BROOKWOOD NEWS

October 2022



EDITORIAL

Do you enjoy reading Brookwood News? Would you miss it if it didn't land on your doormat each month? I hope that the answer to both questions is yes!

The reason for asking is that the newsletter is produced and distributed by volunteers, and so our only cost is that of printing the newsletter each month. However, the only income we receive is from advertisements and in these difficult times the number of advertisers has dropped. We're extremely grateful to all those local businesses that have advertised in the past, and especially to Seymours for their ongoing support, but our funds are running very low.

We'd love to hear from any businesses that would like to advertise in future and any organisations or individuals that feel they might be able to make a donation to help with our costs. If you'd like to advertise or donate (or both!), or have any other thoughts on other funding sources, please email us at community@brookwood.org.uk.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Pauline Lock, who delivered the newsletter to 35 homes – most on Elphinstone Close but a few on Connaught Road – for over 8 years, but has now moved away. If you would like to volunteer to deliver to these houses, please contact Barbara Lugton on 07891 771168 or the email above.

Thank you for reading this; now please enjoy reading about everything from some lovely community initiatives, hobbies and entertainment, right up to a royal visit!

John Power, Editor

ROYAL VISIT



The new Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Army Training Centre last month to meet with Commonwealth troops deployed to the UK for the State Funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. Soldiers from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand had gathered to rehearse their roles in the ceremony.

The royal couple were there to thank the troops for the part they were due to play as some of approximately 6,000 service personnel from all three branches of the Armed Forces and from across the Commonwealth that were involved in the processions before and after the funeral.



SCHOOL NEWS

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher of Brookwood Primary School. I have been fortunate to have worked with Brookwood on a range of projects during my time within the Bourne Education Trust, and most recently in preparation for my new role. I am absolutely committed to continuing the school's positive journey and further enhancing our strong links with our families and with you as local residents.

I have over 20 years' teaching experience and have worked from Early Years through to KS3/4. Within that time, I have held a number of roles as a class teacher, subject lead and senior leader. As a long-standing SENCo, I am passionate about inclusion.

Having worked with the Bourne Education Trust for several years now, I am delighted to continue to work with them as I embark on the next stage of my teaching career. The Trust are incredibly supportive of our school and have made significant investment in its development, most recently through refurbishment of classrooms and the addition of a new entrance and office space. We are also excited to begin work on building our new school website over the coming months which will showcase our school as it continues to develop and grow. I look forward to updating you on this and other events within the school community over the course of the academic year.

Wendy Thomas

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

Interested in finding out what your property is worth?
Contact **Andrew** or **Simon** on **01483 798969**
to arrange a **FREE, no obligation valuation**.

seymours-estates.co.uk

Seymours

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 October at 7.45pm in the small Memorial Hall. Our speaker on the night will be Jane Lewis from the History Centre who will give her talk "Fashion and Folly". Why not come and join us? Visitors are always welcome.

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Following the successful Jubilee Party, the Committee at Brookwood Memorial Halls (BMH) is keen to continue welcoming the community to the Halls. They have introduced two new initiatives: Welcoming Space and Brookwood Memorial Christmas Trail.

Welcoming Space



Brookwood Memorial Halls
Adjacent, 150 Connaught Road, Brookwood GU24 0AL

Over the winter period Brookwood Memorial Halls would like to open the doors of its committee room to people who are looking for somewhere warm to share a cuppa over a board game or newspaper with neighbours. We are planning to **start** on *Tuesday every week in October between 10am-12pm*.

We need YOUR help....

Can you spare a couple of hours to welcome and spend a little time with our guests once a week during October?

- Do you have some unwanted board games that you can lend or donate to us?

If so please message us or email management@bmhalls.org.uk

If you'd like to join us for a cuppa, we'd love to see you on 4 October at 10am.

CHRISTMAS TRAIL

We've noticed that there are lots of fantastically decorated houses in Brookwood over the festive season and we want to celebrate them. We are therefore taking the plunge with the first of our annual BMH Festive Christmas Trails, and we would like to invite you to join us anytime from Monday 12 to Saturday 17 December.

We appreciate that purses might be tight this year so, even if you aren't decorating outside your home, a homemade window display will be just the ticket too. There will be a small prize for the house that is voted "Best Dressed Outside" by the village.

On the final day of the trail, Saturday 17 December, we are hoping you will all join us for mince pies, mulled wine and a Christmas carol singalong at Brookwood Memorial Hall between 5 and 8pm – so please put this in your diaries.

If you would like to nominate your house to be part of our Christmas Trail or have any questions, please email management@bmhalls.org.uk with your name and address and we'll add your home to the map.

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL

This year's Christmas campaign on behalf of Woking Foodbank (https://woking.foodbank.org.uk) will commence on Saturday 29 October and finish on Saturday 10 December. With the recent rise in the cost of living and fuel costs, some will be making that difficult choice as to whether to put the heating on or feed their family.

It would be amazing if you can help in any way. We'd welcome non-perishable items or donations either of cash or via our JustGiving page. Please either visit https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/trudi-fletcher-2 or scan the code below.

The donations will be used to purchase non-perishables and essential items. We have found the JustGiving page a great success, especially for those less able to visit the shops. Please do ensure that you leave your contact name.

If you would like to provide a food parcel, please attach a label with your name and address so we can thank you personally. Drop-off points are currently Brookwood Club and also Bakers Dozen/Post Office during working hours. If you would like to be a drop-off point too, please do let us know and we can get the word out.

If you are a local company and would like to get involved, please do let us know. Trudi will be undertaking regular radio interviews with Radio Woking again based at Winston Churchill School, and is more than happy to promote your business through all types of social media throughout the campaign.



If you'd like us to collect your parcel or just have a question, please email trudifletcher@rocketmail.com, telephone 0788 7565163, or just leave a message at one of the drop-off points. We've already dusted off the sleigh in anticipation of collecting all those heavy food parcels!

Thank you for your help and for thinking of others

Trudi & Darren

BROOKWOOD ART GROUP

During the summer Brookwood Art Group held several "en plein air" sessions where members met and did their artwork out of doors, for example at Fox Corner Wildlife Area and at Pirbright Green and Pond, thus taking advantage of the summer weather.

We were also involved at the West End Show on September 10. Here we had a stall on which we displayed and offered for sale members' pictures, and handmade greetings cards for charity. We also participated in the various competitive art classes included in the show, and several members were successful, including one who won a cup for her work.

In the weeks ahead we are holding a charity coffee morning, and have several demonstrations and a workshop organized. These are given by well known local artists, and enable members to improve and develop their skills and techniques.



The Brookwood Art Group meets every Friday from 9.30 to 12.30pm at the Memorial Hall. We include all standards of artists from novices to experienced, and welcome any prospective members to come along and try out the group if they think they may like to join.

For details: email art.brookwood@outlook.com, visit www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com or call 07827 893102.

630-MILE WALKIES



Approximately 25 years ago, a group of Brookwood mums started walking the South West Coast path, which runs for 630 miles from Minehead on the north coast of Devon, and ends at the Sandbanks ferry in Dorset. Not only was it a great challenge to take on, but it was a good way of having a fun break from the children, who were mostly at Brookwood School at the time. One weekend a year, we would drop them off on Friday morning and then drive to the West Country to walk around 10–12 miles on Saturday, and another 10 on Sunday, arriving back in Brookwood in time to pick up the children on Monday afternoon. Over the years the group, who became known as The Stragglers, grew to almost 40 women at one time, leaving a lot of motherless children in the village.

On completing the path to Plymouth, The Stragglers broke up into smaller groups, with some going back to the beginning as they had joined later and had missed sections. However, on Saturday 10 September seven of us – Barbara, Mary, Jo, Hilary, Judith, Anne and Yvonne – finally made it to the finish line. Holding hands, wearing our light blue T-shirts emblazoned "per ardua ad tabernam" and watched by an open top bus load of passengers waiting for the ferry (who must have thought we were all mad), we trudged up to the official blue sign marking the finish line and cheered. The bubbles and celebration came later!

We have had a wonderful time walking together through all types of weather, over different terrains, finding tea shops, pubs and bays that we didn't know existed, and occasionally getting lost. We have climbed huge cliffs, stumbled over rocky beaches, slid down steep slopes, and limped back to the accommodation foot weary but happy. The changing scenery along the way has been stunning, and we feel so lucky to have made good friends and had the opportunity to achieve this challenge. Many thanks to Susan Thornton who started us all off on this adventure and who achieved her goal several years ago.

THE FAIRY QUEEN



The Woking Baroque Opera Ensemble will be performing "The Fairy Queen" at St Saviour's, Brookwood, on Sunday 9 October at 5pm.

Perhaps you're thinking "Baroque is not for me"? Have you ever heard a harpsichord played live? It really is a stunning instrument and perhaps the one most associated with the Baroque era. However, the harpsichord has never gone out of fashion; listen closely to "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys and "The Real Slim Shady" by Eminem to hear it in a more modern setting.

There will be fairies pinching and tormenting a poet, a drag shepherdess singing a love duet and, of course, the most exceptionally beautiful music! This version focuses on the Fairy Court and guests as they celebrate King Oberon's Birthday. Interruptions come from humans who have wandered into the woods but, as the night progresses, there is much mischief and Oberon and Titania fall out. The performance is suitable for children and is performed in two 40-minute parts with an interval.

There are a number of talented local professional musicians in the cast and ensemble including Richard Johnson, both a Brookwood resident and a member of the newsletter team. Richard plays Phoebus, the God of the Sun and the guest of honour at King Oberon's birthday party.

Please visit https://www.ticketebo.co.uk/thefairyqueen for more information and tickets.

ENERGY COSTS

I'm sure everyone is aware that energy bills are set to increase significantly from this month and again in January 2023. While every household will be offered a £400 energy grant, this won't cover the extra cost. There is also a new 'Sustainable Warmth' grant of up to £10,000 that will be available for families with a household income of less than £30,000. The grant can be used to fund heating and insulation measures. Details will be published on the Surrey County Council website and social media channels soon.

Here are some actions, suggested by the Energy Saving Trust, that you can take that might help reduce your energy usage and its cost.

Save £105 per year by turning down your thermostat by 1 degree if it is safe for you to do so
Save up to £65 a year by draught proofing your chimney (when not in use) and your windows and doors
Save £60 a year by drying clothes on racks or outside rather than in the tumble dryer
Save £55 a year by replacing old bulbs with LEDs
Save up to £55 a year by switching off equipment on standby or lights when not needed
Save £28 a year by washing at 30 degrees and do one less wash a week

If you find that you are struggling with your energy bills, please contact your electricity and gas suppliers for advice, payment breaks and for more information on grants. You can also get information about financial and health support advice from Surrey's Health and Welfare Support web page and their Community Helpline on 0300 200 1008 (Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm).



BROOKWOOD CLUB

In addition to the regular bingo on the first Saturday of the month open to everyone in the village, poker on most Monday evenings and the quiz on Sunday evenings for members and their guests, there will be a Halloween disco from 8pm on Saturday 29 October. Members, their children and guests are encouraged to dress up as there will be prizes for the best costumes!



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 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 OCTOBER preferably by e-mail to community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

Printed by Knaphill Print and delivered to your door by a very lovely person.