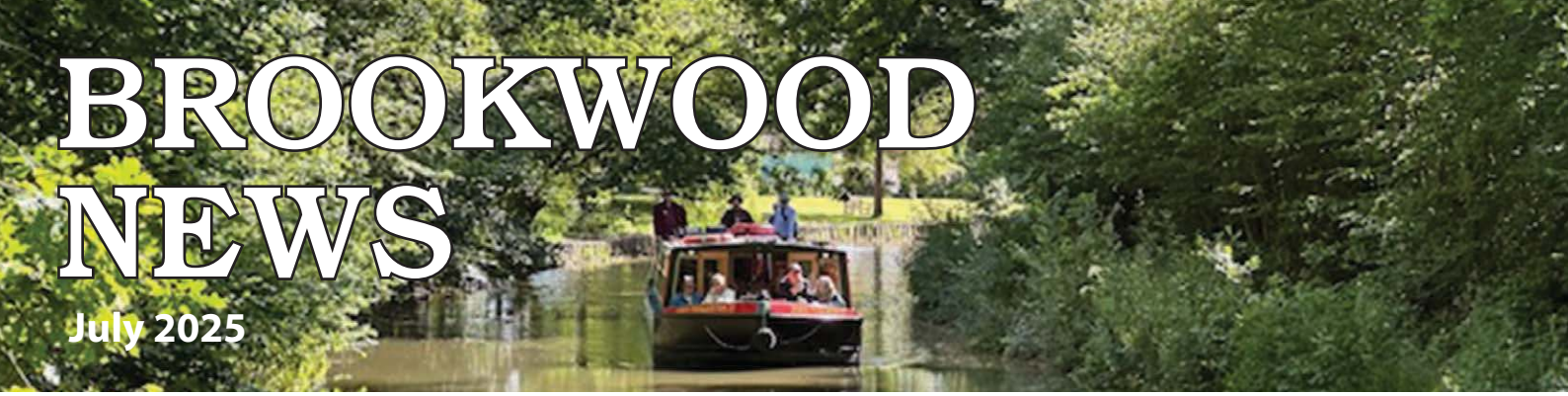


BROOKWOOD NEWS

July 2025

BASINGSTOKE CANAL



Volunteers

We're a team of 295 active volunteers, collectively contributing 30,000 hours of work to the Basingstoke Canal. During the recent June volunteer's week (2–8 June) we took some time to shine a light across just a few of these across our social media. We always have vacancies, and we welcome new volunteers to join our efforts. If you'd like to get involved, please find out more on our website.

Trip Boats

Both Basingstoke Canal Society trip boats are ready and waiting to welcome passengers. We run day trips, evening themed trips, weekend trips and the boats are available for private charter too. If you're looking for something to do or would like to experience the Basingstoke Canal from the water, take a look on our website to book your tickets.

Calendar Competition

The 2026 calendar competition is now open. Each year the Basingstoke Canal calendar, created by the Basingstoke Canal Society, is purchased and displayed in homes and offices far and wide, and we hope that this coming year will be no exception. We are planning for more entries than ever before and for more sales too.

If you've been out and about on or by the Basingstoke Canal and have a beautiful and interesting photo, then don't forget to send it to editor@basingstoke-canal.org.uk. Photos need to be in landscape format and of good quality (ideally 300dpi or above).

Free Wills Month

The Basingstoke Canal Society has partnered with will writers Kept Assets to help our members and supporters write new wills or review existing ones, all free of charge.

While this offer is without obligation, it also gives the opportunity to leave a gift in your will to help preserve the Basingstoke Canal for future generations. Gifts in wills can also be very tax efficient for the beneficiaries of the will.

If you do not currently have a will, Kept Assets will write a simple will for you free of charge. If you already have a will, Kept Assets will review your existing one free of charge. Free Wills Month is running through to the end of July. Email julie.lysaght@basingstoke-canal.org.uk to book your slot.

EDITORIAL

As I write my sixth editorial column for Brookwood News the village continues to be bathed in sunshine and gardens are blooming, and the usual hustle and bustle is evident everywhere!

Whilst the world appears in a state of flux, there is much to continue to celebrate in our village and over in Pirbright, and this bumper double-issue summer edition for July and August features many of the amazing summer indoor and outdoor sporting and social activities to keep everyone active in our community.

Further features include an end-of-year report from Brookwood Primary School and the exercise phenomenon ((BOUNCE)), which had a base in Brookwood up to a few years ago, and continues to transform the lives of many of its participants and to thrive in larger but still local premises.

Thank you to all the many amazing contributors to this issue, and wishing all students success with the school and university exams and everyone a great summer ahead!

Richard Johnson – Editor

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FROM CHURCH HALL TO FITNESS COMMUNITY: THE RISE OF ((BOUNCE)) WOKING



In 2019, a small church hall in Brookwood became the birthplace of one of Surrey's most energetic and inclusive fitness communities. With just two classes a week, a handful of trampolines, and a speaker blasting uplifting beats, local fitness coach and business owner Eleesha De Silva launched the area's first Rebounding fitness classes, offering low-impact, high-energy workouts on mini trampolines designed to get people moving, sweating, and smiling.

Six years later, ((BOUNCE)) Woking has grown far beyond those humble beginnings. Now offering nearly 170 classes a month across Woking, Guildford, Farnham, and most recently Frimley, the business sees around 24,000 bookings a year and continues to attract new attendees every week.

"It's honestly surreal to look back at where this all started," says Eleesha. "I had just moved to Surrey from London and was honestly just looking to make friends. I never imagined it would grow into such a strong, supportive fitness family, but it has. What we've built is more than a workout. It's belonging."



While Rebounding remains at the heart of the brand, the offering has since expanded into a full wellness timetable. Classes now include Yoga Flows, Boxercise, Barbell strength training, and creative formats incorporating weighted drumsticks for rhythm-based resistance work. In January 2025, Eleesha launched the team's first permanent wellness space, BED Frimley – Reformer Pilates. The studio delivers music-led strength and control workouts on Reformer beds in a calm, aesthetic space that feels as good as it looks. It's not your usual snooze fest. BED Frimley keeps the ((BOUNCE)) energy alive, just with added resistance.

As part of the national Bouncefitbody franchise model, Eleesha's studios are now the highest performing within the brand, a reflection of her leadership, consistency, and deep connection with her local community.

Known to many simply as Leesh, she has become a familiar, trusted face in the local wellness scene. Her mission has always been to create spaces where people of all fitness levels feel welcome, and the feedback from attendees shows that she's succeeded.

Whether it's someone returning to fitness after a long break, a new mum finding her rhythm again, or a complete beginner walking in for the first time, every class is designed to feel welcoming, fun, and judgement free.

It's not just adults who benefit either. Over the last year alone, more than 360 local schoolchildren have been introduced to ((BOUNCE)) through private and primary school workshops, designed to build confidence and promote movement in a fun, accessible way.

"Woking gave us our start," Leesh reflects. "This community believed in us from the beginning. Every new class and studio we've opened has been built on that foundation. I'll always be grateful."

From a quiet church hall to a four-location fitness brand, ((BOUNCE)) Woking shows what's possible when energy, inclusivity, and community come together. And it's clear, the bounce is only just beginning.
Follow the journey:

@leeshbounce
@bouncewoking
@bouncefarnham
@bounce.guildford
@bedfrimley

PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE FAIR

This year's Pirbright Village Fair takes place a little later in the calendar than usual – Saturday 30 August – but is set to be a late summer day of fun for all, celebrating all things British.

Proceedings kick off at 11am with the grand opening and a Morris dancing display in the arena on the main green. Throughout the day, the same arena will also host jiu jitsu, children's field games, Raiders Performing Arts band and the perennially popular dog show – lots and lots for adults and children to take part in with some brilliant prizes to be won. A second arena will be all things dog agility, beginning firstly with a professional dog agility display, with the course then opened to dog owners to have a go.

Elsewhere, you'll find a vintage car display showcasing the best of British cars and motorcycles, fairground rides, crazy golf, loads of stalls, delicious local food and drink providers, local musical acts including the Pirbright Gospel Choir and Rev & The Revellers, and loads, loads more. Enter your model for the 'Best of British' theme on the little green and win a cash prize or go for Best Flower Display in the church and win a weekend brunch for two at The Gosling in Woking – you've got to be IN IT TO WIN IT!

There will be things to see and do across the village; in the church, Lord Pirbright's Hall and all over the green – it's a best of British takeover and we can't wait to see you there!

Contact pirbrightvillagefair@gmail.com for more information on how to enter the theme makers and flower arranging competitions. Entries for the dog show and children's field day races can be taken on the day.



This page sponsored by

LANSBURY BUSINESS ESTATE

PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

Anyone driving through Pirbright may have noticed that cricket is now played every day on the green during summer. Over the past 5 years PCC has grown considerably (since cricket first being played in Pirbright in 1787), and now has teams for everyone from age 5 to 85 years in softball and hardball formats, with everyone united by a desire to play good cricket amongst friends. We are not a performance focused club, and our aim is to foster a lifelong love of cricket with everyone playing the best cricket they can.

Up until 2019 the club was pretty stable, with only two men's teams playing from the dilapidated old pavilion, where running water was cold, the floor was collapsing, and improvements were done on a shoestring budget – much like any other small village club. In 2020 the youth section was started, followed quickly by the women's team and then a dad's midweek friendly side who play after work. Rolling forward to 2025 the club now has over 150 youth members and 100 adult members, with most of our youth members drawn from local primary and state secondary schools, showing there is real demand for cricket for all the family in a friendly and welcoming environment. Exam time at Winston Churchill School leaves holes in our team sheets!

Much of our talent pool is drawn from Brookwood, and there are 11 club members within shouting distance of my house on Connaught Road. Brookwood Cars are one of our key sponsors. Brookwood CC and Pirbright CC compete annually for the MacKenzie Taylor Trophy, with this very social derby match taking place on 31 August this year starting at 1pm with a BBQ on all day.

Youth training takes place throughout the week, ladies' training is on Tuesday nights from 6.45pm, walking cricket (for the more mature player) is on Wednesday mornings from 9.15am, and open club training is on Thursday nights from 7.15pm. If you are new to cricket or returning, we aim to make your journey as seamless as possible, so come along and join in!

We are particularly looking for social Sunday players, women players, walking cricket players and midweek after work T20 players. We have a full coaching setup, bowling machine and artificial wicket available to club members, so there is plenty of opportunity for improving your skills throughout the year. Beginners are most welcome! In the winter we play indoor cricket and run winter nets at Winston Churchill School. We also tour in April and for the last couple of years have been to Malta.

We play league cricket on Saturdays in the historic I'Anson league (Div 3), with ladies playing in the I'Anson softball league (Div 1). First year membership is discounted to £60 regardless of what format of cricket you are playing.

There is also a developing volunteer groundskeeping team, so if you have already achieved the perfect lawn and want to work on a larger canvas then get in touch!

Our pavilion is the heart of the club, and it is open to everyone during matches serving hot and cold drinks. Please come along and watch some quality village cricket – you never know, soon you might be a player rather than a spectator!









KNAPHILL FOOTBALL CLUB







Did you know, there's a historic football club on Brookwood's doorstep?

Knaphill Football Club celebrated its centenary year in 2024, and, with an energetic team of volunteers behind the scenes, has ambitious plans to grow the club to be bigger than ever before. Competing in the Combined Counties Premier Division South for 25/26, we will be pitting ourselves next season against the likes of Guildford City and Camberley Town. We will also start on the road to Wembley when our FA Cup campaign starts in August!

We would love to welcome some new fans for the 25/26 season. With admission prices just £9 for adults and under 16s free, it's a great value afternoon out at a friendly and relaxed venue. Our next game is on Saturday 26 July, an exciting pre-season friendly with Farnborough FC from the National League South. This will be a great test for our local lads, coming up against a semi-professional team. At the time of writing, we're waiting for our league schedule to be confirmed; more to follow on our Facebook and Instagram pages in due course.

We would love Brookwood's support in growing the club as every person who comes through the gate makes a genuine difference to an amateur club that is rooted in the local community.

If you have any questions, comments or are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please drop me a line on pete.knaphillfc@gmail.com. I'm a fellow Brookwood resident and would be pleased to hear from you.

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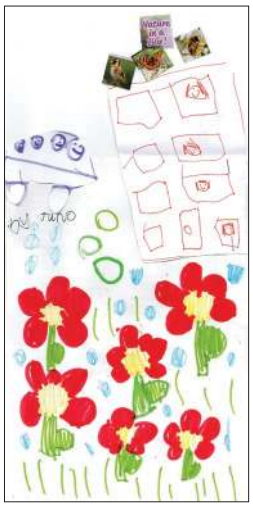
BROOKWOOD VILLAGE TEA PARTY



Following last year's successful tea party to celebrate Brookwood News' tenth anniversary, the newsletter team decided to do it again. So, on Sunday 22 June, over forty of us were in the Small Memorial Hall enjoying tea, scones, pizza, cake and conversation, and a very welcome glass of Prosecco.

Many thanks to Brookwood Club who donated wine for the raffle, to Brookwood's new pizza takeaway, Ovenology, for the pizza voucher, to the Lansbury Estate for the Prosecco, and to everyone who came along and brought treats and good humour to share!

Children were invited to draw or write about themselves, their house, or living in Brookwood. We loved the picture that Juno C (age 5) did of her house and garden full of beautiful red flowers. Well done, Juno!



BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI recently had a very interesting talk from David Bickerton about his parent's efforts during the war and their wartime experiences through some of the 150 letters he discovered. These letters, full of passion, were written between 1942 and 1945.

His father, Don, was in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and was serving on HMS Dorsetshire during the sinking of the Bismarck. At this time, he was aged 25 years and commanding an armed motor launch.

His mother, Linda, was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and was a radar operator, and her service included the D-Day landings.

David discovered that his parents met in 1942 and soon became engaged. Their service lasted for 3 years until his father returned and where they entered a lifetime of marriage 10 days later.

Brookwood WI meet on the third Tuesday of each month in Brookwood Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Feel free to pop along and see what we are all about!

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of Pirbright Horticultural Society (PHS) is on Tuesday 8 July in Lord Pirbright's Hall (LPH) at 7.30pm when Elizabeth Barralet will give a demonstration of flower arranging, and a few of the classes in the Floral Art section of PHS Annual Show. If you are thinking of entering, see www.pirbrighthort.co.uk for details of the schedule.

Our Annual Show takes place on Saturday 19 July at LPH. Entry forms can be submitted online before 14 July at Pirbrighthort.co.uk. Paper entries can be submitted at 7pm on Monday 14 July, Committee Room at LPH. Your exhibits need to be brought to the hall on Saturday 19 July between 8 and 10.45am. The show opens to the public at 2.30pm.





BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL – A JOYFUL AND EVENTFUL SUMMER TERM

As another school year draws to a close, we have much to reflect on and celebrate. From welcoming the next generation of learners to marking key milestones for outgoing pupils, the summer term has been full of excitement, pride, and community spirit.

On Golden Ticket Day, we welcomed our Reception class of September 2025. The event was a great success, giving new children and their families a taste of the vibrant school life that awaits them at Brookwood.

Meanwhile, preparations are well under way to celebrate the achievements of the school's Year 6 pupils as they get ready to move on to secondary school. Staff are ensuring the final weeks are packed with memorable moments to give the children a fitting send-off.

Another much anticipated highlight of the term is Sports Day. At the time of writing, we are hopeful that the summer sunshine will hold out for the event, which always brings out team spirit and a sense of fun across all year groups.

In June we held our Summer Fair; the weather held and the day was a great success with £2,500 raised. We are as always incredibly grateful to the school and wider community for their support and in particular our wonderful Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) for their continued hard work in raising much needed funds for school.

A proud moment for the wider Brookwood community also came in June, as the Bourne Education Trust became the first Trust to sign the Armed Forces Covenant. This significant event took place at King's International, Camberley, and was attended by staff, pupils and families from Brookwood Primary School. The school, which shares close ties with ATC Pirbright, was honoured to be part of the ceremony, highlighting its ongoing support for military families and the armed forces.

During the summer term, pupils have faced a busy schedule of assessments. True to form, they approached their tests with resilience and positivity. We are as always immensely proud of their hard work and achievements.

Throughout the year, we have been working closely with families, the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), and parking officials to address ongoing concerns around parking during drop-off and pick-up times. This collaborative effort aims to improve safety and reduce congestion around the school gates. While some progress has been made, the school remains committed to tackling the issue to ensure the wellbeing of both pupils and local residents. Efforts will continue into the next academic year, with the school reaffirming its dedication to creating a safer environment for the whole community.

Looking ahead, we continue to prepare for our exciting transformation in September, when we officially become Brookwood Primary School and Nursery. With the first cohort of nursery children ready to join, and improvements planned for both the indoor and outdoor learning environments over the summer break, we are eager to expand our nurturing educational offer.

As the term wraps up, we send our warmest wishes to the local community for a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. It has been a season of growth, success and unity – one that truly captures the spirit of Brookwood.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN SURREY

Surrey County Council/Woking Borough Council are seeking views on the proposals submitted by councils for the reorganisation of local government in Surrey. Responses to this consultation will inform our decision on which proposal, if any, to implement. The scope of the consultation and how to respond are detailed in the following link. The consultation closes on Tuesday 5 August.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey

THE PIRBRIGHT SINGERS – MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

On Saturday 12 July 2025 at 7.30pm, join us St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright, for a delightful evening of choral music featuring highlights such as John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* and Morten Lauridsen's *Sure On This Shining Night*.

We are thrilled to welcome special guests:

Emily Windham, Mezzo – Soprano Soloist

The Teahouse Winds – Wind Octet

Doors open at 7pm. Tickets: £10 for adults (available on the door – cash or card); free admission for under 18s.

After the concert, we invite you to join us for light refreshments in the Church Room. We'd love to share this special evening of music with you!

PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Age UK Surrey has been working in conjunction with Surrey County Council on a project called 'Planning for your Future'. It comprises a talk and a marketplace of organisations designed to support people who are approaching retirement, retired or caring for people who are retired (including adults who are supporting their parents). They will be at the main hall of Brookwood Memorial Halls on 3 July 2025 from 11am to 1pm.

The aim is to encourage people to make plans and know where to go for support, on a wide range of issues such as:

- How to stay healthy and active in later years to maintain good physical and mental fitness and retain independence.
- Support available to stay living independently at home for as long as possible.
- Support available for those who help or care for loved ones and friends. Different types of care, costs associated with care and the process for getting help with those costs.
- How to ensure that peoples' voices are heard, even when they can no longer voice them personally.
- Financial entitlements available to help people in later life.

Go to https://www.ageuk.org.uk/surrey/activities-and-events/planningforyourfuture/ to find out more about the project on the Age UK Surrey website.

Bookings for the event can be made either on the Age UK Surrey website, by calling 01483 446627 or, for those with hearing difficulties, by messaging 07953 139560.



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)

Third Tuesday of each month
Brookwood WI, Brookwood Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 3 July
Planning for your Future, 11am start, Brookwood Memorial Hall (main hall)

Tuesday 8 July
Pirbright Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Lord Pirbright 's Hall, Pirbright Green

Saturday 12 July
The Pirbright Singers – Music for a Summer Evening, 7.30pm, St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright

Saturday 19 July
Pirbright Horticultural Society Annual Show, 2.30pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall

Saturday 26 July
Knaphill Football Club – pre-season friendly v Farnborough FC

Tuesday 5 August
Consultation for Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey closes

Saturday 30 August
Pirbright Village Fair, 11am start, Pirbright Green

Sunday 31 August
Brookwood CC v Pirbright CC, 1pm start, Pirbright Green

Monday 15 September
Friends of Pirbright Surgery open evening, Lord Pirbright's Hall, 7.30pm, Pirbright Green

FRIENDS OF PIRBRIGHT SURGERY OPEN EVENING

On Monday 15 September, at 7.30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall, Pirbright Surgery will host an information evening sharing the latest news from the Surgery and the NHS, plus an update on the new triage appointment booking system.

Following the update from the surgery, Dr Ellie Atkins will join us to talk about how we can cope with the challenges of our children, families and ourselves, when suffering from mental health issues such as anxiety and self-harm. She will also talk about autism. Her work puts her in a great position to be able to help us all cope with these issues.

Dr Atkins is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist whose career spans 30 years, across both the NHS and private practice. Ellie's current work for the NHS is within the Neonatal Operational Delivery Network, and was previously in the Paediatric Psychology Service at St George's Hospital, and CAMHS. Together with her private practice in Guildford, this puts Ellie in a unique position to provide insight into mental health and how this affects children and their families. Dr Atkins will cover three topics, with a space for questions at the end of each. The first topic will be a general overview of mental health with a focus on anxiety, the second topic will be autism, and the final one will be self-harm.



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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 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th AUGUST 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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