

BROOKWOOD NEWS

February 2020

EDITORIAL

Well, whether you have been negotiating a dry January, dieting or undertaking other such worthy wellbeing objectives, or whether abstinence is alien to you, the sincere hope from the editorial team is that 2020 has started the way that you would wish it to continue. This month's newsletter demonstrates without doubt that village life continues to thrive; we are grateful for all the contributions received about past, present and planned events, and we hope that you enjoy reading about them.

John Wheeler – Editor

WOKING FOODBANK APPEAL

Once again, Brookwood residents and businesses demonstrated their wonderfully giving nature with a bumper year of contributions and support for Woking Foodbank's Christmas Appeal.

The following message has been received from Trudi and Darren:

Darren and I would like to express our thanks to each and every one of you who donated to our Christmas collection this year, whether it be the time helping us out or by donating food parcel(s) or cash donation(s). It was by far the best collection we have had to date. We far exceeded both food and cash donations of previous years and that will help Woking Foodbank well into the spring of this year and that's all thanks to you lovely lot.

A big shout out to all of the drop off points, namely Brookwood Club, Baker's Dozen/Post Office, Pre-School at St Saviour's Church and Bentley's Garage. And finally, a huge thanks to the Brookwood newsletter team who helped with the advertising in the monthly newsletter around the village.

Wishing you all a healthy 2020, Trudi & Darren

And at this point we should extend our sincere thanks to both Trudi and Darren for all their hard work, and for taking the lead yet again in this very worthwhile project.

Woking foodbank

KEEPING THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL ALIVE

A recent edition of the Basingstoke Canal Society's Bulletin reports on the challenges currently facing the management of the canal, 50 years on from the time when, through an extraordinary and united effort, the community, County Councils and hundreds of volunteers stepped up to the challenge and successfully restored the canal, reopening it in 1991.

Unfortunately, it is no exaggeration to say that the Society faces a challenge on a similar scale now. On the surface, the canal may appear as serene and beautiful as ever – the County Council staff do a fantastic job with support from volunteers – but years of austerity have cut funding to the bone and the Society's view is that it can't go on like this much longer.

If the canal is to be kept alive, the Society believes that it is now crucial for the community, businesses and the Canal Society to play a greater role. With this in mind, "Keeping the Canal Alive" has been launched. This is an initiative with four defined objectives, namely

- promoting the future of the canal;
- protecting our environment;
- providing community leisure activities;
- preserving our heritage.

The strategy is to raise funds and then, working closely with the Councils, to progress various projects which will improve the canal for the community and all users.

See www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk for more information.

Given the importance of the Basingstoke Canal to Brookwood and its residents, the pride we take in it and the enjoyment we get from it, the Canal Society's initiative is well worth our serious attention.

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

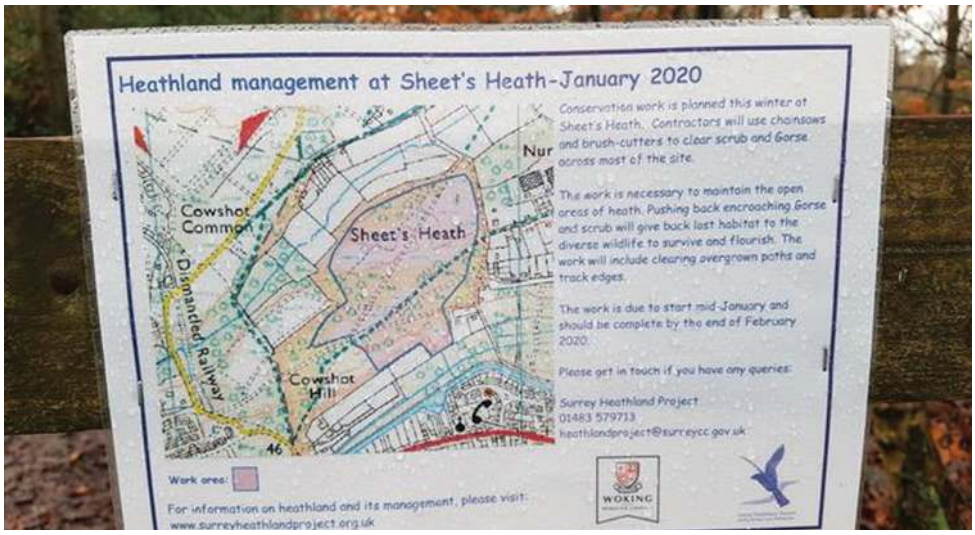
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SHEETS HEATH

As can be seen from the picture provided by John Thornton, conservation work is now under way on Sheets Heath, planned for completion by the end of February. No doubt keeping the bonfires going during the recent extremely wet weather will be a challenge!



By way of background information, the Surrey heathland project was set up to restore, enhance and manage heathlands across the county. It is funded by Surrey County Council and three other partners, one of which is Woking Borough Council. Together they form the Surrey Heathland Partnership, which has been looking after beautiful lowland heathland sites for over 25 years.



Lowland heathland is an open landscape generally covered in heathers, gorse and tree scrub. It can also include bracken, acid grassland, bogs, bare sandy or peaty ground, scattered trees and water. Two hundred years ago heathland covered most of West Surrey but now less than a fifth of this original heathland remains. It's been mainly lost due to urban development, unmanaged forestry encroachment and general neglect. Lowland heathland is an internationally rare and unique habitat, supporting a variety of specialised plants and wildlife.

In Surrey 85% of the heathland has been lost in just 200 years, leading to a severe loss of biodiversity. In recent decades heathland has been recognised for its wildlife value and its historical and cultural interest, and much is now protected from development. In Woking the areas under management are Brookwood Heath, Prey Heath, Sheet's Heath and Smart's Heath. The project involves organised grazing and clearance of invasive scrub and bracken, as well as promoting an understanding of heathland and encouraging good management practice. This is essential to supporting the rare species that need heathland in order to survive.

Although the number of characteristic heathland species is small, our heathland supports internationally important numbers of three ground-nesting bird species – the nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler. Lowland heathland is extremely important too for invertebrates, especially insects and spiders, and many rare and characteristic species occur. Surrey is one of only three counties in the British Isles which support all of the native heathland reptiles and amphibians, including the rare and specially protected sand lizard, smooth snake and natterjack toad.

BROOKWOOD SCOUTS

1st Brookwood Scout Group would like to thank all in Brookwood for their overwhelming generosity over the festive period. In December the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts raised £172 for Woking Hospice singing carols at the station. An extremely worthy cause, and no doubt the carols also gave the commuters an uplift on their way home during a period when the SWR guards' strike was making the start and finish of the working day so miserable.



In January over 80 Christmas trees were collected from Brookwood and Sheets Heath and recycled, raising over £500 to support the Group. Many thanks to the leaders, young people and parents for helping and to all who gave generously.

Advance warning too that the Scout Group will be holding a Quiz on Saturday 14 March at the Memorial Hall. The doors will open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. In addition to a great quiz for teams of 6–8 people there will be a curry or a ploughman's supper. All this for only £10 per person! Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. If you are interested, please provide your team details to Mark Kilcullen at gsl@brookwoodscouts.org.uk. Any donations of prizes for the raffle would also be very much appreciated.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY WALK

The Society's walk on 8 March is the Brookwood Muslim Cemetery Trail and it will be led by Tharik Hussain. Please note that for this month only the walk is on the second Sunday of the month. It will start at 2pm from the Lodge in the Glades of Remembrance car park.

Tharik is a travel writer, journalist and cultural consultant who has published work across the globe for many of the world's major travel and media brands, and is an expert on travel and tourism in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Southern Thailand. He is the author of several titles for the leading travel publisher the Lonely Planet, and his work has been published by the BBC World Service, BBC News, Al Jazeera and Arab News amongst others. In July 2019, Tharik created Britain's first Muslim heritage trail, in Surrey, and the Brookwood Cemetery Society helped with the research. Go to www.tharikhussain.co.uk to learn more about his work.

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS



Brookwood Memorial Halls continues to improve its facilities, now having replaced the unreliable auto door opener on the main hall with a commercial standard one. The doors had to be changed also to meet current disabled access requirements, so now double buggies can pass freely through.

Managed by local unpaid volunteers, the halls are kept to a high standard, complying with Charity Commission requirements and safety standards. Both halls host a wide range of activities – dance, badminton, yoga, Pilates, toddlers, youth groups, U3A activities, Women's Institute, whist, etc. and are available for social hires at good rates, discounted for residents. See www.bmhalls.org.uk for more details.

BROOKWOOD BROWNIES

The 1st Brookwood Brownies urgently need help to find a new leader. Jane Morgan (Snowy Owl), currently their leader, has been in touch to ask for assistance in recruiting her replacement. An increase in her work commitments and travel time means that she plans to stand down at February half term.

Sadly, a plea to parents and guardians and through the local Girlguiding network to try to find a replacement has not so far found anyone to take over. So, is there anyone amongst our readership who would like to take on the role, or knows of someone who might? There is plenty of support available from the local guiding district for anyone looking for a new challenge. Jane can be contacted for further information on 07770 326326.

NEWS FROM THE WI

Brookwood WI members gathered for their first meeting of the new year on 21 January. A quiz set by the committee, with sections on 'All this happened in 2019', TV theme tunes, general knowledge, and matching pictures of the committee members' parents to committee members made for a thoroughly enjoyable and amusing evening. It was lovely to see each other again and get ready for another busy year.

If you are interested in joining us, meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except August), so please come along to the Small Hall or call Maureen on 01483 475543 for more details. Talking about planning ahead for the year, Brookwood WI will be holding their annual village spring lunch on Saturday 18 April; more details to follow. Make sure you put the date in your diary.

BROOKWOOD COMEDY NIGHT

We are excited and thrilled to welcome world-renowned comedienne, Jo Enright, to St Saviour's Church on Saturday 29 February at 7.30pm.

For more than a decade Jo Enright has worked with many of the UK's leading comedy writers and directors, appearing alongside Peter Kay in 'Phoenix Nights', with Steve Coogan in 'I'm Alan Partridge', and playing the female lead Sue in 'Life's Too Short', directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant. Jo has recently received rave reviews for the part of Angela in three series of ITV's 'The Job Lot'.

Alongside acting, Jo is also a highly acclaimed stand up comedienne, appearing on many TV shows and touring all over the world performing her stand up. Her comedy awards include the 2002 Chortle Award for 'The Best Female Circuit Comic' and the 2001 'Best Female on the Jongleurs Comedy Circuit' award.

Tickets are £10, available from the church office at Holy Trinity, Knaphill, or the church website through Eventbrite: www.htandstschurch.org. Some tickets may be available on the door but we expect a high turn-out for this well-known performer. For further information email welcome@htandstschurch.org or call 01483 473489.





VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Saturday 1 February	Monthly Bingo, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club; guests welcome with a member
Friday 7 February	Village Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 8 February	Surrey Ukeaholics, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Wednesday 12 February	The Arts Society's "Raphael 500th Anniversary" Lecture, 10.30am, Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley
Tuesday 18 February	WI meeting, 7.30pm, Small Hall
Saturday 29 February	Jo Enright, comedienne, 7.30pm, St Saviour's Church
Friday 6 March	Village Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
Saturday 7 March	Monthly Bingo, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club; guests welcome with a member
Wednesday 11 March	The Arts Society's "The Field of Cloth of Gold" Lecture, 10.30am, Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley
Saturday 14 March	Brookwood Scouts Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Bingo resumes on Saturday 1 February and is scheduled again for Saturday 7 March (and the first Saturday of each month thereafter). On Saturday 8 February, the Surrey Ukeaholics are performing a variety of music that you might not have heard played on the ukulele before. They have also been known to throw in some other instruments like bass guitar and mandolin, so it looks like being a lively and entertaining evening (details in calendar below).

The Club now has a defibrillator. This is to be located in a secure box on the wall outside the Club, making it accessible to the whole village. This will be fitted in the coming weeks, so look out for the yellow box.

Membership is now closed but we will be accepting new member applications from Monday 24 February. If anyone is interested in joining the Club, please come in and speak to Lee or any other members of staff.

THE ARTS SOCIETY – WOKING

Details of the The Arts Society's events for February and March are published in the Village diary dates calendar elsewhere in the newsletter. Lectures planned for the following three months include topics as diverse as "Coloured Sculpture", "Restoration Theatre – Rakes, Fops and Wenches" and "Clara Rhino – Superstar". These events are held at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley; new members free.

HONOURS HOLDERS IN BROOKWOOD

In our report in the December newsletter about the award of the CBE to Mrs Sue Percy, we asked if anyone knew of any other award holders in the village. Ruth Barrows has been in touch to say that her mother, Sheila Barrows, received her MBE in 1992 and that her late father, David Barrows, received his OBE in 1994. The editorial team would be pleased to hear of any others who have been acknowledged in this way.

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 MIDDAY 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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