

BROOKWOOD NEWS

May 2025

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the May edition of Brookwood News. A wealth of material this month reporting on a wide range of activities and events in and around the village. As ever, thanks to all our contributors and to our readers. We hope you enjoy this edition.

John Wheeler – Editor

BROOKWOOD CLUB

Brookwood Club is pleased to announce that we have a new Bar Manager – Alex.

He has years of experience managing and working at bars and pubs so please feel free to ask him any questions and introduce yourself.

In addition to bingo on Saturday 3 May (eyes down from 8.30pm) make a note too of the other regular events at the Club – Monday poker nights (other than the third Monday each month), the Friday night meat raffle and the Sunday evening quiz (from 8.30pm). And make a note also that there will be another Race Night at 8pm on Saturday 14 June.

VILLAGE TEA PARTY – DIARY DATE

The Village tea party will be held on Sunday 22 June, in the Small Memorial Hall, from 2 to 4.30pm. Further details will be published in the June Brookwood News.

BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL TO LAUNCH NEW NURSERY

Brookwood Primary School is thrilled to announce that we have been successfully awarded government funding as one of just 300 schools across the country recently selected by the Department for Education (DfE). This significant achievement will enable us to open our brand-new teacher-led nursery in September 2025, marking an exciting new chapter for our school and community.

The DfE funding will support the development of a dedicated, high-quality early years setting within our school grounds, designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for children aged 2 to 4 years. Our new nursery will be equipped with both vibrant indoor and engaging outdoor learning spaces, allowing our youngest learners to play, explore, and thrive.

Brookwood Nursery will provide daily sessions from 8.40am to 3.10pm, offering flexible and accessible options for local families. We will be delivering a teacher-led curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), delivered by qualified teaching staff. Our provision will include:

- places for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds;
- access to the government's free early education entitlements (eligibility applies);
- a balanced approach combining structured learning with play-based exploration;
- a strong focus on outdoor learning to encourage curiosity, confidence, and independence;
- potential for wraparound and holiday care once the nursery is full, and subject to parental demand.

We're incredibly grateful for the support shown by our local community. In a recent consultation, an overwhelming 97% of respondents backed the proposal to lower the school's age range and establish a school-led nursery.

We'll be hosting an information event in the summer term for families interested in learning more about our nursery and the exciting plans ahead. To express your interest in a nursery place for September 2025, or to register your interest in the information event, please visit our school website (www.brookwood.surrey.sch.uk) and social media channels.

We can't wait to welcome our youngest learners to the Brookwood family in September 2025!

FRIENDS OF PIRBRIGHT SURGERY

You are invited to a fund-raising Coffee Morning at Mulberry Cottage, Chapel Lane, Pirbright, on Saturday 17 May from 10am to 12noon. Enjoy delicious home-made treats. Look forward to seeing you there.

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

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BROOKWOOD SCOUTS TRIUMPH IN WOKING DISTRICT LIGHTWEIGHT CHALLENGE

Brookwood Scouts emerged victorious in the Woking Scouts District Lightweight Challenge, held on 24 and 25 March. The competition, which tested navigation, teamwork, and outdoor skills, saw Brookwood compete against eight other teams from the district.

Over the weekend, the Scouts navigated independently between checkpoints using a map and compass, covering a total distance of 25 km. They were judged not only on their navigation skills but also on their ability to pitch a tent, prepare nutritious food, and maintain a tidy campsite. These skills are a testament to the training they receive from our dedicated team of volunteer Scout leaders every Friday night.

Brookwood also fielded a non-competitive training team, who completed the course but were not included in the scoring.



BEAVERS

DISCOVER ADVENTURE AND NEW FRIENDS AT 1ST BROOKWOOD BEAVERS

Looking for engaging activities for your child aged 5¾ to 8 years? 1st Brookwood Beavers offers a wonderful opportunity to explore new interests, develop skills, and forge lasting friendships within a supportive environment. We meet every Friday during term time at the Memorial Hall in Brookwood at 5.15pm.

Our programme contains a diverse range of activities, including exploring the outdoors, creative crafts, skill-building, and group games. Under the guidance of our volunteer leaders, Beavers participate in experiences designed to build confidence and a sense of belonging, and earn badges for their accomplishments as they learn new skills.

We are currently open for new members, so if you would like to try it out to see if it's right for you please visit our website (www.1stbrookwood.scoutsites.org.uk) or get in touch with Joe, our Lead Volunteer, at gslbrookwood@gmail.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

During our 10-year history the May edition of Brookwood News will have almost certainly made mention of forthcoming local elections, either Borough or County Council, giving readers information about the arrangements for casting their votes.

That, however, is not the case this year. In February the Government announced that the elections to Surrey County Council due to be held this May would be delayed until 7 May 2026.

This decision was taken following the publication of a Government White Paper on devolution, i.e. the decentralisation of government power to local or regional authorities. The existing local authorities have submitted their interim proposal to Government. A final proposal is due to be submitted by 9 May, with the Government due to make a decision later in the year. More details are of course available on the various Council websites.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of Pirbright Horticultural Society will be on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm in the Clubroom at Lord Pirbright's Hall. All are welcome. The speaker will be Jill Arthur who has entitled her talk "What a Cookery and Preserves Judge looks for!". As Jill will be judging at the PHS Annual Show on Saturday 19 July, this is a chance to get some tips so your entries will be prize winners.

Also coming up on the weekend of 17 and 18 May is the Society's Annual Plant Sale. This will take place between 10am and 3pm at 5 West Heath, Pirbright, by kind permission of Pauline and Michael Allen.

Information about the Society can be found on its website (www.pirbrighthort.co.uk) and by following its new page on Facebook – Pirbright Horticultural Society, Pirbright Village, Surrey.

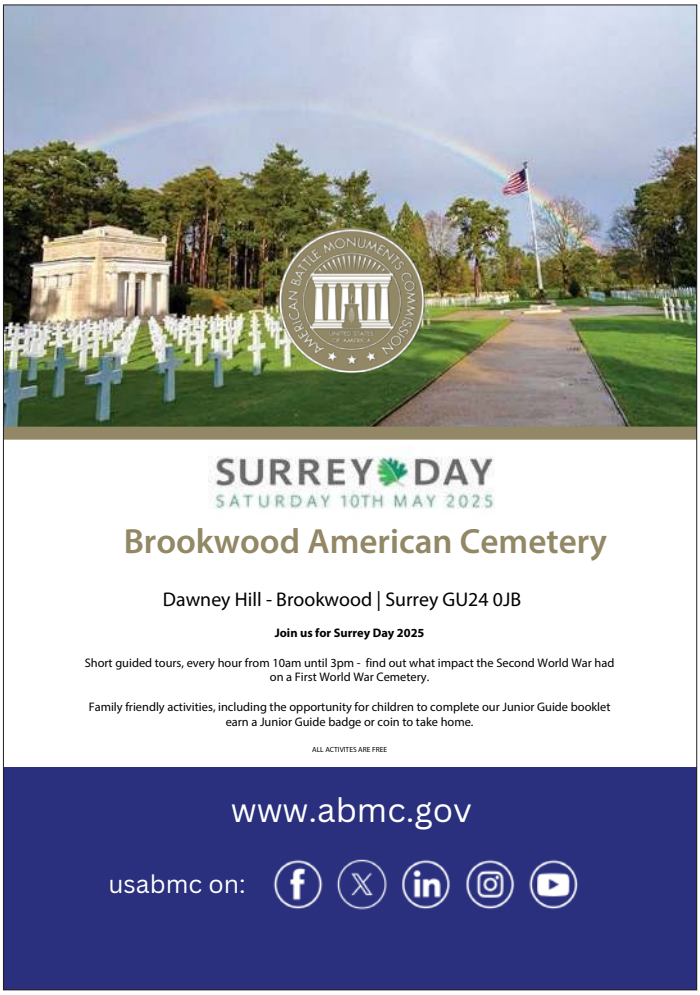
WOKING PEREGRINE PROJECT

Thanks to the support of Surrey Bird Club and Arcom IT the cameras recording the activities in the peregrine nest at the top of Export House in Woking are now back up and running, in what is the 10th year of the project. All of this can be accessed via www.wokingperegrines.com. At the time of going to press, four eggs have been laid. Last year, the first egg hatched at the end of April, so here's hoping for good news next month.



BROOKWOOD AMERICAN CEMETERY – SURREY DAY, SATURDAY 10 MAY

Family friendly activities, including short, guided tours every hour will be on offer from 10am until 3pm. The theme of the tours will be "Find out what impact the Second World War had on a First World War Cemetery". Also available for children will be a Junior Guide Programme based on a self-guided activity book that will take them around the cemetery, completing missions. Successfully completing the booklet will entitle them to a signed and stamped certificate, a sticker, and they can pick either a Junior Guide badge or coin. This programme is available in our visitor's room 9am to 5pm every day; however, on 10 May a member of staff will be on hand to help the children with the programme/missions.



BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's War Graves Week is their annual celebration of the work of the CWGC at home and around the world. This year they are combining their annual War Graves Week events with the nationwide VE Day and VJ Day 80 Commemorations.

Running from 2 to 12 May this year, there will be lots of opportunities for you to find out more about what the CWGC does and how it's done. There is a wealth of world war history across all four corners of the United Kingdom. From large CWGC war cemeteries and memorials to single headstones in remote churchyards, you're never too far away from one of their sites.

A list of current war graves tours and events by region and country, including at Brookwood, can be found at www.cwgc.org/wargravesweek, which is also where tickets for these free events can be booked. The meeting point for the Brookwood tours is Canada Building, which is just beyond the gates as you enter from Dawney Hill.

The 80th anniversary of VE Day will be celebrated on 8 May. See www.ve80.com for details of national events and any locally organised events.

WOKING & SAM BEARE HOSPICE FUND-RAISERS

The Dragon Boat Races and Family Fun Day are back on Sunday 8 June at Goldsworth Park Lake. It's set to be another oar-some day so why not get your dragon boat teams of family, friends, colleagues or team mates together and take on the challenge to see if you can be crowned the champions of the lake. Whether you are out to impress with your rowing prowess or just out for fun, we can guarantee a fabulous fun day, all in aid of the best cause.

This is the first of four events being organised by WSBH in June, the others being an open water swim at Shepperton on Saturday 14 June, an 80-mile bike ride on Saturday 21 June starting in Worplesdon, and a 4-km walk in East Horsley on Sunday 29 June. Please go to www.wsbh.org.uk for all the details relating to these events, including how to book.



BROOKWOOD CEMETERY WALKS

The Brookwood Cemetery Society's programme of walks has now restarted. Sunday 4 May sees the South Side Introductory Walk, the Railway Walk, and the Ships, Ship Owners and Captains Walk. On Sunday 1 June the subjects are the North Side Introductory Walk, South Side Notables, and the Military Walk. Pre-booking for these 2pm starts, via walks@tbcs.org.uk, is essential.

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)
Friday 2 May to Monday 12 May	CWGC Annual Celebration (see article)
Saturday 3 May	Bingo, Brookwood Club, eyes down from 8.30pm
Sunday 4 May	Various walks (see article), 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery (south side). Meet at the Society Lodge by the entrance to the Cemetery off Cemetery Pales
Saturday 10 May	Brookwood American Cemetery Surrey Day events (see article)
Tuesday 13 May	Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Saturday 17 May	Friends of Pirbright Surgery Coffee Morning,10.30am to 12.00noon (see article)
Saturday 17 May & Sunday 18 May	Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale, 10am to 3pm, 5 West Heath, Pirbright
Sunday 1 June	Various walks (see article), 2pm, Brookwood Cemetery (north side). Meet at the Society Lodge by the entrance to the Cemetery off Cemetery Pales
Saturday 7 June	Pirbright Players – "Ladies' Day" performances at Lord Pirbright's Hall, 2pm and 7pm
Sunday 8 June	Woking & Sam Beare Hospice fund-raiser (see article)
Saturday 14 June	Brookwood School Fete – details to be confirmed
Saturday 14 June	Woking & Sam Beare Hospice fund-raiser (see article)
Saturday 21 June	Brookwood Club Race Night, 8.00pm Woking & Sam Beare Hospice fund-raiser (see article)
Sunday 22 June	Village Tea Party, 2–4.30pm, Small Memorial Hall
Sunday 29 June	Woking & Sam Beare Hospice fund-raiser (see article)

PIRBRIGHT POND

Travelling through Pirbright it's hard not to notice the somewhat distressed state of the green in the vicinity of the pond. There is, however, an interesting explanation why this is so.

The pond was dredged last September because it had become heavily silted up. The silt which was removed was spread across the main green. The intention is to use this rich source of nutrients to fertilise the green and raise the level of this area, which historically had some low areas within it. Now that the silt has begun to dry out, works have begun to spread and begin to cultivate it into the soil below. It will then be seeded.

Basically, all ponds want to become woodland, a process called succession. Primary succession can happen when mud is colonised by plants. Over a period of years, the pond may steadily lose the open water as vegetation takes over and eventually the pond will disappear altogether.

However, removing the silt and detritus also removes all those nice micro-organisms and invertebrates that help keep the pond healthy and kick off the food chain. The solution therefore is to spread out the arisings close to the pond, which gives these little critters a chance to find their way back.

Apparently the same practice should be applied to any size pond, big or small, so, when you clean your garden pond, leave the weed by the edge for a day or two before disposing of it.



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 JUNE NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th MAY 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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