

BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2016

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April edition of the Brookwood News.

This month two events are scheduled in connection with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations: on Thursday 14 April a meeting of the group putting together a programme of events over the weekend of 10 – 12 June, and on the weekend of 16 – 17 April a "Clean for the Queen" weekend.

The Station Car park closes from Monday 25 April to allow South West Trains to increase the capacity by 100 cars. As Cllr Kevin Davis comments, the development will have a huge impact on those living close to the new construction and it has the potential for significant disruption during the summer as villagers and commuters seek to go about their everyday lives whilst faced with all the joys that a major development project brings. There is a risk also that SW Trains' frontline staff, in particular Tony the Ticket (so christened by my daughter to distinguish between him and Tony the Butcher!) will be unfairly caught in the firing line if frustration and annoyance surface. Please remember, it's not his fault!

Thanks to all the contributors and to you for reading this edition. We are always on the look out for local news so please keep the contributions coming.

John Wheeler– Editor

Station car park closes



Brookwood Station car park will be closed from Monday 25 April to August 2016. Questions abound: in the short term, will traffic temporarily increase or lessen? Without station parking will commuters use another station, or be dropped off and picked up later, resulting in two extra journeys along Connaught Road? Will unauthorised parking become a problem? And what will be the permanent effect of the late decision to reposition the structure closer to the hedge and properties in Connaught Road? Time will tell!

Previous debate on this topic has covered the possibility of changing the priority for cars entering and leaving the station, in effect switching the entrance and exit, in order to reduce the risk of accidents (of which there have been several at the existing exit junction this winter due to poor visibility). At the moment SWT say that they have not addressed the reversal of the entry/exit but are still thinking about it.

Cllr Kevin Davis has also been requesting step-free access to Platform 2. Those of you with wheelchairs, prams and bikes will be very glad of this if they can implement it.

SWT held a meeting at the Station on 15 March when residents could meet the project team to learn more about the development. Following the meeting the following statement has been provided:

- The single-storey deck will be built over half the length of the existing car park. It is limited in this way to allow access for high-top vehicles to the railway access point at the far end of the car park.

Continues on next page

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- This deck will provide about 100 additional bays, the maximum number that can be provided without building a much higher structure to allow access for high-top vehicles.
- Initially SWT investigated putting the new structure on the 'railway' side of the car park rather than close to the laurel hedge. Detailed design demonstrated that this was significantly less viable, as the ground conditions require more substantial foundations than first envisaged. These alternative foundation types could have temporarily undermined the railway and required the closure of the railway line to facilitate their installation. This would have significantly increased the duration and disruption of the construction, with a lot of work being required at night when trains do not run. The structure could also have interfered with the railway signal and telecommunications mast.
- The car park structure will be lower than the existing laurel hedge and it is thought that vehicle roofs will not be visible above it.
- The laurel hedge will be grown to around 1 metre taller to provide additional screening for properties.
- The upper storey of the car park will have solid panels for headlight screening to prevent lights from cars shining through the existing laurel bush.
- Lights for the upper storey will have shielding to minimise the spread of the light beyond the car park structure. Station announcements will not be extended to the car park either.
- All works will take place during the day, with occasional weekend works possible.
- Deliveries will be managed by the contractor to minimise disruption as far as possible.
- All works will be confined to the main car park and will not directly affect the station building and forecourt.

Cllr Kevin Davis comments on the carpark project

Most people will now be aware that Network Rail have chosen a solution to a lack of parking at the station by totally disregarding the welfare of Brookwood residents. I'm frankly appalled that they will build the exact opposite to what they were planning less than a year ago. With the double stack now immediately at the boundary with residents' gardens, there is almost certainly going to be light pollution and possibly the view of cars parked. Nobody has a right to a view, but I am making sure Planning and Environmental Health are aware of my concerns so that pressure can be applied to ensure the latest technologies are used to minimise light pollution. In light of the comments by SWT, it did also make me wonder what damage will occur to the roots of the laurels if the foundations are so deep that it may impact the railway line. I will be seeking the views of the WBC tree officer immediately.

Along with most people, I'm also really worried about the parking situation in the village when the car park closes. Obviously we have the CPZ, but there are also bylaws preventing people parking their cars on the verges. I will be submitting a written question at full Council on 14 April asking the Leader of the Council exactly what measures will be put in place to ensure we are not over run with illegally parked cars. I will ensure this information is communicated as far as possible so that commuters know parking in Brookwood will not be tolerated. Please contact me if you are concerned about verge parking.

Phone: 01483 488109 | Blog: http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk/sites/cllr.kevindavis

Email: cllrkevindavis@woking.gov.uk

Infantile and potentially dangerous behaviour

There have been reports over the last few months, the most recent on 20 March, of two youths roaming along the canal towpath, firing marbles from a large hand held catapult across the canal towards properties backing on to it. Windows have been broken and in the most recent incident the resident who saw and remonstrated with the youths had the catapult aimed at her, before the youths ran off along the towpath. Although the Police attended promptly they were unable to find them. Regular users of the towpath may have come across these two individuals, described as being around 20 years old, white, slim build, one shortish with a baseball cap and the other one tall. And residents of other properties with a view across to the towpath might wish to keep an eye open for them too, so that it may be possible to alert the police should someone matching these descriptions, and carrying a catapult, be spotted.

Also on 20 March, probably around 8pm, a resident of Connaught Road, near the School, had eggs thrown at her front room windows, giving her an unwanted additional job clearing up someone else's "fun".

Brookwood Memorial Halls AGM

The Brookwood Memorial Halls AGM takes place on Monday 18 April 2016 at 8pm in the Committee Room at the Large Hall. Any Brookwood resident can attend and, if eligible, stand for election and vote. Additional volunteers are welcome to join the management team and spread the load of maintaining this well-used and valued facility. Any resident wishing to have any matter discussed at the meeting must submit the request in writing to the Secretary at least seven days prior to the meeting Correspondence should be addressed to The Secretary, 38 Connaught Crescent, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0AN.

The Halls are available at concessionary rates for locals and charities - contact Colin on 07757 969231 or see www.bmhalls.org.uk for more information.

Whether you are a Royalist or not, we hope you will enjoy all the events we are planning over the weekend of 10 – 12 June, when the nation will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. A small enthusiastic group met in March to discuss plans and the resulting programme will, we hope, attract all ages. Plans are in the initial stages, but will (provisionally) include a barbecue and disco at Brookwood Club, an art exhibition and flower festival in St Saviour's Church and, the main event, a village picnic lunch at the Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, with entertainment and a treasure hunt. If you missed the last meeting, but would like to be involved, we shall be meeting again on Thursday 14 April at the Small Memorial Hall, 8pm. We are looking to share out all the work so no-one has too much to do. Can you help with any of the following?

- Organising a small-scale flower festival
- Compering the entertainment on Sunday afternoon
- Organising a table quiz for Sunday afternoon
- Organising a treasure hunt around the village
- Helping with artwork and decorations
- Making bunting
- Supplying material for bunting – gold, purple and pale blue.
- Serving coffee and tea
- Helping to move furniture

Come along to the meeting on Thursday 14 April, or contact Judith Male 01483 850571l

Keep Brookwood Tidy – 16 -17 April 2016

As part of Brookwood's preparation for the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations in June the Newsletter team is organising a 'Clean for The Queen' weekend.

If everything goes to plan Beavers and Cubs from 1st Brookwood Scout Group will start the clean up during their meeting on Friday 15 April.

Then we are asking all residents to pick up litter in front of their own homes over the weekend of 16 -17 April to help make our lovely village an even more pleasant place to live. Perhaps local businesses could do the same?

Anyone who would like to do more can join in on **Saturday 16 April** and help to pick up litter in more public places – on the rec, along the canal etc. Woking Borough Council is lending us pick up sticks and supplying rubbish sacks. We recommend you wear heavy duty protective gloves and bring a Hi-Viz jacket / tabard if you have one. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

We will meet at the Brookwood Memorial Halls on Saturday at 10am and finish about 3pm – you can join us anytime, & stay for as long as you wish. Two or three hours of litter picking are usually enough for adults unless you are extremely dedicated. An hour is enough for children. Please try to avoid driving to the halls if possible as there are other hall bookings during this period.

Please contact Barbara Lugton via community@brookwood.org.uk or by phone/text on 07891 771168 to register your interest, to let us know you are coming or if you have any questions. - *Barbara Lugton*

Blues Band create a Storm



Brookwood will rock to the beat on Saturday 9 April when local blues band, Stormy Waters will be playing in St Saviour's Church. Many of you will have already heard them playing in the area at the Garibaldi Pub, Brookwood Social Club and other venues. Now's your chance to come along to a local venue and relive all your favourite blues numbers and those forgotten songs of your youth! Doors open 7.30pm Entrance £5, in aid of St Saviour's ReGeneration. Please bring your own drinks. Soft drinks and nibbles provided.

Another Business in the Village

After a period of refurbishment to the shop between The Mogul and Glassmaster, Surrey Floors and Doors have opened for business. The Company, which is holding a launch event on Saturday 2 April between 9am and 5pm, has been operating since 2000, and from the village for the past couple of years, with a team built around the original founders, Liam and Victor. Their speciality is all things wood, from new flooring installations, renovations of existing floors, underfloor heating, new doors or refurbishment/ oiling of existing doors. Or if it's just the little finishing touches you need, trims, accessories, oils, waxes and wood floor cleaning kits are available too. The company is offering 20% off flooring products all through April, so please pop in for a chat or just to say Hi!

BROOKWOOD CLUB

- Our next regular cash bingo evening is on Saturday 2 April, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members.
- The Club's Annual General Meeting is on Monday 25 April, 8pm for 8.30pm start. All members are encouraged to attend.
- Don't forget to carry your membership card with you when using the Club.
- Part time bar staff are needed. Please apply in the Club at 92 Connaught Road.
- Please enquire at the bar if you are interested in joining your village social club.

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Brookwood Cemetery Society

Sunday April 3 2016 at 2pm: Railway Walk led by Ian Devine. Learn the history and follow the route of the old Necropolis Railway line.

Please meet at the Glades of Remembrance car park.

Brookwood WI

Brookwood WI are holding their annual Spring Lunch on Saturday 23 April, 12.30pm for 1pm at the Memorial Hall. Tickets are £8.50 from Mary Cook on 01483 831832 or Maureen Gray on 01483 475543.

Guitar Lessons!



Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced students welcome. Rock, Blues, Pop, Jazz. 10years West End and touring experience. Learn new techniques. Learn your favourite songs. Learn to read music. Learn Grades.

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Christian Sutherland BMus Hons
07956419870
sutherlandcf@googlemail.com

VILLAGE DIARY DATES (also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk)

Sat 2 April 8.00pm	Brookwood Club cash bingo evening
Sun 3 April 2.00pm	Brookwood Cemetery Society April walk
Sat 9 April 10-11.30am	Brookwood Memorial Hall - Pirbright Country Market
Sat 9 April 7.30pm	St Saviour's Church - Stormy Waters blues band perform
Thurs 14 April 8pm	Small Memorial Hall meeting re Queen's Birthday village celebrations
Sat 16 April 10am	Small Memorial Hall litter picking morning
Mon 18 April 8pm	Large Memorial Hall AGM Brookwood Memorial Halls
Tues 19 April 7.45pm	Small Memorial Hall – Brookwood WI Meeting (New Members and visitors are always welcome)

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

Adverts are £25 for an 1/8 page advert or £45 for ¼ page. For more information on advertising please contact us on community@brookwood.org.uk

Deadline for copy for the next issue is the 20th of this month,

preferably by e-mail to community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

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