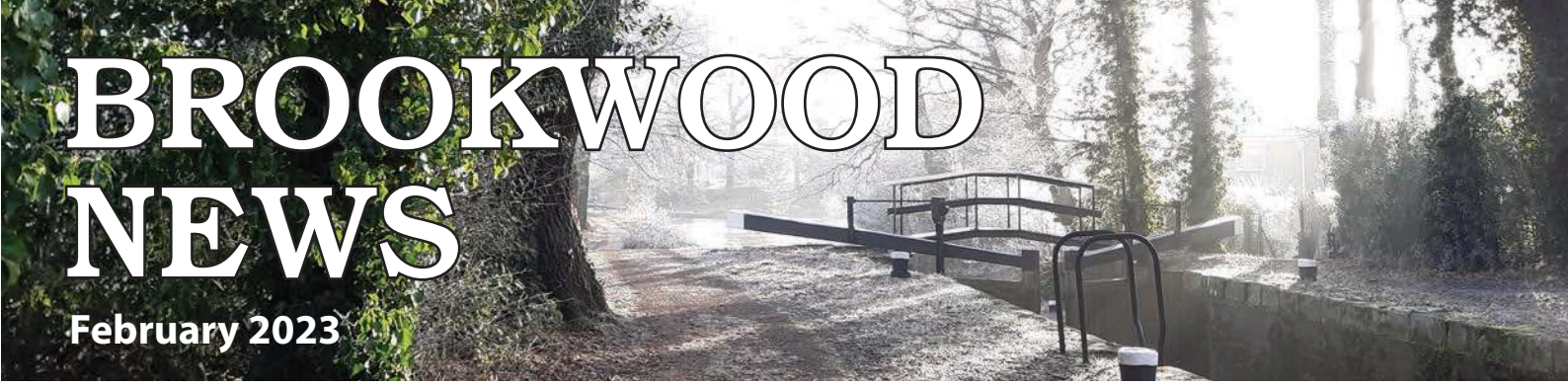


BROOKWOOD NEWS

February 2023

EDITORIAL

I was listening to a radio interview recently where the speaker said that the importance of a strong community means that the people involved can cope better at times of hardship and difficulty by supporting each other. Bounded by a railway, a canal and two bridges, we are a well-defined community and, as I listened to that interview, I thought how lucky we are to live somewhere that does have close links with neighbours and friends. We joke sometimes that, when people move out of the village, they become associate Brookwoodians because they still have strong ties to the organisations and people who live here. This month there are several pleas for help and opportunities to join in, so, with King Charles encouraging volunteering, do think about where you could volunteer. Thank you to everyone who has contributed this month, and to all those who continue to run and help at our various organisations and businesses, keeping Brookwood a friendly, lively and supportive place to live.

Yvonne Craven – Editor

POPPY COLLECTION IN BROOKWOOD



Thank you to the residents, the school and businesses of Brookwood for the incredible effort that led to the Poppy Appeal raising £276.84 from the tins placed in shops. A great effort that helped Woking achieve a record collection in 2022.

Kevin Davis

SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION



Brookwood Scouts ran another successful Christmas tree collection on Sunday 8 January, collecting almost 100 trees for recycling and raising a fantastic total of £771. Half the funds raised have been donated to Woking & Sam Beare Hospice, while the rest will go towards replacing some very old tents, ready for camp this summer, and repairing the leaky shed where we store our kit. We would like to thank the local community for its support and generous donations. Thanks also go to local resident Peter Goold for lending us his van, to Lawrence and Jack who brought their vans to help with the collection, and to all the leaders, parents and kids who gave up their Sunday morning to shift Christmas trees in the rain.

As you may know, Brookwood Scouts is run entirely by volunteers who meet every Friday to run fun and educational Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sessions. We are proud to provide a varied and exciting programme, and to be part of the lives of so many local families. One of the highlights of the upcoming spring term is the individual final of the County Air Rifle Competition. Two of our Scouts have qualified, so we wish them the best of luck. To continue to run our sessions we need more adult leaders and helpers on Friday nights, as well as the invaluable administrative support that ensures our group continues to thrive. In particular, we urgently require a new treasurer to manage the group's finances. This would need an hour or two a month keeping the accounts and making payments. Please contact Group Scout Leader, Joe Thorneywork, at gsl@brookwoodscouts.org.uk or call 07930988936 if you can help in any way.

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LOCAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Brookwood Lye Road

Cllr Kevin Davis has been working with residents to try and get Brookwood Lye developed as per the original plans, widely consulted on and currently stuck in the planning system. Following the report in last month's newsletter about Woking Borough Council looking to change the plans for development at Brookwood Lye, three local residents attended the meeting of the Council's Executive Committee on 19 January to ask questions of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ann-Marie Barker, and to seek further information about the Council's intentions. The full exchanges are available to view on the Council's webcast page (www.woking.public-i.tv). A reminder also that the e-petition is still available to sign online and can be accessed via the QR code.

The Meadows, Bagshot Road



The Meadows is a derelict and fire-damaged former 24-bed care home from the 1990s on Bagshot Road, neighbouring the Nags Head pub in Knaphill. It has sat vacant since 2013 and has not only become an eyesore to local residents, but has attracted anti-social behaviour. A proposed development to build a new modern complex of 34 extra care apartments in its place had been refused by Woking Borough Council's planning committee, despite having the overwhelming support of local residents. At the Planning Committee on Tuesday 17 January, Knaphill Conservative Councillor Melanie Whitehand proposed that the Committee approve this development. She was seconded by fellow Conservative Councillor Steve Dorsett and the committee voted five votes to three in favour of approval.



SCHOOL QUIZ?

Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) are holding a quiz at the school on Friday 24 February, 7pm for 7.45pm start. Cost is £10 per person to include entry and hot food. Please get in touch by emailing fobschair@googlemail.com if you would like to enter a team of up to eight people.

SUNDAY STROLLS

Brookwood Cemetery Society are starting their Sunday walks again with details on their website. Booking in advance is essential and the average group size is 15–20 people. Email walks@tbcs.org.uk or call 07714 289375 and make a donation of £5 per person. This includes refreshments afterwards at the lodge. All money raised from the donations goes towards Society restoration projects. For future events visit Brookwood Cemetery Society (website www://tbcs.org.uk) where you can also learn more about this unique historic cemetery and some celebrities buried there.

Sunday 5 March – 2pm
Introductory Walk, South Cemetery: a general walk in the South Cemetery features the beauty, interesting monuments, and people who chose Brookwood as their final resting place.

Introductory Walk, North Cemetery: explore the former non-conformist section containing burials from many different beliefs and diverse backgrounds.

Mausoleum Walk, led by Jon Leech: Brookwood has wonderfully designed (and not so wonderfully designed!) mausoleums, including 'The Jewel in the Crown'. Learn about the families who commissioned them and their stories.

WARM SPACE & WELL-BEING

St Saviour's Church services and events continue to evolve with the needs of the community and have recently been well attended, especially the weekly Friday morning coffee, and monthly 'Lunch with Friends'. Morning services are held every Sunday at 10am, but check the website as occasionally there is a joint service at Holy Trinity, Knaphill. Anyone is welcome to the new informal Sunday evening service at 6.30pm, with the youth group (school years 10 –13) gathering after the service.

Sunday services, 10am and 6.30pm

Warm space & coffee morning, Fridays
10 –12.30pm

Lunch with Friends, 28 February 12 – 2pm (soup & dessert)

Bereavement course starting 22 February, 7.45pm for 6 weeks (see flyer)

Check the website https://htandstschurch.org for further details of any of these events.



NEW PRE-SCHOOL OPENS AT ST SAVIOUR'S









On 9 January, Holy Trinity Pre-School, Brookwood opened its doors in St Saviour's church hall. We are registered for 40 children and are open for 38 weeks of the year in line with the local schools' term times. We take children from 2 years old until they go to Reception of their chosen school. Our team are experienced, passionate, Early Years Practitioners qualified to Level 3. They are committed to making each individual child's experience the best it can be in their formative years.

We are open Monday to Friday 7.30am to 6pm, with funded sessions available during our core hours. To find out more about our pre-school and what we can offer, please contact the manager Sarah Bowman on 07513 875436 or 01483 888531 during opening hours, or email us preschool@htandstschurch.org.

RUPERT BEAR CLOSE TO HOME

Alfred Edmeades Bestall MBE (1892–1986) [PLOT 100]

Writer, Cartoonist, Illustrator

Alfred is notable for writing and illustrating the Rupert Bear adventures for the London Daily Express from 1935 to 1965. He was born in Mandalay, Burma on 14 December 1892, as his father was a Methodist missionary there. Returning to England, Alfred attended Rydal Mount school in Colwyn Bay, continuing his education at LCC Central School of Arts and Crafts in Camden, which was interrupted by the war. During the First World War, Alfred, aged 22 years, did service as a motor transport driver in Flanders. He would convey troops, ammunition, and stores in a range of vehicles including a double-decker London bus, often under enemy fire.

After the war he completed his studies and gained employment to illustrate Enid Blyton's books, along with illustrations in Punch and Tatler. During World War Two he served again, this time as an air raid warden.

Alfred Bestall took over the illustrating of Rupert in 1935, from Mary Tourtel, producing his last Rupert story on the 22 July 1965, but continued to create the covers and endpapers of the annuals till 1973. A regular feature in the annuals was the making of origami models, resulting in the formation of the



British Origami Society in 1967, of which Alfred served as its president for many years. He was appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1985. Alfred was unable to receive it in person due to ill health. On his 93rd birthday he received a message from Prince Charles, sending him congratulations and many happy returns for his birthday. Sadly, Alfred died shortly after on 15 January 1986. He is buried with his father, Reverend Albert Henry Arthur and mother Rebecca, who was 100 years of age, and his sister Mary Agnes. Alfred never married and he was once asked if he regretted not having children of his own, to which he replied, 'Not really, I feel as if I've had thousands of them', reflecting on the countless young readers he had.

Researched and written by Kim Lowe, Brookwood Cemetery Society



SINGERS NEEDED



Pirbright Singers will be performing Fauré's Requiem, on 1 April, 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels, Pirbright. We are also seeking additional members to help us perform this beautiful work and many other pieces. We are particularly looking to recruit tenors and basses to join our fun and friendly choir. We perform a mixture of seasonal, classical and fun pieces, holding concerts and participating in local fundraising events. You don't have to be able to read music but, if you enjoy singing and would like to learn more, you are very welcome. We rehearse on Monday evenings in Pirbright. For more information, please call Anna Salter on 07932 043676.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

(also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk)

Tuesday 14 February

Horticultural Society talk, 7.30pm, Pirbright Hall

Wednesday 22 February

Bereavement course, 7.45pm, St Saviour's Church

Friday 24 February

FOBS Quiz, 7pm, Brookwood School

Tuesday 28 February

Lunch with Friends,12–2pm, St Saviour's Church

Sunday 5 March

Cemetery walks, 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery Society

CALLING ALL GIRLS AGED 6–9!

Calling all girls between the ages of 6 and 9. The Pirbright Girls Youth Football Club is on its way. Training will commence this coming May 2023 with some fun activities in the lead-up. Whether you want to take on a new sport, or build on existing skills with FA-accredited coaching, this club is for you. We also need adult volunteers to assist in a number of positions from coaching (training opportunities available), assisting, or day-to-day support roles. Here is your chance to be a part of something really special and help us shape the club that produces lionesses of the future.

Please contact Glenn or Jennie at pirbrightgirlsfc@yahoo.com to register your interest or for more information.





Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

The cost of advertising is £30.00. 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 MARCH NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 FEBRUARY 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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