

BROOKWOOD NEWS

July 2018

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the July edition of Brookwood News. Happily, an abundance of material this month means that the editorial is mercifully brief. Thanks to all the contributors and to you for reading it.

John Wheeler – Editor





BROOKWOOD SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR



Jo Green, Headteacher, reports on a very successful event. Sunshine greeted the Summer Fair this year, bringing the best out of everyone and the beautiful school site! Thanks to the work of friends, volunteers, staff and pupils, the Fair was a huge success, raising a stunning and vital £3,000. The money is to be spent by FOBS on providing 15 new laptops for use in the pupils' learning throughout the school, giving them the chance to research for themselves and follow their own lines of interest through their topics.

This year, the Fair included the habitually popular beer tent hosted by the Brookwood Club. Not only do they give up most of their day to support the Fair, they donate the profits that substantially boost the bottom line. This year FOBS is one of the Club's charities; we are very grateful for this support and their help on the day. We also receive generous sponsorship from Foundations estate agents who, through their boards, help us advertise the Fair too.

The children performed a popular song with new lyrics 'We went to the Brookwood Fair', opening the proceedings on a cheerful note. The semi-finals and finals of the Brookwood World Cup took place and PT instructors from the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, ran a very popular assault course. It was very pleasing that the £100 main prize in the raffle was won by one of the Brookwood parents!

We all enjoyed the barbecue which sold Fulks' sausages and burgers, a Pimms stall, teas and coffees and our usual range of pocket money games, a penalty shoot out, the roller coaster, Messy Church, WI, face painting courtesy of the Brookwood and Pirbright Children's Centre team, the Scouts' crockery smash and the Brookwood Art Group's portrait session.

The Fair would not have been the same without the musical talents of The WInston Churchill School's Session Band who played two stunning sets of music during the afternoon.

Finally, the Fair would not be complete if people didn't come along to enjoy it! A huge thanks from the FOBS committee and myself to everyone who participated and donated.

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BASINGSTOKE CANAL

The Basingstoke Canal features regularly in this publication and no apology is made for its inclusion again this month. It is a major asset to the village, beautifully tranquil, enjoyed by many for leisure purposes and even, perhaps, by commuters using the towpath on their way to and from Brookwood Station as part of the daily grind.

And with the changing seasons come different things to enjoy. Whether or not the survival of so many tadpoles is due to changes in fish stock following the time last year when the canal was drained, their numbers suggest that we might soon see a plague of frogs of biblical proportions.

Recently sighted between Riverside Close and Sheets Heath Lane bridge were two cormorants, swimming and diving in almost synchronised fashion. And on a sunny afternoon, fish breaching the surface to take low-flying damselflies was magical. The mess left on the towpath by two adult geese and their six offspring is another matter altogether!

Another sighting, potentially more worrying, is the turtle/terrapin that a local family spotted early in June swimming in the canal at the bottom of their Riverside Close garden. Its shell was about 15cm long. It is either an illegal release or an accidental escape, so if anyone were able to catch it and take it to a local animal rescue centre that would be great.

Unhappily, it's also necessary to report that sometime during May the occupants of a property in Riverside Close, whose garden backs on to the canal, had their small white rowing boat stolen from the end of the garden. This kind of petty theft is very upsetting. At the time of going to press the boat is still missing but if anyone has spotted or rescued it, or can help in any other way, please contact Emily Brennan (emilyjbrennan@hotmail.co.uk).

Finally, the Basingstoke Canal Society's website has announced, with justifiable pride, that it was selected for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recently. This unique UK national honour, equivalent to an MBE, was created by Her Majesty to mark the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and to recognise the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers. The Society will be presented with a glass trophy and certificate signed by Her Majesty in due course. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to the Canal Society's work and made this prestigious award possible.

TIDYING UP BROOKWOOD

If you go to Connaught Crescent park you may notice a bit of a difference this month. Some of the residents (and a couple of non-residents) took a Sunday morning out in early June and tidied up the road leading to the park. A good amount of rubbish was cleared and lots of weeding done, and it all looks a lot fresher. There's a strong possibility of a repeat for next year with hope of getting into the park itself. Huge thanks to all involved.

On Friday 6 July, Brookwood Cubs will be carrying out a litter pick elsewhere in the village and we express our thanks to them too.

Jess Sawyer has been in touch to say that she and a few friends in the village are keen to launch a push to tidy up Connaught Road – pick up litter, weed flower beds and maybe even plant a few more flowers! They are looking for like-minded individuals who might be keen in helping out at some point over the summer. Please email Jess at brookwoodinbloom@gmail.com if you are interested in taking part in this initiative.



Finally, the appearance of the village would be improved if Surrey County Council repaired the surface of Connaught Road, between the station exit and Connaught Crescent. Their programme for repairing 99 roads in Surrey was announced recently but Connaught Road is not included. It seems that the works completed in the vicinity of the school earlier in the year are all that we are going to get. SCC's website includes information about road repair activity, in the near and distant future, in documents entitled 'Operation Horizon' and 'Horizon 2'. Customer complaints are amongst the criteria used. Mine has been logged and readers are encouraged to do likewise, in the hope that there might at least be the prospect of repairs on the horizon, instead of beyond it.

BROOKWOOD AND BRIDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Advance notice that the BBNF AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 September 2018. The venue will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

THE ARTS SOCIETY

The Arts Society takes a couple of months' holiday in July and August, resuming lectures on 12 September at 10.30am in the Lord Roberts Centre, when Mary Alexander MA will give a talk entitled 'Meet me at the Waldorf; the extraordinary story of two iconic hotels built on Astor Feuds, Fortunes and Art Patronage'. The regular programme then continues into the Autumn. All new members are allowed free of charge. More information is available on their website (www.wokingdfas.org.uk) or on 01483 233861.

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY – TAKE A GUIDED TOUR

This summer, visitors to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's largest cemetery in the UK are invited to join a series of tours to discover its history and the incredible stories of those buried there.

The CWGC's experienced volunteer guides will be stationed at the Military Cemetery two to three days a week to share the Cemetery's story. With more than 5,000 Commonwealth war graves and almost 800 war graves of other nationalities, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the final resting place for service personnel from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and the UK and Ireland.

The Military Cemetery was established as the First World War drew to a close and then extended for the burial of Second World War service personnel. Brookwood shares many of its architectural and horticultural features with CWGC sites overseas, including the Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance. During the tour, the Commission's guides will share the history of the various plots and memorials in the Cemetery, and the stories of some of the brave men and women it commemorates.

There is no need to book for the tours – just turn up. Tours will begin outside the Canadian Records Building, at the main entrance. Tour dates and times for the rest of the summer are:
Every Wednesday and Sunday in July and August, at 2pm
Saturday 7 and 28 July at 11am, 2pm and 3pm
Saturday 14 and 21 July at 11am and 2pm
Saturday 4 and 18 August at 11am, 2pm and 3pm
Saturday 11 and 25 August at 11am and 2pm

COUNCILLOR KEVIN DAVIES REPORTS

The subject of Brookwood Railway Station has been raised at the WBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee with representatives of Network Rail and South Western Railway, in particular disabled access, access for people with pushchairs, flooding and motorcycle bays.

Woking is the only mobility friendly station in the Borough. With Brookwood, the advice is that travellers who need to travel from the inaccessible platform 2 should travel to Woking, use the lift and return; or when coming back from the London direction, travel to Farnborough, use the lift and return. Obviously this makes a journey significantly longer and is totally unacceptable in this day and age. Cllr Kevin is expecting to meet with the Regional Development Manager in the near future to discuss the problems.

Nothing obvious has progressed on Brookwood Lye housing other than to try and secure the site further. Cllr Kevin is not happy about the gradual spread of the Travellers and has made representations to enforcement.

Following the roadshow at the start of the year, residents' views have been put into the mix and other areas have been looked at in more detail, including a more detailed Flood Risk Assessment; the improvements to Brookwood Crossroads have now been directly linked to the development and a slight redesign made to the brutal, flatted buildings to make them blend in better with the surrounding properties. The changes will be resubmitted soon and once validated as an acceptable application, the clock will start ticking again and the statutory consultation will begin. Essentially, the process is working as it should although it is frustrating that it can be so slow.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

You might have noticed recently, either when walking around the Cemetery or from looking from the train on the approach to Brookwood Station, that workmen have been tidying up some of the trees. Avril Kirby, Brookwood Cemetery Manager, advises that a Tree Protection Order covers the whole of the Cemetery. Following an inspection survey carried out at the end of last year, approximately 25 dead, dying or dangerous trees were identified for removal after discussions with Woking Borough Council's Tree Officer. A full tree survey of the site will be carried out later this year to identify any further necessary works and thereafter the Cemetery's management will be working with the Council Tree Officer to arrange a tree-planting programme to conserve the long-term historical interest of the site. Given the rate of growth of specimen trees, some of us most certainly will not see the new trees at anything like their best. However, having enjoyed the trees planted by the Cemetery's earlier owners, it's nice to think that future generations will look back and praise those now concerned in this initiative for their forward thinking.

YOUNG AND OLD ARE WINNERS AT PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE DUCK FAIR

The Pirbright Village Duck Fair and Flower Festival on 16 June was a huge success. The rain held off, the fairground organ boomed out, the smell of fresh flowers filled the church, and the aroma of sizzling sausages filled the village green. In the arena ducks made us laugh and dogs showed off their talents – in short, everyone had a wonderful time! It was very much a family day, and the younger children stole hearts at the farmyard-themed fancy dress. People's imagination had really been sparked by the Duck Parade, with almost 90 amazingly creative entries; the fact that winners included both the Reception class of Pirbright School and the elderly residents of Cunningham House was a wonderful example of all our communities coming together to enjoy themselves.





WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Brookwood WI had a fascinating talk recently from Wildlife Aid Foundation, a Leatherhead-based charity animal hospital that helps British wildlife. It gave a wonderful insight into the work that they do and reminded all of us how important it is to look after our native countryside. As we go to press, the WI are busy making scones to enjoy at their Surrey Foundation WI Centenary. If the weather holds it promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon. Anyone interested in joining the WI can call Mary on 01483 831832 or pop along to one of our meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday in each month in the Memorial Hall, 7.45pm start.

PIRBRIGHT PLAYERS' AUDITIONS FOR PANTOMIME 2018

Thespians please note! Auditions for this year's pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, will be at 8pm on Thursday 19 July 2018 in Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright. All adults and children (8 and over) welcome. The three performances will be on 24 and 25 November 2018 (Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon). The Players need singers, dancers, actors and general helpers, especially chaperones for looking after the children (no experience required as training will be given). The show will be a lot a fun! If you'd like to perform but can't make the auditions, please contact Carole Gailer (carolegailer@hotmail.com) who will also help with any queries, or go to www.spanglefish.com/pirbrightplayers for more information about the Players.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Sunday 1 July	Brookwood Cemetery Society – Actors Acre Comes To Life. NEW WALK celebrating the life of the Victorian and Edwardian entertainers buried in the plot. Taking place on the former Actors' Acre, 2.00pm
Sunday 1 July	Quiz Night, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Monday 2 July	Village Whist, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 7 July	Bingo, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Sunday 8 July	Quiz Night, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Saturday 14 July	Live music from Big Bill and the Right Offs, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Sunday 15 July	Quiz Night, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Tuesday 17 July	Women's Institute, Memorial Hall, 7.45pm
Sunday 22 July	Quiz Night, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Saturday 28 July	Live music from Broken Bones, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm
Sunday 29 July	Quiz Night, Brookwood Club, 8.30pm

BROOKWOOD CLUB

We have another busy month planned for July at the Brookwood Club with plenty of live music and all the World Cup games.

Regular events are Quiz Night every Sunday from 8.30pm, and Bingo on the first Saturday of the month. Next Bingo is Saturday 7 July; eyes down 8.30pm.

On Saturday 14 July, Big Bill and the Right Offs will be playing classic rock tunes. All welcome; 8.30pm until late.

On Saturday 28 July, Broken Bones soft/rock band will be playing. All welcome; 8.30pm until late.

Finally, don't forget we will be showing all the of the England games during the World Cup.

If you're interested in becoming a member please drop in and speak to any staff or committee member.

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