

BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2021

EDITORIAL

Spring is always a time for new beginnings and optimism, but this year even more so. Happily, contributions this month have focused mostly on new beginnings to kickstart lives, businesses and interests as the exit from lockdown starts. Over the last twelve months one recurring lesson learnt has been not to get too far ahead of ourselves where coronavirus is concerned, so here's hoping that the optimism in this edition foreshadows more good news in May and June.

John Wheeler – Editor

THE WOKING PEREGRINE PROJECT



High above Woking's town centre, at the top of Export House, there is being enacted a daily drama guaranteed to grab the attention of even the most disinterested TV soap viewer.

Peregrine falcons have regularly graced the skies above Woking for the last fifteen years and they have been successfully breeding since a nest box was installed in January 2016. There are four webcams located close to the box and via www.wokingperegrines.com these allow viewers to follow the breeding season over several months, from the first appearance of the eggs, usually in mid-March, through the entire cycle to fledging and departure of the juveniles from the nest later in summer. The site provides a fascinating, yet educational "must watch" distraction for all the family, regardless of whether or not lockdown is in place.

THE ROADMAP FOR LIFTING LOCKDOWN

By the time this edition is delivered we will know how successful the Government's plans for lifting lockdown restrictions from 29 March have been, and whether stage two of the roadmap, starting on 12 April, is realistic. There follows below, and elsewhere in the newsletter, information about how some local businesses and organisations are planning to operate as lockdown is lifted.

Richard of Barber Box is taking bookings in advance of re-opening on 12 April (call or message him on 07913 060627). He is planning to be working until 9.00pm during April to accommodate his clients.

Liza, from Embellish Hair and Beauty, plans to open on 12 April. She and her colleagues are looking forward to seeing everyone again. Anyone who has not already been in touch with Liza regarding an appointment, and who wishes to be added to the list to be contacted, can email her on info@embellishhairandbeauty.co.uk.

Mounter Fitness Studio will reopen on 12 April after having to close three times since first opening in February 2020. Rachel thanks the amazing local community for supporting her and her business during this tough time. For now she is providing 1 to 1 Personal Training and Online Coaching but she will be taking on new clients from 12 April, on a first come, first served basis. Anyone interested can contact her on info@mounterfitness.com.

The Brookwood Cemetery Society is looking forward to the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions and will be offering bookable "Five and a Guide" themed walks around the cemetery after 17 May. This is five visitors and a society guide; for more details and to make a booking visit the society website tbcs@org.uk, call 07768 748935 or email walks@tbcs.org.uk. A donation of £4 per person, once received, will confirm a place on the walk.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission are considering their plans for resuming events, hopefully towards the end of May.

Not unsurprisingly, South Western Railway's current timetable has a reduced level of service from Brookwood. Anyone intending to resume rail travel is advised to check before travelling.

Regretfully, Briarwood Nurseries' website reports that they will remain closed throughout 2021. Their decision as to whether to trade another year ought to have been taken last autumn. Although they deferred and deliberated until Christmas, the subsequent lockdown meant that they were unable to take the gamble of growing and selling in such uncertain times.

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BROOKWOOD CHRISTMAS FOODBANK



You may recall we collected lots of food parcels and cash donations over the Christmas period for our Woking Foodbank appeal and we are very pleased to advise that those funds will continue to support Woking Foodbank with essential supplies over the coming months. We have in the month of March made a further distribution, and during these unprecedented times the foodbank had a huge increase in service users as below:

- 2,421 food vouchers were issued;
- the average number of Woking households supported with food deliveries every week since lockdown began on 23 March 2020 was 52; and
- 5,969 adults and children in Woking were provided with a 3-day emergency food supply in 2020.

We are very proud to support this campaign and once again thank you all for your generosity in what continues to be a very difficult time; we are pleased to have been able to help local families. More information on how to benefit from the Woking Foodbank or to make further donations can be found at www.woking.foodbank.org.uk.

Thank you, Trudi & Darren

THE ARTS SOCIETY WOKING

The Arts Society, Woking's talk on 'Vincent Van Gogh – Madman or Genius' will be on Zoom on Wednesday 14 April, 10.30 to 11.30am. The lecturer is Anthony Russell, author of the book 'Evolving the Spirit – From Democracy to Peace', commended by Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Laureate. New members are welcome and, if you are interested in joining, you can attend a taster talk before deciding. Contact Joanna Pay on 01276 685293, or email memdfas@gmail.com for further information and to book your place.

BROOKWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2021



For the last couple of weeks all the entries and the winners of the Brookwood Photography competition have been displayed in the window of Brooklyns House near the railings opposite the station. You will have been able to see what a difficult task our judge, Thinesh (proprietor of Brookwood Food and Wine), faced in choosing the winners. The photographs will be on display until after Easter. Our thanks also to Foundations, the estate agents, for allowing us to use the premises for the display.

WOKING RESIDENTS' PANEL

Woking Borough Council are seeking assistance in connection with their plan to establish the Woking Residents' Panel. This will consist of 1,000 residents representative of the borough. The only requirements are that all panellists must be aged 18 or over, a resident of Woking borough and enthusiastic about participating in local democracy. Panellists are not required to have any prior knowledge, skills or expertise, and will not be expected to demonstrate any specific abilities before participating.

Panellists will be contacted several times a year for their views on a variety of issues, projects and services that the Council provides. The Council aspires to have a panel that is fully representative of Woking's different communities, to ensure they achieve a balanced view on topics the Council wishes to consult on.

The panellists' views will form a vital part of shaping Woking Borough Council's vision for the future. See www.woking.gov.uk/residentspanel for more information.



A reminder that on Thursday 6 May elections will be held to elect councillors to Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council, as well as choosing a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey.

The Borough Council and PCC elections have been rearranged following last year's postponement due to coronavirus. This year, there is no voter ID pilot, so voters will not require photographic identification when voting. The list of candidates standing for all elections will be published on Friday 9 April. The Community Hall at Brookwood Memorial Halls will be used as the polling station.

Polling stations will be safe places to vote. Cleaning, personal protective equipment and social distancing measures will be in place to ensure voters' safety and the safety of polling station staff. Voters are requested to bring their own pen or pencil to mark their ballot paper, if possible.

JUST GET MOVING – REMINDER

A reminder that on Friday 23 April and over the weekend of 24–25 April, FOBS, Friends of Brookwood School, are organising 'Just Get Moving'. Children in Brookwood School are being encouraged to run 2km on Friday at school, with friends, family and members of the local community seeing how far they can run, walk or cycle over the weekend. Route, speed and timings are down to the participants. FOBS ask only that distances travelled are emailed to them so that they can total them all.

Donations and sponsorship are being sought to go towards refurbishing the Children's Centre into a Well Being Hub for use by the school and the local community. FOBS' JustGiving page is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fobsvirtualevent or email brookwoodjustmove@hotmail.com with any questions.

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

You may have seen the recent article on BBC news about the story of the forgotten agent, a 98-year-old veteran and a golden engagement ring, but if not, follow this link (www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-56215177) and all will be revealed. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission were contacted last year by a researcher who noted that Lt Marcel Leccia was commemorated by his wartime alias Lt Georges Louis. Thanks to the supporting evidence, the CWGC have been able to change their records to reflect this and their specialist stonemasons will soon hand engrave this amendment into the panels on the Brookwood 1939–1945 Memorial, where he is commemorated.

The CWGC receive thousands of submissions each year to amend errors or omissions in their records. Each case must be carefully considered and, where the evidence supports, they are able to make changes to their records, which can quickly be reflected in the CWGC online database. Reflecting these changes on a headstone or memorial takes a little longer. Because of the volume of amendments their stonemasons must assess each case and look at whether it is possible to re-engrave in situ, or whether a new headstone or memorial panel is needed.

BROOKWOOD ART GROUP

The Brookwood Art Group normally meets every Friday in the Memorial Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm. It is hoped to resume meetings, as Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed, on Friday 21 May.

During lockdown the group has continued to function remotely, using informal Zoom meetings to discuss one another's paintings and for online demonstrations from well-regarded local artists and teachers. In addition, paintings have been shared by means of the "Friday Gallery" circulated by email.

The group welcomes anyone interested in art, from beginners to more experienced artists, working in water-colour, acrylic, oil, pencil, etc. We are a friendly group and there is plenty of opportunity to share ideas and techniques, and also to improve your work by virtue of our regular demonstrations and workshops.

If you think you may like to join the group, you will be welcome to come along for a couple of sessions before committing yourself to joining. Please either contact Nuala (07775 297938), email art.brookwood@outlook.com or check the website on www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com.









Scouts

1st Brookwood

1st Brookwood Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are eagerly awaiting the return of in-person meetings. Our Leaders and young people have adapted brilliantly to virtual meetings and kept skills and badge progress moving. However, it cannot beat getting out in real world. As we return in a Covid-secure way it would be great if we could boost our volunteer numbers. If you are interested in a new challenge please get in touch at gls@brookwoodscouts.org.uk; we can find a role to suit.

BACK TO SCHOOL

David Gunning, Head of Brookwood School, reports how fantastic it was to welcome all children back to school on Monday 8 March.

I have been incredibly proud of the way the community pulled together to ensure children continued to learn at home and we were able to support our critical worker families in school. I want to publicly thank staff and families for the time, energy and care provided for the children during partial school closure. Daily assemblies, weekly themes, a mixture of live lessons on Microsoft Teams, and pre-recorded lessons uploaded to our online learning platform all helped to connect the children learning remotely. The way the children adapted to home learning was remarkable and I was really inspired by their resilience and maturity. My favourite theme was the 'Great Brookwood Bake Off'. The standard of cakes was exceptional but it was incredibly frustrating not being able to sample them all! We hope that parents and children find time to rest and relax over the Easter break, and we look forward to the summer term ahead.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

The Government have outlined their proposals to open up hospitality in the near future. In light of this we have liaised with Woking Borough Council's Licensing Department and have been advised that our licence does not allow us to use the car park for outdoor service. Therefore, we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 17 May, subject to no change in guidelines.

COUNSELLING



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BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Brookwood Memorial Halls are re-opening, though operations will be in accordance with the Government's roadmap and subject to any rule changes. Covid-secure practices will be observed until no longer needed, daily cleans and wipedowns of all frequently touched surfaces will be carried out and kitchen servery facilities remain limited. Hires are still subject to social distancing, capacity limits, Test and Trace recording, and cleaning equipment used. For details, rates, online booking availability and online booking requests please see www.bmhalls.org.uk, or email enquiries to lettings@bmhalls.org.uk.

Key dates and permitted activities are as follows:

12 April – organised children's activities, including dance classes and sport, can resume; parent and child groups (up to 15 people plus under-5s) can meet.

17 May – adult indoor group sports and exercise classes can resume; wakes, wedding receptions and life events such as christenings can be hosted, with restrictions, up to 30 people; social groups up to 6 people or two households can meet indoors.

21 June – "all legal limits on social contact will be removed." Some measures such as distancing, capacities and face coverings may still be required. The Committee plans to host large social gatherings, with a deep clean afterwards, only once all adults have been offered a first vaccination, which currently is expected from 31 July.

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

Sadly, St Saviour's Church will not be open for Easter because of the limited capacity to seat people in a Covid-safe way while restrictions are still in place. Hopefully the church will be able to open again after June.

Meanwhile, details of services for Easter can be found on the church website (htandstschurch.org) and YouTube channel including the following:

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Saturday – Online Reflections

Good Friday –10am Zoom Service

Good Friday & Easter Saturday – Zip & Zap's Easter Treasure Trail for families (sign up for free on the website)

Good Friday – Youth Reflective Service

Easter Sunday – 10am Joint Service St Saviour's & Holy Trinity, live streamed on Zoom or YouTube channel, and in person. Seating at Holy Trinity is limited but seats can be requested via the church website

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 MAY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 APRIL 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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