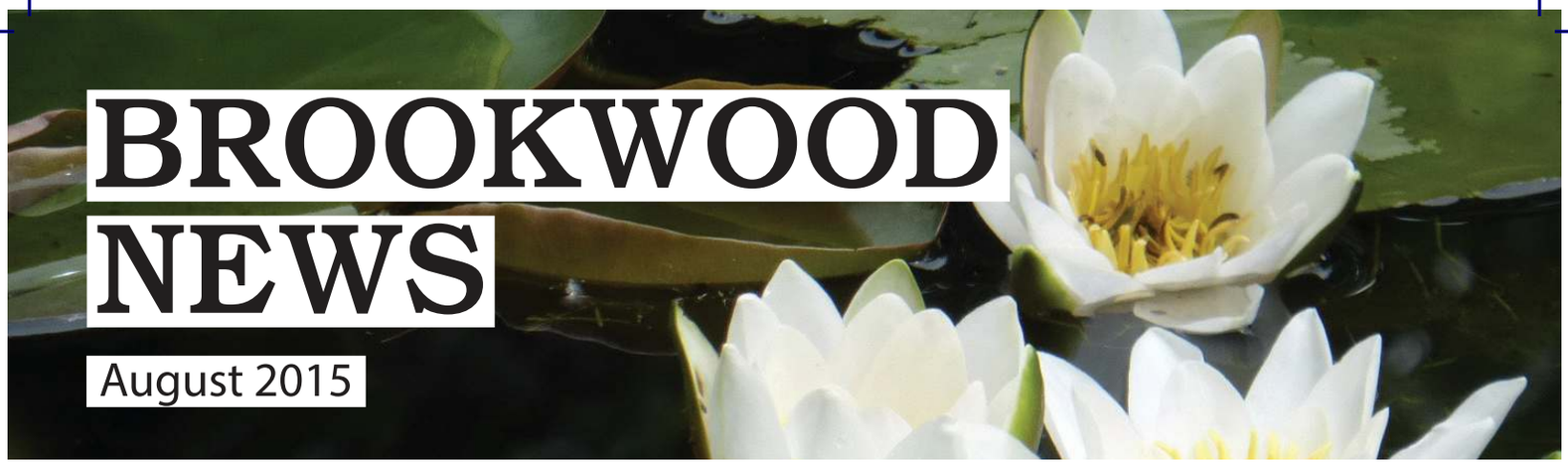


BROOKWOOD NEWS

August 2015

EDITORIAL

Who said August was a quiet month?

We are looking for another one or two people to take a turn in editing the newsletter. Could it be you? Do let us know if you are interested. It takes 4–6 hours a month, and you will get lots of help and support. Please get in touch via community.brookwood.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Judith Male

C-ATTITUDE

If you live or walk through Heath Drive you may well have noticed Percy on patrol. Definitely a cat with attitude!



COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT

Woking Borough Council has initiated a consultation period on future planning for the borough. The strategic document is widely known as 'Woking 2027' and consultation is taking place until the end of July. As far as Brookwood is concerned there are two main issues:

The proposed extension of the traveller site at Five Acres on Brookwood Lye Road (GB2 and GB3 on the map)

The proposal to develop the defunct Coblands Nursery site next to the traveller site (GB1 on the map)

The Brookwood and Bridley Neighbourhood Forum (BBNF) is making representations to the Council on both issues. Briefly, BBNF opposes the first proposal on the grounds that the current site at Five Acres is now at capacity, having 15 pitches which is the maximum number recommended by Government guidelines and the Council's own policy. The Council is proposing to put additional pitches on the area marked GB3, which it argues is a separate site. The BBNF points out that the two areas, which adjoin, are essentially one site with one entrance.

With regard to Coblands, the Council proposes to develop this land in the period 2022–27. BBNF agrees that it should be developed and sees no need to wait until 2022. The Forum urges the Council to give permission for one- and two-bedroomed homes, including some affordable housing, to be built on this land. It is also asking the Council to examine carefully the effect of yet more traffic at the Brookwood crossroads.



If you want more information about the Council's proposals please visit www.woking2027.info.

This month's issue of the newsletter is kindly sponsored by: **South West Trains**



NEW CAR PARKING AT THE STATION IN 2016

It has been confirmed that an additional 100 car parking spaces will be made available at Brookwood station next year. This will be achieved by means of a single-storey elevation running the length of the car park along the side of the railway line and extending halfway across the existing car park.

James Beveridge, station manager for Aldershot, says, 'We recognise that there is a demand for an increased number of car parking spaces at a number of locations on the South West Trains network.

South West Trains has recently signed an agreement with the Department for Transport to deliver an additional 1400 car parking spaces in the next 18 months. This will be achieved by building 8 single-storey decked car parks at selected locations. Brookwood is one of the stations being considered under this scheme. Further information will be made available to customers as the schemes progress.'

Tony Burley, the ticket clerk at the station, is constantly turning away customers because of car parking issues and welcomes the news.

It is likely that the work will take up to six months and will start from February/March of next year. During that time the car park will be closed and customers who usually travel from Brookwood will be allowed to travel from neighbouring stations.

There are two issues which arise from this development – the visual impact and the increase in traffic. Network Rail (NR) has assured Woking Borough Council that the structure will not be visible to homes backing on to the car park along Connaught Road, which are presently screened by a very high hedge owned by NR.

If an additional 100 cars are using the car park, there are likely to be 200 extra car movements each working day and queues at both ends of Connaught Road will be longer. But it seems there is little we can do about it.

Cllr Kevin Davis advocates a pragmatic approach. He says, 'The reality of the planning situation is that NR has Permitted Development rights within the area of the station, in the same way that residents usually have Permitted Development rights. This means that they are able to make the changes without having to bring forward a planning application.

Many of us who live nearby will be automatically opposed to the proposals, the primary reason being that there is no benefit to Brookwood, only pain. I don't think you are wrong. However as NR has Permitted Development rights we already know we hold a losing hand. Woking Borough Council can't stop it, Surrey County Council can't stop it, our MP can't stop it. Pleading with NR via a petition isn't going to stop it. I believe we need to work with NR to try and get some concessions.'

Kevin is hoping that NR will consider improving access to platform 2 for buggies and wheelchair users, and also look at reversing the entry and exit points at the station which should help traffic flow around the centre of the village.

For more details please visit Kevin's weblog: www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/cllr.kevindavis



Single storey car park to be built over this part of the station car park

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Brookwood Memorial Halls are having their annual 'BIG CLEAN' day on 29 August. There are lots of jobs to do, so do come along between 10.30am and 1pm, preferably wielding a paintbrush, broom, bucket or screwdriver. Coffee and tea and biscuits will be provided for the workers. It is good fun as well as making a real difference for the community. If you need further details please contact John Thornton (johnthornton1@virgin.net) or Judith Male (male.judith@sky.com). Or just turn up!

FIRE AT CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND



In the late afternoon on Wednesday 1 July (the hottest day of the year so far) a fire broke out in the children's playground behind Connaught Crescent. It was centred on a large clump of bamboo and for a few minutes flames reached rooftop level. Neighbours played their garden hoses against the back of their properties to prevent the fire spreading into Connaught Crescent until the Fire Brigade arrived. Nobody was hurt but there was some damage to fencing and gardens. The Council has since cut down all the vegetation in the playground.

ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY SHOW



Goldsworth Park Allotments Society at Sheets Heath Lane will be holding its Annual Flower and Vegetable Show in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 22 August. After the judging is completed at around 3pm the show will be open to everyone. There will be light refreshments, a raffle for wine, chocolates etc., with proceeds going to Woking Hospice, and the produce will be auctioned at the end of the show.

MORE ALLOTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to Roy and Vi Clare and to Agnes Jordaan whose allotments were highly commended by the Council after their recent inspection.

PRE-SCHOOL AT ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH



Once again we find ourselves at the end of another school year. As we say goodbye to the children who are about to start the next chapter in their lives at school, we would like to wish them good luck. We have had a busy year with lots of highlights, such as our Nativity Play and Grandparents Festival which were held in St Saviour's Church. We would like to thank Violet and her team of ladies for their support with the teas and coffees. Also we visited the allotments, where the children saw the bees and learnt how honey is made, as well as seeing all the fruit and vegetables growing.

From September we are extending our hours and will be opening two afternoons as well as every morning. We still have places available for September; if you would like more details please visit our website www.preschoolatstsaviours.co.uk or call us on 07903 609172.

BROOKWOOD CALLING

Local resident, Mark Craven, is planning to set up an Amateur Radio Station at St Saviour's Church on Saturday 12 September as it coincides with the national 'Churches on the Air' day around the UK. Ofcom has granted a special event call-sign, GB4STS.

Mark would like to get a good mix of ages, so if you're intrigued by amateur radio or think your children might be interested, do come along on the day. There will be interactive displays, communication-related crafts and radio-based coding/decoding challenges. All are both educational and fun! A selection of radio equipment will also be available including: VHF/UHF for local contacts and HF for longer distance and aircraft and satellite tracking.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available throughout the day. Details will be posted on the village website at: www.brookwood.org.uk/gb4sts.

Any licensed (or lapsed) ham radio operators in Brookwood or Knaphill, please get in touch with Mark Craven by email: GB4STS@brookwood.org.uk. He would be delighted to hear from you.



GARAGE BREAK-INS

Ten garages in Connaught Crescent were broken into during the afternoon of 17 July with extensive damage to the doors. Items, including an expensive bicycle, were stolen. The Police have been informed. Please be aware if you have garages in blocks away from your home and report any incidents or suspicious persons.

NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

As well as sponsorship from South West Trains, Brookwood News has also recently received donations from 'a Brookwood couple who moved to this lovely friendly village ten years ago in April' and from two of our longest standing residents, Brian and Wendy Kinder. Thank you all. Please don't forget the collection boxes at Fulks and the Bakers Dozen, which will be grateful for any loose change to lighten your purse or pocket!!

BROOKWOOD CLUB

We have a Charity BBQ and Disco planned for Saturday 15 August, with the BBQ from 6pm and music from Midnight Star Disco from 8pm till late. All welcome.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL – OVERNIGHT BAG NOT REQUIRED!

Have you ever wondered about the 'inside story' of our local hospitals? If you have, do come along to an evening with the Friends of Pirbright Surgery in Lord Pirbright's Hall on Wednesday 9 September at 7pm for 7.30pm.

This is a rare opportunity to learn more about the workings of three major hospitals in our area, from those who manage them. There will be three presentations followed by a question and answer session.

Any questions? Please contact Charles Stewart, Chairman of FoPS, on 01483 474992.

NEWS FROM PIRBRIGHT SURGERY

The Government now requires the practice to allocate all patients a named accountable GP. So, if you do not know already, you can ask one of the receptionists next time you visit the surgery. Wherever possible, patients' preferences will be taken into account and having a named GP does not prevent you seeing another GP at the surgery.

Dr Andy Stonor, Chemistry Tutor

Flexible private tutor sessions in chemistry.

Recently qualified with a doctorate in synthetic inorganic chemistry and previously an MSci in chemistry. Previous experience as a tutor.

Free most of the week and at weekends and can tutor during the day and in the evenings.

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+Contact+

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[e] andrew.stonor@gmail.com

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

30 July Brookwood and Bridley Neighbourhood Forum AGM, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

1 August Brookwood Club Bingo evening, 8pm for 8.30pm start.

2 August Brookwood Cemetery, 2pm. Introductory Walk Part II, led by Kim Lowe and Margaret Hobbs. This complements the introductory walk held in March by exploring the former non-conformist section of the cemetery. Meet at the Glades of Remembrance car park.

15 August Brookwood Club Charity BBQ from 6pm.

22 August Allotment Society Show at the Memorial Hall. Open to view from 3pm.

29 August The BIG CLEAN at the Memorial Halls, 10.30am to 1pm.

5 September WI Centenary Afternoon Tea, from 2.30pm.

7 September Belly-dancing for Beginners at 7pm at the Memorial Hall. 6-week course. Contact MelissaHoare@hotmail.com for details.

9 September Local Hospitals: The Inside Story, 7.00pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall.

12 September Amateur Radio Station at St Saviour's Church.

26 September Harvest Supper and Talent Show at St Saviour's Church.

Would you like to sponsor a newsletter, or advertise?

We would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring the newsletter. The cost is £100 per edition with a mention and acknowledgement on the front page. Adverts are £25 for an ⅛ page, or £45 for ¼ page. For more information on advertising please contact us on community@brookwood.org.uk.

Deadline for the September issue is 20 August 2015

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

Printed by Knaphill Print and delivered to your door by a very lovely person.