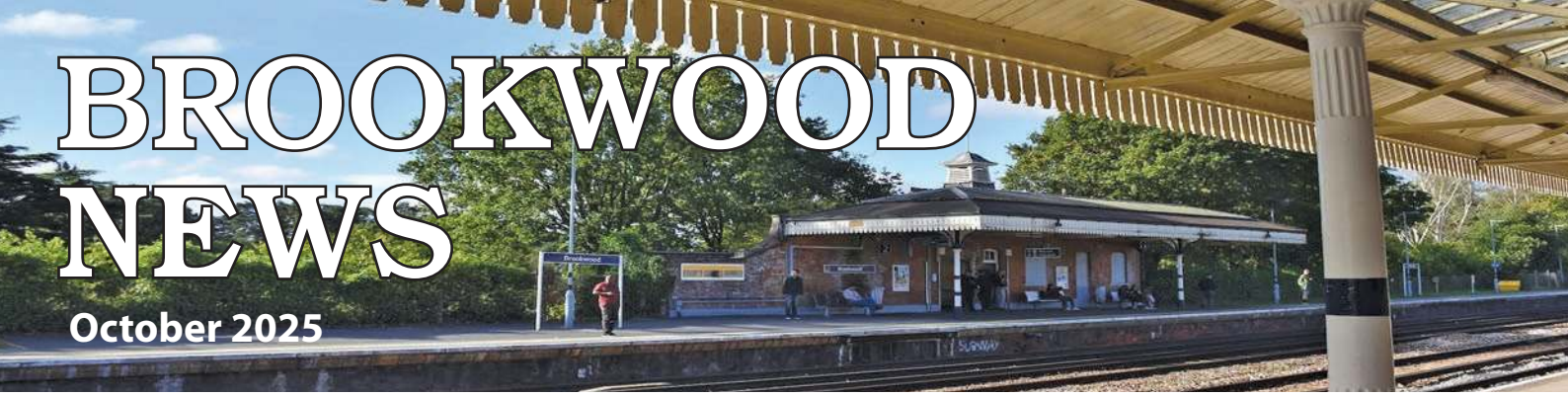


BROOKWOOD NEWS

October 2025

RAILWAY 200 CELEBRATIONS

If you have recently walked through the underpass of the station and out into the cemetery, you will have noticed a big change to the grassy area on the left before reaching the gate of the cemetery. For many years, this area has just been a piece of rough ground owned by South Western Railway, and was the original turntable site where the trains from London bringing the coffins into the cemetery would turn around the engine. The UK is celebrating 200 years of the railway, and one of the projects has been to create gardens and exhibitions using surplus land and areas into something that is useful, interesting and pleasant to see. We are lucky that Brookwood has been included, and a beautiful garden has been built, complete with raised flower beds, new turf, trees and seating. If you are early for your train, waiting for someone to arrive, or just want a place to sit and contemplate the nature around you, this is now a delightful place to be. All the work and materials have been donated by Hackwoods Building Company and Leslie J Thorpe Builders. This project has been the idea of Paula Aldridge of South Western Railway. However, we now need local people to keep the garden looking nice in the future; if you can help, please contact Brookwood News so that we can put together a team of volunteers.





EDITORIAL

On 27 September 1825, the first passenger train pulled by a steam locomotive made its inaugural journey between Shildon, Darlington and Stockton in northeast England. The 200th anniversary of that historic moment, the birth of the modern railway, is being marked by a wide-ranging celebration that includes Brookwood. Read on to find out more and discover all the other events happening in our lively village..

Yvonne Craven – Editor

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BROOKWOOD HONEY



'It has been a wonderful year for producing honey as the weather has been dry and warm and bees thrive when the nectar is flowing in all the flowers'. Dawn Coe, a Brookwood resident, has been a beekeeper since 2019 and has produced 250 jars of honey this year from just three colonies of bees. She kindly talked to me about how much she enjoys beekeeping and how she decided to take up this hobby. Dawn's grandparents kept bees and her father loved growing flowers, so it is partly in memory of them all that she is continuing the family connection of beekeeping. Dawn first attended a six-week theory course at a teaching apiary, followed by a six-week practical course. She then bought her first hive and obtained a queen and a nucleus of bees, (which were a few thousand) and so began a fascinating hobby. The hives need to be in a sunny place ideally with the entrance facing south, with access to water nearby such as a bird bath. Over winter Dawn feeds them a sugar solution and a sugar paste and insulates the hive so that the bees can survive the cold weather. Then, when the weather is warming up, the bees can be handled again. There is a distinct hierarchy amongst the colony, and they somehow organise themselves to do different jobs, such as cleaning the cells and looking after the queen who lays eggs, as well as guarding the entrance to the hive. The worker bees are smaller and female, while the drones are larger and male, with the workers collecting nectar and pollen, which is their sugar water and protein source. After chewing and mixing the nectar with enzymes, they regurgitate it from their honey stomach and store it in the cells. The water evaporates off, and honey is left which the bees cap off, and this is their food for winter months. The bees can fly a three-mile radius so long as they have the energy to return to the hive. It is a commitment to own a colony and Dawn's three hives means that she devotes about two hours per week keeping the bees happy and healthy throughout the year. Pollinating flowers, producing honey, and being a vital part of the animal food chain, bees are great for the environment. When they are agitated, bees release a pheromone called isopentyl acetate which can be masked by smoke, ensuring that bees remain calm when beekeepers are working in their environment. Although one of their natural predators is the hornet which kills bees, British bees are now under threat from the Asian hornet (Yellow Legged Hornet),





which is much more aggressive, killing up to 50 bees a day. They are distinguished by a black abdomen and are smaller than the European hornet which is orange and yellow. If you see an Asian hornet, you are encouraged to report any sightings by quickly emailing alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk, or download an app called Asian Hornet Watch.

CAN YOU HELP TUDOR LOCAL?



Gunasinghan Kumanan is the always cheerful and helpful man who runs Tudor Local, sometimes known as Tudor News, in Connaught Road. His well-run shop is a great asset for Brookwood and could be even more so if he were able to open a post office counter within it, which he would like to do. However, there is a problem. Through no fault of his own Gunasingham and his family have been forced to move out of the flat above their shop and have been unable to find alternative accommodation in Brookwood. If you own or know of a flat or small house to rent within Brookwood or the surrounding area, please let Gunasingham know as soon as possible. He is currently having to commute a long way to open the shop and take his daughter to school and needs urgent help. Please go into the shop or call him on 07956 093420.

SUNDAY CEMETERY TOURS

On Sunday 5 October, 1pm, there will be three tours in Brookwood Cemetery, meeting at the Society Lodge. These are Pre-Raphaelite Artists Connections, Sporting Lives, and The Written Word – Authors. It is essential to book by contacting walks@tbcs.org.uk, or phone 07714289375; cost £7.50.

FORAGING TALK

Pirbright Horticultural Society is holding a presentation about foraging at Lord Pirbright's Hall on Tuesday 14 October at 7.30pm, hosted by Elspeth Fimpel of Joyful Outdoors. She will explore how to get started with foraging and understand the important dos and don'ts, making the experience both practical and accessible for everyone. She will also bring along some wild syrups, vinegars, and spices to taste, and will be happy to answer any questions or share any experiences you may have. For further information contact Secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk or ring 07815 847941.

AUTUMN CATCH UP, BROOKWOOD ART GROUP

The art group has had a busy few months with mini workshops being organised by our creative members involving little or no cost, so proving very popular! Jenny ran a session inspired by music such as Peer Gynt, Carole led us from "Positive to Negative" and Ian got us thinking about "Imaginary Underwater". We also had a Still Life class on offer. In May we welcomed a new visiting artist, Roger Hutchins, for a demo when we learned about perspective and some technical aspects of landscape painting, and he returned in August when the class formed two groups for both water colourists and those preferring acrylic. Exhibitions of our work have resulted in sales of our paintings and original greeting cards that we produce for charity. More exciting things are being lined up, so whether a newcomer to art or experienced, you are welcome to try our friendly, welcoming group. No charge for a taster session. We meet on Friday mornings at the Memorial Hall.

Art.brookwood@outlook.com. 07775 297938. www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com

WOODHILL CHURCH NOTES

At the end of the summer, we sadly said goodbye to Dawn Lucas-Brown, who has been our curate for the past three years and was living in the church house in Heath Drive with her family. However, we are delighted that she is not far away, as she is now the Rector of St Mary the Virgin, Worplesdon. We wish her well in her new role.



Pop-up Coffee continues every Friday from 10am to 12pm. Drop in any time for coffee and cake, and catch up with friends and neighbours; all welcome.

A Bereavement Cafe is held every first Thursday of the month, 10.30am to 12pm. Call in to talk and share with others in a similar situation which may help you in your circumstances.

A Bereavement Course begins on Wednesday 8 October at 7.30pm for seven weeks, which includes videos and discussions with others on how to cope if you are grieving. See the church website (www.woodhill.church) for further details and registration.

WILDFLOUR CELEBRATES ONE YEAR



Wildflour Bakehouse has been open for a year in Brookwood, and on Saturday 23 August held a morning of free coffee, sample treats and face painting that were enjoyed by a steady flow of families and locals. Wildflour is owned and run by Chris and Nicole. They run a wholesale business in Chertsey and are opening other bakeries in the area including Lightwater. They are a family bakery business going back several generations. Business in Brookwood has been growing this past year and reviews have been great. One describes them as a gem in the centre of Brookwood, which really sums them up, as they are a real asset to the village.



NEWS IN BRIEF

As reported before, the station post box, which has had quite an adventure in its time, has had its labelling restored and is confidently operational once more, thanks to the efforts of observant and diligent residents.

The long derelict and vandalised Meadows building on Bagshot Road, next to the Nag's Head, could be finally turned into a 74-bed dementia specialist care home after Woking Borough Council granted planning permission in September. Delays to permission being granted have been due to it being situated on green belt land.

Brookwood WI is holding an open meeting on Tuesday 21 October when Lyn Sleet will be demonstrating Christmas flower arranging; 7.45pm, Small Memorial Hall.

UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT ON HMS BELFAST



Brookwood Cubs and Scouts recently embarked on an incredible adventure, travelling to central London for a unique overnight experience aboard the historic warship, HMS Belfast. This trip, organised by our dedicated volunteers, was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to step back in time.

The journey began on a Saturday morning at Brookwood station and from there, the Scouts made their way to Waterloo and walked to the famous ship, which is permanently moored on the River Thames. After arriving, the Scouts spent a few hours exploring the vessel, delving into its rich history and learning about the lives of its crew members. As the day-trippers departed, the real adventure began. The Scouts returned to the ship to spend the night, starting with an exclusive guided tour from Imperial War Museum experts. They explored the Captain's Bridge and the Flag Deck, gaining a deeper appreciation for the ship's incredible past. Finally, it was time to turn in for the night, with the Scouts sleeping in the original sailors' bunk beds in the ship's mess. After a hearty breakfast on Sunday, the Scouts had one last chance to grab a souvenir from the gift shop before heading home. It was a truly memorable trip for everyone involved!

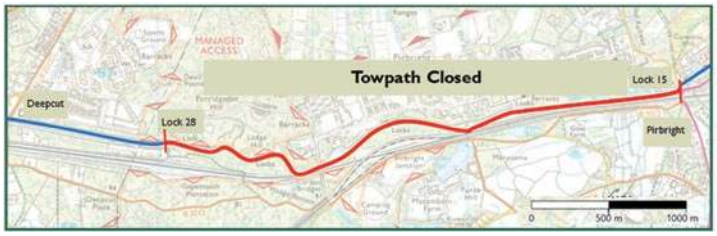


CANAL TOWPATH CLOSURE & CALENDAR

Please be aware that the towpath between Lock 15 at Pirbright and Lock 28 Deepcut will be closed from 29 September to 31 December. This is to facilitate a towpath improvement project between the two locks. During closure there will be no access from Curzon Bridge onto the upstream or downstream towpath, although access to the barracks via Gole Road will be unaffected. The car park at Lock 15 will also be locked. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact The Canal Centre (01252 370073).

After so many exceptional entries, the Basingstoke Canal 2026 calendar is now available to buy on the website. All proceeds from sales go to our ongoing efforts to keep the canal alive. There are plenty of items in our shop, including new books that have launched this year and some lovely gifts for those who enjoy the canal.

Several boat trips are still available to book before the season is over, so take a trip on Kitty from Woking Town Wharf on Saturdays and Sundays throughout October or Wednesday during October half-term. Alternatively, enjoy an outing to Odiham and join the Ramble and Cruise trip on Sunday 5 October. This trip is a return journey from Odiham to Winchfield, but you can also select a one-way ticket and walk back the other way. A ploughman's lunch is included with your ticket



BROOKWOOD CLUB



NEW BEGINNINGS

September always brings with it a sense of new beginnings, and this year is no different for Brookwood Primary School and Nursery. After a restful summer, the classrooms are once again full of the happy chatter of children returning to school, ready for a year of learning and discovery. A particularly special welcome goes to our brand-new Reception class. Starting school for the first time is such a milestone, and it has been wonderful to see our youngest pupils arriving in their smart uniforms, full of curiosity and enthusiasm. Staff have been busy helping them settle in, and already the children are making new friends and getting used to the exciting routines of school life. This term also marks the opening of an exciting new chapter for the school – the launch of our on-site school-based nursery provision, catering for children aged two to four years. The newly refurbished space has been designed to provide a warm, nurturing environment where children can play, explore, and grow in confidence. With experienced staff on hand to support every stage of early development, the nursery will offer an excellent start for our youngest children, and a smooth transition into school life when the time comes. The school extends a warm welcome to all new families joining this term, and looks forward to another year filled with learning, laughter, and community spirit.



Please contact lettings@bmhalls.org.uk if you would like to volunteer to help at the Memorial Halls Christmas Trail event on Saturday 6 December, 4–6pm

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

(also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk)

Every Sunday	Evening Service, 6.30pm, 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 4 October	Bingo night, from 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 5 October	Various guided walks, 1pm, Brookwood Cemetery
Wednesday 8 October	Start of Bereavement Course, 7.30pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Saturday 11 October	Goldsworth Gerry Band, 9pm, Brookwood Club
Tuesday 14 October	Foraging talk, 7.30pm, Pirbright Horticultural Society, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Tuesday 21 October	Christmas flower arranging, 7.45pm, Brookwood WI, Small Memorial Hall
Wednesday 22 October	Lunch with Friends, 12 to 2pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Saturday 31 October	Autumn Crafts Event, 10–11.30am, Brookwood Memorial Halls

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- Friendly home offering supported living for 9 independent older people
- Freshly cooked lunch and evening meals eaten together
- Pirbright Green, GP surgery, pubs & coffee shops within 400m
- Private single bed-sitting rooms with en-suite facilities
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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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