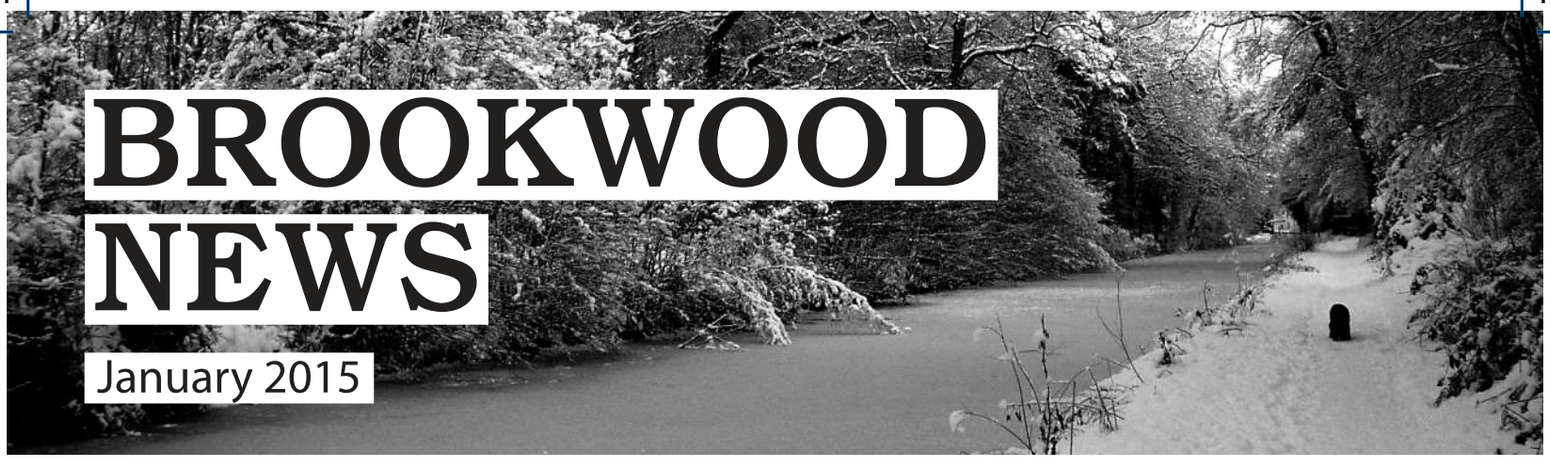


BROOKWOOD NEWS

January 2015

EDITORIAL

Christmas
Hope you have recovered from the turkey and plum pudding, and are set to welcome 2015. But just before we move on to the New Year we would like to record thanks to all those who have worked hard to 'deliver' Christmas to the village. So pats on the back to all the children in the village who have been singing Christmas carols and songs, to the Club for their Christmas event, to Tony and Stuart at Fulks, and Shaun and all his staff at the post office. And special thanks to all our posties – Matt, Pete, Paul, Alan, Neil, Freddie, Mick and Evie.

Steam trains
One night shortly before Christmas we were treated to the wonderful sight of a steam train taking on water at the station, hissing and sparking, and then setting off to London in clouds of steam. Our resident steam expert, David Stonor, tells me that it was the special returning from Sherborne in Dorset taking people down to a carol service in the abbey there. He has kindly provided a short article about the steam trains which run through Brookwood.

There's a hole in our road, dear Council, dear Council ……
As we go to print, the dip in Connaught Road where the sewer collapsed last summer is getting noticeably deeper! It has been reported to the Council, which has now put up a couple of signs, but do take care as you pass it.

2015
So a New Year is starting. We hope it will be a good one for everyone in the village. Thank you to all the people who have made kind comments about the newsletter. We hope to keep it going throughout the year. If you have any ideas, comments or articles please do get in touch with us via community@brookwood.org.uk
Happy New Year!

Judith Male - Editor

STEAM TRAINS THROUGH BROOKWOOD

On average we have a steam special through Brookwood and return about once a week in the summer time, rather less in the winter. During peak summer the 'Dorset Coast Express' runs weekly on Wednesdays, London to Weymouth and return. On return journeys to London, the specials are sometimes scheduled to stop in the platform at Brookwood for the loco to take water for about 10 minutes. Typical time for this is about 8pm (between local trains!). Other likely destinations are Salisbury, Exeter, Bath and Bristol.

The trains are run by charter companies, who pay Network Rail for access to the line. The two main companies for our area are 'The Railway Touring Company' and 'Steam Dreams'. Both have websites and all passenger bookings must be made in advance. Both the locos and coaches are 'vintage' of course.



www.railwaytouring.net
www.steamdreams.co.uk
David Stonor
(email: david@stonor.prestel.co.uk)

Photo shows Southern Railway loco 'Lord Nelson' steaming through Brookwood with a special from London to the West. 'Lord Nelson' was built by the Southern Railway in about 1930 and was the pride of their fleet at the time. Nowadays the loco belongs to the National Railway Museum in York and is currently a long-term resident on the Mid Hants Railway (Watercress Line) where she is in regular use. DS

FORUM QUESTIONNAIRE GETS GOOD RESPONSE

The response to the recent questionnaire sent out across the village by the Brookwood and Bridley Neighbourhood Forum (BBNF) has been encouraging. Around 1600 questionnaires were distributed by the Woking District Jamboree Scouts to all properties in the Neighbourhood Area and, as at midday on 30 November, 416 had been received back. This represents a return of just over 25%.

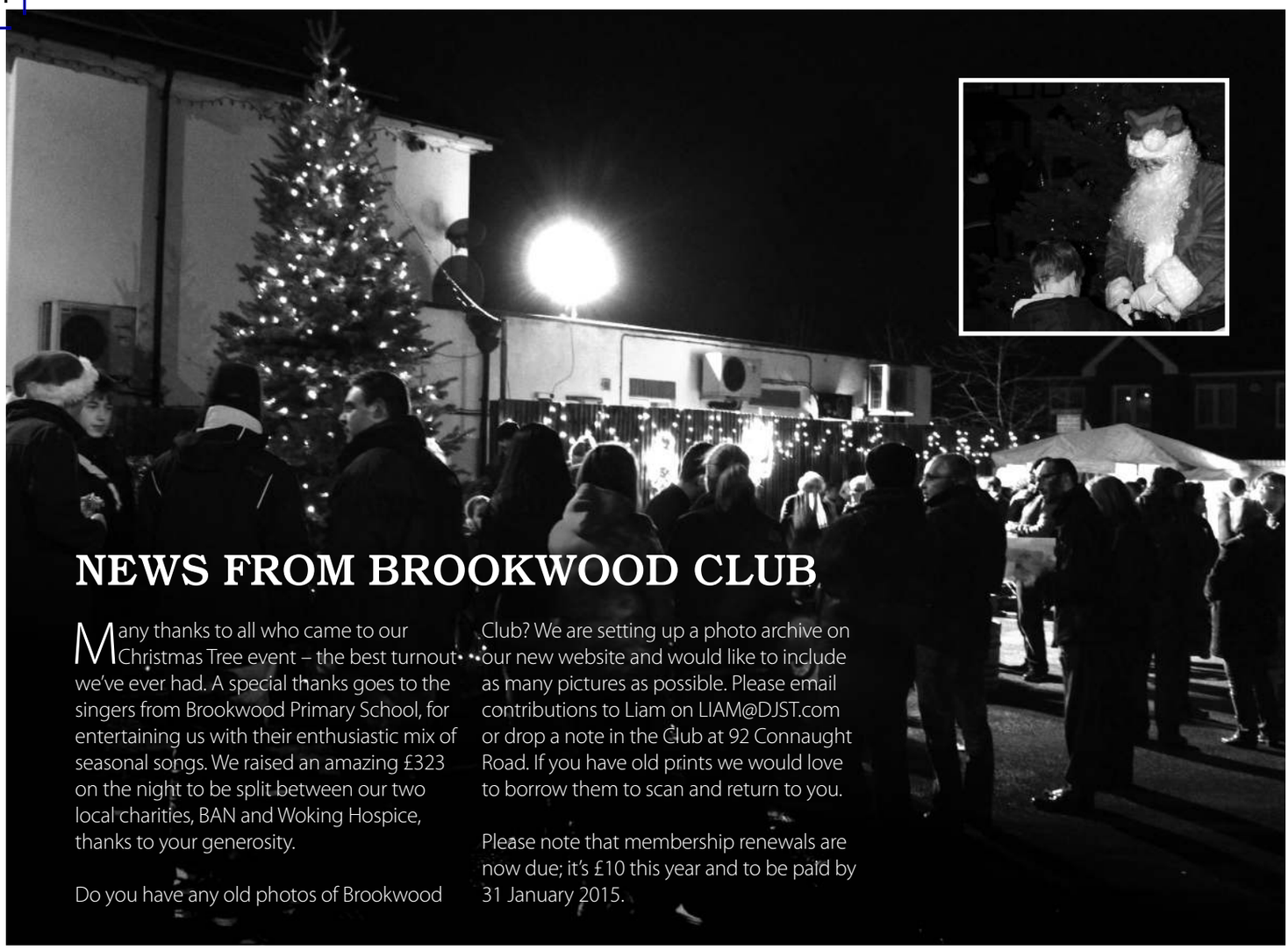
A prize draw was held in Brookwood Club at midday on 30 November and the following questionnaires were randomly selected:

- A. Salter (£50 M&S voucher)
- N. M. Stephens (£25 M&S voucher)
- L. Rivet (£10 M&S voucher)

As part of this exercise, the BBNF has seen membership swell by an excess of 90 people, bringing the total membership to over 275. This membership is drawn from across the Neighbourhood Area and from across all age ranges.

The chairman of the Forum, Kevin Davis, commented: 'An incredible response, with a wide range of views and ideas for how this small community can move forward. Everyone has had a chance to have a say, and now the hard work will begin as we thoroughly analyse all questionnaires and start to understand how people would like the area shaped'.

A more detailed questionnaire will be prepared for release in the spring of 2015, which will allow the Forum to define policies relevant to the wishes of the people. This will enable a draft plan to be created which, after consultation, will likely go to a referendum in May 2016.



NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD CLUB

Many thanks to all who came to our Christmas Tree event – the best turnout we've ever had. A special thanks goes to the singers from Brookwood Primary School, for entertaining us with their enthusiastic mix of seasonal songs. We raised an amazing £323 on the night to be split between our two local charities, BAN and Woking Hospice, thanks to your generosity.

Do you have any old photos of Brookwood Club? We are setting up a photo archive on our new website and would like to include as many pictures as possible. Please email contributions to Liam on LIAM@DJST.com or drop a note in the Club at 92 Connaught Road. If you have old prints we would love to borrow them to scan and return to you.

Please note that membership renewals are now due; it's £10 this year and to be paid by 31 January 2015.

WOKING COUNCIL BUYS BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

On 12 December Woking Borough Council announced that it has secured the ownership of Brookwood Cemetery by purchasing the shares in the companies which owned the Cemetery – Brookwood Park Limited and Brookwood Cemetery Limited.



The Council agreed at a Special Council Meeting on 24 November 2014 that it should secure the Cemetery, by establishing Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited as a subsidiary within its Thameswey Group of companies. The commercial terms of this purchase remain confidential.

Leader of the Council, Cllr John Kingsbury, said: 'The Council considers Brookwood Cemetery to be a vitally important part of Woking's heritage and its future. Since the end of the First World War, Brookwood Cemetery has declined in quality due to lack of investment. As the Council, we faced a major challenge: to stand by and see it decline further, despite the best efforts of the current operators, or to intervene. We decided we owed it to future generations to intervene now, despite the challenges ahead.

'We appreciate that we cannot provide a quick fix for nearly 100 years of decline, but we will work with other agencies to steadily restore the Cemetery and make it once again a high-quality place for burial. Over the next two years we will develop detailed plans for Brookwood Cemetery with a view to implementing a series of improvements by 2020 that will make the Borough proud of this important site.'

These changes do not affect the military cemeteries.

Our local councillor, Kevin Davis, said: 'The purchase of the Cemetery is excellent news for Brookwood. In the recent Forum questionnaire it was frequently mentioned as a place valued by residents for recreation. WBC has a long-term plan (> 25 years) to restore the Cemetery to its former glory. This is in stark contrast to the usual accusations that politicians only consider the short term.

Brookwood Cemetery is the most important cultural site in Woking and is listed in the top ten of heritage sites most at risk in England.

I hope the Forum will be able to bring forward policies that assist WBC in preserving and enhancing the Cemetery for generations to come.'

Did you know? Brookwood is the largest cemetery in the country, nearly a quarter of a million people are buried there and at one time 3500 burials took place every year.

BURGLARY PREVENTION

Mark Saunders, Surrey Police Crime Reduction Advisor, reports a spate of burglaries in the Woking area in early December, including one in Brookwood.

It is believed that all of these offences occurred at unoccupied properties during the hours of dusk. In the majority of these burglaries entry was gained by accessing the rear gardens then forcing through a door or window.

You can make a huge difference and dramatically reduce the chances of being burgled by taking just a few simple measures:

- Always lock doors and windows before leaving your home.
- Set your burglar alarm whenever you leave your home. If you don't have one, get one.
- Make your home looks occupied when nobody is home by using an automatic light timer or by leaving lights on.
- Never leave door or car keys, wallets or handbags within reach of a letterbox, door or window.
- Don't keep large amounts of money or jewellery at home. If you have to keep it at home, use a safe that is stored out of sight.
- Going away? Cancel milk, newspaper and other regular deliveries, and ask a friend or trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your home.
- Register your property on a free national property registration database. Visit www.immobilise.com.
- Always secure your shed and garage, and don't leave ladders and other tools outside in order for a burglar to use.
- Report any suspicious behaviour in your area by calling 101. If you feel that a crime is in progress always call 999.

For more crime prevention advice please visit the Surrey Police website: www.surrey.police.uk.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Cubs and Scouts will be collecting 'real' trees for recycling on the morning of Saturday 10 January 2015. If you would like your tree to be collected, please call Nick Gair, Group Scout Leader, 07900 902916, or email nick gair@yahoo.co.uk, to book a slot.
Only trees that have been booked will be collected. A small donation would be appreciated to cover costs – fill in the form below to gift aid your donation (suggested amount £3) and leave it with your tree on the day. Any profits will go to 1st Brookwood Scout Group Funds.

I enclose £ _____ as my donation to 1st Brookwood Scout Group.

Name: _____

Address: _____

If you currently pay UK tax, sign below and the Scouts will receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate at no cost to you.

GIFT AID DECLARATION: I would like 1st Brookwood Scout Group to reclaim tax on all qualifying donations made this year or 4 years prior to this year. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and have paid UK income tax or capital gains equal to the tax reclaimed by the charity on the donation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WOKING CARERS' CHOIR – A SINGING FOR HEALTH PROJECT

Woking Carers' Choir is led by professional choral director, Anna Tabbush, conductor of Guildford Vox Community choir and Horsell Community Choir. The choir is intended to be fun and light-hearted, and you do not need previous musical experience to participate. If you're interested in attending, the choir meets fortnightly on a Monday morning from 11am to 12pm at the Wellbeing Centre, Knaphill, GU21 2SP. Rehearsals take place during term time only and the first one of 2015 is on 12 January.

There is no obligation to attend every single session, so please feel free to drop in when you're next available.

If you have any further questions or you want to sign up, please contact Tara Stevenson on 01483 743696 or arts@woking.gov.uk

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24 January 2015, 7.30pm

Drive away those dreary January blues, and come for a lively evening of topical questions and answers. Gather your family and friends of all ages to make up teams of 6–8 and have some fun. Individuals can join other teams on the night to make up the numbers. Tickets £10 including supper. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Venue – St Saviour's Church. Book your table now with Yvonne Craven, 01483 480273, or email sts@brookwood.org.uk. (Proceeds in aid of the St Saviour's ReGeneration project)

URBAN HAIR & BEAUTY

We are sorry to record the closure of Urban Hair & Beauty in the village. Tony and Alex would like to thank all their customers and the Brookwood community for their loyal support to the business. They continue to work on a freelance basis and can be contacted on mobile numbers as follows:

Tony: 07982 694305 for barbering
Alex: 07544 402171 for beauty

s are welcome. Please contact community@brookwood.org.uk by the 20th of the month

Abbeyfield

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01483 488751
www.cunninghamhouse.co.uk

VILLAGE DIARY FOR JANUARY

Also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk

Saturday 3 January
Prize Bingo at Brookwood Club. Tickets on sale from 8pm, £1 per book, with 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. All welcome!

Saturday 10 January
Christmas Tree collection by Scouts for recycling (see form).

Saturday 24 January
Quiz at St Saviour's Church. 7.30pm start. Tickets from Yvonne Craven, 01483 480273.

Waste Collections over New Year
*Saturday 27 December – blue bins
* Saturday 3 January – black bins
* Friday 9 January – blue bins

There will be no garden waste collection for the two week period from 22 December. Collections will restart from 6 January.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL TRANSPORT IN SURREY

Do you travel by bus to work, school, medical appointments or local shops? Maybe you use community transport such as Dial-a-Ride to get around, or occasionally catch the bus to visit a friend or relative.

Surrey County Council is reviewing local transport and is asking residents to have their say about which services matter most to them. Whether you regularly travel by bus or rarely use local transport, this is your chance to help shape the future of these services in Surrey. All you need to do is complete the online questionnaire (www.surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview), pick up a paper questionnaire from libraries and local council offices across Surrey, or call 0300 200 1003 to request a copy.

The council currently spends around £8.9m a year subsidising public buses, one of the highest spends in South East England. Half of the 29m journeys made on Surrey buses each year are on services that the council subsidises, and per passenger the subsidies range from 13p to £10.64 per journey. The council also spends £640,000 every year on community transport and £8.7m on concessionary fares, including some extra discretionary concessions for disabled people and their carers.

As part of the review, the council will look at ways that vital savings can be made while maintaining the services residents rely on most, including securing better deals with commercial bus operators and encouraging travel on underused services. Feedback from residents will also play a key role, and no plans will be drawn up until residents and other stakeholders have had their say.



Would you like to sponsor a newsletter?

We would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring the newsletter. Please contact us by email: community@brookwood.org.uk

Deadline for the February issue is 20 January

Preferably by email to: community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

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