

BROOKWOOD NEWS

June 2023

EDITORIAL

Well, at the time of writing, spring has truly sprung, of late the weather has been very kind, Mother Nature is working her magic, and the freshness and colour of the local scenery is, as ever, very uplifting.

Equally colourful was the pageantry of the Coronation early in May; it was a spectacular reminder of the unique history of our country, made all the more vivid to those watching on television because of the technological advances that we now take for granted. My admittedly hazy recollection of the 1953 Coronation (also on a somewhat soggy day) is at the other end of the spectrum – a fuzzy view on a 9" black and white television screen. Whilst some of us might not witness another such event in our lifetime, the youngsters of today inevitably will, and it does make one wonder how that will be reported and viewed.

The diary of events is also beginning to report the activities that we always associate with summer, together with some new ones, so more reasons to be cheerful. Thanks as always to our contributors, and we hope that you enjoy this edition.

John Wheeler – Editor

CORONATION

The Coronation was celebrated in various ways in the village. Some 25 people attended a coffee morning at St Saviour's on Friday 5 May, wearing red, white and blue, and there were cakes, scones and a Royal Quiz. Julie Levett brought a regal air to the proceedings by wearing an impressive crown, though it's not known how she smuggled it out of the Tower of London! A puppet service was held on Sunday 7 May celebrating the Coronation.

Elsewhere, bunting was on display at Brookwood Club and St Saviour's Church, and the window display at one Connaught Road property certainly caught the eye. Apparently the "God Save The King" flag was discovered under a stage 50 years ago and the owner has been waiting ever since to be able to display it. As they say, patience is a virtue!





BROOKWOOD CLUB

In June, Bingo will be held on the first Saturday, and the Club will be closed for a committee meeting on the third Monday of the month. More information can be found on notices in the Club, on Facebook, Twitter and at www.brookwood.club.

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CORONATION









SUMMER MUSICAL EVENT

Join the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for a very special evening of remembrance, history and music at Brookwood Military Cemetery on Thursday 6 July.

We've put together a memorable programme, perfect for all the family, including:

- Live performances from Surrey Wing Royal Air Force Air Cadets, Harp & a Monkey and Richard Digance
- Guided tours around the cemetery
- Lots of stalls to explore
- Hot drinks and cake stall

Gates open at 3pm and music starts from 4.30pm. Bring along your picnic and blankets and enjoy this special outdoor event.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite. Book yours to avoid disappointment! Parking is limited on site and pre-booking is essential. Please book your parking in the ticket section to avoid disappointment; vehicles that arrive on the night without pre-booking will be turned away.

By coming along, you will be helping us keep the memories of those who died during the World Wars alive, as all profits from the evening will be going to the charitable arm of the CWGC (www.foundation.cwgc.org). We can't wait to help you explore just some of the stories of the men and women we commemorate here. We hope to see you there.

THE BIG HELP OUT

Local residents Jane and Andrew Pettinger, Barbara Lugton and Hilary Gower joined forces over the Coronation weekend to brighten up the bus shelter at the Pirbright end of the village. Well done to them!





PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Plant Sale. Our June meeting will take the form of a visit on Monday 12 June, and not on our usual Tuesday, to Carol Gubler's Littlebrook Fuchsia Nursery, near Aldershot, GU12 6HL, at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Looking forward, we have a demonstration of flower arranging on Tuesday 11 July at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall by Elizabeth Barralet, to encourage entries for the floral art classes of our Annual Show on 29 July, which will be held in Lord Pirbright's Hall, The Green, Pirbright, GU24 0JE, from 2.30 until 5.30pm.

If anyone would like a copy of the schedule, which shows all classes available for all age groups, and we would love to encourage children's entries, please contact Philip Barralet (philipbarralet@gmail.com) and he will get you a copy.

The show is open to everyone and not just members so, if you have grown vegetables, fruit, flowers, taken photographs, enjoy cooking, or enjoy flower arranging or some other craft, you can enter. Please try to participate and enter into the spirit of the show!

WOKING PEREGRINE PROJECT

A reminder that this time of year has seen the return of activity in the peregrine nest at the top of Export House in Woking. The peregrines have been successfully breeding now for the last 8 years and, at the time of writing, three chicks have hatched this year. The cameras are rolling again, covering the nest and the areas in the immediate vicinity, and can be accessed via www.wokingperegrines.com.



MEMORIES OF BROOKWOOD

In our April edition we reported the passing of Brian Kinder, then believed to be the longest living resident of Brookwood. Wendy, his wife, and herself a familiar face in the village, has provided the following memories of Brian's life.

'When Brian was born, he lived with his mum, dad and sister, Lois, in rooms at the telephone exchange which was opposite the Brookwood Working Men's Club. The telephonists were Gladys Lovelock and Mrs Webster. His gran and grandad Wells ived in Bridge Cottage at Brookwood crossroads. They were owned by the Necropolis Company and grandad worked for them. When grandad died, Brian and the family moved in to look after gran, and Brian remembered going from the telephone exchange to the cottage in his pedal car.

Brian went to Brookwood School, and he has always been good with his times tables which he put down to spending too much time in the air raid shelters, where they sang or did their times tables until the "all clear" sounded. A bomb landed in the cemetery and on Arnold's garage. The children watched the "dog fights", too young to realise that people might die as a result.



Brian's dad was the cobbler and shoe mender in the village. His workshop was in the orchard, which was next to the church and where the taxi office and shops are now. He worked very long hours mending the boots for the soldiers in Pirbright Camp. The cobblers shop later moved next to Fulks the butchers and the slaughterhouse at the rear.

When Brian was 18, he joined the RAF and became a radar mechanic. He was a good athlete and represented the RAF on many occasions, winning cups and plaques and, strangely, a set of teaspoons. After de-mob, Brian worked for local electronic companies, which were often taken over by the larger factories, and so he worked for EMI as an electronic engineer.

The Brookwood Dramatic Society, run by Josie Creasy, raised money to build the new Memorial Hall, and staged two plays and a pantomime each year. They rehearsed in Brookwood Working Men's Club. When the rented pantomime horse arrived, it was huge. Brian was in the bar there and, as he was 6'2", they asked him if he would be the front end of the horse. He joined the society and acted and helped making scenery, and also met Wendy. They married in 1966 and had two sons.

Brian enjoyed painting, and Oliver Guest, Ella Hatherly and her sister Olive painted together in Olive's kitchen. Sheila Barrows and other folk also liked to paint and draw, and they realised they had outgrown the kitchen, so moved to the Memorial Hall and Brookwood Art Group was formed.'

BROOKWOOD WI

At our May meeting, Brookwood WI discussed the proposal to help clean up rivers and waterways for the future. The WI has suggested introducing more designated areas to swim in, which means that they are covered by more rules and legislation and ensure the water is clean. It was an interesting discussion, with many points raised and something to take forward to national level.

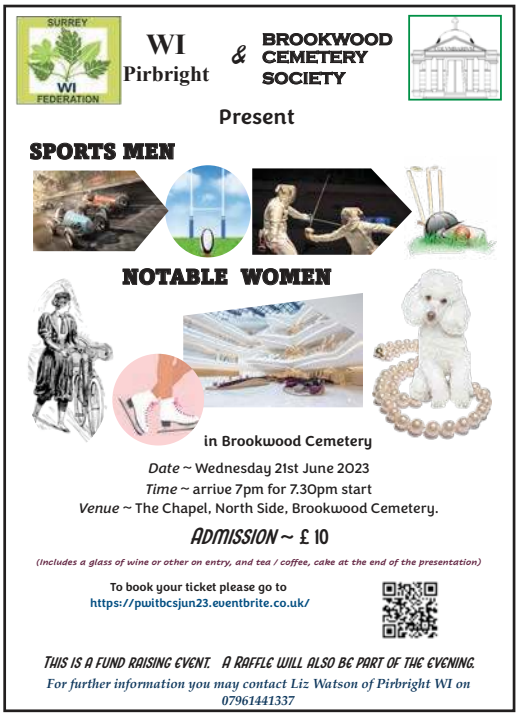
But I can't knit.... But I can't make jam... I don't know how to sew... Isn't it for retired ladies...? Jackie Kenny comments "Well, I can't knit (despite numerous efforts from my Grandmum), my jam is sometimes pourable, my sewing is basic, and I'm not retired. But I love it! Each month is something different; we've had talks on Sri Lanka, crop circles, the cemetery and Lumberjills. We've had demonstrations on flower art. We've had discussions on current topics. I first joined when my son was born, nearly 12 years ago. I was welcomed with open arms, encouraged to get involved and now look forward to seeing everyone each month."

So, why not come along one month and see what the WI has to offer. If you are interested in joining us, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the small hall, from 7.30pm.

WBC ELECTION RESULTS FOR HEATHLANDS WARD

Name of candidate	Description	Number of votes
KANDEMIR, Canan	Labour Party	135
LEEK, Trevor William	The Conservative Party	1,026
MASON, Jennifer Rebecca	The Green Party	159
RICE, Leslie James	Liberal Democrats	1,725 (ELECTED)
SQUIRE, Judith	Heritage Party	55

- Vacant seats: 1
- Electorate: 7,058
- Ballot papers issued: 3,111
- Turnout: 44.08%





BROOKWOOD POST OFFICE

Café society has come to Brookwood! Sean has installed a very smart covered eating area outside the Bakery/Post Office, so with the summer months upon us why not pop down (rain or shine) to enjoy a freshly made coffee, and a range of hot and cold sandwiches, pastries and cakes.



BROOKWOOD – SCRUFFY OR SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY?

Have you wondered why the grass verges and amenity greens in the village have been allowed to fall into such an unkempt state this summer?

The answer is that Surrey County Council have taken over the responsibility from district and borough councils for grass cutting, weed spraying and treatment of harmful weeds on the highway verges in Surrey.

SCC say that they ensure their highway verge maintenance contributes to their greener futures objectives and provides a greater ability to support the national Blue Campaign (www.bluecampaignhub.com), which encourages councils and residents to find suitable land to let nature take over and enable wildflowers to grow by reducing grass cutting. By managing highways verges and roundabouts differently, they hope to make a significant impact by increasing biodiversity, helping wildlife to thrive and encourage more carbon absorption.

All of which is very laudable; however, the grass cutting programme shows that, although the main cutting season is from April to September, and the County Council may start cutting as early as March, with a final cut as late as October, their programme for the Borough of Woking has Brookwood down for its "next cut" (actually its first cut) in the week ending 26



May – two months after the start of the cutting season!

By the time this edition has landed on residents' doormats the village might be looking a little less dishevelled, although, as the cuttings will be left behind, that remains to be seen; however, the planned frequency of cuts in the coming months suggests that we could be lucky to see two more visits before it's deemed to be too late for the work to be done. So, a cynic might perhaps say that financial constraints, rather than protecting nature, are the reasons for the lack of mowing activity. Others might be extolling the virtues of No-mow May!

BROOKWOOD LYE

Only a brief update this month, following correspondence with the Leader of Woking Borough Council, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, and with the recently elected councillor for the Heathlands ward, Cllr Leslie Rice.

Cllr Barker has stated that "no decision has been made on how we move forward with the site". Cllr Rice comments that "his understanding is that there have not been any material decisions regarding The Lye since Woking BC became a majority Liberal Democrat administration, and, additionally, Ms Barker has agreed with his recommendation to hold a public meeting in Brookwood in the coming months, whereby events and possibilities will be discussed."

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

Friends of Brookwood School are excited to be hosting Brookwood Primary School's Summer Fayre on Saturday 1 July, between 12.00 noon and 3.00pm. We have lots of exciting games and events planned, a bar and BBQ, and competitions to ensure a fun afternoon. Come along and join us! If you are interested in having a stall, please email fobschair@gmail.com.

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

Every Sunday	Weekly Sunday Evening Service, 6.30pm, St Saviour's
Every Monday	Brookwood Babies and Toddlers Playgroup, 9.45am, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Every Friday	Brookwood Art Group, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Sunday 4 June	Brookwood Cemetery Society Guided Tours, 2.00pm; contact walks@tbcs.org.uk to book
Saturday 10 June	Pirbright Players Murder Mystery evening, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Monday 12 June	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Littlebrook Fuchsia Nursery, near Aldershot, GU12 6HL
Wednesday 21 June	Pirbright WI and Brookwood Cemetery Society, 7.00pm, The Chapel, North Side, Brookwood Cemetery
Saturday 1 July	Brookwood School Summer Fayre, 12.00 to 3.00pm
Saturday 1 July	Pirbright Village Primary School Fete, 12.00 to 3.00pm
Sunday 2 July	Brookwood Cemetery Society Guided Tours, 2.00pm; contact walks@tbcs.org.uk to book
Thursday 6 July	Brookwood Military Cemetery Music Event, gates open 3.00pm
Tuesday 11 July	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall

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 JULY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 JUNE 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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