BROOKWOOD NEWS

June 2019

SCHOOL FAIR

22 June 2019, 12–3pm in the school grounds. Entertainment, a BBQ, raffle and a wide range of games and stalls. All are very welcome to attend and support the school.

BROOKWOOD IN BLOOM

"Brookwood in Bloom" is now in full swing! We held a very successful litter pick at the start of May, with residents young and old donning a yellow vest and helping to fill a bag. This month also saw the delivery of 2 tonnes of manure for the flower beds along Connaught Road – thanks to some hard work by a few willing volunteers we managed to get it on to the beds in preparation for planting.

Saturday 8 June is our big planting day – we have lots to plant so all help is needed. We'll be meeting at 10am on the corner of Connaught Crescent; please do come along with gloves and a trowel or spade to give us a hand. Even if you can only spare a short time – every little helps!

We also need volunteers to help water the beds and containers which will be appearing along the main road. If you'd be willing to help with this, please get in touch by email (brookwoodinbloom@gmail.com).

Brookwood in bloom continues on back page



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EDITORIAL

his month sees the fifth anniversary of the relaunched Brookwood News. Looking back at the very first edition I note that we published a list of '10 Good Reasons to Live in Brookwood'. They include Fulks' sausages, steam engines, the Basingstoke canal and a village PO which serves cake as well as stamps. You might like to add a few more of your own. Five years' on, it is still a very good place to live and, in my view, that is largely to do with the community spirit here, exemplified in this issue by Jean Gable and many others. Thank you to the multitude of people now involved in the preparation and distribution of the newsletter – each bit matters and makes Brookwood a better place to live.

Judith Male – Editor

THANK YOU, JEAN



Brookwood Village Halls' AGM concluded with a thank you to Jean Gable for 50 years of service to the community. The newsletter is glad to echo that and to tell a little of Jean's story.



Jean and Harry Gable came to Brookwood in 1965, moving into their house in Connaught Crescent where they still live. They brought with them baby Emma and Sarah aged 4. Jean remembers that Emma was about 2.5 years old when she was asked to help at the playgroup at the Village Hall. It ran 3 mornings a week with barely any equipment and unreliable heating. Jean got stuck in. When the next Hall AGM came round Jean was ready to take on the Management Committee in order to improve the heating. As a result of her persistence, she found herself nominated as secretary – a voluntary role that she has carried out faithfully for the last 50 years.

She remembers the Halls being in a poor state 50 years ago, but things began to improve when Mac Fryatt became Chairman and they were used much more. Jean pays tribute to the WI in Brookwood which she joined in the 1970s. The WI have supplied curtains, china, cutlery and a cooker from their fund-raising efforts – all of which make life much more comfortable for hall-users. In the early days the WI held shows on a stage in the Small Hall and pantomimes in the Large Hall, and Jean began accompanying them on the piano. Eventually she took responsibility for the drama group and became involved at County level. This led to her joining the Pirbright Players, featuring recently in their production of 'Dinner Ladies'.

Jean is delighted that the Halls are now such a valuable community resource. 'Because they are well-used, we are able to reinvest in them' she explains, citing the new wi-fi system as an example. For Jean and her family the village halls have a special place in their hearts because of numerous sports and other activities they attended there as well as family celebrations including most recently Jean and Harry's 60th Wedding Anniversary party.

She is thrilled that the Hall Committee acknowledged her service with a party. She is handing on the paperwork to Louise Norris, another young mum, and is looking forward to a few more 'nights in' with Harry.

This seems a good opportunity to say thank you to all the Village Hall team, led by John Thornton, who give up much of their time to make the Halls available to us all.

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WI MEETING

Brookwood WI met on the evening of 21 May and discussed this year's WI resolutions. The resolutions are nominated causes and campaigns that the WI supports, and encourages local people to support and action. This year's discussions revolved around the decline in local bus services and a campaign to encourage all females to have smear tests. We actively debated and voted on which one the WI should support for the next year and beyond. A fish and chip supper was also enjoyed by our members. Our next meeting is on 18 June.

If you are interested in joining us, please pop along to the Memorial Hall, or phone Mary on 01483 831832 for details.

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS





The two Memorial Halls, which lie just behind the Fish and Chip shop, host a wide variety of activities. Regular hirers include Social dance and Zumba classes throughout the week. In addition the regular programme currently looks like this:

- Art Groups on Mondays and Fridays
- Toddlers on Monday mornings
- Brownies on Monday evenings
- Belly Dancing on Monday evenings
- Messy Play on Tuesday mornings
- Badminton on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Dog scent training on Wednesday mornings
- Tai Chi on Wednesday afternoons
- Dog training on Wednesday evenings
- Pilates class on Thursday evenings
- Yoga also on Thursday evenings
- Cubs and Scouts on Friday evenings
- Rainbows on Saturdays

The Women's Institute holds its meetings in the Halls, and there are regular Bingo and Scrabble and Whist sessions.

Other meetings and activities held periodically include a History Group, Allotment Society, Microscopic Club, Church Lunch, Village Lunch, StopGap Dance Company workshops, Caravan Club, Ukelele Group and Brookwood Last Post Association. The Halls are also a venue for local, national and European Elections. See www.bmhalls.org.uk/hirers.htm for more information.

The Halls are available for social functions at reasonable rates, with discounts for residents and charities. They are kept in good decorative order and are compliant with all safety regulations; they are fully licensed by Woking Council for entertainment events and PRS/PPL for live and recorded productions and music, and are regulated by the Charity Commission. Contact Colin for letting enquiries on 07757 969231.

The Memorial Hall seats up to 120 at tables, 240 in rows, and is well equipped with tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery, décor lighting, cooking equipment, servery, lit stage, wi-fi and Bluetooth speakers, a Committee/change room and facilities for disabled people. The Small Hall hosts community and exercise events, and is ideal for children's parties, also with wi-fi and Bluetooth speakers.

The Halls were built on land donated by the London Necropolis Company, which owned the Brookwood Cemetery and surrounding land reaching to the outskirts of Woking. The Memorial Halls were funded by Brookwood residents as a lasting remembrance to local people who gave their lives in the two World Wars for our freedoms. The Halls are run by unpaid local volunteers for the benefit of all local residents without discrimination. Any surpluses go directly toward maintenance and improvement of the facilities (www.bmhalls.org.uk).







Brookwood in bloom continues..

Big thanks to all the local businesses that have already donated towards buying plants: SkateStation, Seymours, Fulks Bros, Brookwood Food & Wine, Pizza Plus, Glassmaster, Embellish, Surrey Floors and Doors, and Brookwood Club. Our thanks also to Wickes, Homebase, Briarwood Nurseries and Brookwood Military Cemetery for giving us some plants for both the beds and the containers, and to Tom Meller for the manure!

If anybody else would like to help donate towards the plants we still need to get, please email us to arrange a bank transfer or simply drop a donation in an envelope marked "Brookwood in Bloom" through the door of 83 Connaught Road.

On the 9 July, an RHS judge will come to view all our hard work. Even if you can't help with the planting or litter picks, please do join in by planting up a pot by your front door or doing a bit of weeding along the road outside – it will all help to make our village an even more fabulous place to live!



VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Sunday 2 June	Brookwood Cemetery Society "Geology Walk" led by expert Di Smith, 2pm start from the Lodge in the Glades of Remembrance car park. Donations welcome
Friday 7 June	Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 22 June	Summer Fair, 12–3pm, Brookwood School
Saturday 22 June	Broken Bones Rock Band, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Saturday 20 July	Commemoration of Peace Dinner, Brookwood Club

NEW TARMAC FOR HEATH DRIVE

Heath Drive is looking very smart after SCC contractors re-surfaced the road last month.



COMMEMORATING 1919 PEACE DINNER

One of the photos hanging up in the Club shows there was a Peace Dinner held on 24 July 1919 which we think was part of a national event promoting peace after the Great War. We wish to commemorate that somehow and have currently reserved an afternoon just before the date for a BBQ and music – Sat 20 July – to commemorate 100 years since the 1919 Peace Dinner held by Brookwood Club. There will be an afternoon BBQ and live music in the evening. All welcome

WELCOME PACK ?

Moving to a new house in a new district is undoubtedly a very stressful experience. Once the drama of the move has subsided and everyday living takes priority again, tracking down local organisations and services can sometimes be a problem. One of our readers has asked if there is an information pack that could be made available to newcomers to the village. As far as the editorial team is concerned, there isn't and it would be outside our remit to undertake it. A future newsletter is scheduled to include the list of village organisations, but not other services, such as doctors, dentists, schools, taxis, restaurants and bus services. If the Welcome Pack idea were to take off, some practical issues, i.e. production, updating, distribution and financing, would have to be resolved. Perhaps there could be an opportunity for sponsorship by a local business to cover costs? So, is there someone (or perhaps a small team) who would be prepared to undertake this project? Please email the newsletter team if you are interested in exploring this further and we can put you in touch with any like-minded individuals.

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 JULY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th JUNE

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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