

BROOKWOOD NEWS

March 2015

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Year of the Goat



The Chinese New Year was welcomed on 19 February in traditional style at the Forbidden City restaurant in Knaphill. The restaurant was packed with customers, many in large groups of friends and family for the special feast. And then at 9 o'clock, the drums and cymbals began and in leapt the Lion troupe to perform the traditional custom of 'cai qing' (採青), which literally means 'plucking the greens'. The auspicious bunch of green vegetables was already hanging from the ceiling with a bright red envelope of money attached. To the delight of the customers and



the staff, the Lion, accompanied by the God of Prosperity, progressed around the restaurant and then tentatively approached the hanging vegetables. After many leaps and hesitations, the Lion bounded up and ate the greens. The shredded remains of the greens were spat out but the Lion kept the money. In Chinese tradition, this will ensure good fortune for the business in the year ahead.

An excellent evening for everyone, and not to be missed next year!

David Lugton

Road works

Anyone who drives out of the village will have noticed that we are surrounded by road works: flood recovery resurfacing works (Blackhorse Road, to end of February), installation of telecom ducts and chambers (Dawney Hill and up to Pirbright tunnel, due to end 22 February; Gole Road to golf club entrance, 21 February to 1 March; night works around the crossroads, 23 to 28 February), resurfacing on Guildford Road in Bisley continues to end March, highway maintenance and drainage works (Prey Heath Road, to 13 March), sewer and water works (Vicarage Road in Woking, to end of May), new water supply (Mill Lane in Pirbright, 2 to 5 March). No doubt the results will be worth the frustration, but I do wonder why the roads that were beautifully resurfaced before Christmas are all being dug up again now?

Money, money, money

It costs approximately £2 per household per annum to produce the newsletter. Brookwood Village Association (BVA) kindly supported us initially from subscriptions collected several years ago, and we have covered some of the costs from advertising and through the generous sponsorship of local businesses. However, the question of ongoing funding keeps arising. We are considering asking readers to make voluntary contributions through collecting tins and/or asking the local organisations whose events we regularly publicise to make annual donations. If you have other suggestions let us know.

Spare newsletters

Every month we have a few spare newsletters, so do let us know if any more are needed anywhere; we can give extra copies to shops or businesses.

Barbara Lugton – Editor

This month's issue of the newsletter is kindly sponsored by

TUDOR NEWS

(t/a Tudor Express)
138 Connaught Road

Jigar Patel and family would like to thank all their customers for their support. The shop is open from 6am to 10pm (6.30am on Saturday and Sunday) throughout the year. We stock newspapers, magazines, groceries, wine, beer, stationery and much more. Check out our prices. Newspapers are delivered locally and local deliveries of other goods can also be arranged for the elderly or housebound. We offer a cheerful, helpful service – if we don't stock it, just ask!

KEVIN'S COMMENT

Update from local councillor Kevin Davis

The Brookwood and Knaphill beat officers are holding their regular Police Panel meeting on Tuesday 7 April at 7.30pm in Steff's Cafe, Knaphill. Kevin will attend but if anyone else wants to go, they are welcome.

SURREY HALF MARATHON

Sunday 8 March

More than 4000 runners will be racing in the second Surrey Half Marathon, which starts from Woking Leisure Centre at 9.00am. The race is now closed for runners but do go along to cheer on the runners and give them your support. The route passes the Christmas Bakery at Fox Corner, where there is a spectator hotspot, then goes along Berry Lane – there is a water station at Noah's Ark Nursery – then a little way up Blackhorse Lane and into Saunders Lane. If you want to see the start and finish you will need to take the train or park in Woking town centre as the Leisure Centre car parks will be closed. The first runner is expected back just after 10am. There is also a 1.5km kids' race starting at 9.25am.

Many of the runners will be raising money for charity including Andy Coe (mentioned last month) who is supporting Woking Hospice, and local postman Paul Newman. Paul is band leader of the Cadence Drum and Bugle Corps, three American style marching bands with over 100 members, including children from Brookwood and Pirbright. They give any child the opportunity to experience music and marching. Paul is raising money to buy new drums, marimbas and uniforms. You can sponsor him at https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/cadencedrumbuglecorps.

Some local roads will be closed from 8am on the day for the safety of the runners. The organisers apologise for any inconvenience this causes. Locally Bagshot Road at Berry Lane re-opens at 12.15pm and Mayford roundabout at 12.45pm. Full details at http://surreyhalfmarathon.co.uk.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP TRAIN ASSISTANCE DOGS FOR CANINE PARTNERS



The national charity Canine Partners is seeking dog lovers to take puppies into their own homes and begin their early training to be assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

The charity, which trains assistance dogs to give disabled people more confidence and independence, has launched a new group at Brookwood Memorial Halls every Wednesday between 12pm and 1pm.

'Puppy parents' take a pup into their home from the age of eight weeks until they are 12–14 months old, and need to have time, commitment, a sense of humour, and be able to attend a regular training class in Brookwood. They teach the assistance-dogs-in-training basic obedience, social skills and core tasks that are essential before they move on to advanced training, where their skills are refined specifically for a disabled person's needs. Previous experience with dogs is not required, but a puppy parent will need to be home most of the day, have a secure dog-friendly garden, enjoy the fun of classes and outings, and have the stamina to manage an active young puppy. Canine Partners will provide food and equipment for the puppy, and cover all veterinary costs for the duration of the puppy parent relationship.

Canine Partners provides specially trained assistance dogs to help people with disabilities carry out everyday tasks they find difficult, painful or impossible to do for themselves.

Wendy Ireland, from Surrey, 46, has hypermobility syndrome and relies on her canine partner Mia. She said: 'At home Mia helps get me undressed for a shower or ready for bed, she finds and gets my shoes, opens doors, gets the telephone, picks up the many things I drop, gets the post, takes the washing from the machine, puts the footplates down on my wheelchair, and helps with my physiotherapy by letting me groom and stroke her. If I take a turn for the worse she can alert my son or personal assistant, pass my emergency button pendant or press the Careline emergency call button. I now look to the future without fear or worry.'

If you would like to play a vital role in training an assistance dog, please contact our Southern Centre puppy trainer Elaine Potter on 01730 716036 or email elainep@caninepartners.org.uk. Elaine will be on hand to support the volunteers at classes and at home in one-to-one sessions.

BRAND NEW FITNESS CLASSES – STARTING IN MARCH

A new class that combines ballet, yoga and aerobics to help strengthen core, tone and increase stamina is starting at Brookwood Memorial Hall on Tuesdays at 9.30am. The class is suitable for beginners. Contact Katherine at starpointedance@outlook.com or telephone 07976 834140.

IT'S A FIRST! SINGERS NEEDED



Talented local musician and one time Brookwood resident and Curate in charge of St Saviour's church, David Pennant, has written a new choral work The Resurrection. It is a sequel to John Stainer's Crucifixion, to continue the story with Christ's rising to life and appearing to his followers. The first performance will be on Saturday 18 April at Holy Trinity Church in Knaphill. David hopes that up to sixty singers will join the chorus. He already has over thirty.

There will be a rehearsal at 2pm, tea at 4.30pm and the performance is at 6pm. Family and friends will be welcome at the performance on a first come first served basis. Doors open 5.15pm. The piece lasts 35 minutes.

The event will be recorded to help publicise the work. So singers, if you would like to take part in a world premiere, please contact David to book your place: df.pennant@ntlworld.com or telephone 01483 823163. There is a £10 fee for chorus members payable on the day. More details at http://www.theresurrection.org.uk/.

NEWS FROM ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

Many thanks to all those who came to the quiz night in January. Because we had a full house and some very generous competitors, we raised the amazing amount of £1,150. This means that our new chairs and carpet are just about paid for now, and we can move on to the next phase of our plans, which is to put in a toilet and improve the catering facilities in the church itself. If you missed our quiz, now is your chance to come along to our next event:

AN EVENING OF MUSIC!

Academix A Cappella band with guests All Four Seasons Quartet, Saturday 7 March, 7.30pm, St Saviour's Church

A cabaret style concert of music from Abba to Pharrell Williams. Come and join us for a relaxed evening with these exciting new performers. Tables (for up to 6) can be reserved in advance or just turn up on the night. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Retiring collection, proceeds to St Saviour's ReGeneration project. For more information contact Yvonne Craven, 01483 480273 or email sts@brookwood.org.uk.

StS ReGeneration





BROOKWOOD PERSONALITIES



Tony Ward

Probably everyone in the village knows Tony, the butcher at Fulks, who always gives a friendly wave as you pass by the shop. He has worked at Fulks since 1972 (with a short break in 1977). Before that he was a butcher at Baxters in Diss, Norfolk. He starts work at 7.30am during the week and at 7.00am on Friday and Saturday; he is often at the shop until after 6pm, although works much longer days before Christmas. The shop, which was purpose built in 1927 for the old Mr Tony Fulk, still has sawdust on the floor and regular customers come from Ottershaw, Alton and Ascot as well as Brookwood and the surrounding area.

Tony has two sons, two stepsons and seven grandchildren. (You can see their photograph in the shop and some of their artwork adorns the wall.) In his spare time Tony enjoys sport. He played football, cricket and table tennis when he was younger, and still plays cricket for Pirbright, but just once a year. He enjoys a day at the races and is on a quest to visit every (horse) race course in the UK. He also enjoys holidays in far flung places with lovely scenery – South Africa and Sri Lanka were two favourites. His favourite meal is a proper steak and kidney pie.

Nothing is too much trouble for Tony; he is polite, caring and always happy to give advice on the best cut (and probably knows more than most about what is happening in Brookwood!).

CALLING ALL DRAMA ENTHUSIASTS

Brookwood Children's Drama will be holding an open morning on Saturday 28 March. It will be a FREE morning of theatrical activities from 10.00am to 1.00pm, and will include a small performance at the end. It is open to all youngsters in the local area.

Run by experienced drama leaders, Brookwood Childrens' Drama is a unique and affordable theatrical group. Established over 20 years ago we offer 5–16 year olds the chance to perform, create and explore. This enables our students the opportunity to grow in confidence through our specially crafted shows and workshops.

So join us for the morning and experience fun and drama in the comfortable setting of Brookwood Memorial Hall. To register and for more details go to http://brookwood-dramaopen.eventbrite.com.

NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD CLUB

Our regular 'first Saturday' cash bingo evening is on Saturday 7 March, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. Everybody is welcome.

A limited number of club memberships are now available; cost is £10 per year. Please enquire at the bar if you are interested in joining your village social club.

Advance notice that our Annual General Meeting will be on Monday 27 April at 8pm.

NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD AND BRIDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM (BBNF)

The Committee of the Neighbourhood Forum has written a summary report providing an insight into the results from the area-wide questionnaire that was distributed in October. This has produced some interesting results which will drive the direction of the Neighbourhood Forum from here. Briefly:

- 94% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the area as a place to live.
- 97% of respondents thought it important to retain the BROOKWOOD VILLAGE CENTRE, with shops and other commercial units.
- On PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY, 94% felt safe and secure when at home. When walking the streets in the area, 91% felt safe and secure.
- On PARKING, only 41% were satisfied or very satisfied with parking provision for residents and local businesses.
- TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES attracted the highest number of individual comments.

The report may be read on the website: http://bbnf.org.uk/2015/02/19/summary-questionnaire-report/.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

1 March	Brookwood Cemetery Society Walk, 2pm from the Cemetery Office in Cemetery Pales.
7 March	Jazz and Pop Concert, 7.30pm at St Saviour's Church, Connaught Road.
7 March	Bingo at Brookwood Club, 8 for 8.30pm.
8 March	Surrey Half Marathon, starts 9am at Woking Leisure Centre.
14 March	Brookwood School Quiz Night, 7.30pm at Brookwood School.
28 March	Brookwood Children's Drama open day, Memorial Hall, 10am to 1pm.
5 April	Brookwood Cemetery Society Walk, 2pm from the Cemetery Office in Cemetery Pales.

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 April issue is 20 March 2015

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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