BROOKWOOD NEWS

July 2017

NEW BUSINESS IN THE VILLAGE



Embellish Hair and Beauty, owned by Liza Baker, opened its doors on 10 June. We wish her and her staff all the best, and welcome them to the village (www.embellishhairandbeauty.co.uk).

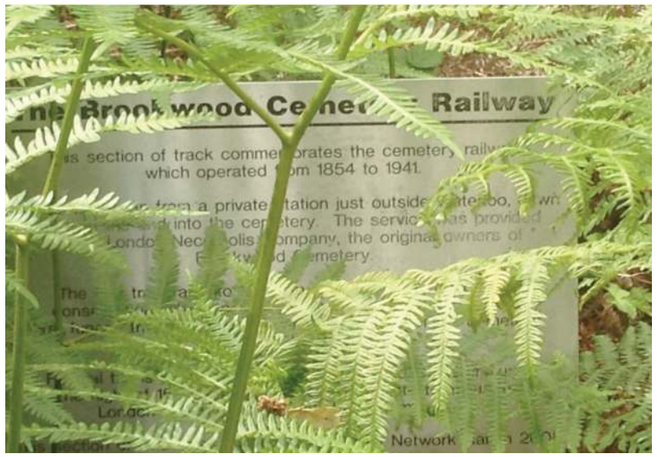
BROOKWOOD NATURE WATCH

We are so lucky to live with so much open space on our doorstep, and thought it would be great idea to capture this in the August newsletter. So please send us all your pictures of the local flora and fauna, and we will try to get in as many as possible. Please send all pictures to community@brookwood.org.uk, along with your name.

LITTLE LOST CORNER OF BROOKWOOD

An unusual feature of Brookwood Cemetery was that it had its own private railway running through the grounds. The main reason for this was that the Cemetery was over 25 miles from central London, and the only convenient method of transporting coffins and mourners was by the London & South Western Railway. The funeral trains began to operate from 13 November 1854 when the Cemetery opened to the public.

The funeral trains ran from this private station, located at 121 Westminster Bridge Road, down the railway company's main line, and was then reversed into the Cemetery grounds at Brookwood. The trains ran once a day, assuming that funerals were booked to take place. The Sunday service ceased after October 1900. Thereafter the trains operated largely on an 'as required' basis. By the 1930s they were running twice a week at most. The service was never reinstated after the Second World War, and the track in the Cemetery was removed c1947–48. The track bed of the railway may still be followed through the grounds, and the Brookwood Cemetery Society organises guided walks following this route during the course of the year.



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

Saturday 1 July	Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club. Eyes down 8.30pm
Sunday 2 July	Guided cemetery walk, 2pm from the Cemetery Office entrance off Cemetery Pales. This is a new walk called a mixed bag, here and there visiting lesser known graves
Saturday 15 July	Phil Colman, jazz and blues singer, at Brookwood Club from 8.00pm till late
Saturday 5 August	Big Clean at Brookwood Memorial Halls from 10.00am
Saturday 5 August	Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club. Eyes down 8.30pm

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

NB: DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS 20 JULY

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

EDITORIAL

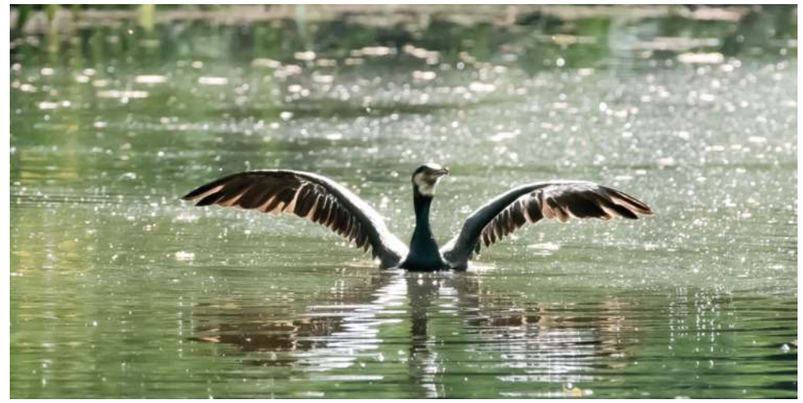
Welcome to the July issue of the Brookwood News. Summer's come to Brookwood with lots going on in the social calendar in June, including the School Fair and the Brookwood Club Beach Party.

When we first moved into the village 25 years ago, albeit on a temporary basis (two years max my wife said), the fete was a much grander spectacle, with floats from all the village groups parading down the road from the camp to the school. When my daughter started at Brookwood School we were soon roped in. I progressed through the years from coconut shy, tombola, plant stall and finally the beer tent. I'd like to thank all teachers, parents, pupils and volunteers who work so hard to make it such a fun day, and long may it continue.

This year's fete was the usual success. See more inside.

Graham Hunt – Editor

LIFE RETURNS TO THE CANAL



This beautiful picture of a cormorant on the canal was taken by Thinesh, a local wildlife photographer, and shows that the wildlife is slowly returning to the canal after the maintenance works earlier in the year. We have also had reports of coot and moorhen chicks happily swimming in and out of the reeds. The fish stock is going to take a few years to get back to the premaintenance numbers but there are still plenty of small fry to keep the local kingfishers happy.

POTTY ABOUT THE POTHOLES

The pothole situation on Connaught Road doesn't seem to be getting any better. The two areas of concern are the stretch between the church and the butcher's, and more importantly the worsening condition of the zebra crossing by the school. Checking on the Surrey County Council website, these issues were reported some time ago yet no action seems to have been taken. You can report pothole and pavement issues by going to https://www.surreycc.gov.uk and following the links.



YOUR MEMORIAL HALLS NEED YOU!

We are so lucky to have two brilliant community halls in the centre of the village. Once a year we have a Big Clean and this year it is on Saturday 5 August from 10am to 1pm. We welcome anyone and everyone who can wield a duster or a broom – please do come and join us even if you can only spare an hour or so. There will be edible incentives! Further details from Judith Male (01483 850571), but you can just turn up.

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

Interested in finding out what your property is worth?
Contact **Andrew** or **Simon** on **01483 798969**
to arrange a **FREE, no obligation valuation**.

seymours-estates.co.uk

SEYMOURS
Independent Estate Agents

UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN DAVIS

The proposals for the Coblands and Five Acres site are moving slowly forward, with the planning application likely to be submitted in the next few weeks. I am advised that the application will essentially be in two parts. First, the regularisation of the traveller site with 19 permanent pitches, and one transit pitch, all managed on site from the bungalow. The traveller site will be immediately behind the bungalow. Second, on the rest of the Coblands site and beyond, bar the four properties on Bagshot Road, there will be 126 units. The vast bulk will be two-bedroom houses or apartments which are most in demand, and a good number of one-bedroom units, and finally a handful of three-bedroom, and I think three four-bedroom houses. There needs to be a mix of housing types I'm told.

Woking Borough Council's arm's length company, Thameswey, is the developer behind it and will then manage the affordable aspect of the properties. My view has been sought, and I'm told that the ratios are likely be 40% market value to sell (50 units), 40% affordable for rent (50 units) and 20% affordable for sale (26 units). The market value to sell will effectively pay for the crossroads improvements and subsidise the affordability of the rest. The intent with the affordable housing is for it to have a local-first policy, although this is a deviation from normal Council policy, so I am still lobbying the Housing Portfolio Holder (Cllr Kemp) and the Leader of the Council (Cllr Bittleston) to make sure this happens.

I've been working on this for several years, and I think this is great news for the village. The smaller houses will provide young people who may be living with parents somewhere to move to, and will allow older people somewhere to downsize to. It will likely also increase the number of children living in Brookwood, which is good for the longer-term viability of the school and will stop the average age of residents steadily increasing as it has been for a while now. As soon as the planning application goes in, I will update my blog (https://cllrkevindavis.me) and will ensure the plan number is in the next edition of Brookwood News.

The derelict Meadows NHS Trust site appears to have been purchased by a care home operator. Nothing further is known at this stage.

Many thanks to Cllr Kevin for his support of the village and all the hard work he puts in.

Woking Borough Council has fox-proof waste food caddies available on request. Contact the waste department on 01483 755855.

BROOKWOOD CLUB REFURBISHMENT



Refurbishments are under way at the Club, with a new carpet already in and the interior and exterior walls given a new coat of life. They're not finished yet and over the next few months the interior decor is due for a major overhaul. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience. On this note, if anyone has any old pictures of the local area or village residents past and present they would like to donate, could you please drop them into the Club; many thanks.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

The Club's membership is going from strength to strength, and a lot of this is down to the hard work put in by Club steward Lee Orriss, his team and the entire committee.

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

Brookwood Club welcomes Phil Colman, jazz and blues sin ger, on Saturday 15 July. This is an open event and all are welcome. 8pm onwards.

Our August regular Cash Bingo evening is on Saturday 5 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.

WHO ARE NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS?

Please warn your neighbours, particularly elderly or vulnerable neighbours, not to open the door to strangers or buy or sell on the doorstep. Some doorstep callers may offer poor quality goods at inflated prices and, if a caller is not genuine, they may be gathering information for future crime. Please keep in mind that if cold callers don't get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return.

The sellers may say that they are on a 'rehabilitation course' arranged by probation services or other organisations trying to find people work. This is not the case and often they are known criminals. Probation services do not run such schemes.

They may show a card which claims to be a 'Pedlars Licence' or work permit. The following is an example of one that has been frequently seized by the Police. This is not valid and they are breaking the law if they are using anything like this. They may also hand over a card saying they are deaf or dumb.



According to the Police, the bag of household products is supplied by someone who employs them (originally a man from Nottingham – hence the name), but now they are recruited from anywhere. The lads are supplied with a full bag of household products (including the typical tea-towels!) and charged a minimal sum for the contents – it used to be £35. They can keep whatever they make, above this amount.

Usually they are deposited in an area from a transit van and given a list of streets to work. An hour or so later they are picked up and dropped off in another location. They often work from 9am to 9pm. They will knock on a door, offering cleaning items which they know are cheap and of very poor quality; the householder also knows they are rubbish but that is part of the scam. Many people will purchase items and pay them something, just to get rid of them. There have been cases of elderly residents handing over large sums as these lads can be very persistent and confrontational.

The price for whatever has been purchased usually comes to a note – usually £10. The householder disappears to get this – this is when the scam begins, according to the Police. When the note is handed over, the lad examines the condition and how long it took the person to get it. If it is crumpled, they accept it and move on. If it is crisp, flat and new, they are much more interested and may engage the person in more conversation, to obtain details about them. As they leave they will smell the note. If it is slightly musty, this is an indication that there is more in the property. Those addresses are noted. The addresses of elderly/vulnerable/gullible people are all noted.

These are handed to the employer and there is a small amount of cash handed over for each one. These addresses are then sold on. If there is a later break-in, the employer expects a further cut of the proceeds. These lists are purchased by all sorts of people including – tarmaccers, tree workers, roofers, dodgy builders, etc., and can be shared quite easily. Once on a list, your address could be sold on and on. Hence the repeat nature of these persistent callers.

SCHOOL FAIR

This year's School Fair, held on 24 June, was another great success and the weather was kind to us. There was a good turnout from all the local organizations, from the WI (their cake stand sold out in record time) to the Scouts and the Army. The fair was well attended, and the burger stand and beer tent did a roaring trade.

Thanks again to all those who give their time to make it such a great day for all in the village.













BROOKWOOD AND BRIDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Thank you to everyone who came to our stall at the School Fair on Saturday, entered our free competitions and gave us their views, particularly on the open spaces in the area.

Congratulations to the winners of the Map Treasure Hunt. They are Thomas Drake (in the 8 and under category) and Corey Gair (in the 9–16 category). A £10 book token goes to each of them. The treasure was hidden in the grounds of the St Edward's Brotherhood Monastery.

Jane Pettinger won the first prize of a £20 M&S voucher in the Brookwood and Bridley History Quiz. The second prize of a £10 voucher goes to Brian Watson. Congratulations to them. The answers to the quiz are:

1) Brookwood Primary School first opened in 1906
2) The Large Memorial Hall was built in 1961
3) Brookwood Cemetery opened in 1854
4) Fulks' Butchers opened in Brookwood in 1927
5) St Saviours' Church was completed in 1909
6) The old Brookwood Hotel became chartered accountants' offices in 2010
7) Worplesdon Golf Club was constructed in 1908
8) The Basingstoke Canal was completed in 1794
9) Brookwood Club first opened in 1909
10) The chapel which is now the St Edward's Brotherhood's Church was built in 1910
11) The baker's shop first opened in 1979
12) Brookwood railway station was built in 1864.