BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2017

EDITORIAL

A wealth of material this month reporting on a wide range of activities and events, past and planned, so the editorial is mercifully brief! As ever, thanks to all our contributors and to our readers. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

John Wheeler – Editor

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance Service will take place in St Saviour's Church commencing at 10.30am. The first part of the service will focus on remembering those who lost their lives in the two world wars and subsequent wars, and wreaths will be laid. The second part of the service following the two minutes' silence will continue the theme of Remembrance and include Holy Communion. The service should conclude about 11.45am when refreshments will be served. Any organisation that wishes to lay a wreath can do so as there will be a time in the service before the Remembrance silence for wreaths to be brought to the altar, before the names of those who lived in the village and lost their lives are read out.

JOIN IN WITH THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES THIS NOVEMBER

In its centenary year, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has been looking ahead to its next 100 years and will be launching its new charity this month, as well as a global event on Remembrance Sunday.

On 7 November, the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (CWGF) will be launched – the new CWGC charity created to keep the memory of fallen servicemen and women alive.

The Commission as a whole cares for the war graves and memorials of the 1.7 million servicemen and women who died during both world wars at 23,000 locations in 154 countries and territories. The creation of the Commission in 1917 marked a major turning point in the way service personnel were honoured after death. Now, 100 years on, the Foundation is taking action to empower young people to carry the legacy forward for another century.

The CWGF will take the work of the Commission to a much wider audience by offering hands-on opportunities to get involved in various projects – including the new internships. Education, outreach and events will help bridge the generational gap, bring the past to life, and create communities of engaged people who will help keep the stories, and the memory of those who gave their lives, alive for generations to come.

On 11 November, the Commission has also organised a global event called Hold High the Torch. To take part in this, download the free Hold High the Torch app, and pledge to visit a war grave near your home on Armistice Day – Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest in the UK – and commemorate your local war dead.

Please visit www.cwgc.org for more information on how to join, support and be part of the global event.



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CAN YOU HELP WOKING FOODBANK?

The Christmas Foodbank Collection is now under way. Trudi Fletcher, the organiser, writes:

Those of you who know me will recall that I undertook a Christmas food parcel collection on behalf of Woking Foodbank last Christmas to help families that are struggling around the Christmas period. Overwhelmed by the generosity of the villagers, family and friends, I have decided to do it again this year.

It's really easy to get involved: when you are doing your weekly/monthly food shopping could you spare a few non-perishable items? I am now taking food parcels/donations and I have some extra helpers this year. Lee Orriss at Brookwood Club and the ladies from Bakers Dozen, Penny Collyer and Mandi Parish, have all kindly offered to take in the food parcels on my behalf during working hours right through to the first week of December. Information about what the Foodbank requires in the way of stock will be posted on Brookwood Club's Facebook site and is available on https://woking.foodbank.org.uk

Should you wish to donate a food parcel, please attach a label to it so I can thank you personally. Alternatively, if you know where I live in the village, please feel free to knock on the door, or drop me an email (trudifletcher@rocketmail.com) and I can make arrangements to collect it from you if it's more convenient, right up to the first week of December, when I will deliver the goodies to Woking Foodbank to be distributed between families within the Woking area. Hopefully, we can make a difference to those less fortunate in the local area at such a busy time of the year.

CHRISTMAS FAIRS

Brookwood WI is holding its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 25 November at 2pm in the large Brookwood Memorial Hall. Father Christmas has it in his diary and will be popping in to get some goodies for his elves.

Brookwood School's Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 1 December, from 3.15 to 5.15pm. There will be stalls, games, refreshments and maybe even a visit from Santa! Email Anna at FOBSChair@googlemail.com if you would like to book a stall or know more.

SITE VISIT TO SHEETS HEATH

Members of the newsletter team were recently invited to join a group visiting Sheets Heath Common SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) to see the heathland management and restoration work being carried out by the Surrey Heathland Partnership. It was interesting to see and hear the trials and tribulations facing the conservationists, whose aim is to maintain the open areas of mainly heather heathland that is a vital haven for rare wild life.

In the last 10 years warmer winters and atmospheric pollution have resulted in much faster regrowth of gorse, making the heath harder to manage. Gorse isn't hardy and in the past winter frosts kept it in check. Gorse is a legume (like beans and peas) and can fix nitrogen to nodules on its roots, enabling it to live in areas of poor soil quality. Atmospheric pollution from vehicles and power plants has increased the amount of nitrogen released into the air and thus into rain water, and this encourages growth of gorse.

Much more aggressive management is required, therefore, such as the 'biomass harvester' used in February. Chain saws are no longer enough to keep it in check. The biomass harvester is effective, if brutal, but produces huge quantities of root and plant debris, which has no economic value in the UK and had to be piled up at the edge of the heath.

Cows will eat young gorse but they prefer grass, so grazing helps to reduce the grass which shades the heather but isn't really a solution for the gorse. The cows arrived later than normal this summer due the problems with the automatic gate. As well as keeping the cows in, the gate is important in discouraging vehicles from using the track across the heath as a 'rat run'.

Spraying has been carried out in some places to slow regrowth of bracken but it isn't really effective on gorse. Another enemy of heather is moss, which seals the soil surface, stopping heather seed from germinating.

All this work is carried out according to Natural England guidelines, and is carefully regulated and supervised.

The visit made us appreciate even more the huge amount work that goes into managing this beautiful and important habitat.

NEW YEAR, NEW CHURCH TIMES

From January 2018, Sunday morning services at St Saviour's Church will all start at the new time of 10am. Our Vicar, Neil Hopkins, and a development team hope that this will make it clearer for those wishing to attend, with everyone welcome to join us on a Sunday. There will be a new service called 'Worship at 10', which will begin at 10 and is an informal worship time with praise and prayer, with coffee and pastries available before the service.

Depending which Sunday in the month it is, there is a variety of services:

1st Sunday – Puppet Church (for all ages)

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion Service (time and space to reflect)

3rd Sunday – Café Church (with breakfast, newspapers and chat)

4th Sunday – Worship at 10 (new informal service).

Other services will carry on as before:

2nd Saturday – 3.30–5.30pm Messy Church (crafts and tea for families)

3rd Wednesday – 11am Holy Communion (all welcome).

A full list of details will be issued in January on a handy card for you to keep.

NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD CLUB

Thanks to everybody for supporting our Macmillan fundraising events in September. Our Prosecco and Cream Tea afternoon raised £400 and Ian Blondell's 'Brave The Shave' sponsored head shave raised a whopping £610!

The Club refurbishment is now complete, with many old memorabilia of the village on display. The grand reopening ceremony was undertaken by lucky ticket winner Steve Blythe. Thanks to all the volunteers who were involved with this project – do pop in and see what you think.



Our next regular Cash Bingo evening is on Saturday 4 November, and our Christmas Bingo is on Saturday 2 December, both 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm. £1 per book.

Saturday 18 November is our next live music night, featuring local musician, singer and songwriter Lisa Von H, from 8.30pm to 11pm.

The Village Christmas Tree Event will be on Saturday 9 December, with lighting of the tree at 7pm, accompanied by music and singing from Winston Churchill School and Brookwood Primary School.

Local band Stormy Waters will be playing their renowned Christmas gig at the Club on Saturday 23 December, from 8.30pm till late.

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

ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL EVENTS



St Saviour's Church ReGeneration team was delighted to welcome back The Loveday Singers for another concert on Saturday 14 October. The choir, conducted by Anna Loveday and accompanied by Philip Broadway, now has a composer in residence, David Perkins, who was present, and their repertoire included his latest composition for them. Their concert included a wide range of music, including folk songs, psalms and songs from a variety of musicals. The choir has quite a following now, so the candlelit church was full. It was a very enjoyable evening and a great opportunity to hear this superb choir once again.

On the same night, a small but enthusiastic audience enjoyed an evening of top quality, vintage inspired song and dance at the Memorial Hall. The three glamorous Spinettes along with Matthew Goodgame entertained with hits from the 40s, 50s and 60s such as In the Mood, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Rock Around the Clock. More used to performing in the West End than in a village hall, we were spoilt with their smiles, enthusiasm for the era, faultless harmonies and high heels!

Looking to the future, don't miss the performance at St Saviour's Church on Saturday 11 November by singer Mary-Jess, who is touring the country and has included Brookwood as one of her concerts. For further information and to book tickets go to https://events.ticketbooth.eu/event/mary-jess-winter-tour-2017---brookwood, or contact sts@brookwood.org.uk or 01483 480273. Some tickets may be available on the door. Bring your own drinks; tea and coffee available.



A cast of over thirty will perform what promises to be a very funny and entertaining show at Lord Pirbright Hall, Pirbright, on Saturday 25 November at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, and on Sunday 26 November at 2.30pm. Tickets are available at £12 and £7.50 (children 14 and under) from www.spanglefish.com/pirbrightplayers from 1 November.

The Arts Society meets at The Lord Roberts Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. As a special offer to readers of the newsletter, visitors can come free for the first time. Details of the next two lectures can be found in the village diary dates.

STAFF WANTED

Additional bar staff needed

Permanent position with flexible hours available

Interested? Drop your CV into Lee at the club

BROOKWOOD CLUB

92 Connaught Road - GU24 0HJ
01483 474274

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Wednesday 1 November
Brookwood Club and Bakers Dozen accepting donations to the Foodbank until the first weekend of December

Friday 3 November
Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Halls, all welcome

Saturday 4 November
Official opening of the new Pirbright Surgery, 2pm

Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm

Sunday 5 November
Mausoleum Walk in the cemetery. Meet 2pm at Cemetery Office, Cemetery Pales

Wednesday 8 November
The Arts Society lecture 'Russian Art in the 20th Century', 10.30am, The Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley. Free entry to new members

Saturday 11 November
Mary-Jess Solo Tour Concert, 7.30pm, St Saviour's Church

Sunday 12 November
Service of Remembrance, 10.30am, St Saviour's Church

Saturday 18 November
Lisa Von H, 8.30–11pm, Brookwood Club

Saturday 25 November
WI Christmas Fair, 2pm, at the Memorial Halls

Saturday 25 November
Pirbright Players 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves', 2.30pm and 7pm, Lord Pirbright Hall

Sunday 26 November
Pirbright Players 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves', 2.30pm, Lord Pirbright Hall

Friday 1 December
Brookwood School Christmas Fair, 3.15–5.15pm

Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Halls. All welcome

Saturday 2 December
Knaphill Junior School Christmas Fair, 12 noon to 3.00pm

Christmas Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club, 8pm for 'eyes down' at 8.30pm

Saturday 9 December
Village Christmas Tree Event, 7pm, Brookwood Club

Wednesday 13 December
The Arts Society lecture 'Fun & Games: Victorians at Play', 10.30am, The Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley. Free entry to new members

Saturday 23 December
Stormy Waters, 8.30pm till late, Brookwood Club

Friday 5 January
Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Halls. All welcome

TRAIN TIMETABLE CHANGES

In August, South Western Railways replaced South West Trains, following the change in franchise operators. So far there has been no change in the train service. However, the company has announced that major changes will be made in the December 2018 timetable. A consultation exercise has been launched (which closes on 22 December this year) and details can be found at https://www.southwesternrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation.The table that affects Brookwood is Table 155 and in the document is an email address for comments.

WELCOME TO BROOKWOOD

We usually include the names and dates of birth of any new babies in Brookwood in our December issue. If you have had a new member of the family in 2017 and would like us to welcome them, please be in touch via the community email address. We can only publish names of babies if we have the permission of their parents.

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NB: DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS 20 NOVEMBER

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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