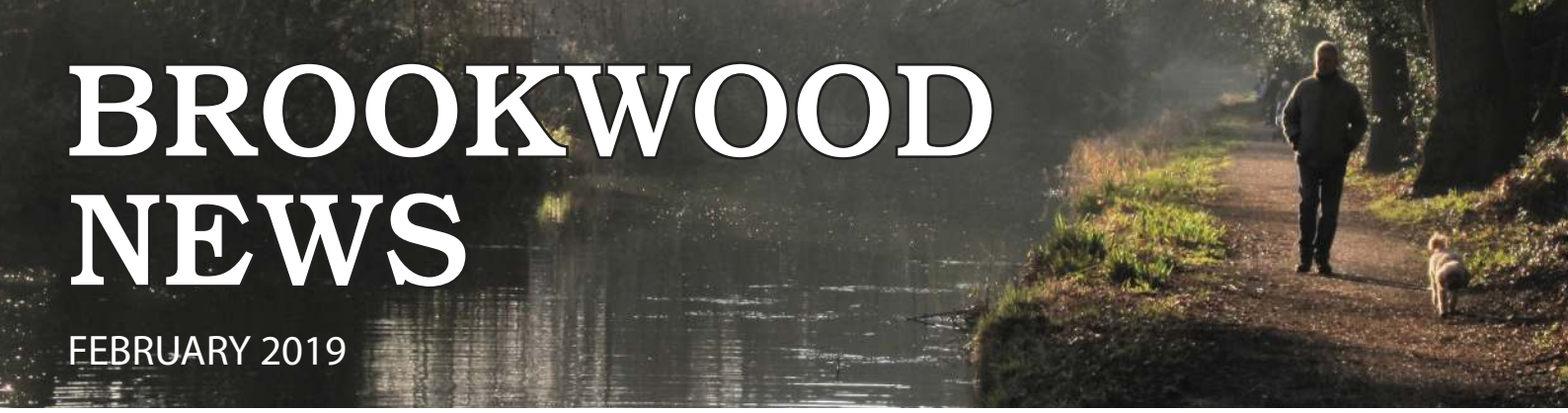


BROOKWOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2019

EDITORIAL

When I first visited Woking in 1979, I remember seeing part of the Basingstoke Canal, and it was just a muddy ditch with the inevitable shopping trolley abandoned on its bank. While editing this edition, the sun came out so I popped out to take some photos of our beautiful stretch of the canal, and joined the dog walkers and parents pushing prams and picking up local schoolchildren. The photos were for the article received this month about the canal, which reminds us that we can't be complacent about this wonderful amenity, which needs constant maintenance and support. If you aren't a canal walker then there are plenty of other events going on this month to get you out of the house, including comedy, quiz nights, art classes, live music, green gym and shopping opportunities. February needn't be cold, grey and dull!

Yvonne Craven – Editor

CEMETERY WALKS

Just a reminder that Brookwood Cemetery Society monthly walks will start on Sunday 3 March, 2pm, with an introductory walk in the south side of the cemetery, meeting at the Lodge in the Glades of Remembrance car park.

Margaret Hobbs
Brookwood Cemetery Society

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Defibrillator – Brookwood Memorial Hall has a defibrillator by the steps between the two halls, accessible whenever the hall is in use. It gives simple verbal instructions on use. For further guidance, just Google 'defibrillator video'. Hall gate keys are held by regular hirers and a contact phone number is on the gate.

Book of Remembrance – Brookwood Memorial Halls were erected as a lasting community resource, funded from villager donations to commemorate those who gave their lives in the two World Wars for our freedom. The stories of 17 of the 18 people named on the plaque in the Memorial Hall were presented recently at St Saviour's Church, and previously at moving presentations by Scouts at the Remembrance Services at the Hall. We want to collate the stories into a Book of Remembrance with a display cabinet, but one name needs more research – T. Price Please contact management@bmhalls.org.uk if you have any information. One villager has anonymously provided a substantial donation to help with the project, which we gratefully acknowledge. Any other donations would be most welcome.

Hall hire – The Halls are well-used and are a popular venue for children's parties. They are kept to a high standard, meeting all Charity Commission and safety requirements. They are available at discounted rates to villagers and charities; email lettings@bmhalls.org.uk or call 07757 969231. All hire proceeds go to upkeep and improvements. Recent improvements include new kerbing along the driveway and improved external lighting. The Community Hall now has new insulated aluminium doors, thanks in part to grant funds from our County Councillor Ayesha Azad. Further planned improvements include a new cycle rack, wifi and a modern music system. We are licensed to provide all music and dance presentations.



New aluminium doors

AGM and volunteers - The Memorial Halls are managed by volunteers elected annually at the public AGM – next on Monday 29 April at 8pm at the Halls. New members are welcome to help the continued provision of this valued and popular community resource. Go to www.bmhalls.org.uk for more information.

John Thornton
Chair, Management Committee

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‘A WONDERFUL LOCAL AMENITY’



We all know and enjoy the Basingstoke Canal, but not everyone knows that the canal is currently jointly owned by Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council. The canal has had a chequered history since its original completion in 1794, and, after several changes in fortune and ownership, it found itself in the mid-1960s in a derelict and un-navigable condition. All the locks and bridges were in need of repair, and the then private owner of the canal was drawing up plans to fill in parts and sell the land for redevelopment. It was at this point that a resident of Brookwood, Jim Woolgar, whose house backed on to the canal, sent the following letter to several local newspapers:

Sir,
Having spent a few days of my holiday walking the length of the Basingstoke Canal, I am wondering if the local people appreciate what an amenity they have on their doorsteps. It would appear that many are apathetic and treat it as a convenient rubbish dump; however I know that several people are interested in its possible restoration – although at the moment, due to vandalism and the Canal Company’s lack of finance, it is still deteriorating.
I feel the time is ripe to form a Basingstoke Canal Restoration Society so that a start could be made removing debris and clearing the towpath. Perhaps it might even be possible to re-open it for navigation.
Yours faithfully
EJ Woolgar



Lock 12 by garage on A322 before restoration

In 1966 the Basingstoke Canal Society (BCS) charity was formed by individuals who had the foresight to see that the canal could be renovated and brought back to life for the pleasure of all. Through constant lobbying they persuaded the two county councils to acquire the canal by the mid-1970s. Then began years of dedicated hard work by hundreds of volunteers from the BCS and others, until in 1991 the canal was fully renovated and officially re-opened by HRH The Duke of Kent.

The two counties are responsible for all maintenance and functioning of the canal and associated infrastructure, but they have created a special joint body called the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) to carry out the day-to-day management and operation of the canal. The BCA is financed by contributions from the two county councils as well as to a lesser extent from the six riparian local authorities through which the canal runs. The canal’s fortunes are therefore very much dependent on the funds available to be spent by these bodies. In today’s climate of cuts in central government funding to local government, there is real pressure on the resources that can be allocated to the canal.

Meanwhile the BCS continues to play an active part in supporting and maintaining the canal. Volunteers spend thousands of hours every year supporting the BCA in its activities to maintain and develop the canal, and the BCS also uses its charitable resources on projects to develop and enhance the canal on behalf of the two county councils. In November 2018 the BCS had its long-time dedication recognised by the award of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service (effectively an MBE for Voluntary Services) presented on a return visit after 27 years by HRH The Duke of Kent.



Lock 12 after restoration, first boat through, 1988

So how can you help? Firstly we need volunteers and anyone who is interested can find out about the different ways of helping by looking at the BCS website (www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk or email volunteer@basingstoke-canal.org.uk). Volunteering is fun and rewarding, and there are a variety of ways ranging from working parties, crewing trip boats, organising, planning and helping at events, fundraising, project management, press relations and marketing. Or you can still help by becoming a Friend or Member of the BCS. Please help preserve and look after this wonderful local amenity!

CALLING ACTIVE AND ASPIRING ARTISTS

Woking Arts Society

Brookwood News would like to apologise for mistakenly attaching Woking Art Society's logo to an item about another society with a similar name, and we'd like to tell you about the organisation it actually belongs to. Woking Art Society exists to encourage wider interest and provide inspiration specifically in the visual arts. The 150 plus members range from beginners to professional artists, including some who don't paint at all and a minority who produce digital art, sculpture and pottery. If you are interested in art, you will meet friendly, like-minded people and see experts in action at the monthly meetings. There are demonstrations in oils, acrylics, mixed-media, pastels and watercolours, plus the occasional talk and appraisals of members' work. Meetings start at 2.20pm on the first Saturday of every month at The Vyne, Knaphill, and visitors are always welcome. The annual subscription is £26 (£13 for full-time students) with a £2 admission charge (£4 for visitors). Visit the website for more information (www.wokingartsociety.org).

Woking Art SOCIETY

…… and just to be clear, here are the details for the other organisation….

THE ARTS SOCIETY, WOKING

The Society is part of a nationwide organisation that aims to increase our own understanding and enjoyment of art, foster friendships, and support arts education and conservation in our local community. As part of this, lectures and visits are organised throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to the next talks in the Lecture Theatre at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley, 10–11.30am.

13 February – James Cook and the Enlightenment

13 March – The Paintings of Winston Churchill and Noel Coward

THE ARTS SOCIETY

COMEDY NIGHT - PAUL KERENSA



Don't miss this exciting comedy night with writer and comedian Paul Kerensa, who will be coming to Brookwood to perform at St Saviour's Church on Saturday 23 February, 7.30pm. He studied at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, and the Guildford School of Acting. In 2002 he won ITV's 'Take The Mike' Award, and was a finalist in The Daily Telegraph Open Mic Awards and the BBC New Comedy Awards. Paul has performed at the London Comedy Store, Edinburgh Fringe and has been a writer for BBC-1's Miranda and Not Going Out. Tickets are just £5 and can be booked online at www.htandstschurch.org or obtained from Holy Trinity & St Saviour's church office, Chobham Road, Knaphill. There may be some available on the door but this is not guaranteed, so book early if you can. Some refreshments will be available but do bring your own if you wish. For further information call 01483 473489 or 01483 480273.

PIES, PRESERVES AND PLANTS

Every Thursday, Pirbright Country Market is held at Lord Pirbright's Hall between 10 and 11.15am. On sale is a vast range of home-made cakes, savouries, preserves and honey. Also on offer are indoor and outdoor plants, and a big range of crafts and greetings cards. With shopping done, finish off your morning with a cup of coffee, toasted teacake and a chat with your friends, or make a new one or two. See you on Thursday!

Richard Mills
Secretary Pirbright Country Market

GREEN GYM

Following the excesses of Christmas, many people head to an expensive, crowded gym. Why not get an allotment instead? You get all the benefits of exercise (digging), weight lifting (moving manure), stretching (pruning), with the added benefits of growing your own food, fresh air, peace and quiet, and lots of vegetables. The allotments on Sheets Heath now have a few vacant plots (6m x 10m) and half plots. For more information and to view please contact secretary@gpasbrookwood.co.uk or phone 07421 234 679.

Yvette Ness
Secretary



BROOKWOOD CLUB

New membership – The club will be taking applications for new memberships from 1 February 2019. If you are interested in joining please drop in and speak to any member of staff. The annual subscription is £10.00.

Part-time bar job – The club currently has a position for a part-time bar person. If you are interested and would like to know more, please call in and speak to the steward, Lee Orris.

Club diary – Quiz every Sunday evening, 8.30pm. Bingo first Saturday of the month, eyes down 8.30pm. Guests welcome when accompanied by a member. Saturday 9 February, live music with pop/rock duo, Goldsworth Gerry. All welcome.

THANKS FROM THE

scouts
be prepared . . .

1st Brookwood Scout Group would like to thank Brookwood residents for their overwhelming generosity over the festive period. In December our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts raised £370 for Woking Hospice by singing carols at the station. In January we collected and recycled over 80 Christmas trees from Brookwood and Sheets Heath, raising £512 to be split between our Scout Group and the Scouts attending the World Scout Jamboree in North America this summer. Huge thanks to our leaders, young people and parents for helping and all who gave so generously.

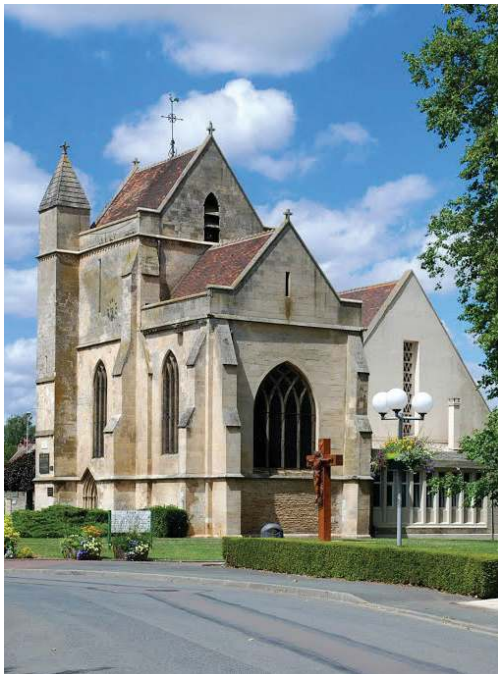
Save the date – Quiz and Curry Night, Saturday 9 March.

CRÊPE SUPPER & VISIT TO CAGNY



Pirbright Twinning Association is holding a Crêpe Supper at Lord Pirbright's Hall on Sunday 10 March 2019, 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets are £14 members, £16 non-members from James Grimshaw (trocha@clara.co.uk).

If you are interested in visiting Pirbright's twinned town of Cagny in Normandy, (Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June), there is still time to give your name to chairman Lucy Baker. All Pirbright and Brookwood residents are welcome to join the trip for adults and accompanied children (return fare £19). Contact lucyb2477@gmail.com for further information.



Eglise St Germain, Cagny

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Friday 1 February	Village Whist Drive, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 2 February	Bingo, Brookwood Club, eyes down 8.30pmm
Saturday 9 February	Goldsworth Gerry, Brookwood Club, evening
Wednesday 13 February	The Arts Society talk, Lord Roberts Centre, 10–11.30am
Saturday 23 February	Comedian Paul Kerensa, St Saviour's Church, 7.30pm
Friday 1 March	Village Whist Drive, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 3 March	Brookwood Cemetery Society walk, 2pm
Saturday 9 March	Scouts Quiz & Curry Night, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 10 March	Crêpe Supper, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 7 for 7.30pm

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 MARCH NEWSLETTER IS 20th FEBRUARY

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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