

BROOKWOOD NEWS

March 2019

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the March edition of Brookwood News. Writing this in late February, it seems as though spring has arrived early again; the weather is mild and the bulbs are flowering. I hope you all have an equally pleasant March.

Our newsletter team has recently received a request to 'organise more events in the village'. I'm afraid that's not our job; we're kept busy just preparing and publishing the newsletter. So whilst we fully applaud the idea of having more events in Brookwood, it's up to you to actually organise them. Why not join a club and try something new?

Many thanks to all of our contributors this month. We welcome all Brookwood news, articles and diary events, so let us know if you have something for our next newsletter.

David Lugton – Editor

Heathrow
AIRSPACE & FUTURE OPERATIONS CONSULTATION

FUTURE FLIGHT PATHS OVER BROOKWOOD

Heathrow have begun a public consultation process about changes to their future operations and their use of airspace. These changes are likely to affect aircraft flight paths over Brookwood from 2022 onwards, possibly increasing the level of aircraft noise that we experience. The potential construction of a third runway at Heathrow will be a major cause of these changes, but a new method of controlling aircraft flight paths is also being introduced, which will change the traditional take-off and landing routes.

Heathrow have put on a series of public exhibitions which explain why and how the flight paths and aircraft operations will change. Our local exhibition was at West End village hall on Saturday 16 February. You can find all the documents, information and a questionnaire on their website (https://afo.heathrowconsultation.com/) if you missed the exhibition.

Once they have gathered the public feedback from the exhibitions and questionnaires, they will present their specific proposals in June this year. So now is your chance to have a say before the plans firm up!

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



Woking Borough Council acquired Brookwood Cemetery a few years ago with the goal of saving our heritage, and improving and restoring the cemetery as a Victorian park area. Since then, an enormous amount of work has been done and last year it won an award for the best large cemetery in the country.

Some 350m (10%) of the cemetery boundary wall was structurally unsound and work was begun on rebuilding it to modern design standards with special coping bricks purpose-made to match the originals. Unfortunately, the use of peak hour traffic lights on the A322 has been delayed by UK Power Networks' emergency work and by winter weather. So the decision was taken to stop the cemetery wall work and recommence in the spring.

A contract for new signage including notice boards, signposting and interpretation panels has recently been let, and these will start to appear in the cemetery around Easter time. Additional brown highways signs are being put up to direct drivers from Aldershot to the appropriate cemetery entrance.

A contract for the restoration of the Colquhoun chapel within the cemetery has also been let to a specialist restoration company and this will start in April. In addition, staff facilities have been improved and upgraded, and new digital CCTV system has been installed. Finally, a planning consultancy has been appointed and is producing a masterplan for the cemetery, which should be complete by late summer. This will help the cemetery in attracting further funding from groups such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr Kevin Davis, Heathlands Ward

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BROOKWOOD SCHOOL

We have had a very busy time at Brookwood School since Christmas. Around 20 new children have joined us since the start of the year from the UK and further afield, bringing interesting new life experiences and stories.

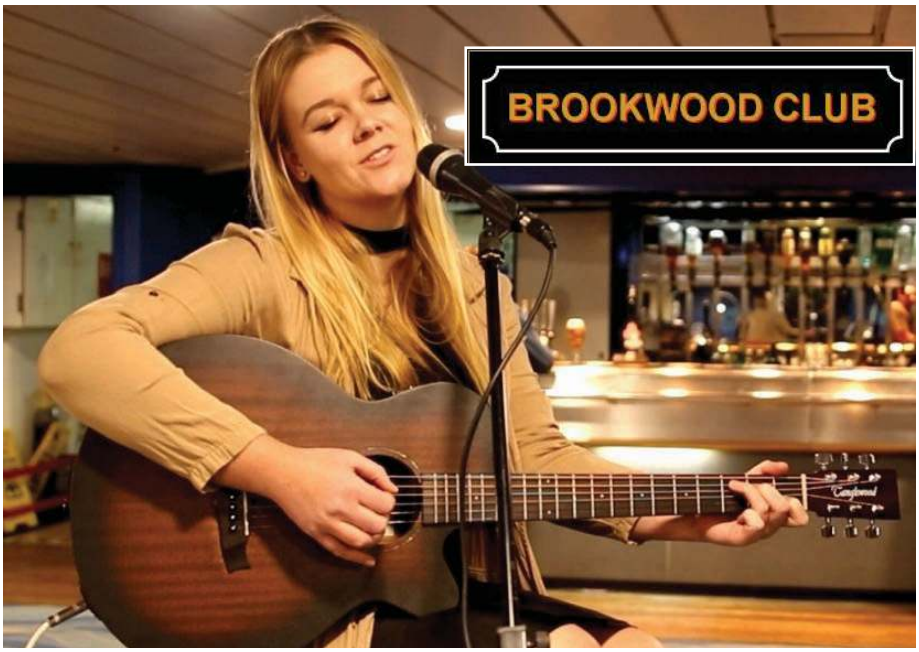
As well as working very hard on maths, English and the wider curriculum, we continue to provide a varied range of activities in school. As an example, we are very proud that all our 9–11 year olds are taught to play chess through a weekly session. This encourages tactical thinking, and many of our children are now pursuing this to a high standard.

We were thrilled to be able to take our choir to London by train earlier this month to sing with 8,000 other children at the O2 Arena. Organised by a team called Young Voices, the choir practised pieces in school and transferred them into a stunning concert. In addition, nearly 100 of our older children took the train for a matinee of Grease by The Winston Churchill School at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre. Prior to both these visits we were pleased to welcome Network Rail staff into school to discuss rail safety, reinforcing messages we regularly share with our children in order to keep them safe while we travel to these activities.

Closer to home, our Forest School team now has a dry space where the children can gather in the very worst of the weather. We are just about to start a potato growing competition between different groups in school.

On a sadder note, we were devastated that the school has been targeted by vandals recently. Some of the windows installed at great expense by Surrey County Council have been stripped of lead. This has caused significant water leaks and we now face more disruption. We are currently inviting people who can make a regular commitment of an hour or more a week to work with children in school. Of course, we have to run safeguarding checks on regular volunteers but, if this would interest you, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Jo Green, Headteacher, Brookwood Primary School



The Club is now taking applications for new members. If you are interest in joining, please drop in and speak to any member of staff. The annual subscription is £10.00.

On Saturday 9 March, Ebony Rose, a local singer, will be doing covers from the 60s onwards. All welcome.

Regular events are Bingo on the first Saturday of the month, eyes down 8.30pm, and Club Quiz every Sunday night, starting at 8.30pm. Guest are welcome when accompanied by a member.

WORK CONTINUES....

You may recall that over the Christmas period the Brookwood Village Christmas Foodbank Campaign was collecting for the Woking Foodbank. This was very successful but the Woking Foodbank doesn't have a lot of storage so its Christmas stock has been depleted. I am pleased to report that we are continuing to help the Foodbank as some of your cash donations were held back to enable us to buy more food in the New Year (as agreed with the Woking Foodbank). We have recently provided a carload of essentials; this will help for the next few weeks and I am pleased to say that we have plenty of cash for yet another delivery, possibly two. So once again, many thanks to all of you who supported the campaign – it has not just helped over the Christmas period but is still helping now.

Trudi Fletcher

BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI had a very enjoyable meeting on Tuesday 19 February entitled 'An Actress Behind Bars', presented by Carolann Martys, who told us about her life facilitating drama workshops in prisons. It was a fascinating evening which we all enjoyed and which led to more discussions amongst the ladies.

Brookwood WI meets on the third Tuesday of every month (except August) at 7.45pm. If you are interested in joining us, please come along, or call Mary on 01483 831832 for more information.

PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE DRAGON FAIR

After the success of last year's Duck Fair, Pirbright's annual village fair returns on Saturday 15 June and this year the theme is DRAGONS. Put the date in your diary and, if you would like to take part, either with a stall, an attraction or just by making a dragon, contact pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com or search online for Pirbright Dragon Fair.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

As you may know, we already publish an annual directory of the commercial businesses and organisations in Brookwood. Now we want to update our list of clubs, societies, associations, institutes, circles, federations, guilds, leagues, voluntary organisations, etc. which operate in Brookwood. Please contact us with brief details if you want your club included (community@brookwood.org.uk).

THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL – SUPPORT NEEDED

The fortunes of the Basingstoke Canal are very much dependent on the funds available to the owners (Surrey and Hampshire County Councils). In today's climate of cuts there is a real pressure on the resources that can be allocated to the canal. Since the canal was reopened in 1991 there have been periods when funding restrictions meant that expenditure on the canal was cut back, resulting in the canal not always being fully open to navigation. We need your support to prevent that.



The funding issues for the current owners have led them to consider other ways of assuring the maintenance and capital expenditure on the canal. One possible solution involved talks with the Canal & River Trust (C&RT), a charitable trust that owns and operates 2,000 miles of waterways in the UK, to take over the canal. The C&RT does not have to juggle its funding priorities in the same way as county and local authorities, so this would provide a stable future for the canal. Unfortunately the discussions have ceased, at least for a few years. The main issue is money. Both sides agree that the transfer of the canal must also involve the transfer of a capital sum from the current owners to the C&RT, but the amount that C&RT is looking for is in excess of what the counties wish to pay. The figures are significant – tens of millions. Contact the BCS through their website at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk to learn more about the situation. If you value the canal you can have a say and potentially make a difference by becoming a Friend or Member of the BCS.

Scouts
1st Brookwood

QUIZ NIGHT

The Scouts would like to invite you to their annual Quiz Night at the Brookwood Memorial Hall on Saturday 9 March 2019. This event has helped a lot with fundraising for the group in the past, and is open to everyone. Teams should be of 6–10 people but if you can't make a whole team, just let Mark or one of the other leaders know, and we will see if we can combine you with others. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can confirm numbers for catering.

Doors will open at 7.30pm and the quiz will start at 8pm. Tickets are £10 per person for a humdinger of a quiz and including a curry or a ploughman's supper (for those of you with faint stomachs). Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Donations for raffle prizes would be most appreciated. Advance notice of teams and supper preferences please to Mark Kilcullen (07836 638828, gsl@brookwoodscouts.org.uk) or Chris Price (07723855089, secatbwd@gmail.com).

NEWS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

Spring is almost here and the recent weather has encouraged early growth. We still have a few plots available, so now is a good time to take on a plot as there is still plenty of time to get it ready before the main sowing and planting season starts. Make this the year that you grow your own! If you are interested, please contact Yvette Ness, Secretary, at secretary@gpasbrookwood.co.uk, or phone 07421 234679.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Pirbright Horticultural Society extends a very warm welcome to Brookwood residents to attend any of its meetings. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm in the clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall, and we also have visits to nurseries and to RHS Wisley (on 8 June). They are free but membership only costs £15. Do come and support our active society – you will be very welcome.

LOCK UP YOUR SHEDS

There have been a number of thefts recently from garden sheds at the east end of Brookwood. So please ensure that your shed is securely locked.

BROOKWOOD LAST POST ASSOCIATION

The Brookwood Last Post Association meets on the first Sunday of every month at 3pm at the RAF Memorial (shelter) in Brookwood Military Cemetery for a relatively short ceremony. You will be very welcome to join us on Sunday 3 March at 3pm.

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

Friday 1 March	Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 2 March	Bingo, eyes down 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 3 March	Brookwood Cemetery Walk, 2pm, Garden of Remembrance car park
Sunday 3 March	Brookwood Last Post Association, 3pm, RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Sunday 3 March	Club Quiz, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Saturday 9 March	Scouts Quiz & Curry Night, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 9 March	Ebony Rose, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 10 March	Crêpe Supper, 7 for 7.30pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sunday 10 March	Club Quiz, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Tuesday 12 March	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 8pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sunday 17 March	Club Quiz, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Friday 22 March	The Kings Men, 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Farnham
Sunday 24 March	Club Quiz, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 31 March	Club Quiz, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Friday 5 April	Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 15 June	Pirbright Village Dragon Fair, The Green, Pirbright

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 APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th MARCH

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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