

# BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2020

## EDITORIAL

They have always said that a week is a long time in politics, but now we see that a week or a month is a long time in the face of a pandemic. How life has changed since our last newsletter. I hope that this Brookwood News finds you well and that life has not become too difficult for you. If you are anxious or have a problem, please do not suffer alone. Do read on to find useful contacts for ways you might get help, especially if you live alone, or you or your family are unwell and having to self-isolate. One of the amazing and positive things to happen in this country is all the community groups that have sprung up to help our neighbours, and the way that businesses are reacting to the situation, including engineering companies making ventilators, shops adapting their opening hours for the vulnerable and NHS workers, small businesses offering free deliveries and services such as gardening, and classes being run online. Included this month are some useful contacts and advice, but by the time you receive this there may have been new developments, so do keep yourselves up to date. In addition to the national bulletins, I personally find local radio very helpful for keeping informed. Walking today in the sunshine on the heath, we noticed that the sky is clearing and a peace is settling around us. Perhaps the world needs a breather and this awful virus is nature's way of enforcing one.

*Yvonne Craven – Editor*

## HELPING EACH OTHER

If you are in a low risk group and physically able, contact your direct neighbours by phone, text or a note through the door offering help. You could use this postcard that was put together by Becky Wass from Falmouth

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is .....

I live locally at .....

My phone number is .....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

- ☐ Picking up shopping
- ☐ Posting mail
- ☐ A friendly phone call
- ☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness




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# KEVIN'S BLOG

Woking Borough Council has been figuring out how best to support the community and businesses during this unprecedented time. Critical services have been identified and contingency plans have been put into place. Unfortunately, much of the cultural programme of events, including Party in the Park, have been cancelled to allow staff to be redirected to the front line. The following has been published on the Council website: https://woking.gov.uk/coronavirus; please read carefully.

Some people have asked how to volunteer to help and if anyone is co-ordinating groups and volunteers. At Volunteer Plus, you can register your support: https://volunteerplus.org.uk/opportunity/woking/community-support-volunteer-covid-19- 489.

I've also been informed that, whilst the waste collection service is holding itself together at the moment with a slightly raised sickness level, it can't be guaranteed this will be the case over the next couple of months. Around 20 agency staff have been brought on to the books for the next three months to try and ensure there is a wider pool of resources. If things get tight, non-essential collections will be scaled back. Above all, please keep yourselves safe, follow Government advice and look out for each other.

*Cllr Kevin Davis*

# BAKER'S DOZEN

Shaun has come up with a way of providing residents with a greengrocer. The café area of the Post Office is now full of fruit and vegetables, so we don't have to face the empty shelves of main supermarkets. We needn't leave Brookwood now we have a post office, baker, butcher, food shops and a greengrocer. So this is the time to shop locally, buy things as you need them and support our local traders






# BROOKWOOD FISHERIES

Andrew's business will be open for as long as he is allowed to keep trading. He is open Tuesday to Saturday, 5.30 to 9.30pm. However, if trade is slow, he may close a little earlier. There might be some rules introduced, such as only two people in the shop at a time. He is also happy to do a doorstep drop to vulnerable, housebound or over 70s; phone 01483 385308.

# EAST WEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

This restaurant will be open for takeaways and deliveries. Alam Rabiul, the manager, has put in a cordial request for everyone to support them during this period, by ordering on 07411 991244.

# USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

- Brookwood Assisting Neighbours (BAN): 07931 239965
- Surrey County Council Community Helpline: 0300 2001008
- St Saviour's Church Office: 01483 473489
- Knaphill, St John's, Brookwood COVID-19 Volunteers helpline: 01483 380801 or email wokingvolunteers@gmail.com
- for latest local government advice: https://woking.gov.uk/coronavirus
- for volunteers: https://volunteerplus.org.uk/opportunity/woking/community-support- volunteer-covid-19-489

# SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL HELPLINE

Surrey County Council has set up a Community Helpline (0300 2001008). Its purpose is to help direct residents who need support. It also aims to provide advice to residents on where they can register to volunteer. It is launched alongside Surrey's public information campaign around five key things for people to do during the Coronavirus outbreak:

1) Keeping up to date and following the official advice at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
2) Sharing only official information and guidance from trusted sources – not spreading rumour or panic
3) Staying sensible – washing hands regularly, keeping physical distance from each other
4) Thinking about what help you need or how you can help
5) Making sure we keep in touch with each other – phone, text, Facetime, just checking in

See www.surreycc.gov.uk/coronavirus for detailed advice and important links. It will not be able to provide any public health advice, with residents advised to continue to seek up to date guidance from www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and use existing services such as 111 online.89

# BROOKWOOD ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS (BAN)

Unless circumstances change, the Brookwood Assisting Neighbours scheme will operate, as far as possible, its normal help to residents throughout the coronavirus crisis. That means that our clients can expect to receive help with transport to surgeries, hospitals, shops and other locations, as well as collecting prescriptions and shopping and anything else as needs arise. New clients always welcome. Obviously we would like to keep personal contact to a minimum but we are here to help any Brookwood resident if we can. Our helpline remains as 07931 239965.

*Robin Linklater, BAN Chairman*

# ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

In line with Church of England guidelines, the church will not be holding any of the usual services or meetings, including Easter services. Although usual services are not happening, prayer will continue in homes and you may see a candle in a window at 7pm signifying a prayer time. St Saviour's Hall is also closed until further notice.

# BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

At present, Brookwood Memorial Halls plans to stay open for small gatherings willing to follow public health guidelines on self-isolation, social distancing and self sanitisation. The Halls will be cleaned once daily and have adequate soap and paper stocks, but no alcohol sanitiser. Groups meeting for community benefit can meet free, by arrangement, once daily between regular cleans. Enquiries to lettings@bmhalls.org.uk, 07758 969231. We will post updates on www.bmhalls.org.uk. Our Annual General Meeting, normally due in April, is postponed until further notice.

# WORD OF WARNING

With everyone pulling together and helping each other, we will get through this period in our lives safely. However, please stay alert to the few people who will try to take advantage of the situation. If someone offers to do your shopping, unless it is someone you know well and trust, do not give them your bank card, pin number or cash. Genuine helpers will not mind you paying them at a later date when you are well enough or are able to get some money.

Please take every precaution to keep yourself safe, wash your hands regularly and, if you are helping someone else, only leave items on the doorstep. It is also recommended that shopping packaging is disinfected or double-bagged and tightly closed, and that you use gloves wherever possible, taking away the outer bag yourself.

# AND IN OTHER NEWS.....

# CONGRATULATIONS!







Congratulations to Jackie Kenny and the group of parents and children who represented Brookwood Primary School and completed the Surrey Half Marathon and 2km run on Sunday 8 March. Many families supported the team and were inspired to run again next year. The runners were raising money for a variety of school projects including the new school garden – you may have noticed the work that has already been done, which will help to brighten up Brookwood.

# PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Pirbright Horticultural Society has decided to suspend the Society's programme until further notice. We will start again as soon as this surreal situation comes to an end. The Society depends on your support; please pay any outstanding subscriptions as soon as possible, so we can confidently plan for our future. Keep in touch with each other, and if you can please offer support where needed.

*Philip Barralet*

# FULK BUTCHERS

In order to serve our community best in these testing times, we are pleased to provide an extended home delivery service over a range of options.

For more details please visit our website: www.fulkbros.co.uk

# BROOKWOOD WI

*(sent earlier in March)*

Brookwood WI was very disappointed to have to cancel their meeting this month. It should have been their birthday meeting, which is always something to look forward to. It was not a decision made lightly but the safety and health of our members is paramount. We will make a decision on future meetings closer to the time.

Brookwood WI are also saddened to have to cancel their annual Spring Lunch in April. This event is looked forward to by many members and the local community, but in the current climate we cannot guarantee it will be risk free. In the meantime, we ask our members to stay safe, and to call on their neighbours or friends if they need anything.

Jackie Kenny

# BROOKWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

*(Part of Head of School, David Gunning's letter to parents on Friday 20 March)*

As I write this week's newsletter there is not the usual Friday buzz as we gear up for the weekend. We have all found it incredibly hard saying goodbye to the children and not knowing when we will be fully open again. I am unbelievably proud of the efforts of every member of staff over the last couple of weeks and feel very privileged to lead such a fantastic team. Reacting to the rapidly changing situation has been both physically and emotionally challenging, and I would like to publicly thank all the staff for everything they have done.

In addition, we would like to thank you at home for your continued support and encouragement. As a school, we want to do everything we can, and plan to open for key worker families where it is not possible for the children to be looked after at home during the school day. We are currently working hard to prepare home-learning packs, but our priority has been keeping the school open and dealing with all the additional work as a result of the current situation. We want to remain at the heart of this community and support you all in any way that we possibly can.

David Gunning
*(for the latest information please check the website)*


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| | |
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# JO ENRIGHT AT ST SAVIOUR'S

Laughter and fun seems a long time ago now, but those who attended Jo Enright's comedy night at St Saviour's had a great time. We were thrilled to have this well-known comedienne come to Brookwood for an entertaining evening, which was well attended and over £200 was raised for charity. Jo seemed to find it hilarious that our post box had been 'stolen' with the letters still in it and it became one of the themes of the night. Incidentally, does anyone know what became of it?!



# TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Do volunteer to become a Brookwood News editor. It would be great to welcome new people on to the team and you only edit once or twice a year. Contact community@brookwood.org.uk if this is something you could do.

Finally, with no events to report on, we need material for next month, so please send us your letters, photos and emails of what you are doing to get through each day – the more positive, the better!

## 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 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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