BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2019

EDITORIAL

At first glance this month's offering has a rather gloomy look about it with instances of vandalism, a close-run thing with a local bus service and a missed opportunity to improve accessibility at the Station. As ever though, local societies and organisations have more than restored the balance with news of forthcoming events that demonstrate the wide range of activities that make up life in our village. Many thanks to our contributors and to our readers. Keep sending your news to community@brookwood.org.uk.

John Wheeler – Editor

ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

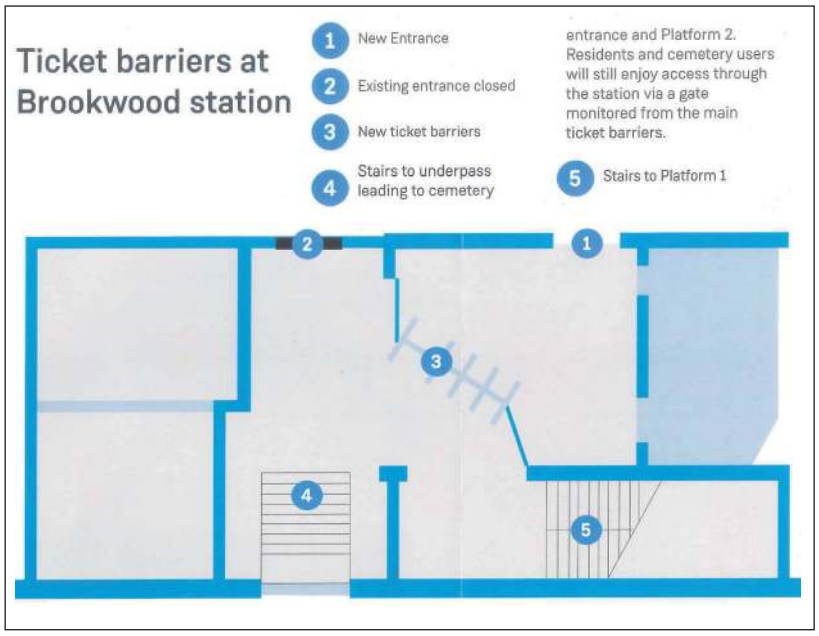
Sadly, last month's vandalism at Brookwood School has proved not to be an isolated case. Early in March the church suffered from lead being stolen from a high roof window. The theft was discovered when water started pouring in during heavy rain, damaging the piano and carpet underneath. The window has now been fixed but sadly more fund-raising is required to pay the very expensive bill and this means the toilet installation is also delayed further. Our neighbours in St. Johns were also targeted, with lead and slate being stolen from the church, so commiserations to them as well.

On a happier note, there was a full house for the Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa in February with 110 people in the audience. If you were there, you will realise that this number is coincidentally significant!

Future entertainment at St Saviour's Church includes blues and rock band Stormy Waters on Saturday 11 May and on Friday 31 May Greg Chapman's one man comedy-adventure magic show "Into The Wilderness". More information about the latter event next month but tickets are available now at www.gregchapman.net

Everyone is welcome to the Easter services in April which include Messy Church on Saturday 13 April 3.30 - 5.30pm and a special Cafe Church on Easter Sunday from 10am. We look forward to welcoming you.

CHANGES AT BROOKWOOD STATION



South Western Railway (SWR) has published details of the plan to install new CCTV and automatic ticket barriers at Brookwood Station. The physical changes are described as *"a remodeling of the ticket hall; the existing entrance will be closed and a new one will be constructed. Residents and cemetery users will still enjoy access through the station via a gate monitored from the main ticket barriers".*

Works were due to have started in mid-March and it is claimed *"will reduce anti-social behaviour and criminality, making traveling more enjoyable. In parallel, SWR will increase the number of staff at the station, enabling them to improve the level of customer service on offer".*

Regretably, nothing is being done to improve accessibility to Platform 2 despite SWR's pamphlet stating *"that the new ticket barriers have been designed to keep in mind SWR's commitment to ensuring that their services are accessible, which means that disabled passengers can continue to access the station".*

Previously we were told that the ramped access to Platform 1 would be operated by magnetically locked doors that will be opened by an intercom/buzzer and in an emergency or when there is no one operating the gate line, the doors will be open. However, there is no reference to this in SWR's pamphlet.

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NO.28 BUS ROUTE

Early in March there was a risk to the continuing provision of bus route 28 which serves Brookwood. Buses Excetera, a Merstham-based bus company, ceased trading without warning six months after losing all its six school routes contracts with Surrey County Council. The company also operated two regular commercial routes, one of which was route 28. However, SCC very promptly made alternative arrangements for another company to step into the breach and the 28 service is now provided by Falcon.

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY GUIDED TOURS

Looking for something different to do at the weekends? The CWGC's free guided tours of the Brookwood Military Cemetery have re-started. Scheduled for every Sunday in April and May at 2pm (with the exception of Easter Sunday), there is no need to book – just turn up. During the tours, which will begin outside the Canadian Records Building at the Main Entrance, the Commission's guides will share the history of the various plots and memorials in the cemetery and the stories of some the brave men and women it commemorates..

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY WALKS

The next monthly Brookwood Cemetery Society Walk is on Sunday 7 April at 2pm. Led by Barry Devonshire and entitled "Before their time, Part 1", this is an afternoon of murder and tragedy (!) featuring graves in the Non-Conformist Section.

The following Sunday, 14 April, between 1pm and 4pm, there is a Volunteer afternoon litter picking in the Cemetery. This has been inspired by the Daily Mail's "The Great Britain Spring Clean" initiative. For this all equipment will be provided and refreshments will be available.

Both events meet at the Lodge in the Glades of Remembrance car park.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Avril Kirby, Brookwood Cemetery Manager, reports that the boundary wall repairs were stopped in January due to the inclement weather conditions and unforeseen emergency works by UKPN. Work will resume in May with completion estimated at the end of July. New projects for 2019 include renovation of the Colquhoun Chapel, site-wide signage and drainage projects, internal refurbishment of the Cemetery Chapel, barn renovations and a new website.

ANYONE FOR "NATURE BATHING" ALONG THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL?

No, we are not asking you to jump in the canal, but to relax and take in the nature that is around us, and particularly along the Canal. The Japanese call this type of relaxing Shinrin-yoku

Whether we call it Living Well, Well-Being or Preventative Healthcare, the concept of self-care is well publicised and incorporates interconnected dimensions of physical, mental, and social well-being. Many of us feel that a well-balanced diet, a good social life and an active gym membership should get us well on our way to Living Well, however this approach could mean we are overlooking something.

In the UK on average we spend 92% of our time indoors meaning we spend less than two hours a day outside. In the Winter months we spend significantly less time outside, an average of less than 30 minutes a day. Interestingly, a significant portion of the time we do spend outside is walking to and from the car or to the shops. Could our loss of connection with nature be the missing component in our approach to Well Being?

Shinrin-yoku originated in Japan in the 1980s and translates to "Nature Bathing" or "Forest Bathing". The idea of Nature Bathing is to spend time in nature but a little more deliberately than usual. Since the 1980s it has become a cornerstone of Preventative Healthcare in both Japan and South Korea. Scientifically proven benefits include: reduced blood pressure, reduced stress, improved mood, increased ability to focus, accelerated recovery from surgery or injury, increased energy levels and improved sleep.

So how does one practice Nature Bathing locally? Where does the canal come into this? It's important to understand that Nature Bathing is not a hike nor a fitness exercise. Distance travelled and time spent don't really matter. The key is to leave your phone and problems behind you and engage four of the five senses: sight, smell, hearing and touch. Wander aimlessly, take a break and simply stand and observe. It is this combination of mindfulness and the natural environment that give Nature Bathing its restorative power.

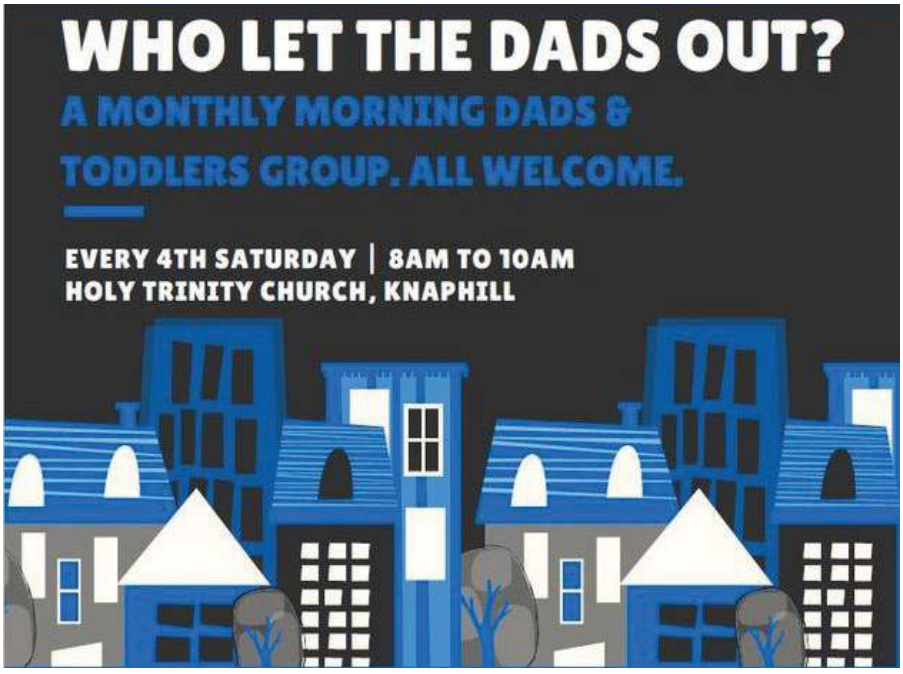
Most of the Basingstoke Canal, effectively a 32-mile-long, 224-year-old 'National Park', is designated an SSSI (site of special scientific interest) because the Canal, together with the associated 'flashes' and heathlands is rich in nature and is nationally important for its aquatic plants and invertebrates. Its quiet tree lined towpaths provide the perfect habitat for 'Nature Bathing'.

The Basingstoke Canal Society is always looking for new members, Friends and volunteers. Find them at www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk

LAUREN'S AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Lauren Purdy will be heading to Kenya on 15 June with a group of volunteers from her workplace - Turner Broadcasting - to help build two classrooms and much needed toilet facilities at a small village school in the Iloshon District of Nairobi.They will be spending a week working alongside the local community, digging foundations and laying the bricks for these vital additions.

Lauren is raising money to fund this build and every penny she raises will go to helping this community. To this end, she will be hosting a raffle and bake sale at St. Saviour's Church on Sunday 7 April after the 10am Service. Alternatively, visit her JustGiving page at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lp4actionaid



BROOKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Brookwood Cricket Club play friendly games of cricket on a weekly basis on Sundays throughout the Summer, with all home games being played on Sheets Heath Recreation Ground. Their 2019 season, with a total of 23 fixtures planned, gets underway on 14 April with a visit to Ascot Cricket Club. The Club's first home game is against The Golden Age on 12 May.

The Club are looking for players of all abilities who would like to play cricket for a friendly and sociable Village team. So whether you have played before and fancy picking up where you left off or fancy trying something new, why not contact Neil Perks on nezza74@yahoo.com or on 07917 851582.



BROOKWOOD CLUB

The Club opening time for Easter are :

Good Friday 19 April
14.30 - midnight

Easter Saturday 20 April
13.00 - Midnight

Easter Sunday 21 April
12.00 - 23.00

Easter Monday 22 April
14.30 - 22.30

The Club's regular and one-off events are listed in the Village Diary.

Please remember that Guests are welcome to attend the Quiz and Bingo nights, when accompanied by a member. All are welcome at the music evening.

NEWS FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN DAVIS

Kevin's update on the Brookwood Lye development is that consideration is currently being given to issues raised when last an application was submitted; this includes the scale of buildings close to Brookwood Lye Road and to the railway. Acknowledging that his track record in predicting the timetable for the development is not great but, ever optimistic, Kevin says that site clearance could take place over next Winter, with building starting in Spring 2020. But don't hold him to it! Much more information is available in Kevin's blog (https://cllrkevindavis.me).

THE ARTS SOCIETY - WOKING

The Arts Society - Woking's programme continues, with events on Wednesday 10 April (Hitchcock: Master of Suspense), 8 May (The Industrial Revolution and Joseph Wright) and 12 June (The astonishing Master Mozart comes to London). These take place in the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley. Arrive from 10.00 for coffee with the lecture at 10.30 for an hour. New visitors free entrance. Lectures then resume again in September.

BREAKFAST CLUB HELPER REQUIRED AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, KNAPHILL

The Sunrise Breakfast Club, which operates from Holy Trinity Church Hall, Knaphill from 7:30 each school morning, looking after children before taking them to Knaphill Lower and Upper Schools, is looking for a term-time helper (pay £14.37 each morning). Qualifications are not a requirement as the emphasis of the breakfast club is on fun and safety. DBS checks are a requirement however, as is safeguarding training (on-line) and possibly first aid training. Anyone interested in working for the Club, even one or two sessions a week, or in finding out more should contact Helen Simmons (helene_simmons@hotmail.co.uk).

GARDENERS' CORNER

Pirbright Horticultural Society was pleased to welcome several Brookwood residents at the March meeting and hope that others will join them at future events. 'Pollination' is the talk on Tuesday 9 April, with speaker Michael Keith-Lucas. Meetings are held in Lord Pirbright's Hall at 8pm.

Any child wishing to enter the Children's challenge to grow a Chilli plant in a 4" pot in time for the Annual Show on the 27 July should contact Julian Didyk on juliandidyk@sky.com who will provide the seeds. The Adult challenge is Dwarf Beans in a 9" pot - same contact details apply.

There will be a Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May between 11am and 2pm at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright. Perennials, annuals, hanging baskets and vegetable plants, all home grown, and there will also be a cake stall, sausage sizzle and a garden bric a brac stall.

Garden Walks are taking place on the weekend of 11/12 May between 1pm and 4pm; with 10 gardens to visit this year the event has been spread over two days to give enough time to enjoy them all. Cream teas will be available back at the church room on both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for Garden Walks can be purchased at the Plant Sale or from Helen Whitworth (helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com).

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

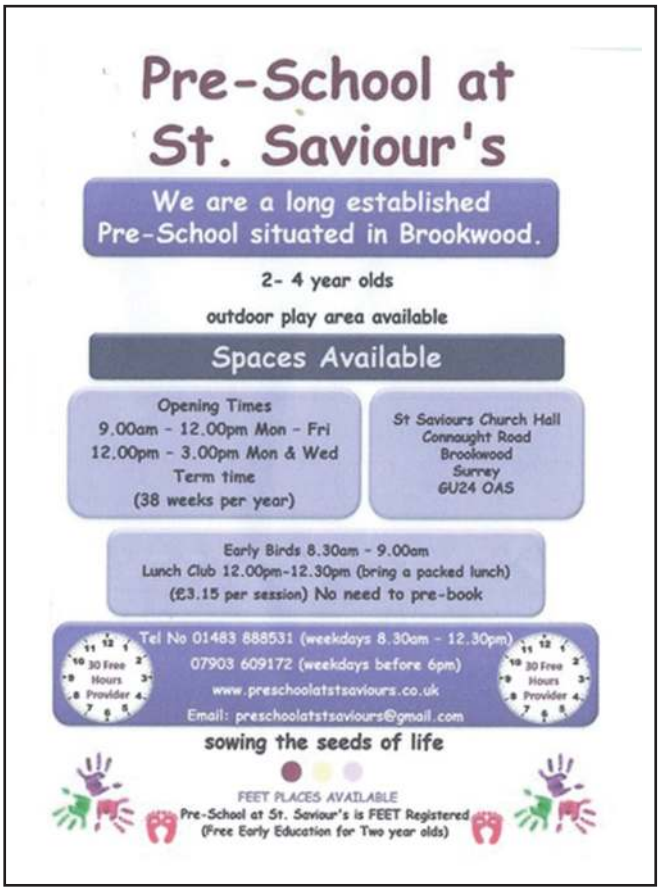
Brookwood WI's monthly meeting on Tuesday 19 March was their birthday meeting so a meal was put on for the members by the committee, and the biannual craft cup was held. The judging was fierce in a selection of different categories from handmade peg bags, soft toys, cheese scones, photographs containing water and decorated bags to name a few. A big well done to all the entrants and a special congratulations to Sue for winning best in show and Maureen for winning the overall cup.

If you are interested in joining them, please feel free to pop along on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the small Memorial hall at 7.45pm. Or for more details please contact Mary on 01483 831832.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Friday 5 April	Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 6 April	Brookwood Club Bingo, Eyes down 8.30pm
Sunday 7 April	Lauren Purdy's raffle and bake sale, St. Saviour's Church, following 10am Service Guided walk, "Before their time, Part 1" start Glades of Remembrance car park, 2pm CWGC Guided Tour, start Canadian Records Office, 2pm Brookwood Club Quiz, 8.30pm
Tuesday 9 April	PHS talk, "Pollination", Lord Pirbright's Hall, 8pm
Wed 10 April	The Arts Society Talk, Lord Roberts Centre, 10 -11.30am
Sunday 14 April	Cemetery Volunteer Litter Pick, meet Glades of Remembrance car park, 1pm to 4pm CWGC Guided Tour, start Canadian Records Office, 2pm Brookwood Club Quiz, 8.30pm
Tuesday 16 April	W.I. meeting, Small Memorial Hall, 7.45pm
Sunday 21 April	Brookwood Club Quiz, 8.30pm
Sunday 28 April	CWGC Guided Tour, start Canadian Records Office, 2pm
Monday 29 April	Brookwood Memorial Halls Management Committee AGM at the Hall 8pm Brookwood Club AGM, 8.00pm
Friday 3 May	Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 4 May	Brookwood Club Bingo, Eyes down 8.30pm
Sunday 5 May	CWGC Guided Tour, start Canadian Records Office, 2pm Brookwood Club Quiz, 8.30pm
Saturday 11 May	Stormy Waters rock and blues band, St Saviour's Church, 7.30pm
Friday 31 May	Greg Chapman one-man show, St Saviour's Church Hall
Saturday 15 June	Pirbright Village Dragon Fair, The Green, Pirbright
Saturday 22 June	Brookwood Summer Fair, 12 noon to 3pm, Brookwood School





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NB: DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th APRIL

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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