BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2021

EDITORIAL

A wealth of material this month reporting on a wide range of activities and events, so the editorial is mercifully brief, except for another plea for volunteers to join the editorial team. The present team members are always available to give advice and a helping hand, and it is very rewarding to see one's efforts in print, so don't be shy! Get in touch via the community email address. As ever, thanks to all our contributors and to our readers. We hope you enjoy this edition.

John Wheeler – Editor



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There will be a service in St Saviour's Church on Remembrance Sunday (14 November). It will be a Reflective service with Holy Communion, starting at 10am and including the Act of Remembrance centred on the 2-minute silence at 11am.

The Army Training Centre Pirbright will have their Remembrance Parade in the Brookwood Military Cemetery from 10.30am to 12.00 noon.

TONY BURLEY (1954–2021)



We're very sad to report that Tony Burley, Ticket Clerk at Brookwood Station (and known to all as Tony the ticket), passed away on 12 October. Tony had worked at Brookwood Station since 2012. His was a friendly face, cheerful while helping the travelling public negotiate the vagaries of the ticketing system (and not infrequently at the same time conducting his own personal battle with the electronic equipment installed by his employer in the name of "technological improvements"), and often threatening the retirement that sadly he now won't enjoy. An encounter with Tony on the way to work always got the day off to a better start. He will be very much missed by the travelling public (and certainly by this editor for our weekly inquest into Harlequin Rugby's most recent game). The funeral will be at Basingstoke Crematorium, at 2.45pm on Tuesday 9 November. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK. A book of condolences has been placed at the station and there are suggestions on social media that something more permanent should be placed there to commemorate Tony. Our sympathies and sincere condolences go to Tony's wife and his family.

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YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU! NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP UP

As we return to this "new normal" everyone speaks of, whatever that might be, it is a pleasure to welcome back our 21 regular hirers to Brookwood Memorial Halls (see www.bmhalls.org.uk for details). Whether it's the sound of small children at Baby & Toddlers, some bigger ones at Scouts, the sound of music and dancing or the chatter of people catching up at parties, it has been a joy!

However, we are in urgent need of your support. The workload on the small team of volunteers is too much. If new helpers do not come forward, the Halls face handover to the Council, or a third party to run them. At least, there will be a rise in hire costs and reduction of service; at worst, the Charity would be closed.

We are in particular need of a Treasurer, so if numbers are your bag please get in touch; no formal qualifications are required. Our Treasurer manages invoices and payment through the booking system, pays invoices, operates the Hall's bank account with co-signatories, provides a financial report for our monthly committee meetings (of under an hour) and provides information for the independent examination of the Village Hall accounts.

In addition to Treasurer, other trustee roles for Chair and Secretary, with a handover period, are also required and need to be fulfilled before our next AGM in April. We have also created several smaller volunteer roles. So, if you have enjoyed your kids' birthday parties at the hall, have been part of Scouts or trained your puppy there, please think about how much worse off the village would be without this fantastic facility on the doorstep, and consider committing a few hours monthly to helping us maintain it.

For more information, please contact Louise (email secretary@bmhalls.org.uk).

GUILDFORD OPERA SOCIETY

The Guildford Opera Company's production of Franz Lehar's 'The Merry Widow' will be performed between 1 and 4 December at the Electric Theatre, Guildford. Richard Johnson, an editorial team member, is playing Camille Rosillon, one of the leading characters, and it promises to be a fun show with some great tunes. Tickets can be booked via the Electric Theatre's website (www.electric.theatre)..

VILLAGE WHIST

Village Whist will take place on Friday 5 November at 7.30pm in the Small Memorial Hall. If you are interested in joining, please contact Trina on 01483 831143.

CAN YOU HELP?????? BROOKWOOD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL

By the time you read this article this year's campaign will already have launched and will continue to run until 5 December.

Listening to all the sad news of late it is becoming increasingly clear that things are not going to get any easier any time soon for those people who have found themselves in crisis, what with furlough ending and fuel costs increasing. These two things alone could mean that some families may have to make the sad choice over the winter quarter whether to feed their family or put the heating on to keep them all warm. With your help we can hopefully make that burden a little easier by supplying Woking Foodbank with as much non-perishable food as possible this year.

Posters are now being clearly displayed in our drop-off points, namely Brookwood Club and Brookwood Bakers Dozen/Post Office. If you are struggling to get to the shops, we have again set up a Just Giving page to make things a little easier. This can be accessed at https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/trudi-fletcher-1 or by scanning our QR code.

Other ways to get in touch are by email (trudifletcher@rocketmail.com), by telephone (07887 565163), by leaving a message at one of the drop-off points if you would like us to collect your parcel, and by accessing Woking Foodbank's website (www.woking.foodbank.org.uk).

Thank you for your help and for thinking of others, Trudi & Darren .

FOBS

Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) are very excited to be planning events for this academic year and beyond. We are kicking things off with a quiz on Friday 26 November in the school hall. The last quiz in 2019 was a huge success and a wonderful evening was had by all. Tickets include a meal. If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please contact the school (01483 473315 or office@brookwood.school.sch.uk) who will pass your details onto a member of the FOBS team.

The Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 3 December where we invite the local community to join us at Brookwood School.

If you are interested in having a stall at our Christmas Fair, please contact the school who will pass on your details. This is going to be the perfect opportunity for you to get ahead and start getting some things ticked off your Christmas list and get into the festive spirit.

Looking ahead to next year, we will be running our very successful 'Just Move' event again. This was incredibly successful (thank you again to everyone who 'moved' with us this year!) providing valuable resources to our Well Being Hub, which is looking fantastic and is already being accessed by the children in school.

All events currently being planned will be subject to, and run in accordance with, any current COVID guidelines and restrictions.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Brookwood WI are very much enjoying being able to meet face to face again, and to see friends we haven't been able to see for a long time. In our October meeting we enjoyed a talk and presentation from Thinesh from Brookwood Food and Wine about his amazing photography talent. He showed us many pictures that he had taken and gave us an insight into the preparation and dedication required to take these stunning shots. Thank you Thinesh!

We have been tentatively planning for the next few meetings, hoping we will still be in a position to meet face to face, including a Christmas Bingo. If you are interested, please feel free to pop along to the Small Memorial Hall on the third Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm. Alternatively, give Jean (01483 829934) or Maureen (01483 475543) a call.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Brookwood Cemetery, a Historic England significant heritage destination, has once again received the National Green Flag Award status. The award scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world. The purpose is to promote the need to have access to quality green space and enable residents to live a healthier lifestyle.

Cllr Kevin Davis, Woking Borough Council's lead member for Brookwood Cemetery, said: "Brookwood Cemetery is a site like no other. The natural beauty, history and ecological value makes the grounds a unique asset to the community. Renewing our Green Flag status is a remarkable achievement to be proud of and a testament to the recent restoration works the cemetery has seen. The new features have transformed the area and, with the addition of contemplation spots and benches over the wetland, the site welcomes visitors with a renewed warmth and an intimate atmosphere."



In recent months, as part of the ongoing restoration of Brookwood Cemetery, Woking Borough Council has remediated 7,000 cubic metres of contaminated land within the grounds to create a beautiful new burial site and wetland area.

The new five and half acre site within the North Cemetery will be used predominantly for Muslim burials as other sites within the cemetery begin to reach capacity. The new site has space for 480 individual burial plots spread across two grassland areas which are linked by a raised boardwalk complete with contemplation spots and benches looking out onto the wetland.



The mature and established trees on site, some of which date back to the cemetery's original plantings in 1852, continue to play a pivotal role in the design providing cover for the meandering pathways that connect to the boardwalk. New planting includes a number of unusual ornamental tree and shrub species that resonate with the cemetery's Victorian design, along with native shrubs and wildflower.

The creation of a wetland has enabled the site's complex hydrology to be turned into a feature. The boardwalk design takes into account the site's fluctuating water levels, and marginal aquatic planting has been added to enhance the appearance of the wetland.

The main entrance of the North Cemetery had to be widened to get vehicles and machinery on and off site, so the opportunity was taken not only to improve the appearance of the main entrance but also to make reference the cemetery's historic railway. Feature paving, which forms part of the new road surface, mimics the tracks of the London Necropolis Railway that brought Victorian mourners and the deceased to Brookwood. The tree-lined route which the trains took has been emphasised by the new 'tracks' making it much easier for visitors to identify and appreciate.

VACANCY FOR PART-TIME PARISH ADMINISTRATOR FOR ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, PIRBRIGHT

We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic administrator to come and join St Michael and All Angels Church on a part-time basis to support our work. The purpose of the role is to provide the day-to-day administrative operations of the church in close co-operation with the Priest-in-Charge, Churchwardens, and the PCC. The role is currently based at Pirbright Church for some activities and from home for others as appropriate. 9 hours per week, primarily 9.30–12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with one Sunday morning (9.30–11.30) per month. There may be some flexibility around hours and school holidays dependent on workloads. The salary will be £507 per month. Closing Date: 9 November 2021.

Contact Helen Whitworth (helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com or 07777 659138) for more details and/or an application form.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

As part of its gradual approach to returning to normal, Brookwood Club is now allowing dogs inside the club as long as they are kept on a tight leash at all times. Poker will also be held on the first Monday of every month at 8pm. Bingo will be starting again soon so please watch out for an announcement about this shortly.

Finally, the club is very pleased to say that we will once again be putting up a Christmas tree for the village. Everyone is welcome to join us from 6pm on Saturday 4 December to see the lights being switched on at 7pm. More information on this and our other events can be found on notices in the club, on Facebook, Twitter and www.Brookwood.club.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY

The last bookable tour of this year will be on Sunday 7 November. Themed walks will restart in the Spring on the first Sunday of each month. Details of the bookable walks can be found on the Society's website (www.tbcs.org.uk).

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission are running free guided tours of Brookwood Military Cemetery in November. Further details can be found on the CWGC website. The public are requested to pre-book their tickets to avoid disappointment.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Pirbright Horticultural Society meeting will be on Tuesday 9 November. The talk will be by Vincent Gradwell and the subject "Gardening for Autumn Colour". Any visitors, new members and guests from Brookwood and surrounding area are all welcome to attend at 8pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall, The Green, Pirbright.

BROOKWOOD ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS

Robin Linklater, BAN Chairman, reports that at the September AGM it was decided, with much regret, to close the scheme. This was due to falling demand but mainly to the difficulty in getting sufficient Duty Officer coverage to maintain a reliable service to our clients. The Committee wishes to thank all those who have provided support over many years.



OCTAVIAN SINGERS IN THE MOOD FOR CHRISTMAS



St Saviour's Church is delighted to be able to host a concert again on Sunday 28 November at 6pm when local choir, The Octavian Singers, will be performing songs with a Christmas theme. The church will be set up café style, the overhead candles will be lit, and the musicians well-rehearsed, so do come along and enjoy a twinkly evening of music and song and get in a festive mood. Get together with family and friends and bring your own drinks and snacks. Doors open at 5.30pm and there will be a retiring collection. We look forward to seeing you!

Advance warning too that there will be a Ladies Advent Evening from 7.30pm on Thursday 2 December. Details of other Christmas events planned by St Saviour's Church for later in December will appear next month.

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 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.

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