BROOKWOOD NEWS

September 2015



EDITORIAL

Sponsorship

Following concerns about the ongoing funding of Brookwood News, we are delighted to announce that Andrew and Simon of Seymours Independent Estate Agents in Knaphill have offered to sponsor the newsletter for at least the next 12 months. We really appreciate their support in guaranteeing the production of the newsletter into the future. We would still welcome additional local sponsorship. If you want to advertise, please get in touch with us.

Scones and Jam

There is still (just) time to get your ticket for the Traditional Afternoon Tea to be served in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 5 September from 2.30pm by members of the WI. The tea is a tasty way to celebrate the WI's centenary and is open to everyone in the village. Tickets are £5 from Mary Cook (82 Conn Cresc), Jean Gable (38 Conn Cresc) or Maureen Grey (18 Heath Dr).

Judith Male – Editor

BROOKWOOD AND KNAPHILL BELL RINGERS TRIUMPH!

Church bell ringers from Brookwood, Knaphill and Sheets Heath formed the backbone of the winning Pirbright band in a recent competition. They beat off very stiff competition, including some of the finest ringers in the country, to take the trophy in the Farnham District six-bell striking competition held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright, in July.

Anyone of average strength and with a reasonable memory can learn to ring church bells, and once you have learned basic control the sky's the limit. You don't have to be a regular churchgoer either; all are welcome. If you would like to find out more about joining a winning band, contact bellringers@pirbrightchurch.org.uk, or talk to Connaught Road residents Susan Thornton, Yvonne Craven or Richard Hyde.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGM



The Brookwood and Bridley Neighbourhood Forum (BBNF) AGM took place on 30 July in the Memorial Hall and was attended by about 30 residents.

Cllr Kevin Davis, who chaired the meeting, said that the work of the Forum had been put on hold while a response to Woking Borough Council's sites allocation proposals had been prepared. See the August newsletter for details of the proposals as they affect Brookwood. The meeting warmly endorsed the response and thanked those responsible for putting it together. The BBNF response was forwarded to the Council the following day.

BBNF is devising a second questionnaire to inform draft development plans. It is likely to fall on your doormat in early October.

There was a brief discussion on the proposal to double stack part of the Brookwood station car park (as reported last month). Cllr Kevin advised that SW Trains could not be prevented from doing this and residents needed to work with the rail authorities to try to make the best of the situation.

There is a proposal to open a new gate at the east end of the cemetery to allow pedestrian access to the station for people living in the Heath House Road area.

Kevin is standing down as Chair of BBNF and a new Chair will be needed from September. If you are interested, please contact Kevin on cllrkevin.davis@woking.gov.uk.

FUNDRAISING MUMS

September is an important month for two local mums, Lisa Dennis and Seren Tartari, who are determined to raise funds for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research following the death last year of a local toddler.

On 5 September, 7.30 to 11.30pm, they are hosting a Wedding Dress Disco at Pirbright Hall. It will be a fun packed night with a disco, and auction of local crafts and other donated goodies. A BBQ will also be available on a pay-as-you-buy basis. Tickets are £5 each in advance via weddingdressdisco@gmail.com or £8 on the door, but they cannot guarantee availability on the night. Dress code: either your wedding attire or something suitable as a wedding guest. Bring your own alcohol.

Then on 12/13 September Lisa and Seren are taking on The Thames Path Challenge, an ultra marathon. They will be walking 100km/65ish miles over the course of a maximum of 34 hours. This will be done through the night with no stopping except for quick food breaks.

If you are able to sponsor them, please visit www.justgiving.com/seren-tartari2 or www.justgiving.com/Lisa-dennis2. They would be delighted to have your support.

BROOKWOOD ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS (BAN)

BAN is a local charity run by Brookwood residents especially for Brookwood residents. Volunteers help anyone by driving them to and from the doctor's, dentist's, hospitals, shopping or anywhere they need to go.

The process is very simple: 'phone the helpline (07931 239365) between 10a.m. and 12 noon Monday to Friday at least 48 hours before the time you need picking up, and that day's duty officer will arrange for a driver to collect and deliver you. A small fee is charged to reimburse the driver's expenses.

The BAN Committee and volunteers are proud of their role in village life, and are very grateful to donors to the charity, especially Brookwood Club, who raise huge funds for them every year.

Are you in need of our services? Just call the helpline!

Could you help us by volunteering to drive clients or act as a duty officer manning the 'phone for just two hours every month? Just call Robin Linklater, chairman (475228), Maria Nixon, treasurer (476134) or Pauline Lock, secretary (475745).

STOP PRESS!

The BAN Committee invites all current and prospective volunteers, duty officers and clients to DRINKS at the Brookwood Club on Saturday 12 September from 5 to 7pm.

Please call the Helpline (07931 239365) if a lift is required.

LETTER FROM A COMMUTER

I just wanted to share with you a near-miss situation with a motorcyclist and my car recently. In your last newsletter there is an article on the station car park. One point missed on this is the danger to cars leaving the station and turning right. As you leave, immediately to the right are allocated parking spots. Recently a large van has remained parked at this closest spot to the station. This has completely blinded the vision to vehicles leaving the station. Yesterday as I was leaving, assuming the oncoming path was clear as a car had just passed on the main road from the left (only one car can go through at a time), I nudged forward only to find a bike coming through. The bike did nothing wrong in my opinion but there was a very near miss as a result of him/her swerving to avoid my car.

Going back to the article referred to above, the last paragraph makes a really valid point about reversing the entry points to the station as to my knowledge there is no blind spot this way around. I know of one other exact same incident and therefore hoping somehow highlighting this via the community newsletter may get something in place to change something to stop a near miss becoming a head-on collision at some point. In my opinion neither the bike nor I was at fault in this situation but somehow I feel one of the two would be put at blame. I was just making an innocent journey home from work.

(This letter was received at the end of July and the van has since been parked further away from the station exit but the principle of impaired sight lines remains and Cllr Kevin and SW Trains have been made aware. If other people have had similar experiences please let the newsletter and Cllr Kevin know.)

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 26 September 7pm, St Saviour's Church

You are all welcome to join us at St Saviour's Church on Saturday 26 September when we will be holding a Harvest Supper open to the whole village. We will be providing a hot meal, but please bring your own drinks and glasses. We are also delighted to welcome musicians, Alex and Anya, who will be entertaining us throughout the evening with piano and song. This evening is suitable for all ages, so why not come along and meet up with friends and neighbours. Retiring collection. For further information contact Yvonne Craven, yvonne.brookwood@gmail.com or 01483 480273. This evening is being held as part of the ReGeneration project for St Saviour's Church.

ALONG THE CANAL

As summer rolls gently into autumn, the kingfishers are back on the canal. In fact they probably never left but are very difficult to spot during the breeding season. Keep your eyes open as you walk along the towpath for that tell-tale flash of glittering blue. The birds are often found on overhanging branches or flying low over the water.

Unusual catches ... Neil from St John's was fishing at Brookwood in mid-July. He caught a few tiddlers, a large grass snake and an eight inch terrapin!

Blackberries are ripening fast. There are a lot on the canal and more up on Sheets Heath.

And that path ... it has been opened but is still just loose stones and certainly not good for bikes or pushchairs. We have asked Cala homes if this is the final surface but have not received a reply. Also beware of old barbed wire in the long grass to the side of the path – dangerous for children and dogs.

BROOKWOOD BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

A reminder that Brookwood Babies and Toddlers group starts again on Monday 7 September. Run by mums and childminders in Brookwood, it's a great opportunity to meet local parents and carers, and have a coffee on a Monday morning.

The group runs every Monday during term time from 9.45am until 11.30am at the Brookwood Memorial Hall. Entry is £2 per family, which includes tea and coffee for the adults and squash and biscuits for the children.

There's a separate baby area, books, dressing-up clothes, ride-ons, a wooden slide and climbing frame – plus weekly craft activities and sing-alongs.

Everyone welcome, so pop in and say hello! First session free! For more information contact: brookwoodbabies@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD CLUB

Our regular 'first Saturday' cash bingo evening is on Saturday 5 September, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members.

We have live music from local band Stormy Waters on Saturday 12 September from 8pm till late. All welcome.

Look out for our new website which will be launched shortly – see www.brookwood.club for the latest information on club events.

Please enquire at the bar if you are interested in joining your village social club.

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VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

5 September WI Centenary Afternoon Tea, from 2.30pm.

5 September Cash Bingo at Brookwood Club, 8 for 8.30pm.

5 September Wedding Dress Disco at Pirbright Hall, 7.30pm.

6 September Brookwood Cemetery Society Walks – Nature Walk led by George Hounsome. Discover more of the flora and fauna of the Cemetery. Starts 2pm.

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

12 September Amateur Radio Station at St Saviour's Church. All welcome. See August issue for full details.

12 September BAN Drinks at Brookwood Club, 5 to 7pm.

12 September Stormy Waters band at Brookwood Club, from 8pm.

20 September Cafe Church, 10.30a.m. at St Saviour's. A new venture for St Saviour's; includes breakfast and coffee and a range of worship activities for all ages. For further information please contact admin@knaphillchurch.co.uk.

26 September Harvest Supper at 7pm, St Saviour's Church.

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

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 October issue is 20 September 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.