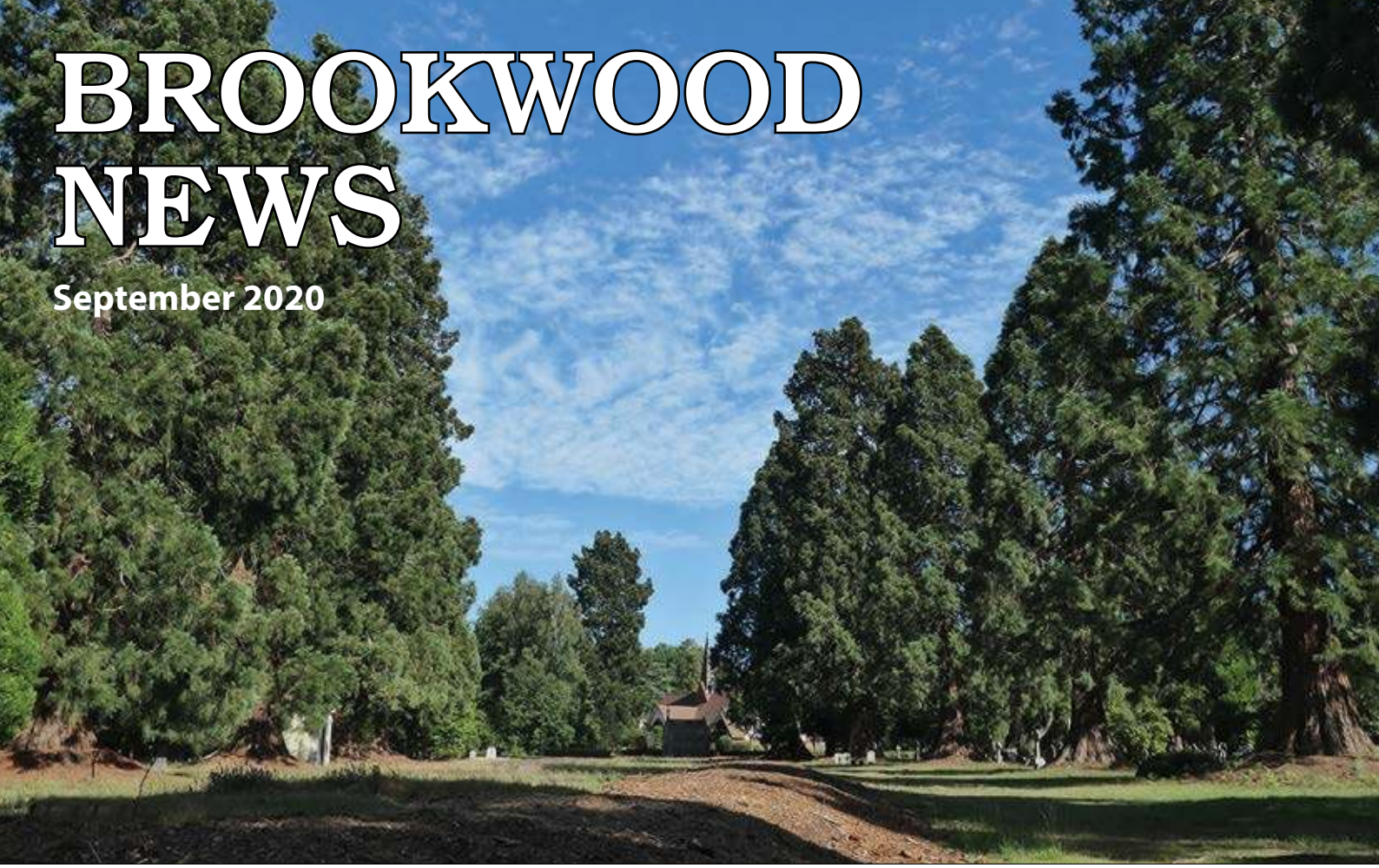


BROOKWOOD NEWS

September 2020

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Anyone who has recently walked through Brookwood Cemetery will have noticed the changes taking place there. As well as the new signage and information boards, there are new parking bays and improved management of the vegetation. The line of the old Necropolis Railway is being made more of a feature with the sweep of the giant redwoods which followed the railway line being clearly seen from the Saint Edward Brotherhood's church.

These changes are part of plans approved by Woking Borough Council to support the ongoing conservation of Brookwood Cemetery and encourage more visitors. The plans focus on enhancing the cemetery's unique characteristics such as the route of the railway line, the substantial collection of giant redwoods (thought to be the earliest and grandest in the country), and the cemetery's historic 'Ring' with its high quality Victorian monuments, many of which are Grade I listed.

New visitor facilities including a café, walking trail, education centre and the provocatively titled 'Museum of Death' are among the plans to attract new audiences and promote greater appreciation of the cemetery.

Councillor Graham Cundy, Woking Borough Council's Lead Member for Brookwood Cemetery, said: "We now have a set of plans that will help us take the cemetery forward over the next ten to twenty years. First and foremost, the cemetery's main function is, and always will be, to provide a dignified and respectful resting place for Woking's deceased, of all faiths and none. As stated in the masterplan, all future development must sustain and support this objective.

"The Experience Plan is as much about inspiring residents to explore and appreciate this Grade I listed park and garden, as it is about attracting new audiences from further afield. An expanded programme of events, tours, exhibitions and workshops will bring to life the themes and cultural wonders within the cemetery, while highlighting the different aspects that make Brookwood a heritage site with immense local, national and global significance."

Details of the plans can be found on Woking Council's website.

There is a Heritage Open Day at Brookwood Cemetery on Saturday 12 September 2020, between 11am and 3pm. The Brookwood Cemetery Society is taking part in this and there will be two guided walks at 12 and 2pm. They will also have a stand with books, plants and refreshments.

EDITORIAL

This month we are pleased to focus on the activities of 1st Brookwood Scout Group. We are grateful for all that they, and others, do to help our community and environment and make Brookwood such a wonderful place to live. Let's hope that all future changes take the needs of our community into account.

John Power – Editor

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Scouts

1st Brookwood

Thank you to the Brookwood News team for inviting 1st Brookwood Scout Group to showcase our activities over the past year. We are a small part of the Scouting movement which comprises over 25 million members all around the world. For reasons that we are all too familiar with, our programme has been somewhat curtailed this year, but we have moved some meetings online and are now permitted to meet outdoors with reduced numbers.

1st Brookwood Scouts has been a village institution for over 100 years. As a group we are very fortunate to have the excellent facilities of the Memorial Hall as our base on Friday evenings, and would like to extend our thanks to the Hall Committee and all the volunteers who help to maintain it. Hopefully we help to repay some of this through our community involvement. The mission of Scouting is to help our members develop skills for life and contributing to the local community is a key part of this. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts engage in the wide range of activities organised by our volunteer Leaders. I want to thank all those who have organised and supported our fundraising activities throughout the year; this helps to keep our facilities and equipment up to date. Finally, please do consider what time and skills you could offer to support us.

Mark Kilcullen, Group Scout Leader.

BEAVERS

Our Beavers got off to a great start last September with lots of new starters enjoying our Family Camp at Walton Firs and giving lots of adventure activities a go. Our great leadership team, with help from our enthusiastic Young Leaders, delivered a fantastic programme. Right up until March the Beavers were really busy doing lots of activities including camping, cooking and craft skills. They also had a fun and educational time at the District Science day. While we were meeting, loads of badges were awarded; particular congratulations to those who achieved their Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

We have a full complement of Beavers and a bulging waiting list. Lots of fun activities have had to be put on hold but we are looking forward to scheduling them as soon as we are able.



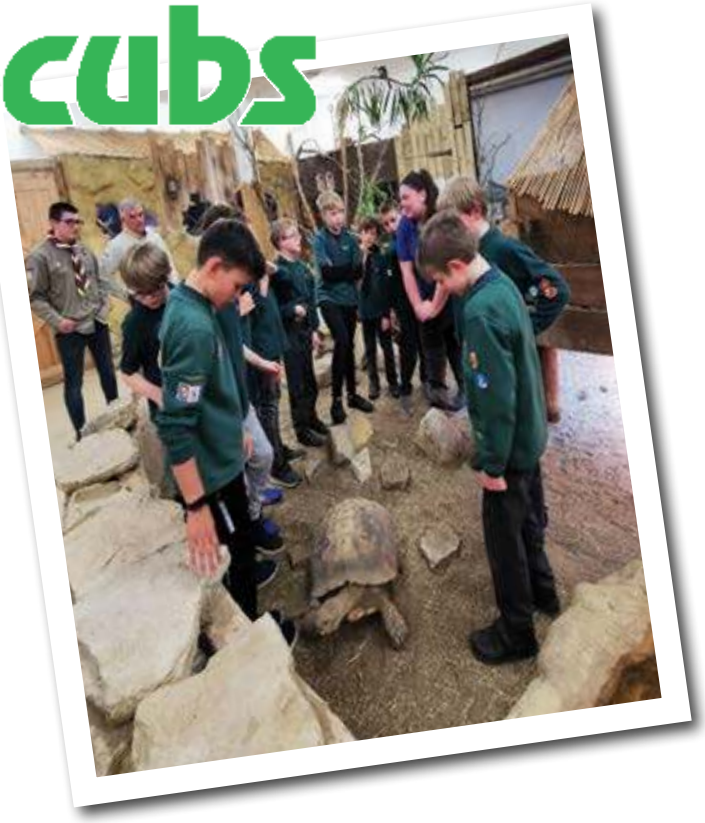
Young Leaders

Woking District Explorer Units mean young people can continue their adventures. This also gives them the opportunity to train as Young Leaders and return to work with the adult leaders to deliver an exciting programme of activities. Our Young Leaders make a fantastic contribution and develop skills that will benefit them in the future. It would be great to welcome more of them.

Executive committee

Not all roles in Scouting are uniformed and we would be lost without the dedicated support of volunteers who help to keep the group functioning by running the waiting list, meetings, finances, fundraising, website and lots more. Please get in contact with us at www.brookwoodscouts.org.uk or gsl@brookwoodscouts.org.uk if you think you could spare some time.

cubs



Another Cub year has gone and it ended up being quite a challenging one. Over the course of the year we have welcomed 12 new Cubs and 5 moved on to Scouts. Our Cub Pack has collectively earned over 150 badges since last year, including five Chief Scout's Silver Awards. What a fantastic achievement by all the Cubs.

Term started outdoors with a bike ride along the canal towpath and on Sheets Heath. As the weather forced us indoors, we enjoyed activities from cooking pancakes on open fires to a trip to a climbing wall. We enjoyed a special evening to celebrate the Diwali Festival; massive thanks to the families who made it such a success. The last session in December was the annual tradition of subjecting local commuters to our Christmas Carols, ably assisted by the Beavers and Scouts.

The Cubs had an educational visit to the Winston Churchill School planetarium, and for some of our older Cubs, the District Science Day was a big hit again. The animal encounter at Merrist Wood was fantastic. The Cubs got the chance to explore their three biomes where they could stroke an armadillo and handle a snake or two. We all enjoyed a Ready Steady Cook challenge just before lockdown where the Cubs tackled different recipes with interesting results.

Throughout lockdown we have kept in contact with the Cubs through Zoom meetings. We have enjoyed seeing the Cubs during this time, and look forward to being able to welcome them back to face to face meetings as soon as it is safe to do so.

SCOUTS



The Scout Troop has had another busy year. Numbers have surged from 21 to 28 and we are pleased to welcome new leaders as well. Summer Camp 2019 at Cranham was a great success with 12 Scouts taking part in activities including gliding on the edge of the Cotswolds. We've had some strong results in competitions such as the Esher District Night Hike, with three teams coming 1st, 11th and 15th out of 25, and enjoyed taking part in the Woking District Night Hike, District Rifle Shooting and Esher District Day Hike. We had one scout achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Award this year.

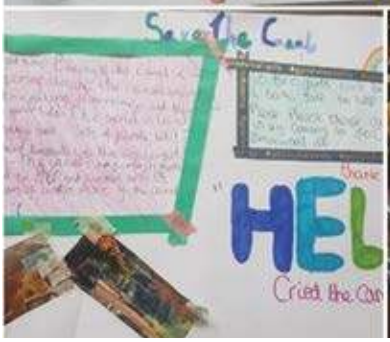
The nationwide lockdown has had an unprecedented effect on our ability to do outdoor activities and camps, leaving us improvising as best we can to keep the Scouts busy.

During our Friday evening meetings, the Troop has continued to develop traditional Scouting skills and to meet outdoors as often as possible, including wide games, fire lighting, night hikes, incident evenings, pantomime, rifle shooting, bowling and survival. Over time we have run various challenges and online meetings including #CAMPATHOME in May, a cycling photo challenge and a play, as well as various quizzes and games. We have been able to do more together from July, and we hope that we are able to meet fully as a Troop soon.

Over the past few years the Scouts with some assistance from the Cubs have been doing sterling work at Fox Corner helping to remove the invasive Himalayan balsam and allowing the native plants to thrive.

CANAL FUNDRAISING







We were very pleased to hear that the article in last month's Brookwood News about the risk of the Basingstoke Canal closing, provided inspiration for local school girls Clara Campling and Emilia Richardson to try and do some fundraising to help. Both girls love to spend time on the canal, riding their bikes daily and would hate to see the canal fall into disrepair due to lack of funds.



Clara says: "When I first saw the Brookwood News headline, I was shocked because we go to the canal every day to enjoy it, especially in the summer holidays. I didn't want it to close." Emilia adds: "We decided to raise funds to help the Basingstoke Canal Society. We made 55 cupcakes and managed to raise £45 in one afternoon. We both look forward to doing more in the future."

Well done Clara and Emilia!

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BROOKWOOD CLUB

The committee would like to thank all those members who have been visiting the club and both complying with, and providing positive comments on, the COVID-19 arrangements. While the club is not ready to hold any regular events yet, it is looking at the possibility of doing something to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support in September if it can be done safely. Please watch out for a notice in the club window about this over the next couple of weeks.

As the additional measures are working well and social distancing is being well followed, the club is now willing to accept applications for membership. If you are interested in becoming a member then please speak to one of the bar staff.

MEMORIAL HALL

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee of Brookwood Memorial Hall will be held, with COVID-secure distancing measures in place, in the Community Hall at 8pm on Monday 7 September 2020. The 2019 financial statement and annual report will be available. Any resident is entitled to attend and to vote on the matters discussed.

The Halls are maintained to a good, COVID-secure standard, and we are already welcoming back several old and new regular hirers. We can host small gatherings comfortably, and look forward to responding safely to further relaxations in restrictions. We will update our website and Facebook presences with news. Our new automated booking system is now in use showing availability and enabling online booking requests. See bmhalls.org.uk for hire information or contact Colin on 07737 969231.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us maintain and improve our valued Halls, particularly a tech-savvy person to improve our social media presence.

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