

BROOKWOOD NEWS

April 2025

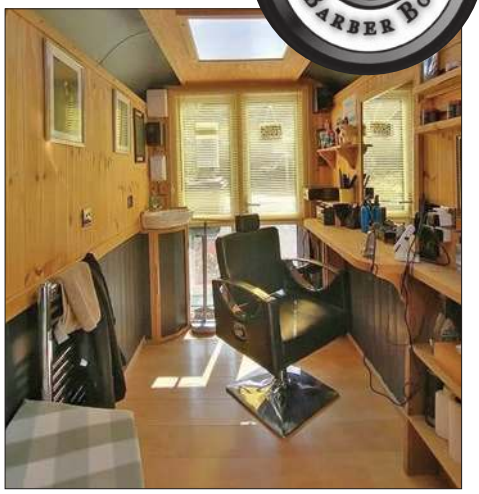
EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April edition and I hope that when you are reading this, the sun is out and spring has fully arrived. Hopefully there is plenty to interest you in this month's edition and you can note some of the events coming up later in the year, especially the Village Tea Party on Sunday 22 June. After last year's successful event to celebrate 10 years of the newsletter in its current form, we thought we would hold another sociable afternoon for residents to get together. So do make sure you keep that afternoon free. More details next month.

Yvonne Craven – Editor

BARBER BOX

The Barber Box is looking for a new location in Brookwood village. If anyone has an unused space where it can be stationed for haircuts, then please call Richard on 07852 517786.



WHITE ON WHITE - BROOKWOOD ART GROUP'S LATEST

Sounds a bit ghostly, doesn't it? Since my last report on more colourful activities, BAG has gained new members and continues to thrive. The picture shows a piece of plain white scrunched up paper. Only Carole Lane who set this up perhaps knew that this exercise in observing tonal changes, folds, shadows and highlights, then transposing this to a flat sheet of paper, could happily fill a morning. We have other inspirational ideas lined up, as well as a variety of workshops run by professional artists, or you can just do your own thing. It is good to have options but there is never any pressure. Whether a newcomer to art, or experienced, if you fancy trying out our friendly, welcoming group, please let us know. There is no charge for a taster, so you have nothing to lose. We meet Friday mornings at the Large Memorial Hall.

Miriam Wakerly – Brookwood Art Group

Art.brookwood@outlook.com

07775 297938

www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com





MEMORIAL HALL AGM

Louise, Maria and the management team at Brookwood Memorial Halls would like to invite you to join them for the AGM on Monday 28 April, 8pm in the Committee Room (off the large hall). If you've attended a party, learned to dance or trained your puppy there, find out what has been going on and thoughts for the future. If that's not exciting enough there will be wine and nibbles. If anyone is interested in supporting the hall in any way they would love to hear from you, so pop along and meet the team.

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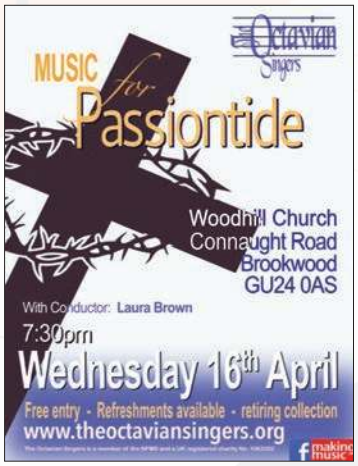
seymours-estates.co.uk

Seymours

OCTAVIAN SINGERS, PASSIONTIDE CONCERT

In the relaxed surroundings of Woodhill Church, Brookwood, The Octavian Singers and professional actor, Peter Cadden, will present an hour of words and music on the themes of Passiontide. Doors will open 7pm on Wednesday 16 April to allow you to enjoy refreshments before the programme begins at 7.30pm. There are no tickets for the evening, but a retiring collection will be split between church and choir.

The music will include favourites such as the Passion chorale by Bach, Orlando Gibbons setting of the text "Drop, drop slow tears" and the familiar Crucifixus by Lotti. There will be music from 16th - 21st centuries, including pieces by composers from often under-represented communities. Please do join us for a moment of calm contemplation before the joy of the Easter weekend.



Laura Brown, Musical Director



BROOKWOOD WI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

March is always a very special month at Brookwood WI as we celebrate our birthday. This year we have celebrated our 72nd birthday with a wonderful get together. The committee provided jacket potatoes, salads and fillings and, after our meal, we enjoyed the wonderful voices of Vox Choir, several of whom were also Brookwood WI members. There were many songs that we all knew, and the choir commented on how many people they could see singing along with them from our seats. It was a lovely evening and we look forward to a fun and fulfilling 2025.

If you are interested in joining us one evening, we meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the small hall for a 7.45pm start.

Jackie Kenny





NEW NURSERY IN BROOKWOOD

Brookwood Primary School is thrilled to announce the launch of Brookwood Nursery, a brand-new, teacher-led early years provision opening in September 2025, (subject to DfE approval). Designed for children aged two to four years, the school-based nursery will provide a high-quality, play-based learning environment to help young learners thrive. The nursery will emphasise exploration, creativity, and problem-solving, fostering essential skills such as social communication, critical thinking and imagination. Children will benefit from a mix of structured activities and free play, ensuring a well-rounded and engaging experience.

To create the best environment for early learning, Brookwood Nursery will undergo exciting upgrades, including a refurbished classroom, enhanced outdoor play area, and improved safety measures. Additionally, children will have access to school facilities, making the transition to Reception seamless.

Brookwood Nursery will be open Monday to Friday, from 8.40am to 3.10pm. Parents are encouraged to register their interest via our website, http://www.brookwood.surrey.sch.uk/639/nursery# or contact the school office on 01483 473315.

Wendy Thomas, Headteacher, Brookwood Primary School

SPEEDWATCH EDUCATION PROJECT

Thank you to the volunteers who have contacted the Brookwood Community Speedwatch project. We are still looking for two more people. It is a project to monitor traffic travelling along Connaught Road and to educate motorists about speed. The volunteers will have police training and advice. If you can volunteer then please contact Mike Sherwood on 01483 476360 or mikesherwood180@gmail.com.

CHANGES FOR APPOINTMENTS AT PIRBRIGHT SURGERY

From 1 June 2025, Pirbright Surgery is moving towards a triage system that will improve how healthcare services are delivered. The main objectives are to enhance the quality patients receive, to ensure that they are given the most appropriate appointment or advice to meet their needs and that this is done in a timely way. As of 1 June, it is asked that all appointment requests are submitted via the website. Your request will then be assessed and triaged appropriately.

Triage uses a quick, simple online form which patients fill in when they wish to contact the surgery. If you do not have access to the internet or struggle to complete forms, our practice phone lines will remain open for anyone with accessibility difficulties and a member of the reception team will complete the form for you over the telephone. A member of the team will respond to you within three working days and conditions that need to be assessed on the same day will be prioritised. The reception team will no longer be making GP appointments with patients directly.

There are several benefits of using a triage system: easy to access; no waiting on hold on the phone; your request is assessed and appropriately triaged by our trained staff; the surgery might be able to help more quickly; those who need appointments most will be prioritised. There is a 'Question & Answer' evening on Wednesday 21 May, 7- 8pm, in the Clubroom at Lord Pirbright's Hall. The GP partners and Practice Manager will be present to assist with any queries relating to the new triage model.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY GEM - ALFRED BESTALL 1892-1985



Near the edge of plot 100 on the north side of Brookwood Cemetery is the Bestall family plot. The grave is of Albert Henry Arthur Bestall, his wife Rebecca and their son Alfred. Alfred was the well-known writer and illustrator of the Rupert Bear cartoon strip in the 'Daily Express' newspaper for thirty years.

He was born in Mandalay where his father was a Methodist minister. He was educated in Colwyn Bay, Wales and studied at the Birmingham School of Arts and Crafts and served with the Army Service Corps in World War I. After working as an illustrator for such periodicals as 'The Tatler' and 'Punch', he was asked in 1935, if he would write and illustrate Rupert Bear. This he agreed to and wrote over two hundred adventures taking over from the originator Mary Tourtel. He also started the successful annuals in 1936. Alfred retired in 1965 but continued to contribute to the annuals until his death in 1985. He was awarded an MBE just before he died, and his house in Surbiton, has a blue commemorative plaque.



Margaret Hobbs, Brookwood Cemetery Society

PERINEWS EDITOR CHANGES

Julia Douetil has been the sole editor of 'Perinews' for 15 years, which has been a huge commitment. She has decided to step down and a new team has taken on the editing and publishing of the Pirbright village newsletter. On Friday 14 March, I was invited to attend a thank you celebration for Julia, when she was presented with a gift that was a complete surprise. Every edition of the Perinews always included a story about yellow rabbit. This was a large yellow rubber toy that Julia found near the churchyard many years ago. She left it on the church wall but it was never claimed and eventually it sat in various places around the churchyard and became the subject of her stories. Secretly, Pirbright Art Group, along with other contributors, illustrated some of the stories, and this was published in book form and given to her at the celebration. The delight on her face for this special gift stayed with her for the rest of the party. An amazing lady who has done, and continues to do, so much for Pirbright village.



Photo left to right, Julia Douetil, Rev. George Watkinson, Helen Whitworth

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

We have had a good response to the request for members to form the Brookwood Neighbourhood Forum. By now all members should be part of a WhatsApp group. If any former members have any paperwork from the previous Neighbourhood Forum, please do get in touch with me.

If you would like to join the Forum, please call 07932 700586 or email CllrLeslie.Rice@woking.gov.uk. Thank you.

Cllr Leslie Rice



BASINGSTOKE CANAL NEWS

While walking along the canal recently you may have noticed that the banks have been cut back in many places and areas tidied up. The cut back happens at the end of February and throughout March before any birds start nesting along the banks, and this is all done by cheerful groups of volunteers. The BCA has been glad to see a growth in membership in recent months and now have 1,200 members along with many volunteers. There is a Tuesday work party as well as weekend and corporate groups working to keep the canal in good condition and improving habitats for wildlife. The new electric passenger boat, Kitty II, is almost finished and ready to use. The last hurdle is to get shore power infrastructure provision at Bridge Barn which has hit legal problems, hopefully resolved soon. Meanwhile, trips on other boats can be booked on the website http://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/book-your-boat-trip/



Canal volunteers - near Brookwood



Work party, near Blacksmith's Bridge with previously hidden WW2 defences now exposed

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)
Saturday 5 April	Bingo, eyes down 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 6 April	Various walks, 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery (pre-booking needed) walks@tbcs.org.uk or 07714 289375
Monday 14 April	Brookwood Club AGM, 7.30pm (all members welcome)
Tuesday 15 April	Holy Week Worship & Prayer, 7.30 to 8.30pm, Woodhill Church, Connaught Road
Wednesday 16 April	Octavian Singers concert, 7.30 to 10pm, Woodhill Church, Connaught Road
Thursday 17 April	Maundy Thursday service, 7.30 to 8.30pm, Woodhill Church, Connaught Road
Wednesday 23 April	Lunch with Friends, 12 to 2pm, Woodhill Church, Connaught Road
Monday 28 April	Brookwood Memorial Halls AGM, 8pm, Committee Room
Sunday 4 May	Various walks, 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery (pre-booking needed) walks@tbcs.org.uk or 07714 289375
Wednesday 21 May	Pirbright Surgery Question & Answer, 7-8pm, Pirbright Clubroom
Sunday 22 June	Village Tea Party, 2 to 4.30pm, Small Memorial Hall

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DIFFERENT DOG WALKS

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@differentdog_walks

SCAN ME!

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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