact Mrs Emma Dale or Mrs Bea Gatfield on 01263 721549 or 722458.



## Your village hall ...

At its last full meeting, the District Council considered the level of help that it could give to Village Halls. The proposal was to remove the last 20% of the business rate charged on all village halls, but the proposal was amended to restrict the concession to selected village halls only, dependant upon their "financial position". There was a recorded vote, each councillor answering "yes" or "no" to the proposal. The proposal was agreed, but, as it represents a growth bid, it will have to be reconsidered when the 2003/4 Budget is determined.

It was clear that many members were concerned that the future of village halls is at risk.

In many areas they are the only meeting places and, like the village shop or Post Office, they are important for the life of the village.

Your Village Hall Committee has worked hard to maintain an old building as a suitable venue for clubs and meetings and social occasions. It needs your support. As Treasurer, I am appealing to you to attend its functions. If you are in a user group that doesn't presently have a member on the Management Committee, then send someone along to our meetings. Contact me or Roger McPhee.

**Don Venvell – District Councillor**

### CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS by Roger Dixon

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I am reminded of the Christmases of fifty or sixty years ago. Some who were children in the village will remember the stencils with which we used to make cards and calendars at the school. Mrs Johnson kept them from year to year and they were certainly used during all my time at Knapton School.

Each year the Church choir went round the village, with others from the school, singing carols. This was always very close up to Christmas. Advent was Advent in those days, and Christmas began at midnight on Christmas Eve, not in October! Mr Prichard would not allow Christmas hymns or carols in church until the actual twelve days of Christmas began.

In January 1939, the village put on a Nativity Play. Most of the participants have either died or moved away. Mary was played by Josephine Kiernan from the Old Hall - now Mrs Ringer at North Walsham. Norman May was one of the kings, Sydney Wild the first shepherd and my uncles were involved, Hubert as a king and George as a shepherd. Arthur Claydon was a young and handsome ange!. He is the only member of the cast still in the village.

My uncle, Hubert Dixon, the last of his generation here, made a star out of a bicycle lamp. Cut out in paper, and pasted on the front, it cast a beam on the stage as it was drawn along a rail, until, as the Bible says, "it came and stood over where the young child was". We've all become so used to slick professional productions on TV that we wouldn't accept such Heath-Robinson contraptions these days.

So much for those old Christmases. There were other productions, like 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the gardens of the Old Hall. But that's another time of year!

### What's in a name? Contributed by Dennis Watmuff

This is a hereditary surname of nickname origin. Many nicknames refer to the bearer's ethnic rather than geographical origin.

Variants of this surname show Watmough, Watmuff, Whatmore, Whatmough as a nickname meaning "brother-in-law of Wat", from a person related to Wat (itself a variant of Walt). It could also mean "son-in-law of Wat" when it would have been used to signify "step-son".

The name is of English descent and is found in many ancient manuscripts in England. Examples of such are Robertus Watmaghe, who was recorded in the 'Poll Tax', of the West Riding of Yorkshire in the year 1379, and a Myles Watmough was in 1582 vicar of Medomsley in Dorset. Names were recorded in these ancient documents to make it easier for their overlords to collect taxes and to keep records of the population at any given time.



# Children's Cookery Corner

## Christmas Cookies

(Always ask someone to help you - especially when using the oven!)

Ingredients:

### Biscuits

Approx 300g plain flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
125g margarine  
100g sugar  
1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
Milk

### Icing

1 cup sieved icing sugar  
1/4 teaspoon almond extract  
small amount of milk  
flaked almonds

**Method:** Preheat oven to 180°C (450°F) or Gas Mark 8.

Beat margarine and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and almond extract.

Add enough flour to form a dough. Add milk if too firm.

Divide into 12-16 balls - press into rounds. Place on an ungreased baking tray.

Bake at 180°C for approximately 10-15 minutes.

To make icing - mix the ingredients together to make a drizzling consistency.

Spread on biscuits. Sprinkle on a few flaked almonds.

## Words within Words - Fruits and Vegetables

Take the words from the box and use them to fill in the gaps in the names of 20 different fruits and vegetables.

cab- - - ges

par- - - s

to- - -oes

ra- - - es

pota- - -s

s- - -es

tur- - -s

avo- - -os

- - -eapples

t- - - - - ines

c- - -ries

lem- - s

o- - -ges

r- - -arb

g- - -es

li- -s

sat- - -as

m- - -arins

nec- - -ines

ba- - -as

rap

bag

pin

cad

sum

nan

anger

snip

mat

nip

her

hub

dish

me

toe

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and

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## **GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE**

*At the final meeting of the Jubilee Committee in October, it was agreed that after the impending erection of the Beacon on the Millennium field, a brass plate will be attached, recording the Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, 2002. This remains the responsibility of the Committee.*

*It was also decided to hand the remaining money (£677.70) to the Parish Council with the proviso that it be used solely towards the provision of the planned Village Hall Car Park. This is to be pursued by the Parish Council and two members of the committee. If, within two years this proves unfeasible, then the Parish Council will be responsible for using this to provide some village amenity. On behalf of the village, we thank the committee members for the work they have done to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion.*

### **KNAPTON LADIES CLUB**

**It is believed that the Ladies Club is still functioning but we have no news at present.**

## **An appreciation of Knapton ...**

The Parish Council has received a letter from a visitor who stayed here in the late summer. He commented on the well-kept appearance of the village and its neighbouring footpaths and walks, the beauty of the church and the well-kept graveyard and the general peace of the area compared with the city in which he lives.

In addition he comments "as to the residents of Knapton who we spoke to, they were all so helpful and friendly"!!! So there we are – a bouquet to those who made such a good impression.

### **HOME WATCH – WARNING!**

We are informed by the Police Officer responsible for the scheme, that a number of credit cards have been stolen from North Walsham and the surrounding area. Some have then been used as far afield as Bristol. Members of the public are warned to keep a close watch on purses, wallets and handbags. It is particularly important that these and coats or jackets should not be left unattended particularly at the workplace. It appears that these places particularly have been targeted. At this time of year, thieves get very busy!

## **News from your Parish Council!**

The Parish Council has met three times this Autumn, with plenty of business on hand. Our major work has been to look at our budget and to decide what our 'precept' request should be. As a village with little income (except for the allotment rents and a small payment from '24/7' in respect of a telegraph pole) we find ourselves having to fund grasscutting, general maintenance, repairs and the care of the Millennium field. We also have responsibility for both bus shelters. Contributions are made to both church and chapel and to other bodies e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau, who help to make life easier for members of the public.

The precept was not raised last year, but we have had to make a small rise in the amount for which we ask the District Council in the coming year, in which there may be an election. Note that, at that election, Knapton will be part of the new "Gaunt" ward whilst our neighbours in Paston will be part of Mundesley, which in future will be returning two District Councillors.

Remember, if you wish to come to a Parish Council meeting or to ask for an item to appear on the agenda, you will be welcome. Meetings take place in the village hall on the first Tuesday in every month.

**Clyte Venvell – Chairman**