BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2022

EDITORIAL

It's a pleasure to be able to report a wide range of events and activities this month, which not only reflect the feeling of optimism that spring brings, but also feelings of hope, as we continue to discard the shackles of the last two years (I refuse to use the "C" word!). Congratulations to Trudi Fletcher and best wishes to Tony Ward. They, the other nominees in the Person of the Year Award and the countless others who contribute in so many ways to life in Brookwood all epitomise what a special community we have in the village.

John Wheeler – Editor

TRUDI FLETCHER WINS BROOKWOOD PERSON OF THE YEAR



There were six nominations for the Brookwood Person of the Year Award sponsored by Bentleys Garage:

Trudi Fletcher
Sarah Ennis
Tony the ticket man from Brookwood Station
Natalie Proud
Tony Ward @ Fulk Bros
Tony Wright

It was very close, but we are pleased to announce that Trudi Fletcher has been voted the winner by the readers of the Brookwood Newsletter; she has received the Brookwood Person of the Year Award and £100 donation to the charity of her choice, Woking Foodbank. Bentleys Garage would like to congratulate all those who were nominated and thank the readers who assisted by voting.

WBC LOCAL ELECTIONS

An early reminder that the Woking Borough Council election will take place on Thursday 5 May 2022, with polling between 7.00am and 10.00pm. The last day to register to vote is Thursday 14 April and the deadline to receive new postal vote applications, or to change or cancel an existing postal, proxy or postal proxy vote arrangement, is 5.00pm, Tuesday 19 April.

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TONY WARD



Having been part of the Fulk Bros family business for 44 years, Tony Ward has decided to hang up his butcher's apron at the end of April. We all wish Tony a very long, happy, and healthy retirement. It will be very strange without him, but Jo Fulk assures us that their lovely customers will continue to be served by the Fulk Bros team of Steve, Joe, John, Stevie, Wayne, and herself, with the team working across both shops.

Tony will now have the time to enjoy his much-loved horse racing (the leading bookies' share prices are probably on the up already), football (does a season ticket at Norwich City beckon?), and to spend time with his family and friends. And if ever he gets bored, misses being in the shop, or just wants to pop in for a coffee (which he drinks a lot of if you didn't know!), he knows the door at Fulks is always open for him.

And for those of us of Tony's vintage, the photograph of him and Ian Boobyer from a Christmas long ago certainly brings back memories of his time in the village and his friendship over many years!



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 4-day long weekend approaches... Brookwood Memorial Halls is hosting a Street Party on Sunday 5 June between 12 noon and 4.00pm and you are all invited! It's an opportunity for us to meet together and celebrate again, especially after 2 years of the pandemic. We will provide tables, chairs, decorations, music, and dancing – come along with your children, and preferred food and drink to share with neighbours. Our volunteers will help with donated cakes, biscuits and soft drinks, stalls selling Pimm's and hopefully a BBQ. Activities for children, music and dancing are in plan, and some of our regular hirers will be showcasing their activities. Please contact Am Conway to book a table, to help a while on a stall, to contribute cakes or biscuits, to help with activities, arrange a demo of your activity, or help set up/clear up tasks. Please contact streetparty@bmhalls.org.uk or call Am on 07960 092729.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The April monthly meeting will be held in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall on Tuesday 12 April at 8pm. The speaker will be Gary Price and his topic will be 'Garden Design for shade'. All are welcome, including members, guests, and visitors. Refreshments will be available. Annual subscriptions are now due and can be paid by cash or cheque on the night or by bank transfer (£20 single, or £25 for a family). For bank details please contact the Treasurer at juliandidyk@sky.com. Advance warning too of the plant sale scheduled for 21 and 22 May, and the Annual Show on 30 July. Further details are available from Julian Didyk (07799 207059) or Philip Barralet (01483 473737).

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SUPPORT FOR BROOKWOOD RESIDENTS

Following the closure of Brookwood Good Neighbours scheme last September, it has been agreed that another local scheme – St Johns Care – will provide support to Brookwood residents. St Johns Care can be contacted on 07717 597721, Monday to Friday, 10am to 12 noon. Like all good neighbour schemes, St Johns Care is always looking for new volunteer drivers and duty officers. If you have some time to spare and would like to become involved, please contact the mobile number.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY GUIDED WALKS

Sunday 3 April, 1pm
Towards Freedom – North Cemetery. Led by Barry Devonshire
People buried at Brookwood who helped the Indian Sub-Continent obtain its freedom, along with some people who hindered the cause. We will explore the whole of the North Cemetery. Spaces are available for this walk.

Sunday 1 May, 1pm
People from the Indian Sub-Continent – North Cemetery. Led by Barry Devonshire
Another chance to come on the introduction to this year's series of events, this walk will feature people native to the Indian Sub-Continent and British who lived, travelled, and worked in pre-1947 India, and whose final resting place is Brookwood.

Sunday 1 May, 1pm
Nurses and Doctors. Led by Kim Lowe
This walk was originally planned in 2020, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, inspired by the St Thomas's Hospital plot. The walk will visit nurses and doctors who are notable in the medical profession, and it will then finish with celebratory refreshments.

Sunday 1 May, 1pm
Mausoleum walk. Led by Jon Leech
Another chance to visit and maybe view inside some of the many wonderfully designed and not so wonderfully designed mausoleums in the cemetery grounds, including 'The Jewel in the Crown'. You will also hear about the families who commissioned them and their stories.

Join the Society's free email information service for their future events by visiting the website at www.tbcs.org.uk. A reminder that booking is essential for the walks, which meet at the Society Lodge adjacent to the Cemetery Office. The average group size is 15 to 20 people, depending on bookings, which may be done by emailing walks@tbcs.org.uk or by calling 07714 289375, with a donation of £5 per person, which includes refreshments afterwards at the lodge. Once received, a place on the walk will be confirmed.

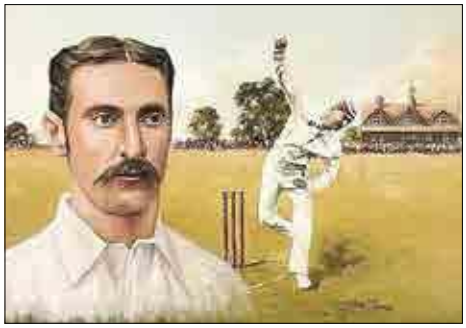
BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Brookwood Memorial Halls Management Committee Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 25 April at 8.15pm in the Community Hall – with suitable social distancing. All Brookwood residents are welcome to attend, stand for election or vote on matters arising – details on our website (www.bmhalls.org.uk). The formalities are brief, after which drinks and nibbles will be provided and an open discussion held on ideas for the Platinum Jubilee Street Party, so please come along.

BROOKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Brookwood Cricket Club is looking for new players for their Sunday friendly team. The Club plays every Sunday, starting with an away match at Farley Hill CC on 17 April. Home matches are on Sunday afternoons from 5 June to 7 August at the Brookwood recreation ground. Players range in age from 16 to 60+, so if you like cricket and wish to play in a friendly, sociable team who also enjoy a beer in the Club afterwards, please email Adrian Willoughby on willers100@hotmail.com.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY'S HIDDEN GEMS



Following the interesting story in the March edition about Frank Brock, the recent untimely deaths of Rod Marsh and Shane Warne, two iconic Australian cricketers, prompt the editor to mention a third such cricketer from "Down Under", Frederick "The Demon" Spofforth, who is buried in Brookwood Cemetery. Although playing in very different times, like Rod and Shane, Fred also seemed to have lived life very much on his own terms. He was a skilful, deceptively fast bowler, the first test cricketer to reach 50 wickets (bear in mind many fewer games were played then), the first to take a test match hat trick, and his personal performance at The Oval in 1882, in a game England was expected to win but didn't (sound familiar??), gave birth to "The Ashes" as the name for future test match series between England and Australia. And like almost every bowler, he had one remarkable game with the bat, top scoring with a half century, in a test match, when coming in to bat at number eleven! After his test career finished, Fred returned to this country to play county cricket for Derbyshire and subsequently was successful in business as a tea-merchant. He died in 1926.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL CRUISES



The Basingstoke Canal Society are very pleased to be able to offer a full programme of boat trips for the coming season with John Pinkerton cruises on the Basingstoke Canal from Odiham. A wide selection of themes is on offer and bookings are being taken for trips from April to October 2022.

The season starts with a 1.00pm departure on Sunday 10 April, cruising to Stacey's Bridge and a visit to The Old Thatch Cottage, Winchfield, as part of the National Garden Scheme open days. Numbers on the cruises will be limited while the canal water level is low but increased as the level rises. It's just a short walk from Stacey's Bridge to the garden and you will have about 2 hours to explore. A licensed bar will be open for both legs of the trip, and coffee, tea and cakes will be served in the garden. The return journey will depart about 4.30pm.

To book, go to www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk where details of this and future cruises can be found, or call the booking team on 07506 864411 between 10.00am and 6.00pm.

THE LOST CHAPEL

In 2019 Woking Borough Council announced that it had fully restored a lost Victorian chapel, discovered in the undergrowth at Brookwood Cemetery. The exquisitely sculpted, Gothic style chapel, built almost entirely from Bath stone, had been sympathetically restored, using original materials and specialist tradespeople.

It was built in 1858 by the Colquhouns as their family mausoleum. It was last restored in 1924 by Violette Freeman in memory of Eliza Colquhoun Redhouse, but subsequently left to disappear behind a thick wall of shrubs and rhododendrons.

Two years on, Surrey Historic Buildings Trust has recently announced the shortlist for the Surrey Heritage Awards 2022 and the lost chapel is one of six projects shortlisted for this year's awards, which celebrate Surrey's architectural heritage by highlighting the best recent conservation and restoration projects.

A judging panel led by Dr Seán O'Reilly, Director of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, is currently assessing the shortlisted projects. The winners will be revealed at a ceremony to be held at Brooklands Museum in Weybridge on 30 March, just as this edition goes to press, so keep an eye open for the results and fingers crossed that our local project is successful.



WOKING PEREGRINE PROJECT

A reminder that this time of year should see the return of activity in the peregrine nest at the top of Export House in Woking. The cameras are rolling again, covering the nest and the areas in the immediate vicinity, and can be accessed via www.wokingperegrines.com.

The peregrines have been successfully breeding now for the last 6 years. After the tragic death of the original falcon in July 2020, a new falcon moved in to take her place. 2021 proved to be another great year, with four chicks surviving to fledging. At the end of last year, the original male was found dead on the balcony of one of the new builds. Very shortly after, a new male was observed, and he was quick to chase off the juveniles. So, it will be interesting this year to see if this new pairing will successfully breed.



BROOKWOOD CLUB

Brookwood Club hosted another successful Bingo session on 5 March. Whilst some left without winning a single game, young Seamus Cushnahan swept the board and won £28! Seamus, 10, announced his intention to donate his winnings to a charity supporting Ukraine. A quick whip around in the club boosted Seamus's total donation to £80. Well done, Seamus! Bingo is every first Saturday of the month.

The Club's AGM will be held on Monday 25 April at 8pm. Members only. A new Director and Committee Members will be elected.

We are looking for new bar staff to cover shifts at weekends and in the week. If you are interested, please come in and talk to Gareth, our Bar Manager, or email info@brookwood.club.



SHYNEFEST 2022

Information has been received about Shynefest, a family music festival planned for 3 and 4 June at Merrist Wood. The organisers say their target markets are families with children under 16 and, of course, live music fans. Previously held in Walton-on-Thames, this seems to be a first for this locality, so perhaps in years to come we'll be able to look back and draw comparisons with the start of Glastonbury and the Isle of Wight!

EASTER AT ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

There will be an Hour by the Cross reflection on Good Friday (15 April) from 2–3pm, and an Easter Café Church on Easter Sunday (17 April) at 10.00am.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Brookwood WI were fortunate to get together in March for their birthday meeting. The committee put together a delicious meal of jacket potatoes, various fillings, and salad, followed by roulade and birthday cakes (thank you Lisa!) before we were entertained by Natasha from Get Happy Productions, who sang for over an hour a variety of songs from wartime classics to rock and roll to 1980s hits. It was impossible to not sing along! Everybody left that night still singing and dancing.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19 April in the Small Hall. If you are interested in popping along, you will be more than welcome, or you can ring Maureen, President, on 01483 475543 for details.

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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