BROOKWOOD NEWS



July 2019

BROOKWOOD SUMMER FAIR



After a spell of torrential rain, we were blessed with fine weather for the Brookwood Summer Fair. All those attended enjoyed all types of activities ranging from beer drinking to go-karting. There was a coconut shy, tombola, art exhibits and Messy Church biscuit icing. The famous WI cake stall was unsurprisingly sold out by the end of proceedings. The entertainment was provided by Brookwood School choir and an amazing performance by Winston Churchill school singers and band. Take a look at the photos of this great day in the Brookwood calendar.

EDITORIAL

As I write my first editorial, the rain is pouring down but that is no suffering to the ultimate sacrifice of those brave men and women who gave their lives to make the world a better place as we remember the 75th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2019. The inclement weather has no way dampened the spirit of the village, with the Brookwood Summer Fair providing a great Saturday afternoon outing for everyone – the weather looks great for that and news and photos of the Fair appear in this month's issue. Brookwood in Bloom has been a marvellous example of how people pull together to make the village a really lovely place to live. Having lived in the village for 12 years now I am amazed just how much activity goes on in Brookwood. However, you might say that every silver lining has a cloud, being the maintenance of the underpass of our railway station, with many commuters having soggy shoes for sky-high rail fares during the June downpour, not to mention the RMT rail strikes! Wishing all readers a great summer and enjoy all that this great village has to offer over the summer months.

Richard Johnson – Editor







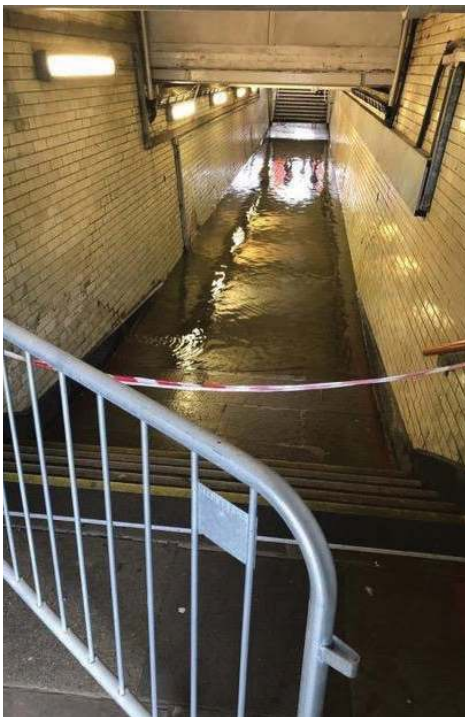
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BROOKWOOD STATION



During the June downpour many commuters and rail users had to wade through the flooded underpass connecting platform 1 and platform 2. For the amount of money that is required to travel on the trains and at peak times in particular, it is not really acceptable to put up with poor maintenance and poor drainage from the underpass, but I am pleased to note that the situation was remedied fairly quickly following tweets to South Western Railways. On top of this, commuters and rail users have had to put up with a week of inconvenience with more overcrowding than usual through the RMT rail strikes. Whilst there is much at stake, it really is high time that differences were sorted out between South Western Railways and the RMT to enable people to get on with their lives and livelihoods. Many people have no choice but to use the train and no one wants the havoc around here that has happened to Southern Rail users, which has led to people having to move house, change lives and occupations to earn a living.



the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Brookwood WI met on the evening of 18 June and had a very interesting talk on Blue Badge Tour Guides, a subject we were all happy to admit we knew very little about. It's fair to say we were all surprised at the amount of work and training that goes into obtaining one of these badges. If you are interested in joining us, please pop along at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month to the Small Memorial Hall, or call Mary on 01483 487101 for more details.

WELCOME TO BROOKWOOD!

Over the coming weeks a Brookwood Welcome Pack is being put together by friends and neighbours in the village, with the aim to ensure that people who come to live in the village find out where things are going on and who to contact concerning all things Brookwood. Watch this space for more details.



KEVIN DAVIS WRITES

Proposed Heathrow Rail Link

Just before the most recent local election all WBC Councillors were invited to a session regarding a proposed rail link from Woking to Heathrow. I was one of the handful that attended and was enthusiastic about what I saw.

I think this would really benefit Woking economically and the residents by having a rail route that doesn't require a bus or bouncing out of London.

The consultation into Heathrow expansion will kick off soon, and my personal view is that, if Heathrow is to be expanded, then as a side project improving our access to Heathrow is essential.

Brookwood Lye Road Site

I've had quite a few people speak to me about the state of the Brookwood Lye Road site and Traveller site. I try to work on this in the background rather than publicly for the primary reason of neighbourly relations. However, I will outline what I've done recently. Firstly, begin by reading my blog entry from March as that gives a good overall background, although I believe the timescales have slipped to a degree because I'm not aware that the planning application is in yet.

With regards to the rubbish, it is being fly-tipped and that is almost certainly by the immediate neighbours, although it's debatable whether it is by illegal or legal Travellers. However, right now, I'd prefer it there than elsewhere in the borough. The plan by Thameswey is not to clear it regularly, but wait until the site receives planning permission, and then clear it in one go and re-secure the site.

With regards to the Travellers themselves, two thirds are living there legally as per the emerging Site Allocations that has been submitted to an inspector ready for a public enquiry. The rest are totally illegal and I have been regularly trying to get the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to do something about it. Something they refuse to do for reasons unknown to me.

What I did do recently is email and speak to the Deputy Chief Executive as planning falls under his remit. I pointed out that there have been illegal Travellers there now for three odd years and nothing has happened. I also pointed out that moving them on will be incredibly difficult and timescales will be measured in years rather than days. That will obviously hold the development up at some point and increase costs.

The LPA are doing what they always do, which is to write another report and fob us off for a few more months. With the political changes recently, it will become apparent over the next few days how best to proceed and escalate this.

BROOKWOOD IN BLOOM









You may have noticed the growing numbers of colourful pots and containers (including a wheelbarrow, a fire grate and a bicycle) appearing along Connaught Road. Over 30 have now been put out, many of them filled with annuals kindly donated by Wickes. Thank you to all the residents who have supplied the pots and volunteered to keep them watered over the summer. Take a closer look and you'll see some inspirational quotes in the pots to help encourage us all to get our hands dirty in our own gardens. Pupils at Brookwood School have also designed a "Brookwood in Bloom" poster, which you will see around the village.

Earlier in June, the Brookwood Cubs and a group of local volunteers came together to help plant over 300 plants in the beds on the corners of Connaught Crescent and Heath Drive. They are now filled with new shrubs, grasses and perennials that should provide colour and scent for years to come! Thanks to everyone who helped and to the nearby residents who are kindly donating their hoses to keep the beds watered.

Many residents have already been inspired to tidy up their own gardens or plant new pots. If you haven't yet, there's still time! On Tuesday 9 July an Royal Horticultural Society judge will come and view our efforts along the main road – so please do get involved.

Our next litter pick (and the last one before the RHS visit) is on Sunday 7 July at 2pm. We will meet outside Brookwood School. It's great fun (honestly!) and another opportunity to meet neighbours you may not know and do something for the village. Please do come and take part – email us at Brookwoodinbloom@gmail.com to let us know, and we will provide litter picks and very flattering yellow vests for all!

Thanks again to all the businesses and associations who have so far donated: St Saviour's, Brookwood Club, Seymours, Wickes, Homebase, Embellish Hair & Beauty, Surrey Floors & Doors, Skate Station, Sainsburys, Blossom Montessori, Fulks Bros, Glassmaster and Brookwood Food & Wine. We couldn't have done it without your support!

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

Our Annual Show is being held on Saturday 27 July. Fingers crossed for good weather leading up to the show so that all the exhibits you have been nurturing can be exhibited and we get lots of visitors. Entry forms should be handed in to the Show Secretary, Marion Standing, in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall between 7 and 8pm on Monday 22 July, or latest Tuesday 23 July to Fred Cobbett, 8 The Gardens, Pirbright. Staging of entries is from 8am to 11am on Show Day, Saturday 27July. The Show is then open to the public from 2.30 to 5.30pm. There will be a raffle and refreshments from 2.45pm. Outside, there will be stalls to investigate and the playground for children to enjoy. The raffle will be drawn at 4.30pm followed by the presentation of prizes by Ian Walis. If you won a trophy last year and have not already done so, could you please return it to Philip Barralet (01483 473737– evenings and weekends). Contact for show enquiries: Marion Standing – 07870 685403.

Elizabeth Barralet will be giving demonstrations on floral arrangements on Tuesday 9 July at 8pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall in preparation for our Summer Show on Saturday 27 July. Why not come for inspiration and ideas for your flower displays. Guests and visitors are welcome. Contact Irene Dredge – 01483 233279.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY AGM

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Brookwood Cemetery Society, chaired by Kim Lowe, was held in the Mortuary Hall on Wednesday 19 June. Mrs Lowe gave a report on the activities of the society in the past year and, after the acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM and of the accounts and the election of officers, refreshments were served for the thirty or so people who attended. After the break, Avril Kirby, the manageress of the cemetery, introduced Marilyn Scott, the Director of the Lightbox, the museum and gallery in central Woking, who gave an illustrated talk about the master plan that is being drawn up for the future restoration and enhancement of Brookwood Cemetery.



St Saviour's Church is holding this event in the garden of St Saviour's Hall on Sunday 7 July, 12–3pm, and everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy the food and activities. The barbeque will follow on from the 10am Puppet Service in the church, so come to both if you can. Let's pray for good weather and a great opportunity to get together as a community.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Friday 5 July	Whist Drive, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 7 July	Community Barbecue, St Saviour's Church, 12–3pm
Sunday 7 July	Litter pick (the last one before the RHS visit). Meet outside Brookwood School, 2pm
Tuesday 9 July	Demonstrations on floral arrangements by Elizabeth Barralet, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 8pm
Saturday 20 July	Commemoration of Peace barbeque and live music, to commemorate peace after the Great War following on from a similar event from July 1919, Brookwood Club 1pm
Saturday 27 July	Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 2.30–5.30pm. Raffle and refreshments from 2.45pm

MAGIC & MYSTERY



Magician and storyteller, Greg Chapman, performed at St Saviour's Hall last month. He lives on the Isle of Wight and travelled to Brookwood in his trusty van that was packed with the most amazing props that he makes himself. His performance appealed to all ages, as it was a mixture of magic tricks, comedy and audience participation, tied in with an adventure story. In fact the act was so unique, the audience were almost literally spellbound! His diary is packed throughout the summer – he is performing all over the country at fairs, schools, towns and villages. Before he left to catch the last ferry, he said he would like to come back to Brookwood to perform and has since booked Friday 13 December, when he will do a Christmas show – so another chance to see this fascinating and brilliant young performer.

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

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NB: DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th JULY

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