BROOKWOOD NEWS

October 2024

EDITORIAL

As I write this, I'm wondering if we have just had the last of the warm days of summer, as the weather is changing to chillier times as we move into autumn. Change seems to have been the word and theme for recent events in Brookwood, with Fulks butcher shops closing for good, the Post Office no longer in the village, St Saviour's Church changing its name, and several families that I have known for many years moving house. Even our daughter has changed her name after recently getting married. Of course, this is a season of change for many, with children and students changing schools and colleges, and families getting used to new routines. However, change is sometimes good – it keeps us on our toes, keeps things new and fresh, and with it can come hope, development and positive aspects as well. This newsletter contains news of several changes, but hopefully these will be of interest and help to keep a sense of community going within the village, where neighbours are supportive and new friendships are made at various events and gatherings.

Yvonne Craven – Editor

MEN BEHAVING SADLY

This is not a reference to the local male population, but the name of a band who will be playing at Brookwood Club, Saturday 12 October, 8pm. All welcome.

woodhill .church

WOODHILL CHURCH, CONNAUGHT ROAD

Where is this you might ask? And well you might, because after 115 years St Saviour's Church has changed its name to Woodhill Church (Connaught Road). The Parish Church Council spent 15 months planning, exploring and praying how best to serve the parish, and make good use of the buildings, staff and resources between St Saviour's and the sister church, Holy Trinity, in Knaphill. It was felt that it needed to become one church under a unifying new name, and to keep things simple by strengthening the worship gatherings together. So Holy Trinity is now called Woodhill Church (Chobham Road). This means that morning services will no longer be held at the Brookwood church, and instead morning services are at 10.30am at Woodhill Church (Chobham Road), i.e. Holy Trinity. However, there is a regular Sunday evening service at 6pm at Woodhill Church (Connaught Road). The building will also be used for other services, meetings, courses and events during the week.

In addition, the following activities will continue at Woodhill Church (Connaught Road): weekly Pop-up Coffee, Friday mornings 10am to 12noon; monthly Lunch with Friends on the fourth Wednesday 12noon to 2pm; Candlelit Christmas Carol Service, Puppet Crib Service, and Candlelit Holy Communion on Christmas Eve.

For some of us long-standing regular churchgoers, it will take a while to get used to this change of routine but, after two Sunday services where the past was celebrated and the new name launched, I'm sure we will be embracing and welcoming the situation as the two church families unite regularly and become one congregation. Everyone is welcome to Woodhill Churches; go to the website https://www.woodhill.church for further information.



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PAVEMENT WORKS

Despite the inevitable disruption caused along Connaught Road for several months, many of us are delighted about the improvements to pavements and kerbs. I hope that those who have had to negotiate new dropped kerbs outside their property have had a favourable outcome to their situation. While the works were happening outside our house for a week, it was fascinating to occasionally stop and watch the speed and efficiency of the workers, who have been putting in overtime on Saturday and Sundays to get the job done. The result is a much smoother walk and ride for pushchairs and wheelchairs, as well as a smarter look to the village.



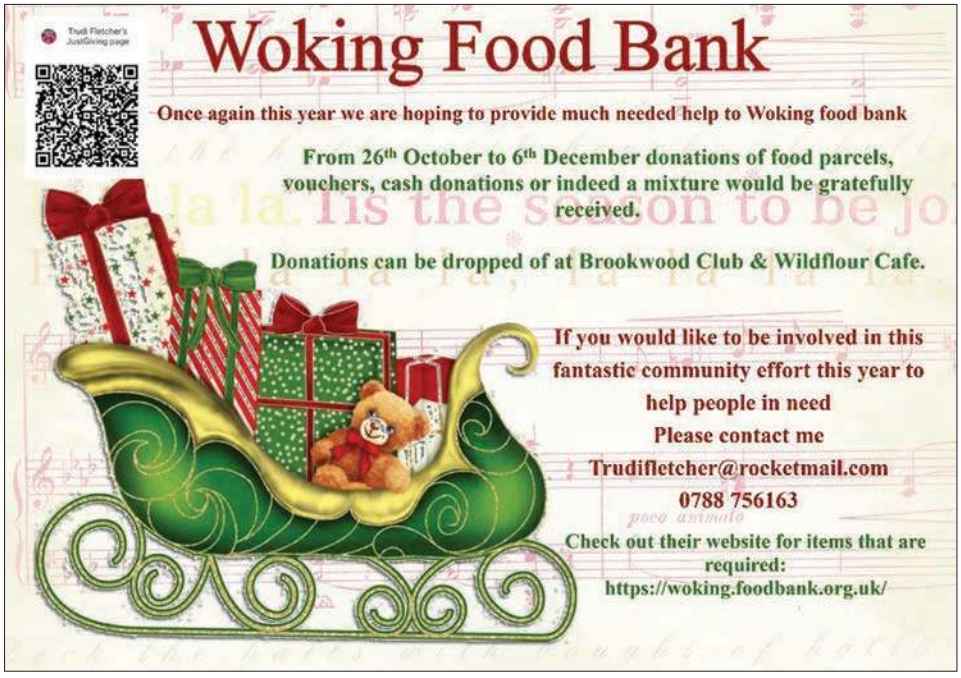
While we are on this subject, a resident who is now a regular wheelchair user, has asked that residents be considerate and keep pavements clear of cars, make sure hedges are trimmed back, and paths are free from gravel, so that wheelchair users don't have a bumpy ride and can avoid having to go into the road to pass.

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 6 December. We can hardly believe that it is the tenth anniversary of running the campaign, which helps provide essential food to those in the local area who are in need. If you are new to the village, our Christmas Foodbank appeal has become an important fundraising campaign and we would love your support, whether a small donation via our fundraising page, or a food parcel of non-perishable items being left at one of our drop-off points, namely Brookwood Club and Wildflour Bakehouse. Items can be left there during opening hours, and don't forget a label with your name and address. If you are struggling to get to the shops, we have set up a JustGiving page to make things a little easier (https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tf2024). Alternatively, you can scan the QR code displayed here and on all of the posters, which will take you directly to 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 want us to collect your parcel. Check out https://woking.foodbank.org.uk to find out more about Woking Foodbank.

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

Trudi & Darren



A SAFER TUNNEL AT LAST

For many years, some residents in Brookwood have been campaigning for a safer walking route through the Pirbright tunnel. Some of us remember when there was only a painted white line to separate pedestrians from the traffic. However, at last, with the help of Cllr Ayesha Azad, work will start in November on improving the pavement and extending it towards the canal lock on the western side, by cutting back shrubs and putting in a safer walkway. Also, at the junction with Gole Road, a pedestrian crossing will be created so that pedestrians will no longer have to dash across between changing traffic lights. This will mean that pedestrians and families walking to school will be much safer, and perhaps this will encourage more people to leave the car at home. However, the drawback will be some delays for traffic using the tunnel while pedestrians cross, which may cause a build-up of queues. Time will tell, but I'm all in favour of the greener option of improvements that favour the pedestrian rather than the car.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY GUIDED TOURS

Brookwood Cemetery Society runs monthly guided tours between September and March. Each Sunday walk starts at 1pm. Book early, as popular topics fill up quickly.

Sunday 6 October
Toffs – Part 2: Alison Vince will explore interesting graves of the privileged and talk about how their background shaped their lives.

Locals and Local Businesses: Kim Lowe leads focusing on some of the people who owned and ran local family businesses and other local notables.

Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood Connections: Jenny Mukerji will lead this walk which features people who have important connections to the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood artists.

Thursday 31 October
Halloween walk, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Suitable clothing and footwear advised, and please bring a torch for a respectful stroll through the cemetery.

Booking is essential. Email walks@tbcs.org.uk or phone 07714 289375. A donation of £6.50 per person includes refreshments afterwards at the lodge. All money raised from the donations goes towards the society's restoration projects. We meet at the Society Lodge adjacent to the Cemetery Office, just off Cemetery Pales.

WILDFLOUR BAKEHOUSE OPENS

On Saturday 31 August, as we had run out of bread, I ventured along the road to the bakers, and was delighted to see the balloons and open door ready to receive customers. Wildflour Bakehouse has now been refurbished, and has a wonderful display of bread, pastries and cakes on offer, with coffee available to take and sit outside and pass the time with friends and neighbours. Since that successful opening day, when there were many popping in to claim their free coffee and try the food, owner Chris Harris says that business has been picking up. Everything is baked fresh at their Chertsey bakery daily and brought over to Brookwood at 6.30am, while the sourdough bread, now available every day, is dropped off by local baker, Stuart, of Pan bread. The bread and cornish pasties we have tried so far have been delicious, and it is fast becoming our Saturday treat to go and buy a cinnamon roll or croissant for breakfast. This is a change that I'm enjoying very much!

Open 7.30am to 4pm Monday–Friday, 8am–2pm Saturday.





COUNCIL UPDATE



'The Value for Money Report into the Council's financial history is expected before Christmas. The Community Infrastructure Levy fund available to Brookwood Neighbourhood Area is about £16,000.

'I would be delighted to hear from residents how this money could be used to initiate, repair and or maintain community assets. You can call me on 07890 726439 or email me at CllrLeslie.Rice@woking.gov.uk.'

I spoke to Cllr Leslie Rice, along with some other residents, at the village tea party in the summer, when he mentioned that these funds are available. A couple of suggestions were refurbishing the play area in Connaught Road or upgrading the facilities at the Sheets Heath recreation ground. If anyone has any further ideas or suggestions, then do get in touch with him about this. If these funds are available, it is a great opportunity and we should try to use them. *Ed*.

BROOKWOOD ART GROUP HIT WEST END SHOW

This begs so many questions. How? Why? When? And, possibly, What the…?
Around 80 paintings were transported on Saturday 14 September with meticulous care a mere three miles distant from Brookwood to West End Annual Country Show, which offers everything you might expect: vegetables, flowers, preserves, chutneys and baked goods, with prizes and cups galore. On the village green there were commercial stalls, including crafts, cakes, children's entertainment and a dog show. This year also had brewery dray rides pulled by shire horses. To add to this Merrie mix of Olde England, a group of Morris dancers appeared from time to time like a mirage with sound.

Brookwood Art Group's impressive display comprised artworks for sale. More paintings were entered into the show's competition with numerous categories. These were judged in the morning, then the tantalizing wait until late afternoon for winners to be announced. The small, stalwart team who rose early to transport and set up all those paintings in the marquee deserve a medal.



Many people showed interest in our lovely, friendly, creative group and we look forward to welcoming them one Friday morning in the Brookwood Memorial Hall (Art.brookwood@outlook.com, 07775 297938, www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com).

Miriam Wakerly

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

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS





On Saturday 31 August, Pirbright Horticultural Society held a celebration tea party in Lord Pirbright's Hall to celebrate the anniversary of the first meeting of the Society 125 years ago. The Chairman, Philip Barralet, welcomed the special guests, who included Sallie Barker, Mayor of Guildford; Geoff Peach, Horticultural judge; Hilary Askew, Craft judge; Elizabeth Barralet, Floral Art judge; and Judy Williams, publicity designer. The inaugural show in 1899 was opened by Lord Pirbright, and one of the judges of the exhibits was his head gardener. Sixty current and former members of the Pirbright Horticultural Society attended, enjoying an excellent tea followed by a raffle of prizes including a painting by local artist Maggie Read.

Pirbright Horticultural Society organises a programme of speakers and other activities on the second Tuesday of each month at Lord Pirbright's Hall, to which members and visitors are welcome. The next meeting is Tuesday 8 October, 7.30pm, in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall with a talk on 'Workaid, Second-hand Tools for Africa' by Chris Stewart. For more information please contact secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk, www.pirbrighthort.co.uk and Facebook pages.

CUBS CAUSE CHAOS



Brookwood Cubs were part of a contingent of 250 young people who camped at Bentley Copse Activity Centre for the Cubs Cause Chaos camp over the weekend of 14 and 15 September. The temperature dropped to four degrees on Friday night, but this did not dampen spirits, as the Cubs enjoyed two days of activities, including tomahawk throwing, archery, climbing, air rifle shooting and much more. The highlight of the weekend was the campfire in the evening, when our Cubs enjoyed some traditional campfire songs and stories before heading off to the on-site disco.

Our Cubs are supported by a dedicated team of leaders, all local residents, who give up their free time to enable our youngsters to enjoy the opportunities that Scouting provides. We are always needing more help, so if you would like to get involved and join the team, please contact Joe, Lead Volunteer (gslbrookwood@gmail.com).

Joe Thorneywork

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

Every Sunday	Evening Service, 6pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Every Monday	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, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Sunday 6 October	Brookwood Cemetery walks, 1pm
Tuesday 8 October	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Club Room, Pirbright Hall
Saturday 12 October	Men Behaving Sadly band, Brookwood Club, 8pm
Wednesday 23 October	Lunch with Friends, 12noon to 2pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Thursday 31 October	Halloween Walk, 7pm, Brookwood Cemetery

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 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th OCTOBER 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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