BROOKWOOD NEWS

July 2023

EDITORIAL

As I write my fourth editorial column for the Brookwood News, the village is bathed in sunshine and gardens are blooming, and the usual hustle and bustle is evident everywhere.

There is much to celebrate in our village. This edition features the American Battle Monuments Commission Memorial Day commemoration that recently took place in the cemetery, along with the amazing Basingstoke Canal and, to continue the theme of the Big Help Out from the Coronation, how anyone can get involved in maintaining this special resource.

A further feature is an end of year report from Brookwood Primary School and also the exercise phenomenon ((Bounce)), which had a base in Brookwood up to a few weeks ago, and has literally transformed the lives of many of its participants and has now moved onto larger but still local premises.

Thank you to all the many amazing contributors to this issue, and wishing all students success with the school and university exams, and everyone a great summer ahead!

Richard Johnson – Editor

BROOKWOOD CLUB

First Saturday of the month: Bingo from 8.30pm – 1 July and 5 August

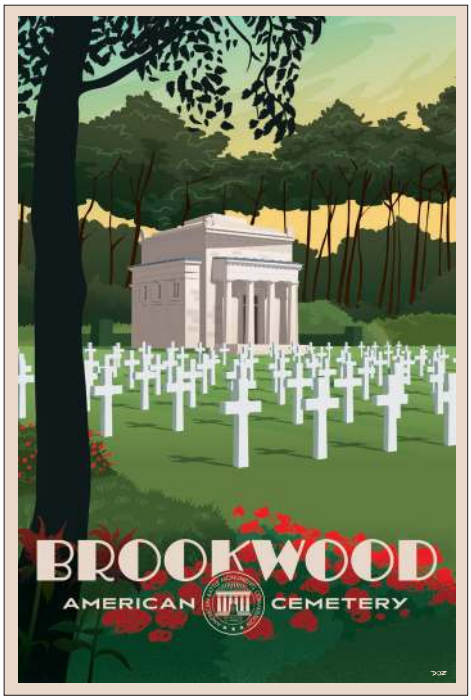
Saturday 29 July: local band The Missing Pages will be playing from 8.30pm – open event, all welcome (TBC)

Saturday 26 August: Bank Holiday Weekend BBQ from 5pm and Race Night from 7pm – open event, all welcome

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION CENTENNIAL 'MEMORIAL DAY' COMMEMORATION

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the USA. The day was born out of the Civil War and a desire to honour their dead.

On 5 May in 1868, General John Logan, who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed in his General Order No. 11 "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defence of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land". Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it Decoration Day.



On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery. New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. It was recognized by all northern states by 1890. Differently, the South refused to acknowledge the day and honoured their dead on separate days. This went on until after World War I, when the holiday changed from honouring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honouring Americans who died fighting in any war.

With the Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971, it is now observed on the last Monday in May by almost every state of the USA.

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) is an agency of the United States government and was established in 1923. The ABMC administers, operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 federal memorials, monuments and markers, which are located in 17 foreign countries, the US Commonwealth of the Northern

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Mariana Islands, and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; three of the memorials are located within the USA.

These cemeteries and memorials, most of which commemorate the service and sacrifice of Americans who served in World War I and World War II, are among the most beautiful and meticulously maintained shrines in the world.

For 100 years, ABMC has ensured that the memories of those who fell abroad defending the USA, and those they served with, never die.

Explore the website www.abmc.gov, or follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/abmepage) to learn more about the services offered to the public.

The sequence of events on Sunday 28 May started with a spectacular flyover of two American fighter jets followed by the posting of the colours and introductory remarks by dignitaries. There then followed an invocation and Ode to Remembrance along with words from guest speakers and a solemn laying of wreaths. A 21-gun salute was then followed by a moment of silence and the National Anthems of both the USA and the UK. A brief benediction and the Retiring of Colours was then followed by closing remarks and a reception at The Trench Experience.





American troops parading the colours



Pipe band from the Gordon's school leading the march



Dignitaries and British and American troops side by side



American fighter jets over Brookwood Cemetery

BASINGSTOKE CANAL
Join our efforts and support the Basingstoke Canal Society

The Basingstoke Canal Society has been active since 1966, promoting and campaigning for the sustainable future of the canal as a beautiful local resource and navigation for both local people and visitors to enjoy. Be part of the Basingstoke Canal Society by becoming a member or volunteering.



A picture of Kitty, our Woking based trip boat

As you are aware, the 32-mile stretch of canal passes through Brookwood, but extends to Greywell in the west through to West Byfleet in Surrey to the east. You may have spotted our working parties on the canal in recent months and years as they help to maintain the canal in Brookwood as well as in many other areas the canal passes through. You may be more familiar with the Basingstoke Canal Society if you regularly visit Woking town centre where one of our two trip boats, Kitty, is based. Public and themed trips leave regularly from Woking town centre multiple weekdays each week and at weekends. Why not enjoy a boat trip this summer? Tickets are available to buy on our website or on the day if the trip is not sold out.

As custodians of the canal, the Basingstoke Canal Society supports the canal with over 280,000 of volunteer hours per year contributed by over 270 active volunteers. Many active volunteers are busy outside on the canal and our trip boats, working to contribute to the future of the canal, but equally many are working behind the scenes. We have great volunteers working on our social media, project planning, finance, website and IT to name just a few areas. We are always looking for new volunteers and more details can be found on our website.



A picture of Surrey Day 2023 when we welcomed a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey onto Kitty last month.

Most recently, some of our volunteers have been working on our latest campaign for 2023. The Keep Your Canal Alive campaign focuses on the importance of the continued investment from councils, at all levels, to ensure the future of the Basingstoke Canal for us all to enjoy. This is very much aligned with the challenges facing waterways across the UK and our messaging echoes larger campaigns across the country.

Our campaign focuses on the benefits the Basingstoke Canal brings to individuals who can benefit from their "green gym", the benefits for wildlife in the SSSI site, and finally on the financial gain this brings to the local areas the canal runs through.

Visit https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/keep-your-canal-alive for more information on our campaign and how you can help.

A QR code that will take you to the Keep your Canal Alive landing page on our website.

There are so many ways to get involved with the Basingstoke Canal Society, whether that's becoming a member, volunteering, following us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn, or even entering our calendar competition for a chance to have your photo in our 2024 calendar and a free calendar delivered to you.

A COMMUNITY-FOCUSED FITNESS PHENOMENON CHANGING LIVES, ONE ((BOUNCE)) AT A TIME!

The current editor along with many other Brookwood residents have been involved with a remarkable success story: Eleesha De Silva, a 28-year-old entrepreneur, has transformed her ((BOUNCE)) classes in Brookwood into a thriving fitness community. With a unique concept of fitness classes on mini trampolines, Eleesha has not only created a popular exercise destination but also fostered a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all ages and abilities.



((BOUNCE)) fitness classes offer a myriad of benefits that have captivated the hearts of its attendees. By combining high-intensity cardio, core-strengthening movements, and energizing dance routines, participants experience a full-body workout that improves cardiovascular health, tones muscles, and boosts overall fitness levels. The low-impact nature of exercising on trampolines also minimizes strain on joints, making it an ideal choice for individuals recovering from injuries or seeking a fun alternative to traditional fitness routines.

In November 2019, Eleesha launched her first classes at St Saviours Church Hall, attracting a modest attendance of 15 participants per session. Little did she know that her venture would soon outgrow the capacity of the hall, with the demand for ((BOUNCE)) classes reaching unprecedented heights.

Responding to the overwhelming interest, classes have moved to a brand new studio. ((BOUNCE)) Woking opened its doors at Winston Churchill Sports Centre on Monday 5 June. The spacious, state-of-the-art facility welcomed over 75 eager attendees, marking a significant milestone for the community's growth. Countless participants have praised ((BOUNCE)) for positively transforming their lives, providing a non-judgemental space that fosters health, wellness, and a sense of belonging. Their repeated messaging is that ((BOUNCE)) is more than a fitness class, it's a family… they have even been on family days out to Woking Superbowl or the local Nag's Head!

One standout feature of ((BOUNCE)) is their child-friendly environment, empowering thousands of women across the globe to prioritize their fitness goals without the burden of childcare concerns. By offering inclusive workout sessions, where children can join in or have a safe space to play, ((BOUNCE)) has made exercise more accessible and enjoyable for mothers and caregivers.

Not only has ((BOUNCE)) enriched the lives of its participants, it has also provided new opportunities for its own members. Two dedicated attendees, Sophie and Annie, have seized the chance to become instructors themselves. Sophie, a clinical trainer and NHS midwife, and Annie, a paralegal and trainee solicitor, are now training to become certified ((BOUNCE)) instructors alongside their full-time jobs. This inspiring development showcases the transformative nature of ((BOUNCE)), empowering individuals to pursue their passions beyond the studio walls.

The newly opened ((BOUNCE)) Woking studio offers a variety of class types to cater to different preferences and fitness levels. From BALANCE, a Pilates-focused session, to BOX, a high-intensity cardio workout with boxing bags, and the original ((BOUNCE)) dance cardio routine, there is something for everyone seeking a dynamic and engaging exercise experience. For those interested in joining the ((BOUNCE)) Woking classes, check out Instagram @bouncewoking, and head over to www.bookwhen.com/bouncewoking to book classes.

The ((BOUNCE)) brand has over 350 studios across the UK and globally, and offers various Instructor Training Courses. To learn more, visit their website at www.bouncefitbody.com and embark on a fitness journey that combines fun, community, and a ((BOUNCE)) in every step.



CLOSURE OF BROOKWOOD SAINSBURY'S PHARMACY

Lloyds Pharmacy closed its pharmacy within Sainsburys on Friday 9 June. This is a great pity for all local residents, particularly those who use Pirbright Surgery, who, as the Brookwood News goes to press this month, have told us that they are yet to hear from NHS England who will replace Lloyds as a collection point for prescriptions.

The closure is part of Lloyds' move to shut all 237 of its branches in Sainsbury's stores, with services being withdrawn over the course of this year.

Lloyds cite "changing market conditions" identified in a strategic review as the reason for the closures. The company's pharmacies that are not based in Sainsbury's stores will remain open.

Pharmacies generally have been under increasing pressure as the price of some drugs has risen sharply in recent months, often far outpacing the rate at which pharmacies are reimbursed by the NHS.



e welcome. Please contact community@brookwood.org.uk before the 20th of the month

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL UPDATE



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of this academic year – the time has flown, but what an incredibly busy and exciting year we have had! It has been lovely to get to know children, families and staff, and be fully immersed in Brookwood School life.

One of the many special things about Brookwood is its links with the military. This year we have again been fortunate to attend passing out parades at ATC Pirbright and be part of the Remembrance Day service at Brookwood Cemetery. We have also this year introduced a military club for military children run by the army welfare team, which has proven incredibly beneficial to those children and families.

We continue to work closely with NS Sports, who provide our sports coaching and support our teams at competitions, as well as offering after school sports clubs. We are delighted that this year we are now able to offer wraparound care for our families by providing both a breakfast club and after school club every day, plus holiday playschemes run by NS Sports.

In April we held our annual Let's Move weekend, led by our wonderful Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) team to raise much needed funds for our school. Monies raised last year enabled us to install a new KS1 library and create a separate KS2 area. We also now have our new school website, which we will continue to develop over time to ensure it provides the most useful information for our families.





As the end of term approaches, we still have a number of events to come including Sports Day, the Summer Fair and, with mixed emotions, events to celebrate our Y6 leavers as they prepare to move on to secondary school. We also look forward to welcoming our new Reception children to the school as they attend their 'Golden ticket' and stay and play sessions.

I wish you all a wonderful summer

Wendy Thomas – Head of School



Tickets can be purchased on the day in Pirbright churchyard, £5 per person with under 16s free. Do come and and have a peek into some of the gardens, and a chance to chat with the owners for tips and advice. Any queries please contact Helen (07777 659138, helenwelliewhitworth@btbtinternet.com).

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our July meeting on Tuesday 11 July will be a demonstration by Elizabeth Barralet of flower arranging in order to encourage entries for the Floral Art section of our Annual Show on 29 July. The meeting will be in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available and the meeting is open to all, not just Society members. Do come and enjoy the evening and hopefully feel prepared to enter the floral art section of the show. Our Annual Show will take place on Saturday 29 July from 2.30 to 5.30pm. Please see insert with all the details.

We look forward to receiving your entries.

Please note there will be no meeting in August.



CORRECTION FROM EARLIER EDITIONS
Brookwood Art Group meets on FRIDAYS from 9.30am to 12.30pm, not Mondays.
An error was made in the April edition and copied forward into May's edition (in the diary dates).

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
Saturday 1 July	Brookwood School Summer Fair, 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 AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20 JULY 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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