BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2016

CLLR KEVIN'S NEWS

The SCC/WBC Joint Committee will be undertaking its annual parking review from the end of November. I intend on asking them to review the parking around the station now that the entrance and exit have been reversed, and also the opposite side of the road where junctions are. If you have any further areas you'd like considered then please contact me.

My old blog was suddenly deleted at the end of September. I have moved to a new blog where I have full control and have also managed to publish an archive of my entire previous blog. Please come and join me (http://cllrkevindavis.me).

A new round of consultation regarding the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD) is likely to kick off early in the new year. Currently I'm extremely unimpressed by the proposals and, by the time you read this, would already have spoken formally and voted against it.

Five Acres have applied for a licence to operate goods vehicles from the site. I view this as totally unacceptable and have made my views known.

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE, PIRBRIGHT

Located in the heart of Pirbright, Cunningham House provides independent living for nine older people in a safe, warm and caring atmosphere. Each resident has a bed-sitting room with en-suite facilities. All rooms are on the ground floor with direct access to the landscaped garden. Residents come and go as they please, and there is no restriction on visiting hours.

The house manager, who lives on site, provides two nutritious home-cooked meals every day, which residents take together in the spacious communal area. Residents also meet daily for coffee, and can join in regular organized activities. For residents who want to get out and about, outings are arranged to local events and places of interest.

In addition to the small team of staff, volunteers are essential to the operation of Cunningham House. There are many different volunteer opportunities including committee roles, gardening, helping organize events, accompanying outings, or simply chatting with the residents at coffee time. There are also currently some part-time vacancies for paid work, including preparing meals and office administration.

If you would like to find out more about being a resident or getting actively involved in the running of Cunningham House, please call 01483 488751 or visit the website (www.cunninghamhouse.co.uk).

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

Thursday 3 November	Brookwood School Craft Fair, 7 to 9pm
Sunday 6 November	Brookwood Cemetery Society Walk, Glades of Remembrance Car Park, 2pm
	Brookwood Last Post Association, RAF memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery, 3pm
Sunday 13 November	Remembrance Service, Memorial Hall, 10.30am
Saturday 26 November	WI Christmas Fair, Large Memorial Hall, 2pm
	Pirbright Players' Christmas Revue, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 2.30pm
Sunday 27 November	Pirbright Players' Christmas Revue, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 2.30pm
Friday 2 December	Brookwood School Christmas Fair, 3.15 to 5.15pm
Saturday 10 December	Village Christmas Tree event, Brookwood Club, 7pm
Saturday 17 December	Stormy Waters, Christmas at Brookwood Club, 8pm

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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EDITORIAL

This month will see our Village Remembrance Sunday Service as well as individual services at other memorials in the Cemetery. Obviously this is a day tinged with many emotions – sadness, respect for the bravery of so many, and pride, in them and in the beautiful surroundings of the Cemetery, which never fail to add to the occasion.

Christmas-themed activities in the village abound this month, with the School's Craft Fair, the WI Christmas Fair, the Pirbright Players' extravaganza and, very early next month, the School's Christmas Fair. So much effort goes into organising these events – they are all deserving of our support.

Something to be viewed much less charitably is the decision to close the ambulance station, for reasons that defy belief – 'it is not in the right location for patient demand'. Really?? Are we in this part of the county much less likely to need emergency services available within close range? Or are we expendable? It is to be hoped that common sense will prevail.

John Wheeler – Editor



BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

Over 70 new names of men and women whose lives were taken in the First World War are being added by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the memorial unveiled in November 2015 and which is dedicated to those with no known grave. These additions result from continuing efforts by family members and volunteer groups throughout the world to investigate and commemorate those who lost their lives, and whose details were not previously known or recorded. The majority of the names were inscribed on panels at the CWGC's workshop in France, but 15 have been engraved in situ at the Cemetery, in time for Remembrance Sunday on 13 November.

THE BROOKWOOD LAST POST ASSOCIATION – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

When Belgium was occupied during the Second World War, the nightly rendition of the Last Post that had been performed at the Menin Gate in Ieper (Ypres) since 1928, transferred to Brookwood Cemetery. The Brookwood Last Post Association was born in 1941 and it has continued to this day, performing a monthly ceremony on the first Sunday of the month at 3pm, during the lighter months of the year.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary year, a special edition of the Last Post will be performed on Sunday 6 November at 3pm, with distinguished guests and many members of the Scouting movement.

Everyone in the village is invited to attend this little piece of unique Brookwood history. The ceremony is held at the RAF memorial in Brookwood Military Cemetery and Scouts will be on hand to direct people there.

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A Remembrance Service will be held at the Large Memorial Hall on Sunday 13 November. The service will commence at 10.30am with the laying of wreaths from the participating organisations before the 2 minutes silence at 11am. The service should finish about 11.30am and refreshments will be served afterwards. Any organisation wanting to lay a wreath is requested to contact Revd Dr Julie Levett on 01483 850623 or levtherev@htandstschurch.org to let her know that they wish to do so.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL ANNIVERSARIES

One of the pleasures of living in Brookwood is to be able to walk the canal towpath, enjoying the wildlife and the beauty of the surroundings, especially at this time of year as autumn really comes into its own. However, the canal hasn't always been the asset that it now is.

The Basingstoke Canal Society is celebrating two anniversaries this year. It is 50 years since Jim Woolgar, a Brookwood resident, posted a letter to a local newspaper to see if there was any interest in doing something about the semi-derelict canal. This led to the formation of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society and, eventually, The Basingstoke Canal Society. It's also 25 years since the formal reopening of the canal by the Duke of Kent, in May 1991. The result of the combination of mainly volunteer effort and local authority involvement has been the creation of a highly attractive, navigable waterway, general amenity, a heritage asset and a host to a wealth of wildlife for the whole community to enjoy.

CLOSURE OF AMBULANCE STATION

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) has announced that the ambulance station at Bagshot Road, Knaphill, is soon to close. Staff will be transferred to the station at Ottershaw. SECAmb, recently put into special measures after inspectors found a series of failings in its governance, said that the Knaphill station 'is not in the right location for current patient demand'. On the face of it, the basis for this judgement is questionable. Local residents will have worries about extended response times, given the distance and the route from Ottershaw. With SECAmb already failing to meet national targets on response times to 999 calls, the decision becomes even more difficult to comprehend. Cllr Saj Hussain is leading on this as the site is in the Knaphill ward and he is also a county councillor. Cllr Kevin Davis has expressed his concern about the proposal, commenting that common sense says that even a blue lighting ambulance isn't going to reach the end of Brookwood within eight minutes of leaving Ottershaw.

BROOKWOOD AND BRIDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The Brookwood and Bridley Neighbourhood Forum AGM was held on 27 September. Local issues and the Plan process were discussed. A further grant application had been made to enable the Forum to engage a planning consultant to assist with production of the overall Neighbourhood Plan. Further questionnaires had been undertaken with commuters and with some of the pupils at Brookwood Primary School. The commuter prize draw goes to the person with initials SE and mobile number ending in 4778.

The BBNF is looking for additional volunteers to help with the next phase of the project, so please email chair@bbnf.org.uk if you could offer any amount of time. Access to Brookwood Cemetery was raised and over half of those present would wish to see the East access re-instated. The Brookwood Lye Road petition that was signed by over 600 residents was submitted to WBC for presentation to the full council. However, WBC has taken the view that, as it was referred to at a planning committee meeting also on 27 September and enforcement actions were recommended, the petition is now closed. The BBNF management committee takes a different view on the basis the petition had well over the threshold of 400 signatures and should go before the full council. Updates can be seen on the BBNF website (www.bbnf.org.uk) and our Councillor's blog at (https://cllrkevindavis.me).

A CHRISTMAS REVUE

Pirbright Players are performing 'A Christmas Revue' at 2.30pm on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 November at Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright. Come and enjoy a fun show for all ages, with poems, sketches, dancing and songs from shows such as Oliver, Fiddler on the Roof, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and Les Miserables. Refreshments will be served and a raffle will be held during the interval. Tickets, £10 for adults and £7.50 for children, will be on sale from 1 November online at www.spanglefish.com/pirbrightplayers or at the performances. Contact David Greenland on 07583 768139 or email david@davidgreenland.plus.com for more details.

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DEVELOPMENT OF WESSONS' SITE

Like it or not, the development of the former Wessons' site is here to stay. After a long period when nothing too obvious appeared to be happening, scaffold poles and brickwork for the lower part of the new flats are now visible above the hoardings surrounding the site. How the development fits in with the access infrastructure in the immediate vicinity remains to be seen – but on a more positive note, it will bring new faces to the village with, hopefully, contributions to make and involvement in village life.

WI CHRISTMAS FAIR

Brookwood WI is holding its Christmas Fair in the Large Memorial Hall on Saturday 26 November, starting at 2pm. Entrance: adults 50p, children free. There will be all the usual stalls, cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, jewellery, Christmas craft and gifts, as well as children's board games and competitions, and not forgetting the splendid Christmas Raffle. Do come along and browse, and maybe enjoy a cup of tea and a home-made mince pie at the same time.

BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

A Craft Fair is taking place on Thursday 3 November between 7.00 and 9.00pm at Brookwood School. Come and enjoy some early Christmas shopping from a variety of local craft stalls including jewellery, accessories, glassware and much, much more. Entry costs £2.50 and includes a drink and nibbles.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY

Kim Lowe and Margaret Hobbs are leading an Introductory Non-Conformist Walk on Sunday 6 November, starting at 2pm from the Glades of Remembrance car park off Cemetery Pales. This walk will include visits to the graves of the free thinkers, political dissenters and airplane disasters. Donations welcome.

AWARD FOR JOHN



At the annual Woking in Bloom and Allotment Awards, held recently at the H.G. Wells Centre, there was a winner who has quietly gardened in Brookwood for the last twenty years. John Arkinstall was awarded the Benstead Scroll for best plot cultivated by someone over 70 years old. We thought we should ask him a few questions!

How long have you been gardening, John?

I reckon it must be 78 years! I think I was about eight when my dad gave me a patch of land in his garden in Shropshire. I had to sort out which were weeds and which were herbs and pull out the weeds. I didn't always get it right. The first plants I tried to grow were pansies – with not very much success. But I was hooked.

When did you start growing vegetables?

Around 1938, at the start of the War. In those days everyone grew vegetables and, of course, it was all seasonal. You had brussel sprouts only in winter and raspberries only in late summer. Before the days of Sainsburys.

How did you end up in this part of the world?

Like so many others, I came to Woking so I could commute to London for work. I arrived 40 years ago so I am still a bit of a 'newcomer'. I had an allotment plot first in Westfield and then in 1994, 22 years ago now, the Brookwood site opened and I have been gardening here ever since. I still use my dad's old spade.

What do you like growing best?

Probably parsnips! They are very hit and miss. Some years they are marvellous and so delicious. Other times they simply won't grow. I don't know why. Gardeners have to be optimists.

Anything you don't grow?

I've tried most things over the years and in Surrey with this wonderful soil most plants thrive. But I have learned that strawberries and sweetcorn are a waste of time. Unfortunately the wildlife gets the fruit before I do. So I have given up with them.

What advice would you give someone interested in having an allotment?

I would say come and look at the allotments here. Talk to someone who has a decent plot, but in the end you have to grow what you like and do it your own way. It's worth it.

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISERS

The Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Saviour's Church on Friday 30 September raised £233.50. Many thanks to all who came and donated. Bentleys Garage would also like to thank the local community and all of their customers for donating towards their Macmillan Coffee Morning. They raised £800, which will be doubled by Bentleys Garage, raising the grand total to £1,600.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Our next regular cash bingo evening is on Saturday 5 November, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members.
Thanks to everybody who baked, served and supported our Macmillan Cancer Support Cake and Prosecco event last month - we raised £320 for this worthwhile charity.
The John Moore Testimonial Event in September was very popular and raised £360 for the Woking Hospice New Build Fund, so thanks to everybody for supporting this too!
Please enquire at the bar if you are interested in joining your village social club.

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