

BROOKWOOD NEWS

June 2025

EDITORIAL

And just like that, we are into June! We are into long summer evenings, picnics, sunscreen and flowers and vegetables growing. 2025 has already been incredibly busy and the second part of the year does not seem to be slowing down! I hope that you are enjoying the warm weather (the odd points we have it!!) and are set for a lovely, long warmer summer.

Jackie Kenny – Editor

WOKING PEREGRINES



Have you been keeping an eye on the Woking Peregrines that were mentioned in our last newsletter? Three eggs have hatched, and it's been interesting to watch the chicks via the webcam to see their development as they become bigger and get ready to take flight! You can watch them on www.wokingperegrines.com.

SURREY DAY – AMERICAN CEMETERY



Surrey Day was held on Saturday 10 May when there were special events across the county celebrating life in Surrey. Our nearest event was in Brookwood's American Cemetery, where tours were given throughout the day and there were trails to follow for adults and children alike.

Yvonne and Mark Craven joined a tour at 11am, knowledgeably given by Beth, and learned several new facts about the cemetery. The American servicemen buried there are all First World War and were those who died in Britain while serving, not only from warfare, but also disease and accidents while training. The flu epidemic of 1918 was one example when thousands of civilians died too. The families were given the option of having their loved ones returned home to the USA, or being buried in the country where they died. About forty per cent of the families decided on them being buried in the UK and Brookwood Cemetery had space. Later World War II servicemen were also buried in Brookwood but later moved to a separate cemetery in Cambridge.

The chapel doors were open, and we were shown the names on the walls of those who have no known grave, including two names engraved in gold who were given the Medal of Honor Award, Osmond Ingram from Alabama and Gustaf Sundquist from Ohio. While we were listening to an explanation, the High Sheriff of Surrey, Peter Cluff, arrived. He had a busy day ahead of him because he was visiting and touring the county throughout the day, supporting some of the events that were happening. As we were leaving, we had a photo opportunity to which he readily and kindly agreed when we explained we were there for Brookwood News!

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

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BROOKWOOD SCHOOL JUST MOVE 2025 AND BROOKWOOD SUMMER FAIR

Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) organised their 5th annual Just Move event over the week of the 5 May. Just Move is where all students and their families are encouraged to get active during the week, to challenge themselves to move a little more than usual, be it running, walking, cycling, swimming (whatever takes their fancy) in order to raise some money for the school. The school council (made up of students) chose to fundraise for an outdoor table tennis table and chess set this year and set themselves a target of £1,500. We are pleased to announce that we raised a whopping £1,700 and just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part and to those who sponsored. The week of events saw students running as many laps of the school field as they could during the week. The medals are designed by Year 6 with a winner chosen anonymously by the FOBS team, so congratulations to Will on having the winning design! Upon completion of their event all children received a medal, and those that showed the best effort in each class were awarded a trophy. We finished with a barbecue at the school on the Saturday, which was an enormous success, with people cycling, walking and running to that as well.



FOBS are now preparing for the school's Summer Fair which will take place from 12 noon to 3pm on Saturday 14 June. We would love to see as many of you there as possible! This is a community event and not just for those that attend the school. There will be live music, a barbecue and a Pimm's tent, plus many more stalls and games as well, so please come down and support the event.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Friends of Pirbright Surgery are holding an Open Evening on Monday 15 September. Further details to follow in the July edition of Brookwood News.

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our monthly meeting for June will be a social at Keir Lodge on the Green, by kind permission of Pat and Mary Straker. We will meet from 7pm in their garden for a chat with tea and cake, there may also be plants for sale. If you have not been before this is a good opportunity to meet the members and of course to ask any gardening questions you have. The schedule for the Annual Show on the 19 July is now on the website so please have a look and see if you would like to enter.

For more information, see our website www.pirbrighthort.co.uk.

Independent Living for Older People In Pirbright Village



- Friendly home offering supported living for 9 independent older people
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- Pirbright Green, GP surgery, pubs & coffee shops within 400m
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Cunningham House is the operating name of The Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014. registration number 22478R

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Brookwood WI have had, as usual, a busy few months. In our April meeting we had a session on chair Pilates from Claire Seager and after a bit of history on the benefits of Pilates we were invited to have a go! So, chairs were arranged, and we all embraced the stretching, flexibility, and muscle toning that the session gave us. Claire runs a regular session on Friday mornings in the Small Memorial Hall.

Every year the WI has a resolution, a cause which it wants to raise awareness of or promote, and this is to be discussed in our May meeting. Previous campaigns include organ donation, recyclable blister packs for medication and ways to support UK dairy farmers. This year the resolution is called "Bystanders can be lifesavers". We discussed CPR and the use of defibrillator machines and the way that we might be able to support this campaign within the village.



Did you see our latest post box topper in remembrance of VE day? It was a labour of love by our ladies to honour the people who fought in the war. It's wonderful that our post box can be used in such a way.

Brookwood WI meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in the Small Memorial Hall, at 7.45pm. Come along and spend the evening with us, you don't have to be great at knitting or baking!

BROOKWOOD LYE CARAVAN SITE PLANNING APPEAL DISMISSED

Residents may be aware of ongoing planning issues at Brookwood Lye Mobile Home Park. A recent appeal by the site's owner has been dismissed by the National Planning Inspectorate. This means that Woking Borough Council's enforcement notice remains in place and the land must be cleared of unauthorised caravans and associated structures within two years.

The appeal related to a piece of land next to the established mobile home park, behind a bungalow on Brookwood Lye Road. This land had been gradually turned into an extension of the mobile home park, with caravans and other structures placed on it without planning permission.

The owner argued that the land had been lived on continuously for more than 10 years, which, if proven, would have made the use legal under planning rules. However, after reviewing detailed evidence, including aerial photographs, historic street views, and written statements, the Planning Inspector concluded that the site had not been used for residential purposes for a full 10 years.

The Inspector found that only a small part of the land near the bungalow had been used before 2018. Much of the land was fenced off and remained empty and grassy during that time. Although a touring caravan had been placed on part of the land in 2012, this was a small area known as the "yellow triangle", which is technically part of the original mobile home park and not part of the land covered by the enforcement notice.

By 2018, aerial photos showed more caravans spreading across the land, but this marked the start of new use, not a continuation of long-term occupation. This distinction is important because under planning law, the clock resets when a new area is brought into use.

Additionally, there has been a previous enforcement notice in place since 2003 that restricts residential use of the wider site. This legal notice still applies, reinforcing the Council's position that the land should not have been used in this way without permission.

The Inspector concluded that while some people may have lived on part of the land for a number of years, this was not enough to prove lawful use of the whole site for the required 10-year period. Therefore, the enforcement notice stands, and the owner must now comply with the Council's instructions to stop residential use and clear the land.

What happens next? The owner is currently in separate discussions with the Council about a possible future application to regularise the mobile home park. However, for now, the enforcement action remains in effect.

Why it matters: this decision is important because it helps ensure that planning rules are followed and that any development takes place in a fair and transparent way, with proper public oversight and consideration of community impact.

Residents with questions about the enforcement notice or future proposals for the site are encouraged to contact Woking Borough Council's planning team for updates.

Come and meet your neighbours and friends at

BROOKWOOD VILLAGE TEA PARTY

SUNDAY 22 JUNE
2 – 4.30pm

SMALL MEMORIAL HALL
BROOKWOOD

Please bring a small plate of cakes or savouries if you can
Other refreshments provided
Craft and activities

ALL WELCOME!



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 1 June

Various walks, 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 Dragon Boat Races, Goldsworth Park Lake

Saturday 14 June

Pirbright Open Gardens and Family Nature Day, 11am to 5pm

Brookwood School Fete, 12 noon to 3pm

Woking & Sam Beare Hospice Open Water Swim, Shepperton

Saturday 21 June

Brookwood Club Race Night, 8.00pm

Woking & Sam Beare Hospice 80-mile Bike Ride, Worplesdon

Sunday 22 June

Village Tea Party, 2pm to 4.30pm, Small Memorial Hall

PIRBRIGHT OPEN GARDENS AND FAMILY NATURE DAY 14 JUNE 11am – 5pm

Back by popular request is a highlight of the summer - a chance to sneak a peek into the hidden gardens of Pirbright. Another red-letter weekend for your diary, so make a note of it now.

These are not show gardens, but labours of love, and visitors are not looking for perfection, just enjoying creativity, natural beauty, and a different view of the village we live in. Tickets £7 per adult, under 16's free, can be purchased in advance by contacting helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com or by purchasing on the day in Pirbright Churchyard from 10.45am to 4.45pm.

And to add to this event there will be fun activities for all in the churchyard during the day, including insect and flower idents, a scavenger hunt, hedgehog house building, as well as learning more about how Pirbright Church is striving to be greener. This will be led by our Eco team. Do come and join us. And did I mention there will be cream teas on sale during the day?



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 JULY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th JUNE 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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