BROOKWOOD NEWS

March 2021

EDITORIAL

Staying in, going for regular walks, working from home, meeting up on Zoom, Teams or Google Meet – this has all become the normal way of life for many of us and the freedom we took for granted seems a distant dream now. I have found myself wondering how things will have changed when we can all go into work again, or meet our family and friends. I passed through the station recently and had a quick chat with Tony in the ticket office. It was 11am and he'd only had seven customers all morning. What a change from the frantic buzz of commuter days. However, the crocuses are appearing and the daffodils are coming out, all of which reminds us that nature carries on regardless, and with the days getting longer, it won't be too long before we are able to meet up and enjoy the spring. Hope is on the horizon.

Yvonne Craven – Editor

SNOWMEN INVASION

The arrival of 'proper' snow at the beginning of February saw many of you enjoying sledging, walking, taking photos and building snowmen. While out on a short walk that day I met a snowman on every corner, and the sound of laughter and sledges being dragged along the road broke the monotony of our gloomy weeks shut inside. I also noticed that no one was too old to build a snowman, throw snowballs or sit on a sledge!











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BROOKWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2021

Thank you to everyone who entered this competition with the brief 'Brookwood'. We received 51 entries from all ages, with photos of wildlife, beautiful landscapes and skies, memories of a sunny summer, and fun pictures of families and pets. We are delighted that Thinesh Thirugnanasampanthar, our talented local wildlife photographer, and proprietor of Brookwood Food and Wine, has now judged them:

'Thank you to the committee for the opportunity given to me, to judge these wonderful talents. I really enjoyed, and was amazed at the amount and quality of work these participants had put into their projects, and the professionalism of their approach and presentations. Everyone who took part has much to be proud of. Choosing two overall winners in each area was tough, as everyone excelled in different areas and ways. I would like to congratulate all the participants who took part and wish them all the best for their upcoming project and the future'.

Under 11 years	Elspeth Buchanan (aged 4)	Mother and child on lock
(Runner up)	Chloe Jones (aged 4)	Bert in the snow
11 – 16 years	Oliver Mayhew (aged 15)	Sunflower and sky
(Runner up)	Oliver Mayhew (aged 15)	Snow shower and trees
Over 16	Catharina Nicholls	Sheets Heath with gate
(Runner up)	Keith van Gelder	Cathedral Express



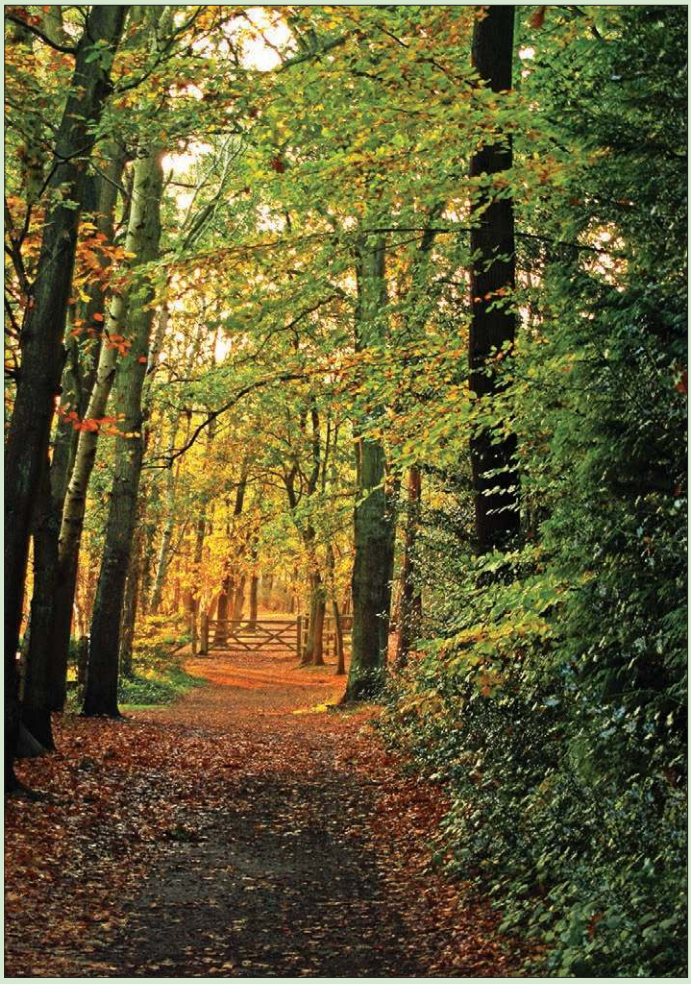
Congratulations to the winners who will receive a Waterstones voucher for £20. Thinesh our local talented wildlife photographer judged these photos anonymously. We are hoping to organise a display of all the photos shortly in the centre of the village.



Mother and child on lock - Elspeth Buchanan



Sunflower and sky - Oliver Mayhew



Sheets Heath with gate - Catharina Nicholls

CANAL SPRING NEWS SUMMARY

The Basingstoke Canal Society has been delighted at the 20 per cent increase in members since last year's plea for help. Fundraising is ongoing and there are plans to build stronger links with councils across the area. A new website has been launched and funds found for continuing maintenance. A current project is installing new signboards about wildlife and the history of the canal.

"We are tremendously grateful for everyone's very generous donations," said Society Co-vice-chairman Ken Sankey. "We believe more people could enjoy the physical and mental health benefits to be gained and an aim for this year is to develop ways to reach more members of our population."

One of the projects, at Woking, is to provide a replacement 12 passenger electric boat that includes disabled access. Go to https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk to find out more about the canal and how to support the Basingstoke Canal Society via the website.

THE ARTS SOCIETY WOKING

The Arts Society, Woking will be holding a talk on 'Restoration Theatre – Rakes, Fops and Wenches'. This will be on Zoom on Wednesday 10 March, 10.30 to 11.30am. The lecturer is Malcolm Jones, who has worked as an actor, director and teacher. New members are welcome and, if you are interested in joining, you can attend a taster talk before deciding. Contact Joanna Pay 01276 685293, or email memdfas@gmail.com for further information and to book your place.

KNAPHILL, ST JOHNS & BROOKWOOD VOLUNTEER GROUP

Over the past year, a diligent group of volunteers has been tirelessly helping elderly and vulnerable local residents with shopping, collecting prescriptions and making regular phone calls to those isolated or lonely. Sonal Sher set up the group in March 2020, at the beginning of the first lockdown, and leaflets were distributed in Knaphill, St John's and Brookwood offering help and support. Since then, the group has grown to over 200 volunteers, assisting hundreds of families in Woking: over 1000 errands, over 650 care calls plus fundraising initiatives and donations to CSH Surrey, one of the local schools, York Road Homeless shelter and Your Sanctuary. In addition cards and letters to neighbours were sent during the summer to help with isolation, and a lockdown library was set up. The group has established good links with Woking Borough Council and other voluntary organisations, so that if a volunteer comes across someone who needs additional support, they can alert professionals.

If you would like help, or know of someone who could benefit from assistance with shopping or calls, then contact the group (01483 380801 or via wokingvolunteers@gmail.com).

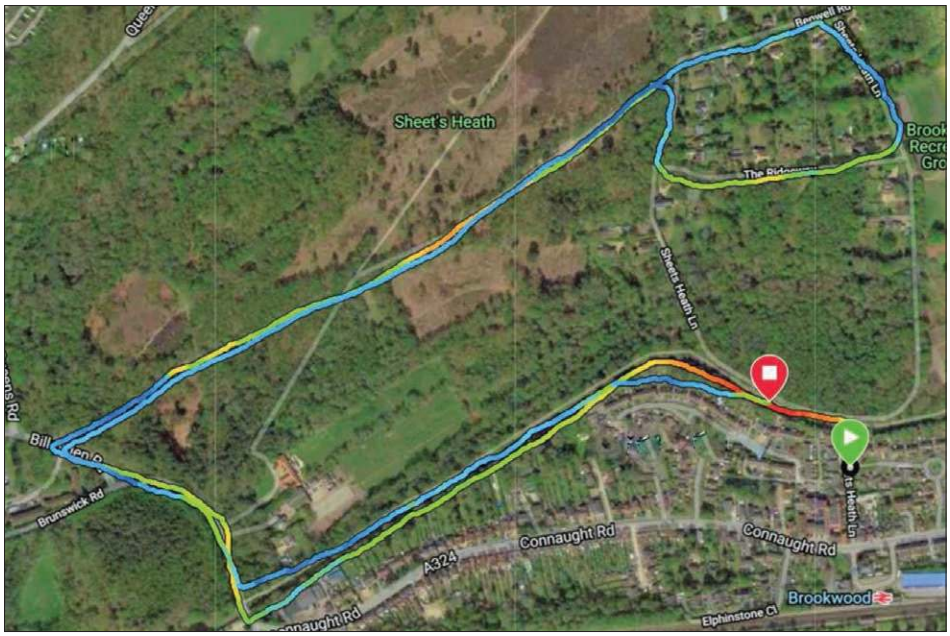


RUNNING NEWS

'Brookwood Park Run'

Lesson learned: beware a quick chat with Yvonne Craven as you may end up writing an article for Brookwood News! Lockdown has meant a year of missing out on lots of things we love, which for me included Park Run, where I would join 350 fellow park runners on a Saturday morning for a 5km (3.1 mile) route around Woking Park. Park Runs are great events for young and old, fast and slow, where the only race is against your own 'personal best' time, be it 20 or 55 minutes. In its place 'Brookwood Park Run', a slightly more socially distanced, but more picturesque version, was born. My 5km route begins at Sheet's Heath Bridge, goes along the towpath to Pirbright Bridge, right along the road, then right again onto Sheet's Health, up to the houses for a quick lap before returning on the same route (see map). I'm feeling very fortunate to live in a place like this at a time like this!

Simon Early



Mandy's Marathons



I'm Mandy Sherwood and this is my dog Beamish. Together we go out for regular runs along the canal towpath and beyond. This year, to mark my retirement and also on becoming a grandmother, I have entered myself for two marathons. The first, The Fox, is in April and the second, Beachy Head, is in October. This will demand a lot of training and hard work in all weathers. At the same time, I wish to help out the NHS by asking for sponsorship.
So my question is would you sponsor me to complete these two marathons?
If so, please go to my fundraising page: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MandySherwood

With thanks from Mandy and Beamish

WALKING QUIZ ANSWERS

Did any of you do John Power's walking quiz last month? If you still plan to do the two-mile walk and look for the answers to the clues, look away now!
Otherwise here are the answers:

Q1 Here is the original stone being laid for Brookwood Club. In which year? **1909**
Q2. Which business has a telephone number ending 495? **Bakers Dozen**
Q3 In which year was Fulk Bros established? **1927**
Q4. Which business has this sign? Glassmaster
Q5 In which year was Bentleys established? **1985**
Q6. In which year was Pirbright Bridge erected? **1915**
Q7 Who ordered the plans for this and other defences along the canal? **General Sir Edmund Ironsides**
Q8. There are three locks between Pirbright Bridge and Bagshot Road; what are their numbers? **12,13,14**
Q9. When was the bridge over the canal on Bagshot Road erected? **1913–14**
Q10. Brookwood in Bloom started brightening up the village in 2019, and many of the plants and containers are still in place. What colour are the ones at the entrance to Heath Drive? **Mauve**

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citizens advice Woking

STRUGGLING TO KEEP WARM?

Are you worried by debt to your current Gas or Electricity supplier?



.....We may be able to help pay some of it and turn your home from cold to cosy.

Project Wenceslas was set up by **Woking LionsClub** to help the people of Woking and surrounding villages who may be struggling to pay their fuel bills and have possibly built up debt to their energy supplier.

Money is collected from people who are awarded the Government's Winter Fuel Allowance but who choose to donate it to those in Fuel Poverty. It is administered through **Citizens Advice Woking.** Small grants are available to individuals who make an application and who meet certain criteria.

We can also help you find a cheaper supplier. By giving us a few details about your current energy provider and tariff, we can run a price comparison check and talk you through the results, possibly making your energy costs cheaper for you moving forward. Email: **energy@wokingcab.org**

Please contact Citizens Advice Woking.
Tel: 01483 725192or
email: bureau@wokingcab.org

CLLR KEVIN DAVIS UPDATE

At the Planning Committee held on Monday 22 February, the application to regularise the Traveller site at Five Acres came through with a recommendation to approve. Last month, I wrote at length about the whole Coblands site and how I was hoping to see progress with the Traveller site, the fly-tipped waste, the new housing and the infrastructure changes to the crossroads. The Traveller site is the first part of the jigsaw and, although I'm not a member of the Planning Committee, the Chairman graciously allowed me to speak. I spoke in support of the application tonight, but also raised my concerns around the illegal pitches that have popped up there. Regularising this site will enable the Local Planning Authority to take action to remove illegal pitches and I will be pushing hard for that. I'm pleased to say that the application was granted. We won't see changes overnight but progress is finally being made.

Kevin Davis

HEATH CLEARANCE

If you have included Sheets Heath as part of your daily walks recently, you may have noticed piles of holly over the heath and many areas being cleared. It is quite alarming to see so much being cut down, so when we saw a friendly workman a couple of weeks ago, we asked the reason. The work is being carried out by Woking Council as part of the programme for heathlands preservation, to encourage heather and all the wildlife and ecosystems that go with that, including ground-nesting birds such as Dartford warbler, woodlark and nightjar. Holly is an invasive species, and heather and gorse are being preserved. Thames Basin Heaths Partnership is another organisation that is also managing heathland across Surrey. We can help by keeping to footpaths, learning how to avoid starting fires, and keeping dogs out of vegetation, especially between the months of March and September.



JUST GET MOVING!

As the weather gets warmer, FOBS, Friends of Brookwood School, have been putting their thinking hats on. We have decided to 'just get moving'! This will be more than just a school event, as family, friends and the community can get involved. On Friday 23 April, we will be encouraging all children in school to get moving and run 2km. During 24–25 April, we are inviting friends, family and members of the local community to 'just get moving' with us, and see how far we can run, walk or cycle over the weekend. Route, speed and timings are all down to you. We simply ask that you email us with your distance travelled and we will then see how far we can go if we 'just get moving'!

We are asking for donations and sponsorship that will go towards refurbishing the Children's Centre into a Well Being Hub for use by the school and the local community. It is a great space, with lots of opportunity for use.

Our JustGiving page is https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fobsvirtualevent, or email brookwoodjustmove@hotmail.com with any questions. This will all be held in line with government guidelines in place at the time.

Jackie Kenny

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

The cost of advertising is £40.00. The advert will feature on the back of the newsletter and will be no less than a 1/4 of a page. We do not normally put advertising anywhere else in the newsletter. For more information on advertising please contact us on community@brookwood.org.uk

NB: DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 MARCH 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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