



Spring 2017

KNODISHALL PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council is delighted to have acquired a community defibrillator for the village via the British Heart Foundation. We are currently working on the logistics and hope it will soon be in place outside Crisps Garage and available for anyone to use in an emergency.

Winter gorse clearing on the Common has progressed well with Community Payback workers cutting gorse and bramble and village volunteers clearing and burning most weekends since New Year. A big thank you to everyone who has helped. Essential pollarding of willows along the river has been completed. Although this seems brutal you need only look at those pollarded last year to see how quickly they re-grow. You may have noticed some new young trees near Charlie's pond. These have been funded by the Suffolk Coast and Heath's Scattered Orchards project. Traditional orchards and old varieties are fast disappearing and these small community plantations aim to provide a variety of wildlife habitats as well as blossom in spring and fruits to eat in the autumn.

Repair and maintenance of the play equipment on the Common is becoming a large drain on the council's limited budget, and we need to decide what to do with this area in the future. It's there for the village and we'd like to hear your views. Speak to one of the councillors or write to the Clerk.

And finally I'd like to welcome our new parish councillor Liz Hayward.

John Staff, Chairman Knodishall Parish Council

Knodishall Common

Since writing the management plan for Knodishall Common in 2013 I have visited the Common on a number of occasions and am pleased to see the positive conservation management that has and continues to take place. The main aim of the management plan is to restore and enhance the range of heathland habitats. Heathland has suffered a dramatic decline in recent decades, so opportunities to maintain and restore the remaining areas such as Knodishall Common are very valuable.

In previous years, the gorse had become rather dominant and overblown at the expense of other habitats. Practical work has concentrated on rotationally coppicing gorse to rejuvenate its structure as well as cutting

back and removing a proportion of it to increase open areas and glades. Ongoing management is needed to keep these areas open once they have been created.

Walking around the Common now it is clear that the structural diversity has increased which in turn has increased the range of habitats which should encourage a wider range of species. The gorse is less overwhelming and where it has been coppiced is coming back to form much better nesting habitats. An intricate network of sheltered glades and edge habitat has been created and the Common is becoming a much more diverse network of gorse, heather, acid grassland and lichen heath.

The Natural England Environmental Stewardship agreement and funding has

been invaluable in helping to make the practical work possible and Matthew Ginn, the NE adviser has provided great support and advice. However, none of the work achieved would have been possible without the sterling commitment of parish councillors, volunteers and the Community Pay back team.

Susan Stone, Conservation and Reserves Adviser, Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

From our new Parish Councillor

I've been in the village nearly 40 years and it has changed a lot. It's interesting to find out how things work and how much the Parish Council puts in to improving the village for everyone. I don't think most people realise this. My family enjoys everything here and we are happy to help with improvements. The meetings are very relaxed so I hope more younger people will take an interest. If you want any questions answered we will do our best! *Liz Hayward, 832695*

Knodishall Allotments

There are currently 2 small village allotments available to rent at £19 per annum. The allotments are on land near the water treatment works on the Aldringham road. Follow the track immediately after the last house in Knodishall. Take a look and if you're interested contact the Parish Clerk.

The Common Rambler

Have you noticed that one or two gorse bushes seem almost smothered with thick clumps of cobweb? Recently some seem to contain hundreds of red dots, these are gorse mites. They live within these non sticky cobwebs and live on the gorse shoots. Their life cycle begins around October and eggs and larvae appear in early spring. The mites are attacked and eaten by a small black ladybird which you might see in a month or two. The mites disappear in July and August, abandoning the bush.

We experienced a few warm days around Feb 20th and I thought I might look for frogs and toads in the small overgrown pond near Sparrow Cottages. There were none, but on a raised area, dead still, was a grass snake. This harmless snake is olive green with a yellow and black collar behind the head. They need warmth to function properly. The grass snake is our largest and the only egg laying snake. They hibernate in winter emerging to mate and lay their white, leathery eggs in spring. The eggs are laid in decaying vegetation, like a compost heap which

generates warmth, and hatch after 6 to 8 weeks. They live on frogs, toads and small mammals and shed their skins at least once a year.

I often mention what I have seen, but keep a lookout in May and June for White Meadow Saxifrage near the two seats on the old football pitch.

Spring Sale, Saturday April 8th

Knodishall and District Playgroup is a thriving local pre-school facility nurturing young children from two years old to primary school age. They are based in the Mission Rooms and managed by Karen Pearce with her staff of three. There are currently 30 children on roll and the group is open for eight sessions a week. The Playgroup has charity status and is therefore always seeking new funds for resources and training. To this end the Village Hall has been hired on April 8th for a Spring Sale from 11am to 3pm. Local organisations and individuals are invited to have a table (£5 before the day) to raise funds or fly the flag for their own particular cause. They'll be an Easter Egg hunt for the children (with the Easter Rabbit) and a Grand Draw. To book a table, ring Tim Haxell 830070

Flower Show, Saturday August 5th

Spring is here at last and gardens are starting to come to life. Time to start thinking about August 5th, the date for this year's flower show. The schedules should be available from early April, but for gardeners there are a lot of the usual vegetable classes. For keen and not so keen cooks, there will be some easy recipes to make, including biscuits and tea bread. We are really hoping to see some more first time entrants. There is, as usual, a class just for men and classes for younger people to enter. Remember to keep a jar of your marmalade or chutney unopened and don't drink all that sloe gin! You could already have several entries in your cupboard. It's a real fun day so put the date in your diary now. *Jackie Bell, Chairman*

News from the Village Hall

On 6th January the Village Hall Trustees held their AGM. All sixteen Trustees were prepared to stand again, so we have a full complement. There was one major change to the officers as Jim Gilders retired as Treasurer. Jim has been Treasurer for 15 years and has kept the accounts in a highly professional manner with his finger kept on the pulse of our income and expenditure

throughout his tenure in office. However, he took on a far greater range of duties beyond his Treasurer's role. These included overseeing the central heating, fire alarm systems, monitoring gas and electricity use and so many more tasks.

Fortunately, Jim is remaining as a Trustee while Gwen Haxell has taken on the burden of Treasurer. Gwen's role has been lightened with help from Mary Rolph, Lynda Kemp and Carole Saxby. Officers for the coming year are: Chairman, David Murphy; Vice-Chairman, Judy Easy; Secretary, Carol Fordham; Treasurer, Gwen Haxell; Deputy Treasurer, Jim Gilders; Booking Secretary, Sheila Corneby.

A Villager's Notes

Having with some sadness left the crocuses in bloom and daffodils just about to come out, these notes come from a somewhat different clime where geraniums are flowering and bougainvillea and rose buds almost bursting. A different world indeed, though the temperature of the swimming pool at a bracing 56° goes some way to remind us of our own North Sea and banish too much homesickness. It is a place where from now on anything in the ground other than the palms, will require regular watering to survive, which reminds me of Wiggy's wonderful newly planted orchard around the pond. They had some good rain in their early days and I do hope it will secure their own survival.

The other difference here and one which should be observed by our senior negotiators in their upcoming challenges is the ability of stallholders to make you buy almost anything you least require and proudly believe you have a bargain - Campsea Ashe on speed!

News from the Methodist Church

Messy Play Anyone age five to twelve years is welcome at Messy play in its new morning slot of 10–12.30 on the 2nd Saturday in the month. With time for a story, crafts, games and eating together, our aim is for fun and sharing with a family atmosphere. The next sessions are March 11th, May 13th, June 10th and July 8th (no meeting in April). Our young leaders will make sure you enjoy yourselves, so come and try.

Ladies Group meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm and is going from strength to strength with an average of 30 ladies each month. For details of our varied programme contact Ida on 603892

Scrabble Tea is on the 2nd Friday of each month. April has been put back to 21st to avoid Good Friday, then May 12th and June 9th. Everyone is most welcome to drop in.

Open House is a fun afternoon suitable for all, with board games (bring your own if you wish) and sometimes a quiz or a church Beetle game, followed by tea, coffee and lovely cakes provided by Sally. Next dates are Wednesday March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th and June 28th. Do come and join us

Youth Club continues to have good numbers and meets twice a month. Next meeting is on Friday March 24th.

From your County Councillor

This is my final snippet as your County Councillor. I have been asked to stand in Blything Division next door which covers Saxmundham (where I live) and eleven villages to the north up to Blythburgh.

I have always admired the village spirit in Knodishall and am sad to bid you farewell. Since I was first elected in 2010, I have witnessed great progress being made in taming the gorse on the Common and I know how hard your Parish Council works on behalf of everyone in the parish. You have a dedicated committee running the Village Hall, which is well-used and an asset to the village. I have paid for a flashing speed sign, and have tried to help tackle the problem of speeding through-traffic. I am an admirer of Coldfair Green school, its staff and pupils. And your Local History Group continues to flourish.

There will be a new candidate representing my Party standing for election to the County Council on 4th May. I know him well and, if he is elected, I am confident he will continue to do a fine job representing the interests, and dealing with the challenges, of Knodishall and its people.

Thank you for all the support you have given me. I will not disappear from sight and will still be seen around the village occasionally!

Richard Smith, Suffolk County Councillor

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 send copy to jane.ohear@gmail.com or deliver to The Forge, Mill Road, Knodishall

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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Anthony Wigg 830117

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Winter meeting highlights

December

The first phase of the annual winter gorse clearance had been successfully completed and the Community Payback team of helpers would return in January for a second phase. The Clerk advised that Sodexo was providing this community work free of charge

The Clerk sent a message of thanks to the Plymouth Brethren for their contributions to the village in 2016, and was asked to thank the "mystery" clearers of village verges and footpaths.

Planning applications

DC/16/4839/LBC - Like for like replacement of existing casement windows to first floor at Billeaford Hall, Sloe Lane – no objections.

DC/16/4618/FUL - Construction of two storey extension at rear of 4 Burch's Close - Potential Referral of Planning application to SCDC Planning Committee approved
Ref: DC/16/5152/FUL – Erection of a pair of semi-detached two-storey dwelling houses on land to rear of 29 Leiston Road – refusal recommended

January

Elizabeth Hayward of 5 Whinlands, School Road, was co-opted onto the council.

The Clerk had submitted the amended Precept application of £14,052.13 for 2017 to SCDC and received notification of receipt.

The Clerk also submitted a VAT reclaim request for £1,191.75 VAT paid during 2015/16, and this has been received

Notification received of a change to the official external auditor for a five year period from 2017-18. Councils are advised to continue with their existing external auditor for 2016-17.

In response to complaints about poorly maintained local footpaths and their hedgerows, the Clerk contacted SCC Area Manager Ms Robinson who will do her best to liaise with the relevant landowners.

Planning applications

DC/16/4618/FUL - Construction of two storey extension at rear of 4 Burchs Close - the decision has been delegated to Head of Planning and Coastal Management.

February

Given the requirement to report potholes to Highways at Suffolk County Council via the mandatory website and because these do not always seem to be followed up, The Clerk spoke to the local area manager. Apparently repairs are now dependent on site inspections which gauge and classify pothole severity before initiating repairs.

The Clerk submitted a successful application for a donated community defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation. Annual Common clearance made excellent progress, essential willow pollarding was completed and sapling trees for the new wild orchard planted.

Some essential repair work has been carried out on the Play Area. Long term / replacement of existing play equipment will require significant investment and the PC agreed to invite suggestions/opinions from residents before proceeding further.

Annual "137" parish donations to various local community groups were approved by all councillors

Planning applications

DC/17/0363/FUL – Construction of rear extension and concrete hard standing at Sparrow Cottage, The Common. No objection to rear extension but concerns raised about hard standing.

Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the Methodist Hall. All are welcome. In addition to Knodishall noticeboards, details and minutes of meetings and general parish council news and events can be found at knodishall.suffolk.cloud