BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2020

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November edition of Brookwood News and many thanks to all our contributors. And many thanks also to you, our readers; we hope you are keeping well in these difficult times.

David Lugton – Editor

BROOKWOOD CLUB

The club is currently running according to current government guidelines, closing by 10pm, wearing a face mask when not seated and the "Rule of 6". The club is accepting applications for membership but is still not permitting guests or children under 12 on club premises. Existing members can renew their membership for 2021 from this month.

The Brookwood Club Committee and members were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and tragic passing of Geoff Hobbs. Geoff was a stalwart of the Committee for many years, serving as our treasurer from our re-opening in 2006 until handing over the reins in 2018. We would like to offer our sincerest condolences to his partner Sue, his daughter Sophie and the extended family. He will be greatly missed. Rest in peace Geoff.

BROOKWOOD BABIES AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP



Some good news! Brookwood Babies and Toddlers Playgroup opened its doors on 5 October for the first time since March. The volunteer mums and childminders who run the group felt it was important that this community resource became available again as we head towards the winter months. There are obviously some new safety measures in place. However the warm welcome, decent coffee, and the toys and fun remain the same.

And having got up to speed with the new cleaning regime, the playgroup has returned to its regular schedule of term-time Monday mornings, 9.45–11.30am at Brookwood Memorial Hall. To keep updated on times and sessions, please join the Facebook group 'Brookwood Babies and Toddlers Playgroup'. For more info or to book a place, please email brookwoodbabies@gmail.com or contact Natalie Proud on 07980 618040.



"Thank you to everyone that responded to my request for locations on where to site the 30mph speed sign. I was actually overwhelmed with responses which is a good thing.

I'll be meeting the highways guys in the next few weeks to discuss it and I'll raise all the suggestions and we'll select the spot where we believe it to be most beneficial. I shall also use the volume of emails to apply pressure for an additional sign when next year's budget is released."

Cllr Kevin Davis

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

Interested in finding out what your property is worth?
Contact **Andrew** or **Simon** on **01483 798969**
to arrange a **FREE, no obligation valuation**.

seymours-estates.co.uk

Seymours

A MESSAGE FROM BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI have sadly not been able to meet in recent months. We are busy keeping ourselves and others safe and healthy, and look forward to meeting as a group when restrictions are lifted.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Usually at this time of year we are preparing for Remembrance Day events, but we have heard from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that there will be no official Remembrance events at the Cemetery this year. Private commemorations are still welcome in groups of no more than six.

BROOKWOOD SCOUTS

Brookwood Scouts are pleased to report we have restarted real rather than virtual meetings with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are having to limit numbers to ensure Covid safety, but it has been great to see our young people enjoying some great outdoor activities including sports on the rec, hiking and environmental improvements at Fox Corner. A big thanks to our volunteer leaders for all the extra work done to ensure we have been granted the required approvals. We are disappointed not to be able to all attend the Remembrance Service at the cemetery this year but we will ensure the importance of the day is recognised by all in small group events.

SAVE OUR BROOKWOOD HEDGEHOGS!



An appeal from Emily Brennan, a Brookwood resident:

"My daughter and I found an injured hedgehog today on the main road opposite Connaught Crescent. I took it to a local vet, but sadly they were unable to save it as it already had one back leg missing and the other was badly broken.

Our hedgehog population has declined massively over recent years, so it would be great if Brookwood residents could help these lovely creatures. Some easy tips for making your garden hedgehog-friendly can be found here: https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/leaflets/Hedgehog-Street-top-tips.pdf.

If you see a hedgehog on the road, please move it to a safe place if it is alive and well. If it is injured, please put it in a box with some old towels or blankets and take it to your local vet."

BASINGSTOKE CANAL 'KEY FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING'

The Basingstoke Canal Society is starting a new fundraising drive to enhance the environment of the canal following a leap in user numbers since the outbreak of Covid-19.

According to the Basingstoke Canal Authority, which represents Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council as owners of the canal, around three times the usual number of visitors are enjoying the waterway, taking part in everything from paddle boarding, walking and cycling to fishing, boating and wildlife photography. Although many more people are enjoying the health and wellbeing benefits of time spent at the canal, the Basingstoke Canal Society, which has acted as guardian to the canal since its restoration, says that it needs more people to become aware of the charitable status, how it is funded, and how they can contribute to its upkeep through membership and donations.

Phase 1 of the initiative aims to raise £20,000 for 10 new information signs. The signs will be placed along the 32-mile waterway, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Natural England, and feature key points of interest, the local history of that stretch, and maps marking car parks, villages and the ways and rules for enjoying the space in a respectful way. You can support the canal in three ways:

Make a one-off donation to fund our Information Signs Project at https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/current-projects/

Become a Member of the Basingstoke Canal Society. It costs just £15 per person for a year. You can become a member here: https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/

Tell your friends, family, colleagues about the canal, the society and the ways they can support it!





GOODBYE GEOFF – A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

Sue and Sophie are saddened to announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Geoff Hobbs on Friday 2 October. Geoff was born in Bermondsey in 1951 and grew up in South London, meeting Sue at a darts match in 1981. They moved to Brookwood in 1988 and were delighted when daughter Sophie arrived in 1990.

From then on, Geoff's life changed in so many ways, following redundancy and a decision to become a full-time house Dad. He was often the only Dad to regularly attend Baby Swim and Toddler Group, where he took great delight in dragging the children round St Saviour's Hall on a parachute whilst the other volunteers quietly tidied away the chaos.

As Sophie grew, so did Geoff's involvement in village life, and he became a familiar sight walking Sophie to Brookwood School and chatting with the mums at the school gate. For many years, he was responsible for ticket sales and 'front of house' duties at the numerous Brookwood Children's Drama Group productions. He was also a guest Santa for Toddler Group, St Saviour's Pre-School and Brookwood Primary School, where he earned a degree of notoriety for being the only gent known to have removed his trousers in the headmistress's office, and for having the said headmistress sitting on his knee whilst asking the class if she had been good that year!

Geoff also volunteered at FOBS events, including manning the roller coaster and the coconut shy at the Winter Fete. He was responsible for re-instigating the Beer Tent at the School Summer Fete, aided by John, Nick and Bernard and his other close friends in the village, often dressing up to join in the theme of the fete. Many people remember the 'Happy Hippy Bar' and 'Hal's' space-themed bar in 2001 and of enjoying their real ale and chats there.

When Sophie moved on to Winston Churchill School, Geoff returned to work, as Finance Manager at Hagthorne Cottage Nursery in Bisley. Here he formed strong friendships with Richard Bos and the team there, whilst combining his love of horticulture with his financial acumen. He also found more time to tend the allotment on Sheets Heath, which he had for 20 years since the site opened. Many people remember their passing chats at Plot 9 and their envy at this plot being one of the few to have a water butt!

Geoff also became an active member of Brookwood Club, serving on the committee for 17 years and being Treasurer for 12. He was also the club's resident bingo caller, often causing confusion and hilarity with his unique style of bingo calling: 'how many dozen is that Alex?!'

Following their retirements in 2017, Geoff and Sue spent their time between Brookwood, their beloved Cornwall, and Sophie's home in Derby, where there were always gardening tasks to take on.

Many people have reminisced on Geoff's fondness to chat to everyone he knew or met, whether discussing the fortunes of his esteemed Millwall with fellow footie fans, making a point of welcoming new club members, or just bumping into people in the street or in Sainsburys.

Geoff will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and we have been deeply touched by the many condolences we have received since his untimely departure. His private (and Covid-restricted) funeral will be taking place on Friday 6 November at 1pm at Woking Crematorium.

Forever in our hearts and in our thoughts. With love, Sue and Sophie.

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH UPDATE

Some of you may have noticed that for some weeks now there have been a skip and a large van outside the church. After seven years of fundraising and applying for permission and grants, the vestry is finally being given a makeover, with a new toilet installed and a wide door from the church where the organ used to be. Thank you everyone who supported the concerts and events held at the church over this period, as you have helped to achieve this. It will mean easier access to facilities when the hall is occupied and when it's raining!



Because the organ has been removed, there are 600 pipes available and looking for a home. We are offering the organ pipes as keep-sakes to locals for a small donation which will be put towards the church renovations. They make great bird feeders, owl boxes, shelving or garden ornaments – you can be quite inventive… Small lead pipes (remember that lead is poisonous), medium zinc pipes and large wooden pipes are available. Contact Sue Kaufman on 07971 639951 to reserve (on first come first served basis).

Over the summer months, the church was used for some socially distanced services, but due to the small area, only 15 people could attend, so services are now being held instead at Holy Trinity, Knaphill, where there is more room. There is a booking system for this, so please check the website or contact the church office if you would like to attend (http://www.htandstschurch.org or 01483 473489). Meanwhile, St Saviour's will be closed until further notice.

Some good news is that a new Youth and Young Adults Leader has been appointed this summer. His name is Pete Hewlett and he lives in Woking with his wife Miriam and their new baby, Caleb. He knows the churches and area well, and we are looking forward to welcoming him into the community once restrictions allow.



Sadly, Remembrance and Christmas services will not be happening this year, but there are plans for an outdoor Carol Service and some online children's services. There will be more details about this in the December edition of Brookwood News.

BROOKWOOD CHRISTMAS FOODBANK COLLECTION – CAN YOU HELP?

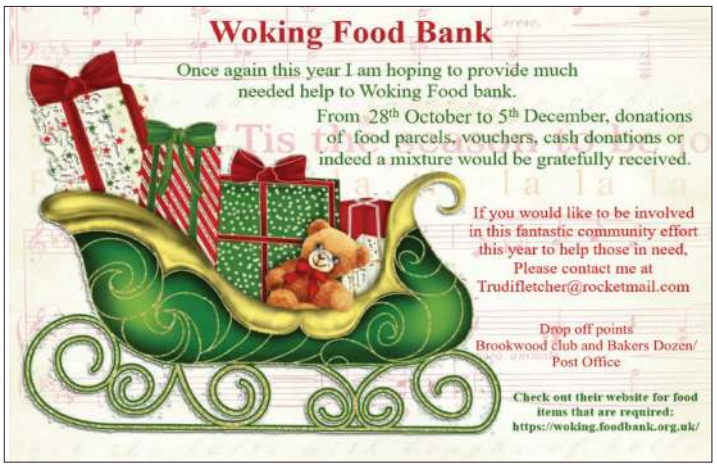
An appeal by Trudi & Darren:

What a very strange year it has been with Covid-19 and lockdown. These two combined elements have resulted in an unprecedented rise in service users to Woking Foodbank. We have given much thought as to whether to run the campaign this year due to Covid, but we have decided to push ahead with it as our local communities need our help more than ever this year. Woking Foodbank have been adapting to the new government rules and delivering lots of food parcels to the elderly, those who have been shielding for health reasons, and those with little or no income due to being furloughed or indeed having been made redundant.

The campaign will commence on 28 October and finish on 5 December. If you can help in any way with non-perishable items that would be fantastic, or alternatively a cash donation. The cash may be used to purchase non-perishables or indeed put towards paying the rent on their new premises.

If you would like to provide a food parcel, please attach a label with your name and address so we can thank you personally. Drop-off points are currently Brookwood Club and also Bakers Dozen/Post Office during working hours, both within the village.

I know we had lots of companies involved last year which was amazing, and indeed if you would like to get involved again this year please do let us know. I will be undertaking regular radio interviews with Radio Woking again, based at Winston Churchill School, so I am more than happy to promote your business through all variations of social media throughout the campaign.



You can get in touch by email (trudifletcher@rocketmail.com) or telephone (07887 565163) or leave a message at one of my drop-off points if you would like us to collect your parcel. The website for Woking Foodbank is https://woking.foodbank.org.uk.

Thank you



BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Brookwood Memorial Halls (bmhalls.org.uk) has been pleased to welcome back safely a number of our regular hirers to our Covid-safe Halls. And a welcome to some new hirers, including Demi Point Dance Studio on Tuesday pm (demipointdancestudio.com), Make Create Craft on Monday am (makecreatecraft.co.uk), and Claire Seager Pilates on Friday am (claireseagerpilates.com). Please support them all.

At our AGM last month the volunteer Trustees said farewell to Mary Cook after over 30 years of representing Brookwood WI, a great innings. Thanks Mary! And we welcomed Jess Sawyer, representing Brookwood Toddlers Playgroup, now meeting again on Mondays am. Contact details are on our website, where we post updates on availability.



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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th NOVEMBER

preferably by e-mail to community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

Printed by Knaphill Print and delivered to your door by a very lovely person.