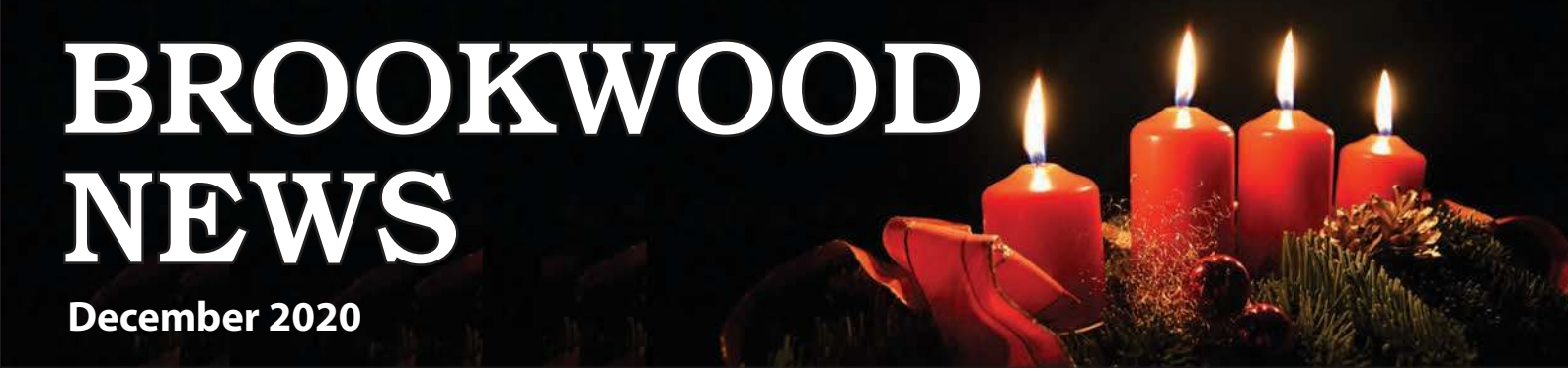
BROOKWOOD NEWS



December 2020

EDITORIAL

Well, what can be said about this year? It definitely is not the one we envisaged at the end of last year as we planned wonderful memories for this year. It has been one of trials and challenges, of change and adaptation, of solitude and togetherness, of sorrow and joy. Whatever 2020 has thrown at you, whatever you have experienced, let's try and look forward to 2021, and hope that it is brighter, clearer and more positive than 2020. The editors and contributors of Brookwood News wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Jackie Kenny – Editor



ARMISTICE DAY



Brookwood Cemetery held an invite-only service to commemorate Remembrance Day. There were representatives of the armed forces who came and paid their respects at a socially distanced service.

During the evening Brookwood Cemetery was one of four military cemeteries in the UK that came together at 7pm to shine a searchlight into the sky, encouraging people to look towards the sky and remember loved ones. Did you see the light shining up?





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Seymours



Well done to Lynda Shore, a local resident who did a sponsored litter pick over the summer as she was unable to collect for Christian Aid. Below is a short message from Lynda. Well done Lynda!

'Thank you very much to all who supported my effort to raise money for Christian Aid by means of a sponsored litter pick. I raised £1620 thanks to the generous support of family, friends and even a few strangers. The money will be used to support Christian Aid's current appeal for £350,000 to help rural communities in Nicaragua and emergency relief work in Lebanon following the devastating explosion a few weeks ago.'

BROOKWOOD ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS

Since the first Covid lockdown the demand from our Brookwood clients has declined dramatically with the reduction in hospital and doctor appointments, and the understandable concern of both clients and volunteers in travelling in the same car.

Consequently, the 'efficiency' of manning the Duty Officer phone has also dropped off, and the Committee has decided to suspend our normal operations until the situation changes and clarifies. Hopefully, any new developments will be reported through Brookwood News.

Robin Linklater – BAN Chairman

WOKING LIONS

Woking Lions are renewing their winter appeal for another year. If you are eligible for the winter fuel allowance but don't need it, they are working with Citizens Advice offices to ask people to donate theirs to help struggling families and individuals this winter season.

Last year they redistributed £4500. If you think you might be able to help, please submit online at virginmoneygiving.com/fund/Wenceslas2020. Alternatively, cheques made payable to Woking Lions Club Cio can be posted or hand delivered to Citizens Advice Woking, Provincial House, 26 Commercial Way, Woking GU21 6EN. Please write 'Project Wenceslas' on the reverse side.

BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE



It has been a brilliant but busy term so far at school as we start edging closer to Christmas! Despite following new rules and restrictions, children have adapted to the 'new normal' incredibly well. It is lovely to feel a buzz of learning around the school once more that we missed so much during the spring and summer.

Our focus and priority remain the health and wellbeing of children and staff. Children are enjoying weekly wellbeing sessions, and teachers are ensuring children have increased opportunities to talk, listen and play with their peers. We have become increasingly aware of the role school is playing during this pandemic, and there is a shared responsibility from staff to do all we can to support children and families during such challenging times. I would like to publicly thank all staff at school for always going over and beyond their duties during such a challenging season.

In addition to the emphasis on wellbeing and the broad and balanced curriculum offered, the children are enjoying: extra sessions from Woking Football Club, weekly Forest School lessons, French movement classes, chess lessons, ukulele learning in Years 5 and 6, and much much more!

We are all very excited to enjoy Christmas and plans are in place for a Christmas lunch jumper day, and we will look for lots of ways to incorporate Christmas within the curriculum.

On behalf of the staff and children at school, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all our best wishes for 2021.

David Gunning – Head of School

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Brookwood News is holding its first ever photography competition! The theme is 'Brookwood', allowing participants to show what Brookwood means to them, whether it is nature, family and friends, something historical or simply home. Thinesh, from Brookwood Food and Wine, has kindly agreed to be our judge. There are three age categories: 0–11, 11–16 and 16 plus. Please email your fabulous photos to community@brookwood.org.uk along with your name, age and contact details. Thinesh will only be receiving the photos, and contact details will be deleted after the winners have been chosen. The closing date is midday on Saturday 20 February 2021. Good luck!



NEW CHILDREN'S BAND

A brand new children's marching band is coming to Brookwood and Pirbright. Once 2021 starts your child might be interested in trying something new; this could be just the thing!

Raiders Performing Arts is looking for children aged between 6 and 18 to join their exciting new band. No experience is required, and they supply all instruments, tuition and uniforms. There is a position for anyone, so please don't think that you need to be an expert musician. It sounds like these guys will soon have you marching to the beat! And if you're not keen on an instrument, how about taking on the role of majorette and perfect your baton twirling? Any children that join in will be given an instrument, taught to play it, and learn musical routines to then perform in local parades, fetes and carnivals.

They are nearly ready to launch once government guidelines allow them, so if you have a child who is interested and wants a free trial night, please contact Paul Newman on 07773 058317 or email him on nobbypaul66@gmail.com to book a place.

FROM SAINT EDWARD BROTHERHOOD

DRIVEWAY RENOVATION

After our senior monk literally came off his trolley, journeying over to Vespers one Saturday evening, the directors of the King Edward Orthodox Trust Co Ltd decided to have some much-needed work done on the carparking area around the Old Mortuary. It has been simply covered with pea shingle, which is difficult to cross for people in wheelchairs, on wheeled walkers or with pushchairs. It also causes something of a mess, as the pea shingles get scattered on neighbouring paved areas and the grass. We have engaged Grayscapes, a firm run by Nicholas Gray, an Orthodox believer, in conjunction with Centurian, a company which did earlier work for us, to attend to the drainage problems in the area, to outline the area with setts and to tarmac it. They will also extend this work to the driveway in front of the monastic house which leads to the graves, and which at present is still simply a rough track. We hope the work will be under way when this issue is published.

ICONOSTAS

Work has also recommenced on the iconostas in Saint Edward's Church. The cross has been erected surmounting the whole edifice, and the bookshelves in the altar, which were removed when the old iconostas was taken out, have been replaced with new and far better ones, so that we are able once again to keep the various service books in some sort of order. The workmen, under the direction of Daniel Ciupercovici, are also attending to a leakage problem in the turret of the Old Mortuary.

VISITORS

With the reintroduced lockdown, the number of organised visits to the church has naturally been reduced. However, on Friday 13 November, Dave Legrand, a senior R.E. teacher brought three student R.E. teachers to see the church and ask about our faith and worship. Also, now with the lockdown, there are many more people visiting the main cemetery and some stop to rest on the benches in our grounds, and several bring their children into our grounds so that they can play with the dog!

LOCKDOWN

As the extent of the present lockdown is still far from clear, we are unable to say exactly how we will celebrate the Orthodox Christmas or Theophany. We know that this year at Christmas we will not be able to hire Lord Pirbright's Hall, and it may be of course that we are not allowed to have a service open to the public at all. However, we will try and send out reports when we have news, and if you are not on our mailing lists and would like to be informed, please phone or email and we will try to include you (phone number 01483 487763 – there is an answer machine, but leave a short message and we will get back to you; email: info@saintedwardbrotherhood.org).

BROOKWOOD CLUB

2020 has been a challenging year for the club, along with many other businesses in the village. Government guidelines and restrictions mean that our end of year programme has changed dramatically.

From the date we re-open after the current closure, members will be able to renew their annual memberships, and we have extended the timeline for renewals to close of business on 28 February 2021. Members who can't physically visit the club can email their intention to renew (clubbrookwood@gmail.com).

The club is putting up a Christmas tree again this year, but sadly there will be no 'switch on' event or barbeque. Christmas Day lunchtime is always popular. Unfortunately, this year, due to the restrictions in place, we cannot accommodate the numbers we usually welcome. With this in mind, the club will not be open at all on Christmas Day.

We would like to wish our members – and the village – a very Merry Christmas! Let's all hope that 2021 will be better!

SURREY FLOORS & DOORS

Surrey Floors & Doors, based in the friendly village of Brookwood has opened up again to the public.

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Holy Trinity and St Saviour's – the parish churches of Knaphill and Brookwood – in partnership with Mizens Railway, are inviting local residents to enjoy a socially distant carol service in the comfort of their own cars. Subject to the latest restrictions at the time, two events will be held in the grounds of Mizens Railway on Sunday 20 December, at 5pm and 7pm.

Put on your cheesiest Christmas jumper and get your hands on some battery-powered candles to get everyone in your car feeling extra Christmassy. Feel free to decorate your car, too – will it be baubles on the wing mirrors? Fairy lights inside the car? Mistletoe hung from the rear-view mirror? Tinsel on your aerial? (Just make sure you can still drive safely and switch off any fairy lights before you drive away!)

When you book your free ticket, let us know your favourite carol and we will add the most popular to the playlist, and include as many more as possible.

You may want to bring along a cosy blanket, some mince pies and a flask of something warm, as engines will need to be switched off and we cannot provide refreshments this year.

Please note, this is a free event, but tickets must be booked in advance for Test & Trace purposes. In line with current restrictions, you will need to be in a vehicle with your household and/or support bubble only, and you must all stay in your vehicle for the duration of the service. Go to www.htandstschurch.org to find out more.

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(Tuesday & Wednesday - Closed for lunch between 1 & 2).
Saturday 8 till 1pm

Brookwood shop: 134 Connaught Road, Brookwood, GU24 0AS -
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NB: DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th DECEMBER
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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