

BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2024

PLANS FOR BROOKWOOD LYE

As mentioned in our March edition, a meeting was held in the small Memorial Hall on 29 February at which the Woking Borough Council's plans for the Brookwood Lye Road site were outlined. It was well attended by local people and other interested parties, including Cllr Kevin Davis and Mike Peel who have been pushing this issue for some years. The leader of WBC, Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, gave an introduction. The WBC Interim Strategic Director (Place), Beverley Kuchar, then described the ownership of the various parts of the site, the planning permissions, the planning enforcements and the proposed way forward. This provoked many questions and much discussion from the audience, all resolved satisfactorily. Mr Mark Rolt, the CEO of ThamesWey, then outlined the affordable housing development plan currently being proposed for part of the site. The picture shows a view of some of the proposed housing.



It is a complex situation involving a number of parties and it is not yet fully resolved. The following description is based on the author's memory of the meeting; it should not be taken as definitive.

For simplicity, the site can be considered as four main sections, lettered A–D in the plan shown.

Section A is wholly owned by WBC and ThamesWey have prepared the current plan for the development of 57 dwellings in this section. Once it has planning permission, a developer will be selected to build the houses.

Section B is partially owned by WBC. The corner plot at the traffic lights is owned by Surrey County Council and one of the four existing houses is privately owned.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April edition of Brookwood News, and particular thanks to all our contributors and to our printers this month. Some of the editorial team are going on holiday so we have had to push everyone to get it done quickly. I hope you find it interesting and informative.

David Lugton – Editor

Development of this section would depend on SCC releasing its land and on the private owner being prepared to sell, which is not currently the case.

Section C is owned by WBC but a long lease was previously granted to the owner of Section D (the Travellers' site). This lease only allows for this land to be used as Traveller accommodation. The existence of this lease prevents WBC from using this section for housing development.

Section D – There is a proposed plan to expand the number of pitches in Section D to 19 permanent pitches plus one temporary, most of which are already there but which are technically illegal. The planning application for this is agreed in principle by the planning committee but needs to be signed off by the owner of the Traveller site (Section D). If the planning application is signed off, the lease held for Section C will fall away (i.e. terminate). If it is not signed off, then an enforcement order by WBC will force the use of only the 10 existing legal pitches across C and D. It is hoped the site owner will decide that 19+1 is better than 10.

In summary, if Sections B and C remain unavailable, the plan for 57 dwellings will go ahead, hoping to complete in about 3 years. If Sections B and C become available before then, potentially the 2021 plan for 128 dwellings could be revived which should be better for Brookwood in the long term.

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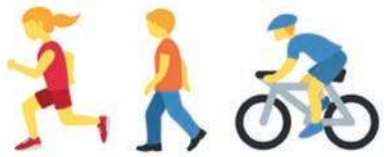


About 100 people attended a wonderful fundraising concert held at St Saviour's Church on 24 February, marking 2 years after the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Angelina Udovychenko, a Ukrainian musician currently living in the UK, was invited to play, and we were treated to a wonderful variety of folk songs and classical piano music connected to Ukraine and Angelina's life and memories of growing up. When war broke out, she was aged 24, staying in a city in the west of Ukraine, but it was too dangerous to return to her family and home town in the Kherson region, which is now Russian occupied. She hasn't seen her family for 2 years and communication is difficult.

During the concert, she played piano music by Debussy, Chopin, and Ukrainian composers, Kosenko and Lysenko. She also performed a beautiful piece that she had composed herself. In Ukraine she used to work as a music and English teacher, so she is now working at local schools and helping and teaching British children, as well as others who have had to flee their homes. She also volunteers and arranges music recitals to help the Ukrainian army and people who are in need.

The concert included an interview with Angelina about her life in Ukraine, as well as very moving videos and pictures while the music was being performed. Almost £3000 was raised to help provide Ukrainian soldiers with cold weather clothing and tourniquets for wounds caused by landmines. Angelina thanks everyone who attended and donated so generously.

FRIENDS OF BROOKWOOD SCHOOL



FOBS organised a fantastic quiz on Friday 1 March. This was attended by many parents and the local community, and we are very grateful to our quiz master, a local ex parent, who entertained everyone throughout a fun evening, raising money for the school and children.

We are running our popular Just Move 2024 event again on 3–5 May with children running/jogging in school, and everyone in the community is invited to take part. We are fundraising to improve our outdoor space for the children to enjoy taking time out, to read and relax quietly.

The summer fair will be held on Saturday 15 June and we look forward to seeing you there. If you'd like to have a stall, please get in touch at fobschair@googlemail.com to arrange this.

BROOKWOOD BABIES AND TODDLERS' PLAYGROUP

Brookwood Babies and Toddlers are having a wonderful time getting ready for Easter with some great crafts as well as the traditional egg hunt. The playgroup is lucky enough to have a team of volunteers, and is able to have a dedicated person who is in charge of crafts, coming up with toddler-friendly ideas, overseeing and helping with a different craft every week.

The team who run the playgroup are very much in favour that the idea of the group is to support parents and carers, just as much as they are there to provide toys, play and songs for the children. Pop along with your baby or toddler for a free first session and grab a fresh coffee and some grown-up chat, 9.45am Mondays during term time. Details at brookwoodbabies@gmail.com, or call/text Natalie on 07980 618049.



EASTER WEEKEND SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, 28 March – service, 7.30 pm, Holy Trinity, Knaphill, followed by Gethsemane Garden Prayer, 9pm to midnight (after 10pm for over 18s only).

Good Friday, 29 March – Walk of Witness, 9.45am, starting from Holy Trinity, Knaphill.

Easter Sunday, 31 March – Sunrise Service at Newlands Corner, 6am. We will welcome in Easter Sunday with a service of worship and prayer as the sun rises. Meet in Newlands Corner Car park just before 6am. Easter Sunday Family Celebration,10am, Holy Trinity, Knaphill. Sunday Night Worship, 6.30pm, St Saviour's in Brookwood with refreshments from 6pm.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 April in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall at 7.30pm. Our speaker will be Margaret Lennard talking about "Growing foraging for bees". Refreshments will be available as usual and we welcome members, guests and visitors.

We now have a Society Website (www.pirbrighthort.co.uk) and email contacts (secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk and). Please note that subscriptions are now overdue but payment can be made at the meeting by cheque, cash or card.

The Society's Annual Plant Sale will be held over the weekend of 18–19 May. Any good quality bedding plants, vegetable plants, herbaceous plants, shrubs, fruits, alpine plants, etc. that you wish to donate for sale would be most welcome.

The Society's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 27 July. Show schedules are available now. If you live outside Pirbright and would like a copy, please contact the Secretary's email above. Donations of plants for the show are also very welcome.

BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI recently enjoyed a talk from the local Air Ambulance Service, who gave us a fascinating insight into the day-to-day running and logistics of maintaining and running several ambulances. They cover a big area, but can travel over 100 miles in about 30 minutes. We were all left in awe at their work. We are currently busy planning our birthday meeting. This is always a lovely, relaxed evening where the committee provides a meal for the members and we are entertained for the evening. We have lots of exciting things planned over the rest of the year; more news next month! If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to pop along to the small Memorial Hall on the third Tuesday of each month for a 7.45pm start.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY MONTHLY GUIDED WALKS

Book now for April and May Brookwood Cemetery Society walks as places are going fast. Two of the April walks are already fully booked, as is the Railway walk in May. Except where stated, all walks begin at 2pm and start from the Cemetery Office entrance, off Cemetery Pales. A suggested £6.50 donation includes refreshments. Maximum group size 15–20 people. Book your place via email at walks@tbcs.org.uk or call 07714 289375.

Sunday 7 April 2024, 2pm – Introductory Walk South Side. A walk in the South Cemetery telling you the history of the cemetery, formerly the Anglican Section. Alison Leech will show you her choice of interesting monuments and the people who chose Brookwood as their final resting place.

Sunday 5 May 2024, 2pm – Introductory Walk North Side. Barry Devonshire will take you to explore the former nonconformist section that has burials from many different beliefs and from diverse backgrounds.

Sunday 5 May 2024, 2pm – The Toff's Walk (South Side). Alison Vince will lead a walk exploring some of the cemetery's knights, lords, ladies and other nobility.

PARKING OUTSIDE BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Brookwood residents have raised concerns again about the dangerous parking outside the primary School on Connaught Road. Our local councillors, Kevin Davis and Leslie Rice, made a visit to see the problem for themselves. They are trying to make some progress with the irresponsible and dangerous parking at school drop-off and pick-up times. There was a meeting last week and effort is ongoing to get the police to attend and to actually give out some tickets. Surrey County Council also need to act to improve enforcement before a nasty accident occurs.

BROOKWOOD CLUB

On Saturday 6 April there will be A Night at the Races, with racing starting at 8pm. Place your bets on eight runners in eight races. All bets are cash only. Good Luck!

Saturday 13 April is Bingo Night, starting at 8.30pm. Please note that this has been postponed from 6 April for this month only. Bingo is normally on the first Saturday of every month.

The club AGM will be held on Monday 22 April at 8pm. Director and Committee nominations are on the white board in the club. We need volunteers to keep the club running; whatever your background or experience, please get in touch if you are interested in supporting the club.

PIRBRIGHT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Come and join us for a fun afternoon of French Boules on Sunday 28 April at 2.00pm at Lord Pirbright's Hall, including a homemade English cream tea to complement this new twinning initiative. Tickets are £8.00 each, children under 12 free of charge. Payment by bank transfer (BACS) to: Pirbright Twinning Association, sort code 30-99-80, A/C no. 01174367. Enquiries to George Lane (treasurer.twinning@gmail.com).





If you would like to improve your French language skills, we are seeking to offer a conversational course of 12 sessions of 1.5 hours for a maximum of 15 people, on Thursdays 7.30–9.00pm at Lord Pirbright's Hall. This community initiative would require the course fee to be paid in full in advance with no refunds given for non-attendance. The course fee has yet to be finalised but would be no more than £140.00. Please email jon.lopez@btinternet.com if you wish to register an interest.

PIRBRIGHT CHURCH

Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir will be performing in Pirbright Church on Saturday 19 October at 2.30pm. Tickets are £25 each and all profits will be shared between Shooting Star Children's Hospices and CureParkinson's.

Please email philipbarralet@gmail.com or by phone 01483 473737 for tickets.

NEW PELICAN CROSSING ON A324

Surrey County Council are installing a new pelican crossing on Hermitage Road (A324) next to Gorsewood Road. This will enable pedestrians using the canal towpath to safely cross the road, in particular children from Brookwood going to and from Winston Churchill School. The work will require temporary traffic lights and full road closures at some times.

THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL SOCIETY

The Society has been hard at work over the winter months, not only the effort put in by the working parties to clear up fallen trees and reduce saplings along the banks, but also lobbying our local councillors and spreading the word to "Keep your Canal Alive". There is a real risk to the future of the canal, due to lack of funding. You can help the cause by writing to your local MP. See https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/keep-your-canal-alive/ for details of how you can help.

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
Third Tuesday of each month	WI Meeting, 7.45pm, Small Memorial Hall
Thursday 28 March	Maundy Thursday service, 7.30 pm, Holy Trinity, Knaphill
Friday 29 March	Walk of Witness, 9.45am, Holy Trinity, Knaphill
Sunday 31 March	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 6am, Newlands Corner
Sunday 31 March	Easter Sunday Family Celebration, 10am, Holy Trinity, Knaphill
Sunday 31 March	Easter Sunday Night Worship, 6.30pm, St Saviour's
Saturday 6 April	A Night at the Races, 8pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 7 April	Introductory Walk South Side, 2pm, Cemetery Office
Tuesday 9 April	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall
Saturday 13 April	Bingo, 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Monday 22 April	Brookwood Club AGM, 8pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 28 April	French Boules Afternoon with Cream Tea, 2.00pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Thursday 2 May	Local Election voting, 9am to 10pm, Small Memorial Hall
Friday 3 to Sunday 5 May	Just Move 2024, for children at Brookwood School
Sunday 5 May	Introductory Walk North Side, 2pm, Cemetery Office
Sunday 5 May	The Toff's Walk, 2pm, Cemetery Office
Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May	Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale, from 10am
Saturday 8 June	Pirbright Village Fair, 11am-5pm
Saturday 15 June	Brookwood School Summer Fair
Saturday 27 July	Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show

BROOKWOOD SCOUTS NEWS

Brookwood Scouts enjoyed their first camp of the year, teaming up with 1st Knaphill to attend the aptly named Frost Camp, held at the end of February. Temperatures reached a balmy zero degrees at night, with our Scouts spending 2 nights under canvas at the Bentley Copse activity centre in Shere with other groups from Surrey. Activities included shooting, tree climbing, crate stacking, circus skills, a silent disco and much, much more. Our Scouts had a great time and returned home exhausted and very muddy!

This was the first of several camps we have planned this year; next up is the Lightweight Challenge in March. Scouts will plan, hike, camp and cook for themselves over the weekend, over a route which will take them 20km. A team of judges will score their efforts and grade performance, and we wish them the best of luck.

Can you Help? As a charity we are required to have a board of trustees who oversee the running of the group, and we have a few empty spots on our board which need filling. In practice, this means being available three or four times a year to attend meetings and help us make the right decisions for the charity. Roles we need to fill are Chair and two other people to sit on the trustee board; no Scouting experience is necessary. In addition to the trustee roles, we also need someone who can help with fundraising and also a Secretary to help keep things organised. If you think you can help, please get in touch with Joe (gslbrookwood@gmail.com).



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 MAY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th APRIL 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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