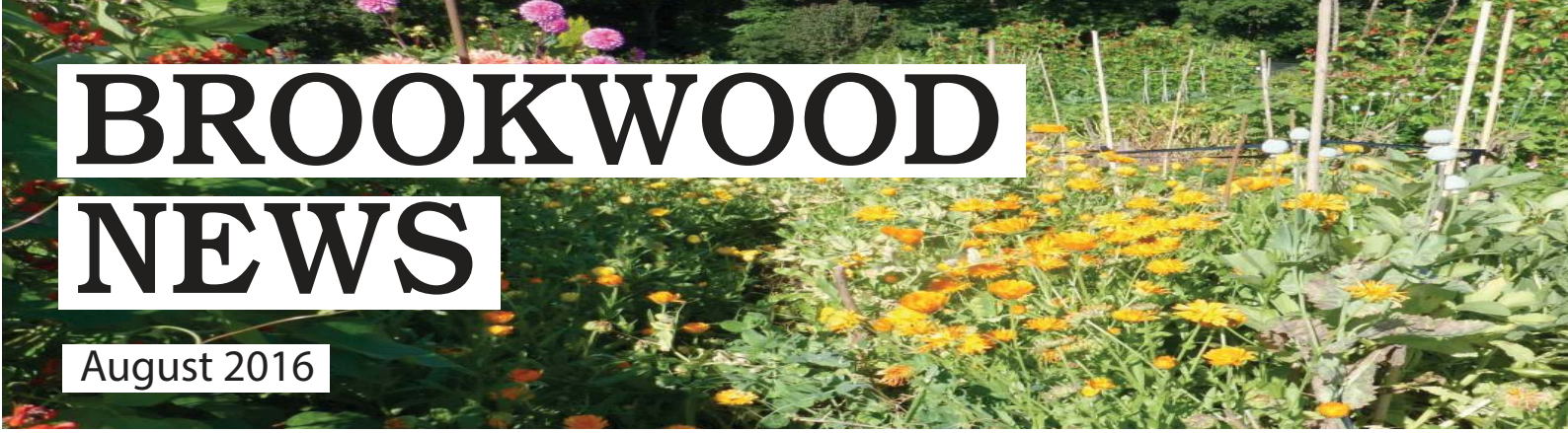
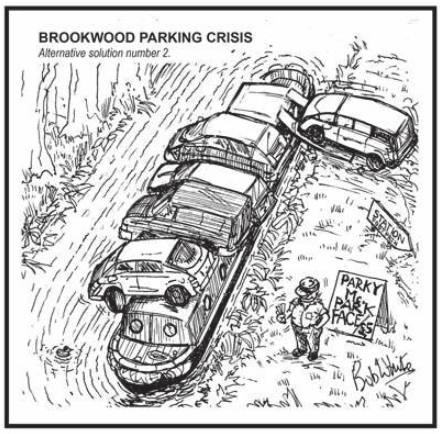


BROOKWOOD NEWS

August 2016

STATION CAR PARK

The newly revamped station car park is expected to re-open at the end of August. SW Trains say that it is likely to be a two-stage opening: the ground floor will be open first while work is finished on the upper level. There will also be improved bicycle storage and the plan is to reverse the exit and entrance, though, as we go to print, it is not clear whether that will happen at the same time as the car park re-opens. Tony the Ticket says thank you for the patience and good humour shown by travellers at the station.



SCHOOL'S OUT!

We would like to thank the Brookwood community for supporting the school throughout the last academic year. This has been a notable year: we finally received recognition from Ofsted that we are a 'Good' school; we became an academy, joining a strong community of learners in the Bourne Education Trust; and we have, yet again, supported a group of youngsters in achieving their personal goals as they move on to their secondary schools as rounded and mature individuals with a love of learning.

Our Summer Fair, though a bit soggy, was hugely successful. Thanks to everyone who came along to support us. We raised £2,500, which will be spent on providing much-needed equipment for the children to enjoy. Special thanks to Roger and the team at the Brookwood Club for hosting the bar once more and donating all their takings, and to Fulks Butchers for supplying the meat for the BBQ. Our next big FOBS event will be the return of our Craft Fair, provisionally booked for Thursday 3 November – just in time to secure some early Christmas gifts!

Remember you can help us out by donating bags of unwanted clothes and shoes, and we still recycle mobile phones. If you shop online and are willing to access your favourite retailers through a third-party charity site, we are registered with www.thegivingmachine.co.uk – our charity being Friends of Brookwood School. All the major supermarkets, Amazon, insurance brokers, holiday companies, department stores and so on, all give a donation to the school when you spend – regularly 2 or 3%, sometimes much more.

You may see some building work taking place over the summer. One element is a refit of the clock tower and clock; I am assured that, when it is working again, it will tell the correct time. Hooray!

Mrs Green, Headteacher

We wish the teachers and children at the school a very happy summer holiday, and hope they will return rested and refreshed for the new term in September. And for those who will be moving on, you start your next adventure with support and good wishes from us all.

EDITORIAL

Summer has finally arrived and the village seems to draw breath this month. It is especially good to have less traffic on the road. If you are holidaying in exotic places, I hope you have a good time and safe journeys. If, like me, you are staying here for August I hope you will enjoy the quieter month and find time for friends and neighbours.

As I walked through Heath Drive last week, I noticed signs inviting neighbours to a tea party. What a lovely idea! As the pace slows a little, how about making that phone call to check someone is ok or asking a new neighbour in for a cup of coffee? Or maybe you could donate an hour or so to help clean the Memorial Halls on 27 August? This is Brookwood at its best.

It was great to have Sarah Abrams as editor last month; she brings the average age of the editorial team down very considerably! Are there any other young people who would like to have a go? We can support you if you need it.

***Judith Male* – Editor**

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FROM BROOKWOOD TO THIEPVAL

The National Commemorative Event to mark the Centenary of The Battle of the Somme – a personal account by John Wheeler

Last year Fiona and I were fortunate to be selected in the ballot for tickets for the National Commemorative Event held on 1 July 2016 at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Our family history research had revealed a personal link with Thiepval: Fiona's great-uncle, Stanley Townsend, died on 6 September 1916 in the battle for the nearby village of Guillemont. He was 20 and his name is recorded among the 72,000 names on the Thiepval Memorial.

During the intervening months it dawned on us just what a highly organised operation this would be – 10,000 attending, a security exclusion zone around the town of Albert, scheduled times to arrive at Albert airport (to be strictly observed), dietary requirements for the picnic lunch, and much, much more.

Any thoughts that we would be sitting in warm sunshine had long been dispelled by weather forecasts before we arrived, and there were frequent, heavy showers during our short stay. In fact, these were very similar conditions to those a hundred years before, when the start of the attack had been delayed due to the weather. Rain ponchos were dispensed by the organisers – not a luxury the troops enjoyed all those years ago.

The service was attended by members of our Royal Family, the French and Irish Presidents, David Cameron and other members of the Great and the Good. It was quite truthfully the most moving event that either of us have ever experienced: an 87 year-old reading the words that his father, awarded the VC for his bravery within sight of the Memorial, had written about his experience; serving members of the Armed Forces reading the words and telling the stories of their predecessors; poetry written by Isaac Rosenberg who served on the Somme and died later in the war; the most wonderful rendition of 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' by the Morriston Orpheus Choir and the Band of the Welsh Guards; and, finally, the Silence.

Except that it was not total silence – the most enchanting birdsong could be heard loud and clear as the poppy and cornflower petals fluttered down from the top of the Memorial – a sound, perhaps, that the troops might also have heard so long ago, just before all that horror was unleashed.



WILL'S GREAT FEAT!

People in Brookwood have lots of interests and hobbies. Will Weir, who lives in Connaught Road, has spent much of his free time during the last 30 years climbing Munros in Scotland. There are 284 of them. Last month Will invited 40 friends and family, including some from Brookwood, to celebrate with him as he climbed his last Munro, Gael Chan, near Blair Atholl. I am grateful that he is willing to share his passion with the newsletter.

Q. So tell me what is a Munro?

The name Munro comes from Sir Hugh Munro who, in 1891, drew up a list of separate Scottish mountains over 3000 feet in height in the journal of the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC). Although Munro never completed the list and never climbed all the mountains, the SMC has maintained the list according to that original criterion of height (914.4m these days) and they have come to be known as the Munros.

Q. How did you get into climbing them?

When I was a child family holidays were often in the Scottish Highlands and I came to love the country, although we didn't climb hills and I knew nothing of Munros. At school in Lincoln, I often went with friends to the Peak District; then, at university, I found my way into the university rambling club and friends there introduced me, first, to the Lake District hills and to rock climbing and then to the Scottish hills. Even then, it was a few years before I became aware of the Munros. But once we found them it became inevitable that we would climb them all!

Q. Why climb 280+ mountains in Scotland?

Can I paraphrase Mallory's answer? Because they are there. There are many reasons why



people climb the Munros but for me it's been a wonderful way to get to know the Highlands, with almost every walk providing a new experience; seeing wildlife I've not seen before or some new aspect of the weather (there's plenty of weather) or just the sheer beauty of the country. Probably most of all, though, I've forged friendships which will last my whole life.

Q. Can anyone do it?

With a certain amount of fitness and preparation, anyone can climb a Munro. On my last Munro, the youngest at the summit was 11 and the oldest was 76. Whether anyone can climb all the Munros is a slightly different question. The easiest Munro involves a walk of around 3km round trip and an ascent of around 200m whilst the toughest involves a walk over very rugged terrain followed by a rock climb to get to the summit, and there are many levels in between. However, for safety, they all require good navigational skills, even with modern technologies, proper footwear and clothing, and an awareness of how quickly the weather can change and how harsh it can be even in summer. The Lake District is a good place to start.

Q. What was your worst moment?

Maybe finishing the Cuillin Ridge on Skye after two days of hard scrambling and rock climbing and walking out to Sligachan, only to find that we'd missed last orders in the hotel; or perhaps spraining an ankle when on a solo backpacking trip in remote country and having to walking 20km to my car before the swelling immobilised me.

Q. And your best?

There have been so many. For example, starting a winter traverse of Ben Nevis and a neighbouring summit in thick mist and breaking through the cloud to see snow-covered peaks peeping through the clouds for miles around, or descending a ridge in summer with an eagle soaring a few yards to my left. The last one a couple of weeks ago was very special, too.



MACMILLAN TEA

Saturday 13 August 3–6pm, St Saviour's



I am holding a FUNdraising Games Afternoon and Tea Party to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. My dad, Tim Benson, was diagnosed with brain cancer in March of this year, and my family and I are keen to support this worthy charity. As well as free tea, coffee and cake, there will be games and competitions for all ages. So do come along with plenty of cash! Hopefully we can all raise money for a good cause whilst enjoying a fun afternoon. Remember, there are PRIZES to be WON! Hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend but would like to donate then please go to our JustGiving page (https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Holly-Davis4). Please see www.macmillan.org.uk/about-us/index.html for further information about Macmillan.

Holly Benson and family xx

VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND FLOWER SHOW





The Goldsworth Park Allotments Society (Brookwood) will be holding our annual Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 20 August 2016. At 3pm the judging will be complete and the show will be open to everyone for viewing. There is no charge for entry and refreshments will be available at very reasonable prices. So do come along and see what we grow and maybe take some tasty veg home for supper!

We also hold a raffle in aid of Woking Hospice, tickets at £1 each. If you would like to donate prizes to the raffle please contact Vic Ward (goldsworthpas@aol.com).

If you are interested in joining the Society, there will be members on hand who would be happy to answer your questions

MUSIC AND SUPPER AT ST SAVIOUR'S



St Saviour's Church is hosting several events during the next few weeks. On Saturday 17 September at 7.30pm the young professional harpist, Siobhan Owen, will be giving a concert alongside the local Octavian Singers. Siobhan was born in Wales, but grew up in Australia and is currently touring Europe. Her repertoire includes classical and folk music, and this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear this unique instrument. Tickets are £10 in advance or on the door. Please bring your own drinks.

The Village Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 1 October at 7pm. Lizzie Fulleylove will be entertaining us with song, accompanied by David Pennant. Supper will be provided but please bring your own drinks. Tickets £10 in advance.

There will be a further concert on Saturday 8 October starring Classical Reflections, and The Anna Loveday Singers. More details in next month's newsletter but meanwhile do reserve the date.

For further details on all these events, to book tickets or reserve a table, please contact Yvonne Craven (480273 or email yvonne.brookwood@gmail.com).

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Our next regular Cash Bingo evening is on Saturday 6 August, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members.

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

The Friends of Pirbright Surgery
in partnership with North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group

invite you to this year's open meeting

Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Dementia

at 7:00 for 7:30pm on Wednesday 14 September 2016 in Lord Pirbright's Hall

A rare opportunity to hear a line-up of specialist speakers on these important issues.
Please make a note in your diary now!
Charles Stewart
Chairman – Friends of Pirbright Surgery
Tel: 474992

Barre Concept

Dance based fitness classes at Brookwood Community Hall!

Combining the alignment and technique of ballet, the precision of yoga and the power of pilates.
Tone the thighs, lift the buttocks, flatten the abs and sculpt the arms in this brand new class.

Set to high energy music, BarreConcept is a non stop class that will increase your stamina and endurance...what's not to love?!

You don't have to be an athlete or a dancer to enjoy this class!

Classes run every Tuesday morning from 6th September

Contact Katherine
07976 834140 starpointedance@outlook.com
www.starpointedance.com

BROOKWOOD SWIFT FLEDGLING



There is still one family of swifts nesting in Brookwood each year. This year one of their fledglings left the nest a little too soon. It was found huddled on the gravel beside our drive. You should not normally touch fallen fledglings because their parents will usually recover them, but swifts never land and are unable to take off from the ground, so something had to be done. After consulting with the Swift Conservancy (www.swift-conservation.org), the fledgling was held aloft on a flat palm and given the chance to fly, but it wouldn't. The swift website directed us to the Wildlife Aid Foundation (www.wildlifeaid.org.uk) and the young swift was placed in a shoe-box (with holes) and taken to their hospital in Leatherhead. They have a lady who specialises in the care of swifts so the prognosis looks good. Once it is able to fly, she may even try to release it near its home in Brookwood so it can re-join its family and maintain our local population.

David Lugton

Guitar Lessons!



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

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OPEN INVITATION FROM THE MEMORIAL HALLS



We have served you as a community for the last 12 months with little fuss and as much reliability as we can muster. Please can you spare a couple of hours on Saturday 27 August (any time from 10am) giving us a bit of a polish and brush-up so we can look our best when we resume full service again in September? Bring broom, duster or cleaning materials. We will supply coffee and biscuits and a party mood! Everyone is welcome for as long or as short as you can give.

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

Saturday 6 August	Cash Bingo at Brookwood Club, 8 for 8.30pm. Everyone welcome
Saturday 13 August	FUNdraising Afternoon for MacMillan Cancer Support, 3–6pm at St Saviour's Church. Everyone welcome
Saturday 20 August	GPAS (Brookwood) Annual Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show at the Memorial Hall. Open for viewing and auction from 3pm. Everyone welcome
Saturday 27 August	Grand Clean-Up Day at the Memorial Halls from 10am. Bring your own mop or duster. Everyone VERY welcome
Wednesday 14 Sept	Friends of Pirbright Surgery annual open meeting, 'Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Dementia', 7 for 7.30pm at Lord Pirbright's Hall
Saturday 17 Sept	Harpist Siobhan Davies in concert at St Saviour's Church, 7.30pm

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.

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