

BROOKWOOD NEWS

February 2024

1st Brookwood Scouts were out collecting real Christmas trees on the morning of Sunday 7 January in what has become an annual tradition in the village, a tradition that's been running for so long that nobody can remember when it started.

We would like to thank the local residents for their generous support, Peter Goold who again provided a van for us to use, and our parents and young people who got up very early on Sunday morning to help.

The Group has an exciting year ahead, with various camps and trips away being planned by our volunteer leaders. We raised over £1000 from this year's tree collection, and the funds raised are earmarked to go towards purchasing our own mess tent to take on camps.

1st Brookwood Scouts is a thriving local Scout group who run sessions every Friday in the Memorial Hall in Brookwood for local children aged 6–14. Our Beavers (aged 6–8) and Cubs (aged 8–10) groups are at full capacity and we are actively looking out for new adults to help run the sessions. You don't need to have a background in Scouting and there are ways to be involved with whatever time you can spare.

If you'd like to help out and make a difference in your local community, and help shape young people's lives, please contact Joe at gslbrookwood@gmail.com for more information.



EDITORIAL

As January draws to a close, it feels like it's possibly the longest month of the year! The lights, excitement and enjoyment of the Christmas period seems so far behind us. I've noticed the days are a little longer, the sun has been a little warmer and there is occasionally the smell of spring in the air. I'm looking forward to opening the house up to warmer weather, drying the washing outside and watching the garden, allotments, heath and village start to emerge from its slumber, shake off its winter coats and burst into spring life. This newsletter feels like its setting 2024 off to a great start!

Jackie Kenny– Editor

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MISSING CAT

In a heartwarming tale of persistence and hope, an unknown black cat, missing for an astonishing 4 years, was miraculously united with its owners after being discovered in Brookwood.

Suri Conway, aged 13, played a pivotal role in reuniting this feline and their family. The story began 4 years ago when the cat, owned by a family from Guildford, mysteriously vanished without a trace. Devastated, the owners launched a search, but all efforts proved futile. Eventually, the family reluctantly concluded that the cat might have met an unfortunate fate and believed they would never see their beloved pet again.

However, fate had other plans. Over the past few months, reports of a mysterious black cat roaming around Connaught Crescent in Brookwood had circulated among the residents. This caught the attention of Suri Conway, an animal lover and resident of the area, who took it upon herself to investigate further.

Suri, suspecting that the cat could have been abandoned, decided to feed it and temporarily provide it shelter. However, when she noticed that three full bowls of cat food had been emptied within a short period, she decided to take it to a local vet for a chip scan. To her amazement, the scan revealed the microchip, leading to identifying the feline and, subsequently, his long-lost owners.

The vet contacted the cat's original owners, leading to a long-awaited reunion the following morning. Suri expressed her happiness at reuniting the cat with its rightful owners. "I couldn't believe it when the vet told me it had a microchip; we thought it was a stray. I'm so glad not to have ignored it and left it out in the cold," Suri Conway shared.

The miraculous reunion serves as a testament to the importance of microchipping pets and the power of a community that looks out for its furry residents.

The owners got in touch with Suri afterwards, to express their gratitude at being reunited with Merlin. He disappeared over 3 years ago and has travelled over 5 miles. He was only a kitten when they got him, and 7 when he disappeared, and is enjoying all the love and food now that he is home again.

It is a reminder that sometimes, against all odds, lost loved ones find their way back home.

A DELIVERY PERSON (OR TWO) NEEDED

We are looking for one or two new lovely people to deliver the newsletter to the 67 homes on Heath Drive. For years Kath Brooks delivered, then she co-opted Alan Hibden to help her and he took over the whole round from September 2021. Sadly, both of them have had to retire due to ill health. We'd like to thank them, and indeed all our wonderful deliverers, for all their help.

As you know the newsletter comes out once a month and you receive the copies a few days before the end of the month so you can deliver at a time to suit you. It takes about 30–40 minutes to deliver to all 67 houses.

Please let Barbara Lugton know if you can help on 07891 771168/barbaralugton@gmail.com or through community@brookwood.org.uk – Thank you!

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Don't forget Bingo on the first Saturday of every month from 8.30pm – Saturday 3 February and Saturday 2 March.

Saturday 10 February – come and listen to some live music by local band 'The Missing Pages', from 8.30pm; this is an open event.

PIRBRIGHT PLAYERS – THE WIZARD OF OZ



The Pirbright Players held a very successful production of The Wizard of Oz in January, with three sold out performances and praise from the audience that this was one of their best ever productions. This photo shows a scene from the play with the Scarecrow, Dorothy, Toto, the Tinman, the Wizard of Oz and the Lion. Pirbright Players welcomes new members; if you are interested, take a look at the Pirbright Players' facebook page for more information and further pictures from the show.

HEATHLAND HABITAT HELPERS



Surrey Heathland Partnership are looking for Heathland Habitat Helpers to help look after the heath. No experience is necessary, just suitable clothing, lunch if you are staying all day and enthusiasm! They are on site from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 3 February and Thursday 29 February. If you are interested, please email heathlandproject@surreycc.gov or call 07974 864295 to let them know that you are coming along.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 February at 7.30pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall, The Green, Pirbright, GU24 0JE, when our speaker will be Roy Champion talking on the interesting subject of 'Hedgelaying'. Refreshments will be available as usual.

Subscriptions are now due: £20 for an individual or £25 for a family membership. Payments can be made to Julian Didyk by cash or cheque to Pirbright Horticultural Society or by card payment at our meetings. Please contact Julian by email (juliandidyk@sky.com) or phone (07799 207059). We depend on your support to keep our society active as it has been for nearly 100 years! We welcome new members from Pirbright and surrounding villages.



THE AMAZING COMMUNITY VOXCHOIR & FAMILY SINGING GROUP

Do you love to sing? We are VoxChoir and are growing our wonderful Brookwood group on Tuesdays. All are welcome, any ability, aged 18+. There's no audition or reading music, and lyrics and recordings of all the material are provided to help guide you. You'll learn to breathe better and use your voice in new ways. We'll encourage you to grow and gain confidence. We're all about the whole person, so let us inspire you!

Our singing group is perfect for absolute beginners, without pressure, and just singing for the sheer fun and the pleasure of being with others. It's got that community spirit about it and, if you're feeling stressed, it's a true mood elevator, leaving you buzzing after every session.

Come and experience something new and make good friends for life. It's very social, friendly and inclusive, and we sing popular brilliant songs you already know and love from past decades of music magic, from Abba through to The Greatest Showman and everything in between.

We meet at 7.30pm on Tuesdays at Brookwood Small Memorial Hall. Free parking in car park outside hall and wheelchair accessible. We look forward to meeting you very soon. First session FREE.



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

AN EVENING FOR UKRAINE



24 February this year marks two years since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. To the surprise of everyone except themselves, the Ukrainian people did not cave under the relentless attack but have shown a willingness and resourcefulness to fight back. This has not been without cost with high casualties in their armed forces and huge numbers of refugees abroad and internally displaced.

One of those refugees will be coming to St Saviour's Church on Saturday 24 February for an exciting evening of music and testimony. Angelina is a classically trained pianist and flautist with a number of international prizes to her credit. When the invasion came she was in Kyiv and was able to leave to find refuge in Britain. Her family was not so fortunate and is still living in an occupied area under an increasingly oppressive rule.

Angelina will be performing a wide repertoire of international and Ukrainian music including one of her own compositions. She will also be sharing some of her own and her family's experiences describing what the war has meant for them. This is an evening not to be missed.

Entry is free with the opportunity to donate to support the humanitarian needs of those fighting at the front line. For further details please visit the church website at htandstschurch.org. To book your seats visit bit.ly/aneveningforukraine or scan this QR code.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

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 3 February	Bingo, Brookwood Club, from 8.30pm
Saturday 10 February	Live music by 'The Missing Pages', Brookwood Club, from 8.30pm
Tuesday 13 February	Pirbright Horticultural Society, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday 20 February	WI meeting, with speaker from Surrey Air Ambulance, 7.45pm
Saturday 24 February	An Evening for Ukraine, St Saviour's Church, 7.30pm
Friday 1 March	Quiz, Brookwood School
Saturday 2 March	Bingo, Brookwood Club, from 8.30pm

BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI have had a busy few months, but took the first meeting back after Christmas to enjoy a night of horse racing. As Maureen rolled the dice and the horses moved forwards, it became quite tense at times with horses being pipped at the post by lone runners from behind!

We are meeting again on Tuesday 20 February for a 7.45pm start and our speaker is from the Surrey Air Ambulance. It is an open meeting, so all members of the village (including husbands) are invited along.

FOBS

The Friends Of Brookwood School are gearing up again for another full year of fundraising for the school. The first of many events is the now-legendary quiz night, which is being held on Friday 1 March at the school. Teams of 6–8 are welcome to join us, or a smaller number to join another team. The cost is £10pp which includes food. Amongst the questions answered on the night…Will it be a heads or tails win? Will Edd return for another breakdancing session? Will we order too much pizza again?

If you are interested in coming along, please email fobschair@googlemail.com or leave your details at the school to be passed on.

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 20th 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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