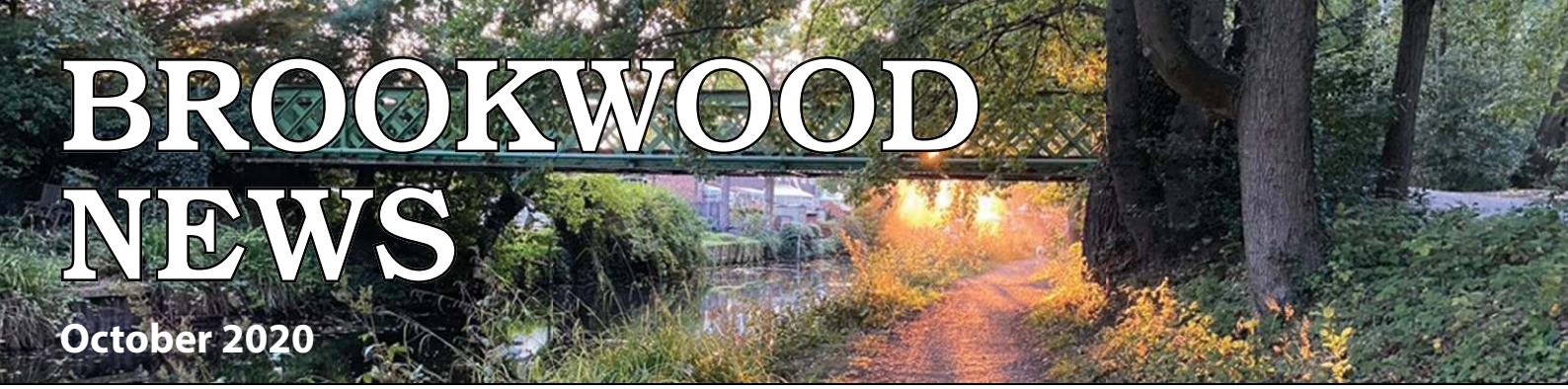


BROOKWOOD NEWS

October 2020

TRAFFIC ON CONNAUGHT ROAD



There is a mandatory speed limit of 30 mph evidenced by signage on all approaches to the village. Even with warning signs indicating road humps for ¾ of a mile, a 'school' sign and a red 'WATCH YOUR SPEED' sign along the road, it appears that very few motorists observe the speed limit. There have been near misses by the Brookwood Primary School thereby endangering our young people and their parents. This has all been brought to the attention of our local village councillor, Kevin Davis, and he has informed Brookwood News that one of his fellow councillors, Councillor Azad, has sufficient budget and has asked officers to allocate it to Connaught Road for an electronic speed warning sign to further reinforce the mandatory speed limit. Kevin has asked me to ask the Brookwood residents for suggestions as to where they would want the electronic warning sign to be positioned. Please e-mail Kevin at CllrKevin.Davis@woking.gov.uk with your suggestions.





EDITORIAL

As I write my second editorial, the sun is beating down and the canal is an absolute picture with dramatic sunsets lighting up the late afternoon/early evening. We are so truly fortunate to have this facility and I know many people have used the towpath for cycling, walking, observing the wildlife and even paddle boarding, and thereby benefiting from its calming waters during these difficult times. Now more than ever with many people working from home as a new-normal, with the 'rule of six' Government restrictions and any other variations that may come to pass, the canal has become a critical feature of the village for residents' physical and mental well-being for all ages, and it is therefore more important than ever that all canal towpath users consider other canal towpath users whether they are cyclists, walking on two or four legs, or just taking time out. It is worth reiterating the messages from the August edition of the Brookwood News that as a village we must do all we can to protect this precious resource.

Unfortunately, the same calming influences of the canal cannot be said for Connaught Road where speed restrictions and road safety measures do not appear to be adhered to despite mandatory speed signs and warning signs a-plenty. I would urge you to respond to Kevin Davis regarding the positioning of a new electronic speed sign on Connaught Road.

Brookwood Primary School has reopened and the resilience of the school over the lockdown period has been truly inspirational, and if residents of Connaught Road were not aware of the value to the children of number cards being displayed in their windows then David Gunning – Head of School has the answer for you!

We all know the nuisance of litter in this and surrounding villages so please take a moment to support Lynda Shore, a former resident of the village, who due to the restrictions has been unable to collect for the usual charity she supports and will be picking up litter for charity instead.

Also included is an environmentally friendly tip concerning the disposal of disposable face masks.

Wishing all readers good health in these difficult times and for the safety of everyone please remember to:

Be sensible – limit contact with others and keep your distance

Be mindful – follow the measures in place to protect you and others

Be safe – self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

Richard Johnson – Editor

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BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL REOPENS

It was with great pleasure to open the doors to all children and welcome them back to school. The children have settled very quickly and the school is looking fantastic after lots of work over the summer. From new electrics to a brand new reception classroom, a huge amount of work has been completed, and I want to thank our School Business Manager and Caretaker for leading the projects so smoothly.



Despite school closure, spirits remained high throughout the summer and children worked very hard both at home and in school. Using a brand new home-learning smart phone app 'Seesaw', the teachers were able to set work and provide feedback for children. Assemblies became virtual and each week had an overarching theme – my favourite was 'The Great Brookwood Bake Off Week'! We plan to continue to use Seesaw to communicate learning to parents at home throughout this academic year.



Staff and children are adapting to the new-normal back at school with children remaining in bubbles, starting and finishing at slightly different times, and having breaks and lunch at staggered times. The playground and field have been split into sections and there are very strict timings to follow but so far so good!

On behalf of the school, I would like to extend my thanks to all parents and carers who have been very understanding and appreciative of the changes. Our aim has been to provide more opportunities for parents to come into school and build relationships, and we are now reluctantly restricting access for parents and ensuring they are social distancing and dropping off and collecting children promptly.

I am looking forward to working with the community this year to make sure we keep the children safe, happy and give them the first class education that they deserve.

David Gunning – Head of School

During lockdown, children at Brookwood took part in a whole school problem-solving week. The week included a whole school mystery where children cracked a secret code, daily puzzles and class competitions. However, the highlight of the week (and weeks ahead) was our 'community number challenge'. The children were challenged to display a number from 1 to 10 from their houses to create maths games and activities to enjoy during their daily exercise. Examples of games included 'Don't find a 7' – where children would add up all of the numbers they saw until finding a 7. Other popular games included number bingo and Miss Rowland created a game where every number represented a sporting challenge. We were delighted that the initiative featured in the Woking News and Mail and was mentioned by the Mayor of Woking on social media! We wanted to say a huge thank you to the residents of Brookwood for joining in with the project and displaying the numbers, which allowed children to continue to enjoy maths at home!





NEWS FROM SAINT EDWARD BROTHERHOOD, BROOKWOOD

Saint Edward Brotherhood is a small Orthodox Christian monastery in Brookwood, Surrey, United Kingdom. They hold to the traditional Orthodox Faith and are members of the GOC (Old Calendar) Church of Greece. All are welcome to attend their daily services. Please explore their website www.saintedwardbrotherhood.org to learn more about the Orthodox Faith and their patron King Edward the Martyr.

REPOSE OF MOTHER VIKENTIA

On Sunday, 3 / 16 August, Mother Vikentia, the superior of the Convent of the Annunciation, Brondesbury Park, Willesden, reposed in the Lord after a long period of illness and debility. It was the day after the year's mind of Abbess Seraphima, the previous superior. Fr Nicolae Capitanu tended to Mother Vikentia's spiritual needs during her last days on earth. On her ninth day, Monday, 11 / 24 August, after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Convent, the monastic funeral service was chanted. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni, was the protocelebrant and he was assisted by Fr Nicolae and Hieromonk Sabbas. The services were chanted mostly in English, Romanian and Greek, with some Slavonic and a little Arabic. Mother Vikentia was then laid to rest with her Amma, Abbess Elisabeth, in Gunnersbury Cemetery. May she be granted abundant mercies and blessings for her long service in the monastic life, for her ministry as the Convent's superior for nearly two decades, and for the love and care that she showed to others. We ask all the faithful to remember her in their prayers and to give alms in her memory. May her rest be with the Saints and her Memory Eternal!

ADULT BAPTISM AT SAINT EDWARD'S

On the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Saviour, Wednesday, 6 / 19 August, the catechumen Gregory Ferguson was baptised at Saint Edward's Church before the celebration of the festal Divine Liturgy. Gregory, who is named after Saint Gregory the Great, the Pope of Rome, was made a catechumen on the feast of the Saviour's Nativity, 2018, and we had hoped to baptise him earlier this year, but the pandemic and personal situations meant this was postponed. The mysterion was celebrated by Fr Borislav Popov, who, at the end, gave an extensive exhortation to the newly-illumined, and Anthony Bell has taken on the responsibility of being Gregory's godfather. Gregory's parents, Nicol and Deirdre, attended the mysterion and the Divine Liturgy. May Gregory contest well through the remainder of his life and win the prize of his high calling.

KEOTCoLtd AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the charity which administers our property at Brookwood, the King Edward Orthodox Trust Co Ltd, registered charity number 284929, was held later this year because of the government regulations about the covid pandemic. Usually it is held at the beginning of July, but this year we met on Sunday, 9 August and, rather than being in the exhibition room as previously, we held it in the church where members could better socially isolate. The chairman's report and the treasurer's report were approved, and we thank Elena Matthews for the excellent work she did in preparing the accounts. The directors were re-elected, and Fr Thomas was invited to become a member of the company. It was also decided that we would raise the cost of grave reservations to £4,000 for a single-depth grave and £5,000 for a double-depth grave.

LIGGY CAMP

Between 7 and 17 August, it proved possible for the Liggy Camp to be held at Earsham, Suffolk, although of course under conditions somewhat restricted by the government guidelines, thus this year there were no participants from abroad. The temporary chapel there is dedicated to Saint Olaf, the King of Norway, and on his feast day, Tuesday 29 July / 11 August, which was also the nameday of Archbishop Kallinikos, the president of our Synod of Bishops, Fr Borislav Popov celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the participants. Brookwood parishioners, Anthony and Procla Bell, attended to lead the chanting during daily services.

BURIAL AT SAINT EDWARD'S

Wednesday, 5 August: Liudmila Samoilova of Erith, Kent, was laid to rest in Saint Edward Cemetery. The funeral was led by Archpriest Maxim Nikolsky and Archpriest Joseph Skinner of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God and of All Saints, Knightsbridge, London. May the handmaid of God Liudmila find rest with the saints. Memory Eternal!

CUT YOUR MASK STRAPS WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH YOUR DISPOSABLE MASK



If you are using disposable masks instead of reusable ones, here's a simple tip – please be sure to cut the ear straps before throwing them in the bin. There are so many being discarded as litter and even the ones that end up in landfill pose risk to wildlife. A simple but effective way to save lives and prevent precious wildlife becoming entangled, particularly along the canal.



CHARITY LITTER PICKING

Lynda Shore, a previous resident of West Hill Close back in the 1970s/1980s, has started a charity litter pick in and around St Johns (where she lives) as well as Knaphill and Brookwood. She has been collecting for Christian Aid for almost 50 years, and has spent the last 39 years organising the local Christian Aid Week collection throughout Knaphill. Each year Lynda and her daughter Rachel have raised on average £2,000 from their collection week, which they then donate to Christian Aid to support their charitable projects.

Due to Covid-19 and the lockdown restrictions, it has not been possible for their local collection to take place this year and Lynda has been looking for a socially distanced way that she could do her bit instead.

Lynda has therefore decided to undertake a sponsored litter pick in the Knaphill and St John's areas of Woking, near to where she lives. She intends to spend at least 20 hours over the course of September, come rain or shine, tidying up our streets, and has set herself a target of £500.

Please show your support in any way and give Lynda the motivation to reach her target!

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lyndashore .

BROOKWOOD CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL



This will go ahead this year commencing 28 October – drop off points Brookwood Club & Brookwood Post Office, or email trudifletcher@rocketmail.com for collection – non perishables please, more details next month!

Thanks
Trudi and Darren



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NB: DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th OCTOBER
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