BROOKWOOD NEWS

May 2017

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May edition of the Brookwood News. This month sees another event associated with the centennial commemoration of The Great War. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC)'s forthcoming exhibition promises to be exciting and informative. Elsewhere we report on the embryonic stages of changes that could materially affect the eastern end of the village as well as providing help in providing local affordable housing. And as ever, there is information about regular events scheduled to take place during the coming months. Thanks to all the contributors and to you for reading the newsletter. Constructive feedback is always welcome (send to community@brookwood.org.uk).

John Wheeler – Editor

SCHOOL NEWS

The annual Summer Fair will take place on Saturday 24 June between noon and 3pm. Attractions include the beer tent run by Brookwood Club, entertainment from the Winston Churchill School session band and 20:20 Church, Messy Church, WI stall, barbecue, Pimm's stall, tuck shop and games.

If you would like to know more about helping, would like a stall or to display, please get in touch with Anna (FOBSChair@googlemail.com).

FOR THEN, FOR NOW, FOR EVER



To mark the centenary of the CWGC's founding by Royal Charter in 1917, a ground-breaking exhibition will open at CWGC Brookwood Military Cemetery on Saturday 20 May. For Then, For Now, For Ever celebrates the CWGC's first 100 years. It has been curated by CWGC staff and will be staged in the grade 1 listed Canadian Records Building at Brookwood – the largest CWGC site in the UK with more than 5,000 burials and 3,500 commemorations on the Brookwood Memorial.

The exhibition tells the story of the CWGC's creation through to modern day, using historical objects and artefacts from the CWCG archive and collections. Many of the exhibits have never been publically displayed before. They include an original First World War grave marker and a petition from the 1920s addressed to then CWGC President, HRH The Prince of Wales. The petition contains more than 8,000 signatures – predominantly from mothers who had lost sons in the Great War – asking the Commission to reconsider the use of a uniform marker in favour of a cross. These and other objects tell the sometimes difficult story of how one man's vision came to forever change the way we remember the war dead.

The exhibition, which will be opened by Brian Blessed at 11.00am on Saturday 20 May, will be supported by a series of special events during its first week, with talks from CWGC staff and guest speakers on topics from horticulture to history. There is no need to book tickets to view the exhibition. However, the events (listed below) are ticketed but free. Members of the public can register their interest by visiting www.cwgc.org and get more information about the events.

Our Records, Your Family, Their Story
Sunday 21 May, 1–3pm

A People's History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Monday 22 May, 3–4pm

'For Then, For Now, Forever' – the Making of the CWGC Centenary Exhibition
Wednesday 24 May, 3–4pm

CWGC – Gardening the World
Thursday 25 May, 3–4pm

CWGC – Conserving our Historic Estate
Friday 26 May, 3–4pm

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KING'S MEN CONCERT

The King's Men is the close harmony group formed from the Choral Scholars of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. As Choral Scholars they follow the daily routine of chapel services throughout term, as well as undertaking a busy concert and recording schedule in the vacations.

The Choir, which is most famous for the broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on radio and for Carols from King's on BBC television each Christmas, will be performing in St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Pirbright, on Tuesday 11 July at 8pm. Tickets are £20 each and are available from Philip Barralet (01483 473737 or philipbarralet@gmail.com)

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

It's pleasing to hear that over £500 was raised at the Tony Vino Comedy Night at St Saviour's Church on 1 April. The proceeds will be split between Woking Hospice and St Saviour's ReGeneration project. Many thanks to all who came and supported this fun night.

LOCAL NURSERY

Briarwood Nurseries in Saunders Lane opened on 29 April. It is a small, family-run nursery and is open only as long as they have plants to sell – usually just the month of May. Mr Smith senior is still growing vegetable plants and most of the plants are grown on site. Visit www.briarwoodnurseries.co.uk for more details. Other garden centres are available but this is a proper old-fashioned nursery worthy of support.

GUIDED TOURS AROUND BROOKWOOD CEMETERY 2017

These take place on the first Sunday of each month starting at 2pm from the Cemetery Office entrance off Cemetery Pales. Walks are free but a donation would be welcome. Refreshments are available. Details of forthcoming walks are listed in the Village Diary. See www.tbcs.org for further details.

ARMY TRAINING CENTRE PARADE IN JUBILEE SQUARE

Over the years there has been a special link between Brookwood and the military based at Pirbright. For many years the Brookwood School Summer Fair (more of which elsewhere in the newsletter) included a parade of imaginatively decorated floats along Connaught Road, invariably supported by a musical contingent from the then present incumbent regiment.

These close links are still being maintained. The Army Training Centre, Pirbright has been awarded Honorary Freedom of Woking Borough, which recognises exceptional contributions, or distinctive service to the Borough by an individual or group of individuals. To mark this very special occasion they paraded into Jubilee Square, Woking, on St George's Day, Sunday 23 April, with Colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed. The Mayor of Woking welcomed the parade. Following the ceremony, the parade marched past the Mayor and civic guests in Church Street East.

LOCAL AUTHOR

Our attention has been drawn to The Asylum Soul, a debut novel by local author, Mal Foster, which is available in paperback and on Kindle.

Lunatic asylums were an inescapable hangover of Victorian Britain and they harnessed a certain stigma borne from an environment of fear and shame as well as the great unknown. For many families the asylum system helped create their darkest 'skeletons', and for Thomas (Tommy) Compton, it was unforgiving. In 1929 he was 23 years old when his mother had him sent to the Brookwood Lunatic Asylum in Surrey, his only ailment – a simple speech defect. Based on Tommy's own diary notes, The Asylum Soul is a disturbing account of an innocent young life ripped apart by unthinkable institutional failings, false hope and ultimate family betrayal.

Amongst the customer reviews is this one by David Pennant -

'I bought this e-book because I live near Brookwood Hospital, where the action takes place, and have been interested in it for twenty years. It's also nice to support a local author. I did not have high expectations for the book itself in advance, to be honest. My prejudice has been shattered. I am almost halfway through, and I am finding it compulsive reading. The story is well told, and the picture that emerges of the institution is fascinating. It is easy now to rant against the former practice of locking up supposedly mentally ill people without the opportunity for appeal. In reality, there must have been good sides as well as bad to life there. I find the treatment of the day to day running of the place utterly convincing. I am also intrigued to discover how the story ends. The account is a diary of an inmate, from 1929 onwards. He shares his thoughts and feelings as well as recounting the events of each day. I find I care what happens to him – always the mark of a good read, to my mind. I also enjoy the ambiguity in the title: is this a book about an individual, or is it a book about the soul of the hospital? You don't need to have an interest in mental health to enjoy this book. I would commend it to anybody interested in human relationships of any kind. The language used is straightforward making for easy reading. Enjoy!'

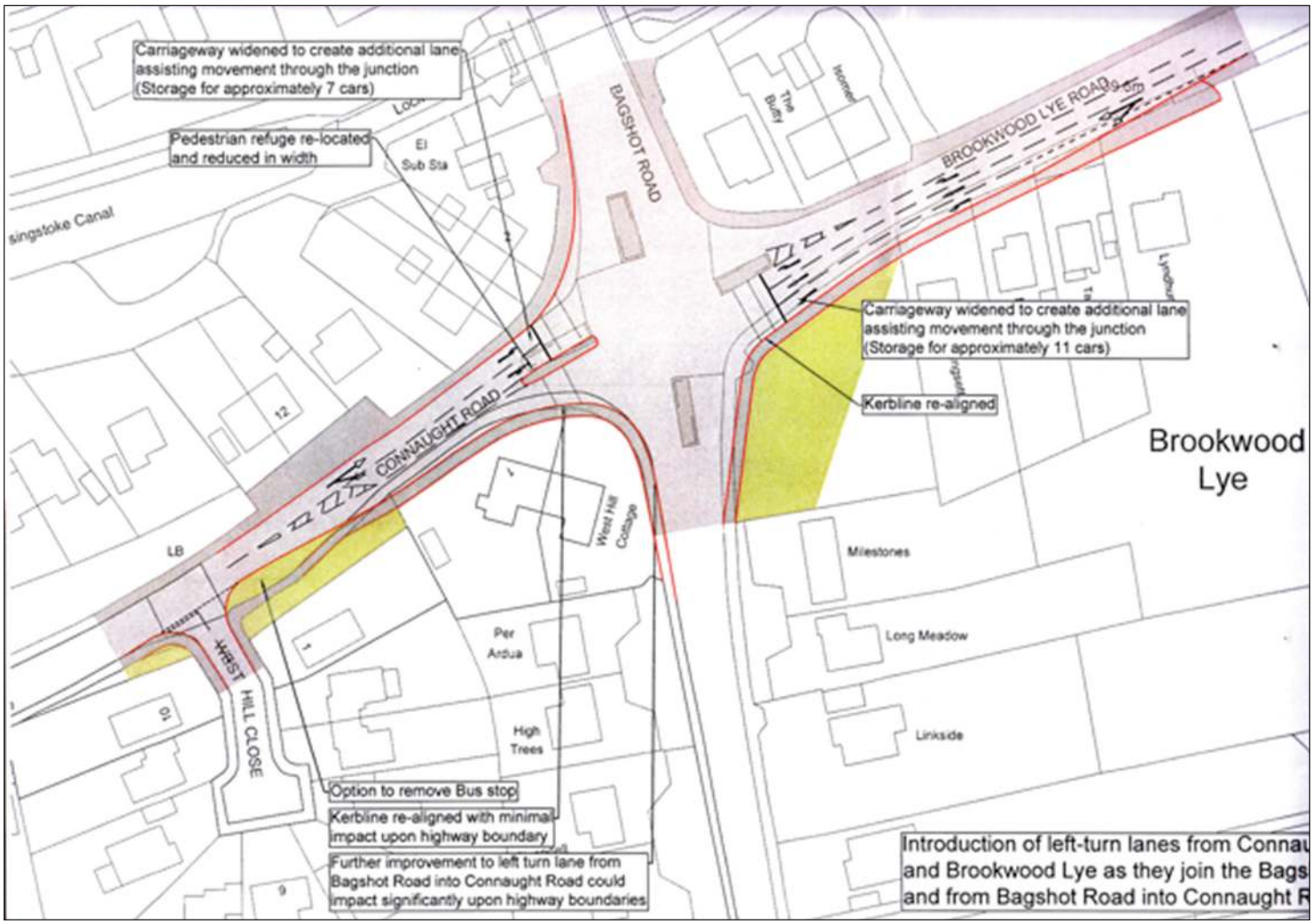
BASINGSTOKE CANAL



Good Friday saw the resumption of waterborne activity on our stretch of the Basingstoke Canal following a couple of months of repair work. Thanks to Judith Male, our eagle-eyed photographer, for spotting the first boats through the locks.

The Spring 2017 Edition of the Basingstoke Canal News (now online at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk) reports concerns about the future funding and management of the canal. Unfortunately, space limitations do not allow further comment here on what appears to be a complex and potentially worrying situation.

COBLANDS SITE AND BROOKWOOD CROSSROADS



Earlier this year Cllr Kevin Davis reported via his weblog on Woking Borough Council's plans affecting Five Acres and the adjoining Coblands site. This followed the Brookwood and Brindley Neighbourhood Forum (BBNF)'s consultation exercise with residents, which raised a number of concerns, especially -

- The need to improve traffic flow through the Brookwood Crossroads in a way that benefited Brookwood rather than regional through traffic
- Restricting expansion at Five Acres
- If development at Coblands occurs, trying to maximise the availability of starter homes.

Recently physical barriers were erected at the Coblands site on the Brookwood Lye Road verge and around the detached property immediately adjacent to the site. The access road to Five Acres has had concrete blocks dropped at the entrance. This action appears to have been taken to guard against possible encroachment onto Coblands by travellers totally unconnected to the residents at Five Acres.

Thamesway, Woking Borough Council's affordable housing delivery company, has been quietly negotiating with the various owners of the land at Five Acres, Coblands and the houses immediately nearby to acquire their interests. Thamesway is now almost in a position to bring proposals forward. The exact details are not known but Cllr Kevin expects a planning application to be submitted sometime in the next two to three months.

The majority of the dwellings that will be built at Coblands will have a local letting policy applied. This ensures that the next generation in Brookwood will have the opportunity to stay in Brookwood if they so choose. This 'local first' policy will also be extended to a percentage of the properties to buy at a reduced rate. The finer details are still being worked through, but this is very good news for the village and the immediate surrounding area. It will be a first in Woking and answers criticism that new houses end up being bought by outsiders or London commuters.

Most recently, however, has been the discussion at the SCC/WBC Joint Committee concerning the potential improvements to Brookwood Crossroads. For once, this only considers improvements to the flow of local traffic. The adjoining plan indicates what is currently being considered as achievable.

Cllr Kevin comments:

'I like this proposal and I have been in discussion about losing the bus stop, and the grass verge outside 1 West Hill Close. This will see two parking spaces lost, but if the verge is converted to parking, it will generate three, so a net increase of one space which is desperately required at this point along Connaught Road.

This would be a significant improvement for local traffic, will mitigate additional traffic from the Coblands development and with luck reduce the 20 odd minute wait it can take to exit the village some mornings.

I don't know when this will go out to consultation, but I expect it will be sometime towards the end of the year. Implementation is at least two years away, and I hope to see it in place before the decade is out.'

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Thanks to everybody who supported our Easter BBQ – £173 was raised on the day for our charities!

Our next Cash Bingo evenings are on Saturday 6 May and Saturday 3 June, both 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members.

We have Skittles on Sunday 28 May. Come along and try your hand, from noon onwards – all welcome, including non-members.

We have extended opening hours for the 1 and 29 May Bank Holiday Mondays – see the notice outside the Club for opening times.

Memberships for 2017 are now available, so please enquire at the bar if you are interested in joining your village social club.

Find out what is happening at the Club by following us on Facebook and Twitter @ .

BROOKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Brookwood Cricket Club play Sunday friendly matches from April through to September, hold net sessions every Tuesday and compete in an indoor cricket league during the winter. We welcome new adult members of any age, who are looking for a friendly sociable cricket team, who enjoy their off field activities almost as much as their matches. Our upcoming fixtures are:

7 May 2017	Seven Sports CC	Home
14 May 2017	The Golden Age	Home
21 May 2017	Hale CC	Home
28 May 2017	Eversley CC	Home

Anyone interested in joining can contact Adrian on 07909 873187, or willers100@hotmail.com. See www.sites.google.com/site/brookwoodcricketclub for more details.

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

Saturday 6 May	Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members
Sunday 7 May	Brookwood Cemetery Society's new Prominent Women Walk led by Kim Lowe and Jenny Mukerji; starting at the Lodge, the Glades of Remembrance car park, 2pm
Saturday 13 May	Plant Sale, St Michael's Church, Pirbright, 11am to 2pm. Free entry and all welcome
Saturday 20 May	CWGC's For Then, For Now, For Ever exhibition opens, 11am. Details of the week's events appear in the newsletter
Sunday 28 May	Skittles, Brookwood Club, from noon onwards. Everybody welcome, including non-members
Saturday 3 June	Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book. Everybody welcome, including non-members
Sunday 4 June	Brookwood Cemetery Society's Introductory Walk in the former Anglican Section of the Cemetery, led by Kim Lowe and Margaret Hobbs
Saturday 24 June	Brookwood School Fair, between noon and 3pm
Sunday 2 July	Brookwood Cemetery Society's new Mixed Bag, Here and There Walk, led by Ian Devine, visiting lesser known graves
Tuesday 11 July	King's Men concert, St Michael's Church, Pirbright, 8pm
Sunday 6 August	Brookwood Cemetery Society's new British Colonials & Muslims walk, led by Barry Devonshire. Preceded by a lecture in the Chapel in the North section of the Cemetery

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

NB: DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER IS 20 MAY

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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