BROOKWOOD NEWS

July 2021

EDITORIAL

I was hoping to open my third editorial with the words 'Freedom Day' and I can only guess that you were all probably hoping we would be there as well. Although there might be obvious disappointment that we may need to wait until 19 July for the lifting of final restrictions, I'm reflecting on the last editorial I wrote in October 2020 to where we are now, particularly in Brookwood.

Although the Queen's Birthday Honours list was full of professors and scientists who have used great skills to develop life-saving vaccines, it is for me the day-to-day forbearance and dignity of everyone pulling together in our community that has really got us to a point that only a few of us could have dreamed of this time last year.

Brookwood School continues to go from strength to strength with improvements being made to the building and grounds, along with the organisation of school drop-offs and pick-ups with all the social distancing issues so carefully planned and followed.

Any readers who have an interest in military history please support the Brookwood Last Post Association, who are holding their 80th anniversary celebrations by the RAF Memorial on 4 July. This promises to be a very moving tribute to those who have sacrificed their todays for our tomorrows on the battlefields around the world.

We live in truly great village and we also have great connections with our neighbouring village, Pirbright. It was a great delight to go around the Pirbright Garden Trail on Sunday 13 June and actually talk to our neighbours face to face, and view some beautiful gardens, watch a bit of cricket and build connections. That along with an evening stroll along the canal with the sun beating down made for a truly lovely day!

Please support the Great Pirbright School House with their Race Around the World (RAW) if you can. Sounds like good antidote for the lack of overseas travel this year!

Wishing all readers good health and for the safety of everyone please continue to remember to observe the following:



Have a good summer everyone and Come on England!

Richard Johnson – Editor

COUNTRY PARK FIELD

Recently Traveller ponies have been grazing on land within the country park running alongside the canal in Brookwood. Whilst this location is preferable to other areas the ponies have been grazing recently, it's still illegal grazing.

Cllr Kevin Davis has been working with officers to achieve a licensing scheme that will enable a different field in that area that has road access via the A322 to be used for ponies. This work is ongoing.

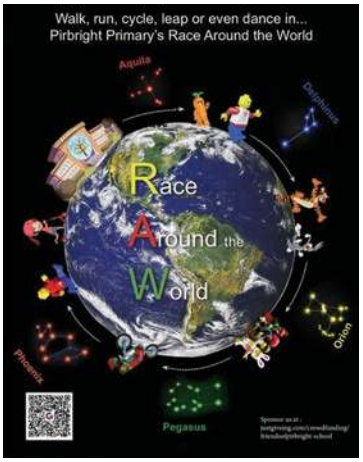
Vehicles have been seen being driven along the footpath to access the ponies and this is beyond unacceptable. The path has not been designed for vehicles, the two bridges are not maintained and may not hold up structurally to vehicles, and it's clearly dangerous to other users of the path.

Kevin met up with officers last month to work out the best way of preventing the vehicle access. This is urgently being addressed and Kevin is expecting solid posts to be installed in the middle of the path at the entrance by the pavilion at the Knaphill end, and also from the canal. These will likely be made from wood, with sufficient reflective markings to prevent collisions. Access will still be possible for double-width buggies.

Please contact at CllrKevin.Davis@woking.gov.uk if you need any update.

THE GREAT PIRBRIGHT SCHOOL HOUSE RACE AROUND THE WORLD (RAW)

The RAW is on! We are racing around the world to raise funds for much-needed IT equipment for our wonderful school. Our pupils are walking, running, cycling, scooting, swimming, hopping or even dancing their way across the world.



Individual totals will be added into the pupils' house total each week, giving a cumulative distance. With 60 days left of term, how far can we get? Which house will win the race?

Your sponsorship will help spur our children on to completing as many miles as they can. Will we finish up at a wet weekend in Wales, or a beach party in Brazil?

We want to hear you Roar for RAW!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendsofpirbright-school

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OPEN GARDENS WALK PIRBRIGHT

A big thank you to all Pirbright homeowners who opened their beautiful gardens for the Pirbright Garden Trail on Saturday June 12 and Sunday June 13. To complement the gardens the weather was simply glorious. Some of the garden ornamentals and accessories, both two legged and four legged, are amazing!

If you were unable to make it, herewith are a few photographs of the gardens on Sunday June 13.















BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

The Brookwood Memorial Halls have reopened for organised adult indoor sports and exercise classes, subject to capacity limits. Social gatherings indoors are still restricted to maximum of six persons or two households until 18 July, unless Government restrictions are lifted earlier. Face masks and social distancing remain in force.

We will update our Facebook and website pages again when the status changes. More details are available at www.bmhalls.org.uk or from Colin on 07757 969231.

NEWS FROM SAINT EDWARD BROTHERHOOD, BROOKWOOD

Saint Edward Brotherhood is a small Orthodox Christian monastery in Brookwood, Surrey, United Kingdom. We 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.

WEDDING AT SAINT EDWARD'S

After vespers on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Œcumenical Council, 31 May/13 June, parishioners Gregory Ferguson and Marina Popova were married at Saint Edward's Church.



The celebrant was the bride's father, Fr Borislav Popov, who had concelebrated with Fr Sabbas earlier in the day at the Liturgy. The marriage had been postponed several times, because of family problems and because of the Covid restrictions, and when we informed our Bishop that it would be on that day, he replied succinctly, "About time," words which the bridal pair chose to have iced on to their wedding cake. May our Saviour who has crowned them in the mysterion of marriage, help them to live together and to struggle together so that they obtain imperishable crowns in the life of the age to come.

FUNDS COLLECTED FOR A CHURCH IN NEED IN BULGARIA

Our trust's treasurer, Elena Matthews, brought to our attention the need for a church in her native Bulgaria for help with heating costs. At her request we sent round an appeal for the church, Saint Xenia of Petersburg Orthodox Church, in Varna, on 31 May, and within two weeks, our parishioners and friends had donated a total of £3,300. Elena herself has collected another £400, and people on our emailing list, living abroad, have assured us that they will send donations from their countries to Saint Xenia's. Apparently, the parish priest of the Varna Church, Fr Peter Dimitrov, broke into tears when Elena told him how much had been collected in such a short time. We thank all of you who have contributed. May God's blessings be your reward.

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL UPDATE

As we edge closer to the end of the academic year, we are reflecting on the successes and achievements we have enjoyed as a school.

Firstly, we have worked incredibly hard to keep children, staff and families safe as we adapt to new rules and procedures. Health and wellbeing has remained the greatest priority but we are very proud of the progress the children have made despite all of the challenges they have faced. While we greatly miss being able to operate in our usual way and felt the frustrations of the disruptions caused, there are many things we have learned, improved and will do differently as a result of the pandemic. In particular, the use of technology has moved forward significantly this year, and this was reflected in the high quality of remote learning delivered through the partial school closure.

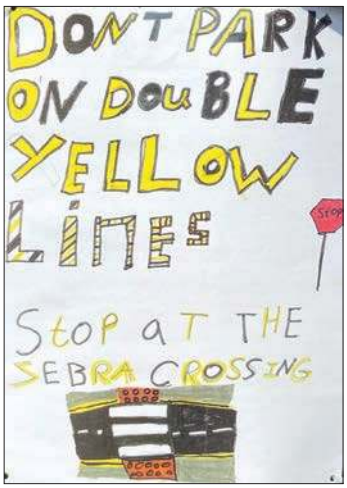
Furthermore, part of my vision for the school is to ensure we are the first-choice school within the area, and raise standards of the learning environments as well as teaching and learning. I am delighted that we are once again oversubscribed for our Reception Class for September. Also, I am thrilled at the continued improvements being made to the building and grounds. The four classrooms and communal areas in Key Stage 2 have been fully refurbished and our brand new Wellbeing Centre will be ready to launch in September. These are just two examples of the extensive work being carried out and I look forward to updating you further on future projects.

Although the summer term will be different to most, we are excited at the prospect of enjoying lots of our usual traditions, such as Raising Aspirations Week, Sports Day and the Year 6 Production. In addition, we will be replacing the Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 residential trips with 'Celebration Sleepovers' in school!

We want to say an extended thank you to the community for the support provided during such a testing period and look forward to the year ahead as we welcome back our children in September.

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer and very much look forward to being in a position to invite you into school and working with you more closely again.

David Gunning - Head of School







First of all, a big thank you to our most precious customers who were supporting us during the global pandemic situation. A warm welcome to our local community.

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WE WILL REMEMBER OUR WAR HEROES

The Brookwood Last Post Association is probably one of Brookwood's best kept secrets – they even say so themselves on their website (https://brookwoodlastpost.org/the-last-post/)!

The Brookwood Last Post Association meet on the first Sunday of the month at 3pm in front of the RAF Memorial in Brookwood Cemetery. They hold a short service, and a parade of Standards to honour the fallen in the two World Wars and the many war engagements since. They would be delighted if you could spare an hour or so once a month to join them.

Remarkably they are celebrating their 80th anniversary this year at their usual monthly meeting on Sunday 4 July 2021 at 3–3.30 pm, RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery. The Mayor of Woking, the Belgian Defence Attaché, Members of Woking Borough Council and Senior Officers of Woking Borough Council have been invited.

The provisional plans for the ceremony are as follows:

Parade – Led by the Gordon's School Pipes and Drums

Welcome

Bidding

Individual Remembrances – Eight named members of the armed forces will be remembered, one from each of the six founding countries of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and India – along with a Belgian due to the link with Ypres, and one member of the United States armed forces in conjunction with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Poem

Last Post/Exhortation/Wreath Laying/ Reveille

Piper's Lament

Prayers/Blessing

National Anthem

Kohima Epitaph

Inspection

Dismiss/March Off

Everyone is welcome to attend.

The history of the Brookwood Last Post Association is connected to the Last Post Association in Ypres in France. Following the end of World War One the chief of police in Ypres wanted the Menin Gate to be a memorial and a place of living remembrance where the lives of the fallen from the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres) would be saluted each day. The sounding of 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' by a bugler took place at the inauguration of the Menin Gate in 1927 – ten years after the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres).
During World War Two and the occupation of Ypres in 1940, the Nazi authorities banned the service and tried to confiscate the bugles. Unfortunately, they had already been buried somewhere and couldn't be found!

Mr Edgar Ashley Cook, MBE, a successful Woking businessman (and a WWI veteran) heard about this and was upset by the stoppage. Together with a group of friends, he formed an organisation to replicate the Ypres service and the Surrey Last Post Association was born.

The first service was held in Brookwood Cemetery in January 1941. Despite the difficulties of those dark days, the service was held as regularly as possible for the next four years.

On the very day when Ypres was liberated by Polish troops on 6 September 1944, the bugles were dug up, dusted off and once again echoed under the Menin Gate arches. Therefore, the need for the ceremony at Brookwood was over – but not the desire to keep those memories alive and so the services continued here.

Sometime during the 1950s and 1960s, official support was discontinued and the name changed from the Surrey Last Post to the Brookwood Last Post Association. Over the years, the ceremony has continued though the membership has changed as those who are left grow old. In 2010, there was a visit from the Last Post Association in Ypres who sent a delegation of Standard Bearers and a joint parade was held. Members of the Brookwood Last Post Association last visited Ypres as part of the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Ypres in 2019.

The Brookwood Last Post Association rely on fundraising and individual memberships. Membership costs £10 per calendar year and helps with the administration costs including public liability insurance and website fees.

Please seek out a member of the Association at a ceremony or use the form on their website if you would like to join (http://brookwoodlastpost.org/membership).







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 AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 JULY 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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