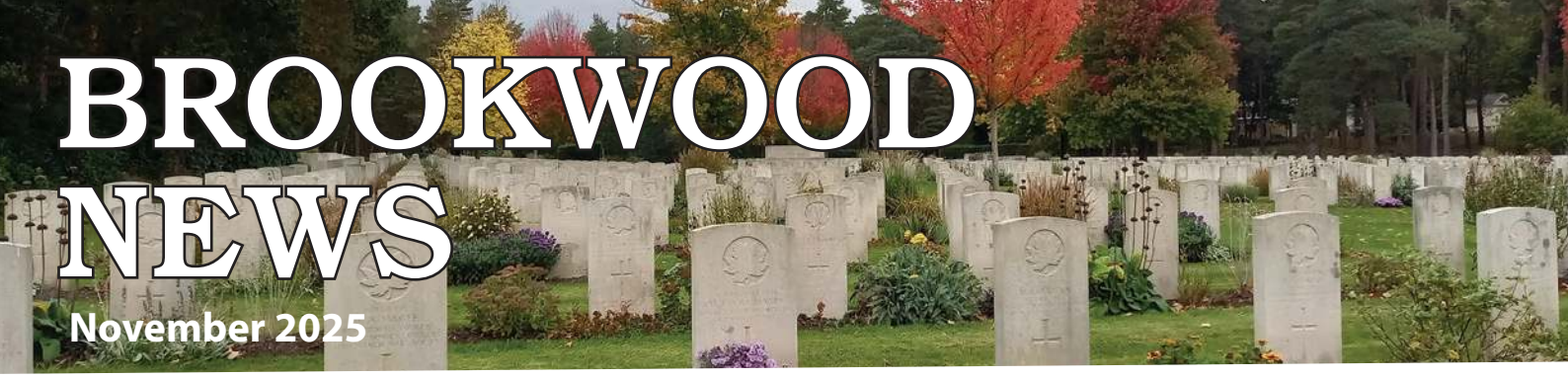


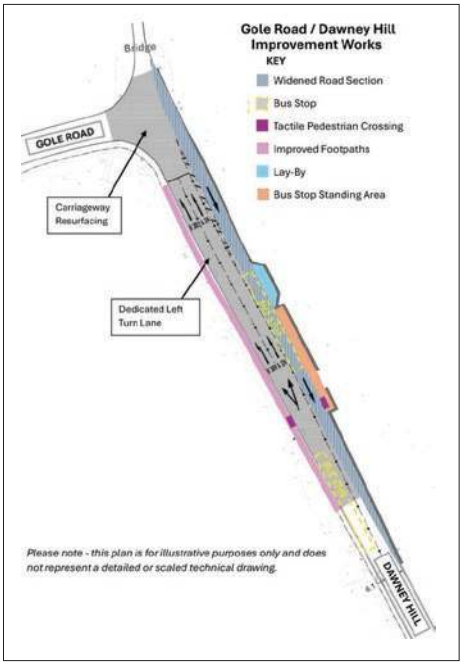
BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2025

ROADWORKS ON GOLE ROAD AND DAWNEY HILL

Following the disruption at the start of the year when the Pirbright tunnel was closed for the installation of pelican crossings, we might have hoped for a period of stability. But work has now started on a major modification to the Dawney Hill road between the tunnel and Caterham Close.

The modification will widen the road to three lanes, one heading south and two heading north towards the tunnel junction. The northward inside lane will be dedicated for traffic wishing to turn left onto Gole Road (presumably with a left-turn filter). The modifications are being done in the expectation of increased amounts of traffic using Gole Road once the 1200 new houses have been built at Deepcut (part of the Mindenhurst development). The scheme also includes improved footpaths, a layby area, an informal pedestrian crossing and an enhanced bus stop (see plan of the works).



The works will take until April 2026 (22 weeks) and Dawney Hill will be reduced to a single southbound lane for the duration. Northbound traffic will be diverted to use the A322 Bagshot Road from Fox Corner. As a result, the 28 and 91 buses will not be running on Dawney Hill or in the west end of Brookwood until April 2026. The nearest stop for these buses will be at Brookwood station. See https://mindenhurst.co.uk/gole-road-dawney-hill-works/ for details of the works.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November edition of Brookwood News. As I pulled this edition together, I was struck by three main themes – local development works, remembrance ceremonies and preparations for Christmas. There's a lot going on! I hope you find it all interesting and informative.

David Lugton – Editor

CANAL TOWPATH CLOSURE



As reported in our last edition, the 3.4-km section of the Basingstoke Canal towpath between Brookwood and Deepcut (Locks 15 to 28) has been closed to the public until 30 December to allow the surface to be levelled, the banks to be stabilised and the drainage to be improved. We're pleased to report that the work is proceeding well and the first stretch past Howfield Cottage has now been re-opened. The footpath crossing at Cowshot Bridge remains open to allow pedestrian access between Pirbright Camp and Pirbright village.

BROOKWOOD LYE UPDATE – TRAVELLERS' SITE

As we reported in April 2024, Woking Borough Council served an Enforcement Notice in January 2024 on the owner of the Travellers' site. He appealed this to the Planning Inspectorate (a central government agency) and an Appeal Hearing was held on 23 April 2025. The Planning Inspectorate ultimately agreed with the Council's assessment and dismissed the appeal on 28 April 2025. This means that the Enforcement Notice is extant from that date and it has a compliance period of 2 years. The landowner therefore has until 29 April 2027 to fully comply with the requirements of the notice.

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AUCTION OF HOWFIELD COTTAGE



The old lock keeper's cottage at Brookwood Lock is being sold by Surrey County Council. The sale will be by auction on 29 October. The auctioneers are Lambert Smith Hampton; see https://propertyauctions.lsh.co.uk/lot/details/125057 for details.

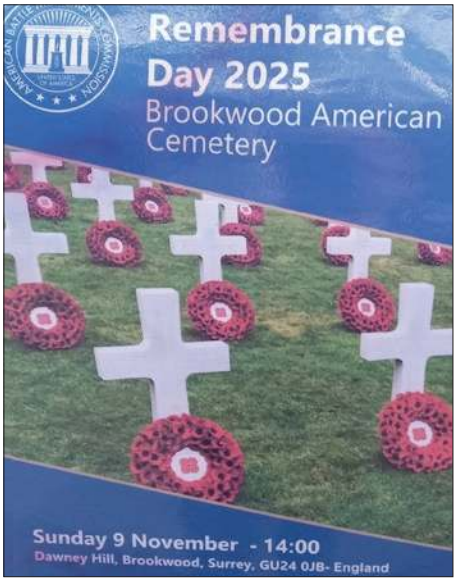
BROOKWOOD LYE UPDATE – THAMESWAY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A consultation response in mid-November 2024 from the ecological advisor (Surrey Wildlife Trust Ecology Planning Advice Service) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA, Woking Borough Council) raised a number of concerns with the ecological information submitted by ThamesWey Group with the planning application. ThamesWey's ecological consultant has been undertaking additional ecology surveys on the site but, due to access difficulties and to some seasonal species (e.g. in hibernation), it has taken almost a year to complete. It is hoped the additional survey report will be submitted to the LPA in October 2025 and that a decision by the Council's Planning Committee will then follow fairly soon.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES AT BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

There will be Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Brookwood Military Cemetery for eight nationalities this year:

- 26 October – Czech
- 2 November – Italian
- 9 November – British, American, Polish, German
- 11 November – Canadian, French



The November Last Post Ceremony will be held on Sunday 2 November 2025 at 3–3.30pm at the RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery. Gordon's School Pipes and Drums and Woking District Scouts will be attending.

ROBIN HOOD PANTO IN PIRBRIGHT

Pirbright Players next production will be Robin Hood, a pantomime written and directed by Sharon Harrison. It will be a fantastic panto with superb songs, comedy, dancing and your favourite characters: the dashing Robin Hood, his Merry Men, the beautiful Marion, the evil Sheriff of Nottingham and his crazy henchmen. Will Robin overcome the Sheriff, bring justice to the Forest and find true love? Come and find out on Saturday 24 January at 2.00pm and 7.00pm, or Sunday 25 January at 2.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Tickets are £16 for adults or £8 for children aged 15 or under. Tickets are on sale now from our website (https://pirbrightplayers.spanglefish.org/).



STATION GARDEN – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hopefully you will now be aware of the delightful creation of a garden in the disused land by the station exit gate into the cemetery. This was built by two building companies who do regular work for South Western Railway and who have donated the plants and trees to celebrate Rail 200. However, there is no-one assigned to keeping this garden in shape and it is hoped that local volunteers can continue to maintain the area.

A couple of us are due to meet the Community Officer from South Western Railway to talk about how we can go about this. Meanwhile, I'd like to put together a team of people who might be able to contribute an hour or two, every few months, so that this area doesn't deteriorate and everyone can continue to enjoy it. Please email yvonne.brookwood@gmail.com if you can help in any way. I hope to hear from you.

Yvonne Craven



PIRBRIGHT SINGERS



Please join us for a winter concert, on Saturday 29 November at 7.30pm in St Michael and All Angels' Church, Pirbright. We will be singing a Magnificat by local composer, Clive Osgood, who will accompany us on the organ. We will also perform a mix of festive favourites. Admission is £10. Refreshments will be served after the concert in the church room.

FRIENDS OF BROOKWOOD SCHOOL – AUCTION AND QUIZ

With the new school term in full swing, Friends of Brookwood School is back in fundraising mode, raising money to provide opportunities and equipment for the children at Brookwood School. Thanks to the generosity of local parents, teachers, residents and businesses last year, we were able to fund new playground equipment, school trips, classroom resources and even a visit from a local pantomime production!

This term we have more opportunities to get involved in the fun with our annual Quiz Night on 14 November and Christmas Fair on 5 December. Both events are open to the public and are a great opportunity to support your local school.

Our charity auction is also now open for bids, with prizes ranging from a family day out at Ascot to a magnum of champagne, tickets to a Woking Football Club match or a clay pigeon shoot – all generously donated by local parents and businesses. If you are a local business and want to help by making a donation, please contact fobschair@gmail.com.

Scan the QR code to place a bid, find out more and get involved.

BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL – AUTUMN TERM 1 UPDATE

As we reach the end of the first half term of the school year, we are delighted to share what a fantastic start our children have made. It has been especially heartwarming to see how well our new pupils have settled in, including those in our Reception and Nursery classes. Their enthusiasm and energy have brought a wonderful buzz to the school.

After our two-week break, we will return to a period of reflection and remembrance. Our school will be proudly participating in the Brookwood Memorial Service, and our Key Stage Two children will visit the cemetery to pay their respects, and think about the brave service men and women who served our country.

The second half of the autumn term is always a favourite at Brookwood. It's a time filled with excitement as we prepare for our winter and Christmas celebrations. One highlight will be our Christmas Fair, taking place on Friday 5 December, organised once again by our fantastic Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS). We'll share more details about our upcoming festive events in the next issue – there's lots to look forward to!

BROOKWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

There will be a Christmas Trail at the Memorial Hall on 6 December between 4 and 6pm. Entry is free! Come and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine while you listen to the Octavian Singers. Santa will be in his grotto but you'll need to book in advance by 16 November at lettings@bmhalls.org.uk (£7 charge).



DEFIBRILLATORS IN BROOKWOOD

In an emergency, could you locate one and use it? Many are listed on a website run by the British Heart Foundation (www.defibfinder.co.uk). You enter your location, and it brings up a list and a map of the nearby defib machines with their addresses and when they're available for use. A few of the nearest ones to us include Brookwood station carpark (24/7), West Hill Golf Club (8am-6pm), and Pirbright Green Cricket Pavilion (24/7). But there are two additional defibrillators in Brookwood that are not listed on the BHF website. One is on the front wall of Brookwood Club and the other is on the wall of the Small Memorial Hall (opposite the door into the Main Hall).

These machines are very easy to use and the modern ones talk you through each stage, step by step. The St John's Ambulance website is another good source of hints and tips on using the machines. Go on! You could save a life!



Brookwood Club defibrillator



Small Memorial Hall defibrillator

BROOKWOOD CLUB

On Saturday 22 November, from 7.30pm to midnight, Brookwood Club will be presenting an evening of SKA and 2-Tone. Open to everyone, non-members welcome



CWGC MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is building a new Memorial to the Missing at Brookwood Cemetery. This memorial will commemorate those who died in the United Kingdom and Ireland during the First World War and currently have no known final resting place. The original Brookwood 1914–1918 Memorial honoured some of these individuals. However, as ongoing research has revealed more names to commemorate, and the final resting places of others commemorated on the previous memorial were identified, it became clear that a new memorial was needed. Initially, 400 service personnel will be commemorated on the new memorial. As research progresses, additional names will be added, with space available for up to 1,200 names.

The names of the missing will be engraved on Portland stone stelae. These stelae will be arranged to mirror the stars as they appeared in the night sky on 11 November 1918 – the day the war ended. In stone and sky, their memory continues to endure (https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/brookwood-1914-1918-memorial/).

SUCCESS FOR BROOKWOOD RESIDENT

When the Red Roses, England women's national rugby union team, won against Canada in the World Cup final on 27 September it was a brilliant success for the team but also for their coach, John Mitchell. What you may not know is that "Mitch" is a Brookwood resident. We wish him more success in future!

CONNAUGHT CRESCENT PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

On 9 October, Cllr Leslie Rice met a group of residents at Brookwood children's playground, behind Connaught Crescent, to discuss the improvements that might be possible using community funds that have been set aside for Brookwood. Several ideas, such as a sunken trampoline and a larger climbing frame, were suggested, as well as a safer surface area; the current one is mossy and slippery in places. There was also a discussion about the problem of vandalism and illegal use of the park after dark. Cllr Rice is keen to hear from anyone else who would like to contribute their views or ideas for the playground improvements, so please email him (CllrLeslie.Rice@woking.gov.uk).

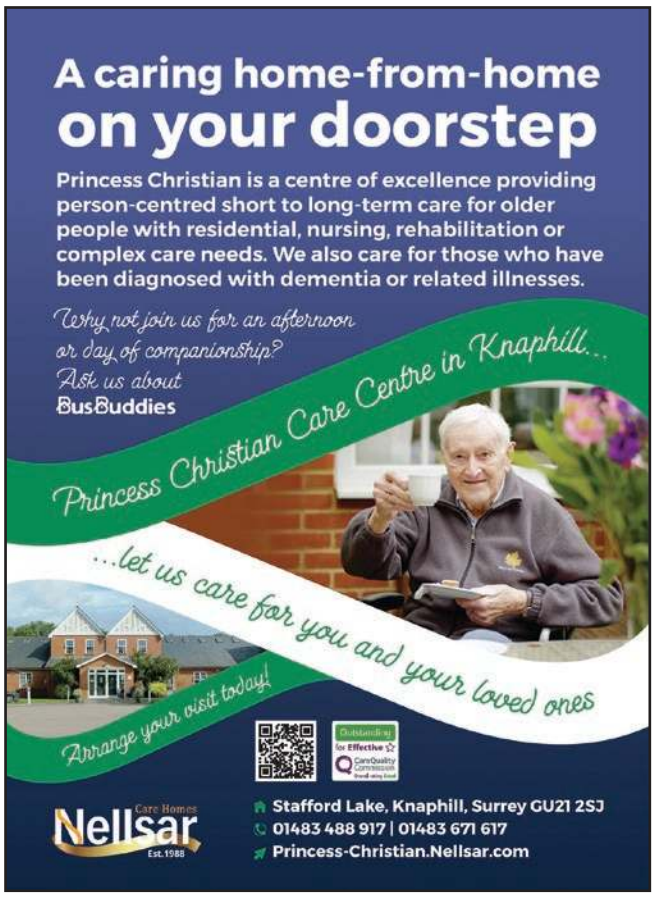


A WhatsApp group is being set up by one of the parents; if you would like to be included on this, please also let Cllr Rice know and he will forward your name to be added to the group.

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)
Sunday 26 October	Czech Remembrance Ceremony, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Sunday 2 November	Brookwood Last Post ceremony, 3–3.30pm, RAF Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Sunday 2 November	Italian Remembrance Ceremony, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Sunday 9 November	British, American, Polish and German Remembrance Ceremonies, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Tuesday 11 November	Canadian and French Remembrance Ceremonies, Brookwood Military Cemetery
Friday 14 November	FOBS Quiz Night, 7–10pm, Brookwood School Hall
Saturday 22 November	SKA and 2-Tone, 7.30pm to 12am, Brookwood Club
Saturday 29 November	Pirbright Singers, 7.30pm, St Michael and All Angels' Church, Pirbright
Friday 5 December	Christmas Fair, 3.15-5.15pm, Brookwood School
Saturday 6 December	Christmas Trail, 4–6pm, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Sunday 14 December	Carols by Candlelight, 7pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Saturday 20 December	Octavian Singers Christmas Concert, 6pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Wednesday 24 December	Puppets around the Crib, 4pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Wednesday 24 December	Christmas Eve Communion, 6.30pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Saturday 24 January	Robin Hood Pantomime, 2.00pm and 7.00pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sunday 25 January	Robin Hood Pantomime, 2.00pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall





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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th NOVEMBER 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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