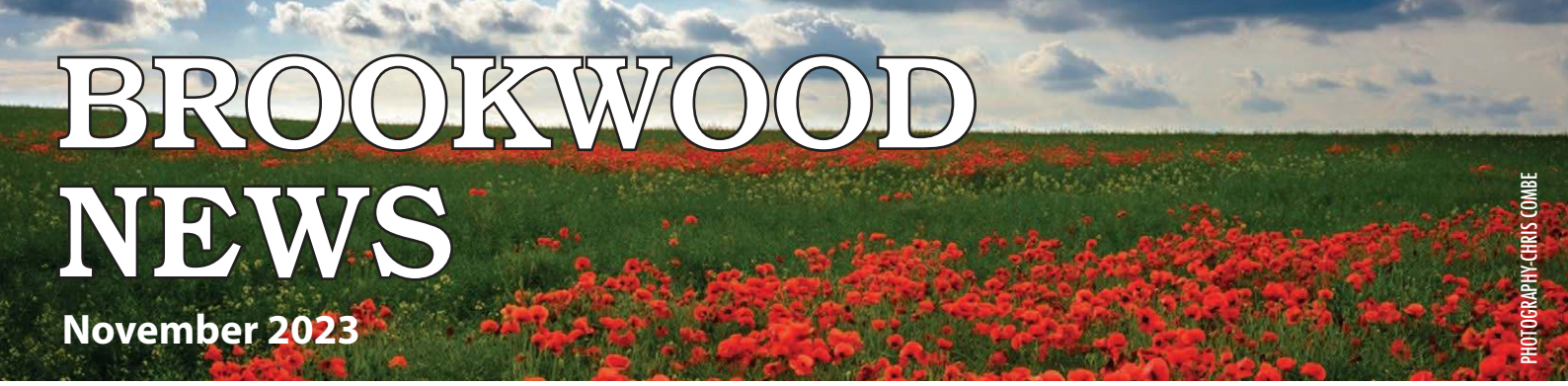


BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS COMBE

EDITORIAL

A wealth of material this month reporting on a wide range of current activities and events in the village, and with hints of more to come in December, so the editorial is mercifully brief! As ever, thanks to all our contributors and to our readers. We hope you enjoy this edition.

John Wheeler – Editor

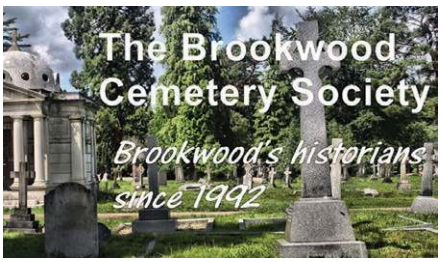
FUNDING FOR KITTY II

The Basingstoke Canal Society have announced that they have secured all the funds required to proceed with the ordering and production of the Society's new electric trip boat. Brayzel Narrowboats will be building the new Kitty II trip boat, and it is hoped to have it in the water for the spring and summer 2024 boat trips.

The last £75,000 investment required came from a successful Your Fund Surrey grant application. In total over £165,000 has been raised and, in addition to Your Fund Surrey grant, this has been achieved through the generosity of Woking residents.

The Basingstoke Canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) so it is particularly important to protect its environment with this new 'greener' trip boat and new charging points for other boaters too, which will be installed to kick-start the electrification of the canal alongside the new trip boat. The new electric Kitty II will also be designed to be better adapted for wheelchair use and have better facilities for all users.

Watch out for news about the launch of Kitty II and on the trips planned for 2024.



The Society have the following guided walks planned for Sunday 5 November.

Military Walk Close to the Edge – North Side: 1pm, led by Mike Dawson. Join Mike as he explores the lives of those who died during military service and subsequent years who lie in plots adjacent to the military cemetery. The walk will finish in time for anyone wishing to attend the Last Post ceremony at 3pm by the RAF shelter in the military cemetery.

Medical Walk – A Second Dose: 1pm, led by Kim Lowe. Inspired by the St Thomas Hospital Plot, the walk will visit nurses and doctors who are notable in the medical profession. A follow on from the last medical walk.

Mausoleum Walk: 1pm, 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 grounds of the Cemetery, including 'The Jewel in the Crown'. You will also hear about the families who commissioned them and their stories.

The Society, founded in 1992, operates the only official approved guided walks around the cemetery, with all donations going towards restorations. The volunteer guides are very knowledgeable and have many years' experience of the cemetery and its history. Please contact them at walks@tbcs.org.uk if you would like to join their happy band and for all guided tour enquires. Bookings are essential for the tours.

BROOKWOOD CHRISTMAS TRAIL

IT'S CHRISTMAS…. OK, we know it's a bit early to be thinking about Christmas (just 55 days from newsletter publication date!) but the team at Brookwood Memorial Hall are excited to invite you to hold the date for our Christmas Trail gathering on Saturday 16 December, 4–6pm, for mulled wine and mince pies.

We are looking for houses to home our trail clues (just an A3 poster up in your window in December), so if you would be happy to have one, please email management@bmhalls.org.uk or message 07757 969231 with your name, address and email.

The trail will run from early December until 16 December and maps will be available to download from our website (www.brookwoodmemorialhalls.org.uk) in due course.

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

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

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Seymours

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALLS

Brookwood Memorial Halls are an incredible community resource, providing a home to numerous local groups: Scouts, the WI, Puppy Training, Yoga, Belly Dancing and Dance classes, Arts Groups and Badminton Club, Play Group, as well as being a venue for villager birthday parties, weddings, christening and wakes.

The Halls are run by a small group of incredible volunteers and after a decade of service our wonderful Lettings Manager Colin Greenwood is retiring, so we are looking for someone to join our team in that role. The role is 3–5 hours a week managing hall bookings on our Hallmaster system, communicating with hirers, both regular and ad hoc, and coordinating closely with the Treasurer and Chair to ensure the smooth running of the Halls.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role or want to find out more, please email management@bmhalls.org.uk. The Hall Trustees would like to extend their sincere thanks to Colin for all his hard work over the last decade maintaining the Halls as a much loved and well used village resource.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The November meeting will be on Tuesday 14 November at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall. The speaker will be Belinda Allen and her topic will be 'Herbs, history, growing and care'. Refreshments will be served as usual. Members, guests, and visitors will be most welcome, so do come along for another interesting and informative evening. Don't forget that the meeting on Tuesday 12 December will be the AGM and social gathering.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

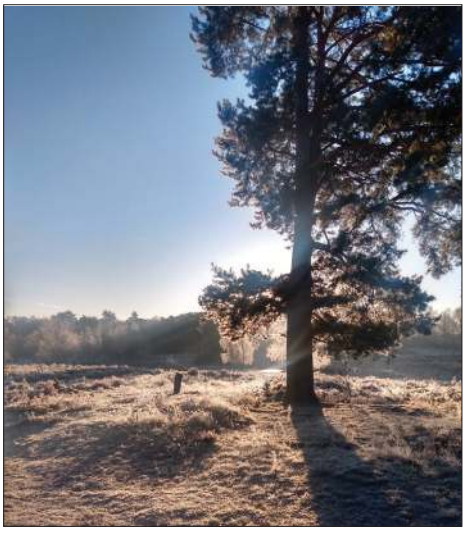
Saturday 4 November: Bingo from 8.30pm. Next bingo will be Saturday 6 January 2024.

Saturday 2 December: Christmas Tree Light Switch On from 6pm, with mince pies and mulled wine.

Christmas Raffle on sale behind the bar, £1 a square.

Membership renewal from 1 November for 2024!

CALLING ALL HEATHLAND HABITAT HELPERS



Two hundred years ago heathland covered most of West Surrey, but now less than a fifth of this original heathland remains. In recent decades heathland has been recognised for its wildlife value and its historical and cultural interest, and much is now protected from development.

Lowland heathland is an internationally rare and unique habitat, supporting a variety of specialised plants and wildlife. Our heathland supports important numbers of three ground-nesting bird species – the nightjar, woodlark, and Dartford warbler. Surrey is one of only three counties in the British Isles which supports all of the native heathland reptiles and amphibians, including the rare and specially protected sand lizard, smooth snake, and natterjack toad. Lowland heathland is also important for invertebrates, especially insects and spiders.

In order for it to survive and for the rare flora and fauna to thrive, heathland needs management and maintenance work that is targeted and seasonal. You can get involved to help restore and maintain the rare heathland habitat right on our doorstep. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm to get stuck in!

Surrey Heathland Partnership has introduced a new programme this autumn. The heathland scrub clearance sessions are ideal to try if you are new to practical conservation work. The majority of tasks are suitable for all ages (over 16s unless accompanied by an adult please) and abilities, as you can work at your own pace, and you will be shown exactly what to do. You do need to be fairly fit and enjoy getting out and about in the great outdoors.

There are sessions locally on the following dates (weather permitting):

Wednesday 1 November at The Gardens, Pirbright, GU24 0JE

Saturday 4 November at Bullswater Common, Pirbright, GU24 0LZ

Wednesday 15 November at Chapel Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JY

Wednesday 22 November at Pirbright Common, Chapel Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JY

Wednesday 29 November at Bullswater Common, Pirbright, GU24 0LZ

Saturday 2 December at Sheets Heath, off Billesden Road, Brookwood, GU24 0NU

Wednesday 13 December at Sheets Heath, off Billesden Road, Brookwood, GU24 0NU

Wednesday 20 December at Brookwood Heath, Chapel Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JY

The team from Surrey Heath Partnership will be on site from 10am to 3pm. You can join in for a full day or just the morning if preferred. Please wear old clothes and stout footwear, and bring your own lunch/drink. Tools, gloves, instruction, insurance, and tea/coffee/biscuits are provided.

Please email heathlandproject@surreycc.gov.uk or call 07974 864295 to let them know in advance that you would like to volunteer and to receive full details including meeting points.

PIRBRIGHT SINGERS



Pirbright Singers and friends will be presenting their annual Christmas Concert in St Michael's Church, Pirbright, on Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm. Everything from Handel's Messiah to John Rutter and your old favourites. Tickets at the door £10 for all over 18 years – come and enjoy, listen, and sing along!

The Pirbright Singers is a fun and welcoming group, rehearsing, and performing around the year, with a mixture of classical favourites and fun, seasonal numbers. We would love to welcome more singers, in particular tenor voices. If you can read music or would like to learn, please contact Anna Salter on 07932 043676 for more information.

BECOME A GOVERNOR AT BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Local Governance Committee at Brookwood Primary School is looking for new school governors from our local community – you do not need to be a parent or carer linked to the school.

The role of a school governor is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day-to-day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. We now need more volunteers to bring their passion and experience to help ensure we are operating in the best way possible.

Contact Cath McCormick at office@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk to find out more and apply to make a difference to young people at our school.

ST SAVIOUR'S – WATCH THIS SPACE!

Full details of all the Christmas events and services planned during December at Holy Trinity Knaphill and at St Saviour's will be published in next month's Brookwood News.

FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT EXPANSION

The public consultation on proposed changes to the way Farnborough Airport operates has now closed, and the airport's owners say that they are considering all feedback received as they finalise their planning application. Residents wishing to be kept up to date on the planning application can sign up for updates at www.farnboroughairport2040.com/share-your-views.

Since the series of "local" consultation events that were organised totally ignored the areas beneath the flight path further to the east of the airport, namely, Brookwood, Knaphill, Bisley and West End, it's a matter of conjecture as to how balanced the input will have been, which in turn raises concerns about the extent to which any representations made will be properly considered.

Clearly, there's never going to be a reduction in the current levels of activity at Farnborough, but the magnitude of increases in activity now being sought is a real concern. Arguably, the insidious drip effect of supposedly minor changes in the years to come will simply mean that London Farnborough International will come into existence by the back door.

BROOKWOOD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FOODBANK APPEAL

By the time you read this article this year's campaign will already have launched and will continue to run until Friday 8 December.

Posters are now being displayed in our drop-off points (Brookwood Club and Brookwood Bakers Dozen/Post Office), so please feel free to drop food parcels of non-perishable items during their opening hours; and please don't forget a label with your name and address.

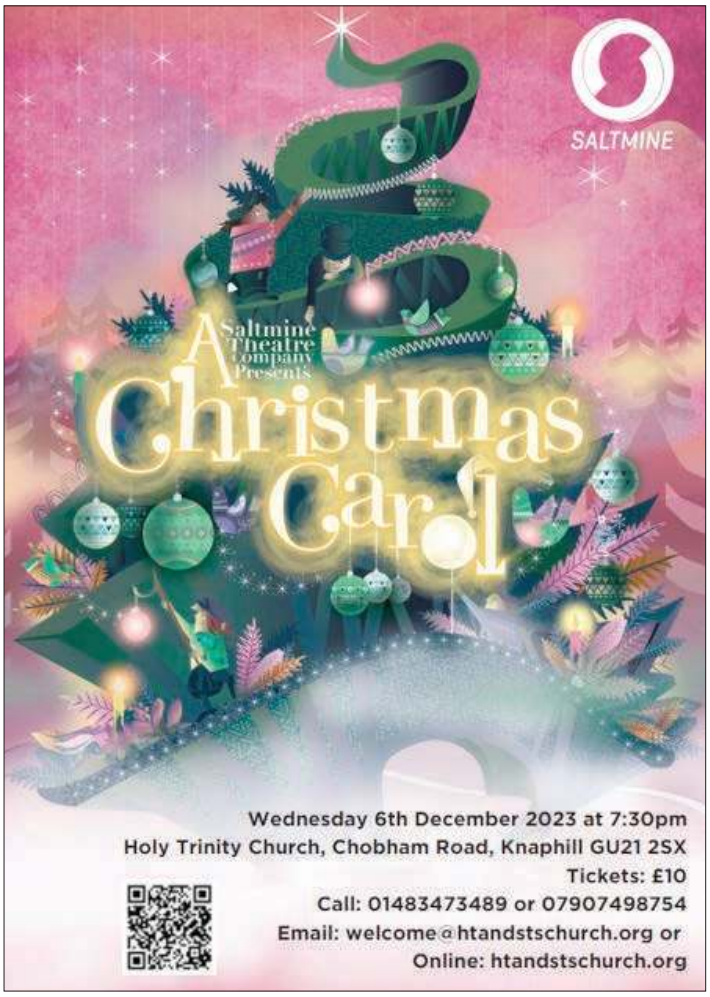
If you are struggling to get to the shops, we have as in previous years set up a Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tf2023 to make things a little easier. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code displayed above and on all of the posters to directly access the fundraising page.

There are various ways to get in touch: email trudifletcher@rocketmail.com, telephone 07887 565163, or leave a message at one of the drop-off points if you would like us to collect your parcel or if you have any questions. The website for Woking Foodbank is www.woking.foodbank.org.uk.

Thank you for your help and for thinking of others in dire need.

Trudi & Darren





REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS

Last Post Association: November Last Post, Sunday 5 November 2023 at 3pm, RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery.

Please note that Remembrance Sunday (12 November) is a Holy Communion service at 9am at St Saviour's, so that attendees can still go to the 11am Brookwood Cemetery Remembrance Service.

The CWGC report that the Canadian Annual Service of Remembrance will take place at 10.40am on Saturday 11 November at Brookwood Military Cemetery. The Ceremony will include a wreath-laying. There will also be a ceremony commemorating the German burials at Brookwood Military Ceremony at 11.30am on Sunday 12 November.

The Brookwood Cemetery Society is extending an invitation to join them on Saturday 11 November at 2pm, to commemorate the soldiers from the Indian Subcontinent who fell in both wars. There will be an exhibition and light refreshments from 12noon in the North Chapel, leaving at 2pm for wreath laying in the Old Muslim plot and CWGC Cemetery. A simple stemmed poppy will be placed on each of the soldier's graves. Everyone is welcome to this free event, but please email kim@tbcs.org.uk to show interest.

The American Battle Monuments Commission are inviting local residents to attend their Centennial Remembrance Day Ceremony and Reception at the Brookwood American Military Cemetery on Sunday 12 November from 2 to 4pm. Please email brookwood@abmc.gov or telephone 01483 473237 if you will be able to attend.





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

Every 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
Every Friday	Pop-up Coffee, 10am to 12pm, St Saviour's
Saturday 4 November	Bingo, Brookwood Club, from 8.30pm
Sunday 5 November	Brookwood Cemetery Society guided tours, 1pm
Sunday 5 November	Last Post, RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery, 3pm
Saturday 11 November	Remembrance Day events – details above
Sunday 12 November	Remembrance Day events – details above
Tuesday 14 November	Pirbright Horticultural Society, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 2 December	Brookwood Club Christmas Tree Light Switch On, from 6pm
Saturday 2 December	Pirbright Singers Christmas Concert, St Michael's Church, Pirbright, 7.30pm

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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th NOVEMBER 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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