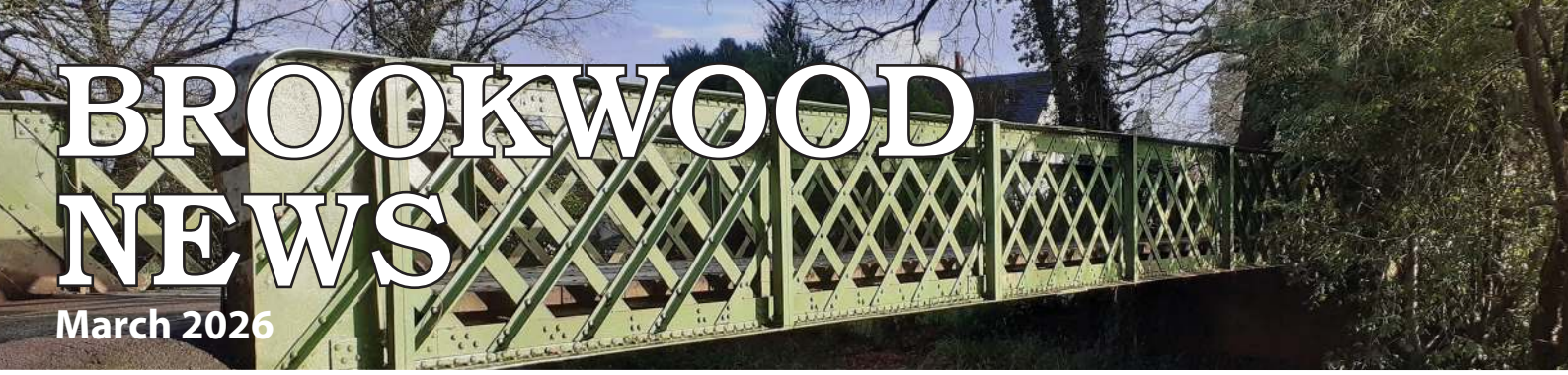


BROOKWOOD NEWS

March 2026

WOKING LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Woking Leisure Centre is set for a major refresh, with refurbishment work starting in phases from late February after a £1.2 million investment. The improvements, being carried out by Everyone Active on behalf of Woking Borough Council, will focus on upgrading the gym, group exercise studios and spin studio.

The spin studio will close from 23 February until mid-March, followed by the group exercise studios from 2 March. The gym will then close from 16 March, with this first phase of works due to finish in early April.

There's plenty to look forward to, including brand-new life fitness and hammer strength equipment, more squat racks and benches, new treadmills and Wattbikes, and improved functional training areas. The cycling studio will get new Keiser bikes, plus upgraded lighting and sound, and virtual spin classes will be introduced. A new fascial stimulator will also be added to support recovery.

While work is under way, members can use Woking Sportsbox and Eastwood Leisure Centre







EDITORIAL

As we tiptoe toward spring – or at least squelch determinedly in its general direction – the village seems to be waking up again. Daffodils are appearing, dog walkers are lingering for longer chats, and someone has already claimed to have seen "the first proper bit of sunshine", although opinions vary on whether it counts if you can still see your breath.

Thank you to everyone who's sent in news, notices, and the occasional cryptic handwritten note that required both a magnifying glass and a committee meeting to decipher. These contributions remind me how much life is tucked into every corner of our community.

This month brings the usual mix of events, updates, and opportunities to bump into each other and say, "Goodness, hasn't time flown". Whether you're joining a club, popping into a coffee morning, or simply enjoying the peace of the canal and heath, I hope something here makes you smile.

Wishing you a cheerful month ahead.

Jackie Kenny – Editor

Seymours. Successfully selling houses in Brookwood.

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Contact **Andrew, Simon** or **Mark** on **01483 798969**
to arrange a **FREE, no obligation valuation**.

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Seymours

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADVENTURERS – JOIN 1ST BROOKWOOD CUBS

Is your child ready for their next big adventure? If they are aged between 8 and 10½ and love learning new things, making friends, and getting outdoors, then 1st Brookwood Cubs is looking for them.

Being a Cub is all about growing, learning, and having fun in small but mighty ways. Instead of spending Friday evenings in front of a screen, our Cubs are out hiking through mud, building dens, toasting marshmallows and learning new skills.

We run a vibrant, action-packed programme based around traditional Scouting activities. Your child will get the chance to:

- Learn practical skills like fire-lighting, cooking, and first aid.
- Get adventurous with hiking, kayaking, climbing and pioneering.
- Build skills for life like confidence, initiative, and integrity.
- Make a positive impact by taking an active role in our local community.

We meet every Friday evening at 6.15pm at Brookwood Memorial Hall. We welcome boys and girls from Brookwood, Pirbright and Worplesdon.



Cubs learn by doing, and it's all about having the courage to try new things. Whether they want to become a master at a new hobby, enjoy a moonlit hike, or just toast some marshmallows with great friends, there's a place for them in our pack.

Ready to join the adventure? Spaces are available! To find out more and to register your child, please visit our website and fill out the joining form (brookwoodscouts.org.uk or email gsl@brookwoodscouts.org.uk).

We're entirely run by amazing volunteers. If you're a parent looking to try something totally different, have fun, and give back to the community, we'd love to hear from you too!

Brookwood Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have already had a jam-packed programme this year, including the first camp of the year, a shooting competition, cooking, practising CPR on proper Resusci Annies and possibly the muddiest night hike we've ever had. Good luck to the Scouts who are representing Brookwood in the upcoming Lightweight Challenge. We have been lucky enough to bring the trophy home the last few years and the same team are out to win for one last time before moving onto Explorers; good luck!



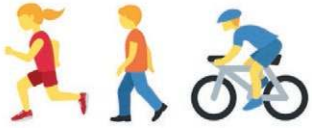
WI

At our February meeting, Brookwood WI enjoyed listening to the inspirational story of the Lighthouse, a Woking-based charity that helps improves the lives of people from all walks of life. The Lighthouse is a place where everyone is welcome and treated equally. Rebecca Jespersen, the co-founder, told us how from small beginnings the charity has grown and developed, and now has 800 volunteers and supports over 8,000 local people every year. Their projects include a food bank, community lunch, money advice, cookery courses, Jigsaw (supporting families in need) and the Cosy coffee house. We were also shown short videos of the Woking branch, and heard from some of the people who have found help and companionship there.

Brookwood WI meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the small hall of Brookwood Memorial Halls, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. All ladies welcome, come and join us for our next exciting meeting!

FOBS

Friends of Brookwood School (FOBS) haven't let the wet weather recently slow down their planning for the next part of the year of exciting activities for Brookwood School and Nursery. There are plans under way for the summer fayre, discos and, of course, the now legendary Just Move. More details about them in the next newsletter.



BROOKWOOD NEIGBOURHOOD WATCH

We are delighted to welcome so many new members to Brookwood Neighbourhood Watch, which has been set up to reduce opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour to happen in the village.

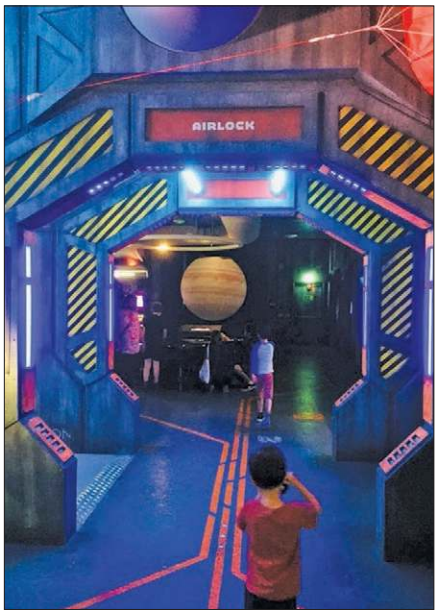
Brookwood Neighbourhood Watch is supported by the Police through crime prevention advice and local crime updates. The Watch distributes these messages quickly to all members through a WhatsApp group. This is also how members communicate issues quickly to the whole group, making their information timely and useful. The more villagers who join, the more effective the scheme will be. It's free and takes none of your time.

To join please e-mail brookwood.nhw@gmail.com confirming your name, mobile number and house address. Or you can join via the national website (ourwatch.org.uk/join). Join Brookwood Neighbourhood Watch today to make our village an even better place to live.

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL

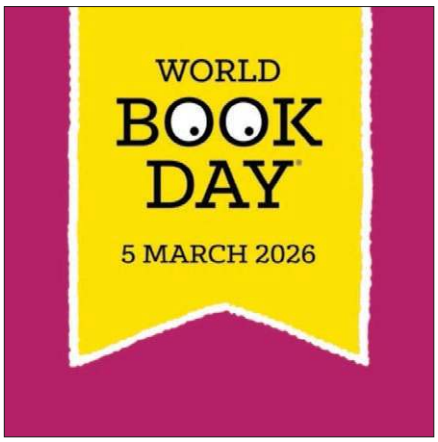
As we head into the second half of the spring term, the school is full of energy. Although this half term is shorter, it is shaping up to be an exciting one.

The first half of the term was rich with learning experiences beyond the classroom. Chertsey Museum visited us to deliver interactive history workshops, bringing the past to life. Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a hands-on day at the Winchester Science Museum, exploring exhibits linked to their science curriculum. Years 5 and 6 travelled to The Living Rainforest, where they were able to see real rainforest plants and animals up close. Our Reception children also had a wonderful day when Little City visited, offering immersive role-play opportunities that helped bring the wider world into school.



We began this half term with an assembly from Stepping Stones DS, a local charity supporting children and young people with Down syndrome. The pupils were highly engaged and asked thoughtful, mature questions that showed a real desire to understand and celebrate differences. Although Down Syndrome Awareness Day falls on Saturday 21 March this year, we will be marking the occasion in school on Friday 20th. Pupils are invited to wear brightly coloured or odd socks as a simple but powerful way to show support.

We are also preparing for World Book Day on Thursday 5 March. This much-loved event always brings plenty of excitement, with pupils and staff looking forward to celebrating stories, reading and creativity together.



Pop-Up Coffee

at Wood Church
Connaught Road
every Friday from
10 to 12pm

Answers to Spring Quiz

1. March
2. Swallow
3. Daffodil
4. Equinox
5. Lamb
6. Cherry
7. Short bursts of rain
8. Butterfly
9. Maypole dancing
10. Asparagus

THANK YOU JOHN!

We were sorry to hear that John Power has decided to step down as one of our editors and would like to say a big thank you to him for everything he has contributed over the past nine years. John has been a brilliant editor, always efficient at finding and collating interesting articles and making sure that he kept to deadlines. We shall miss him.

We now have just seven editors and we take it in turns throughout the year to edit a particular month. The editor's job is to collect items and pictures as they are sent in, maybe write the occasional piece of copy, check that everything makes sense and has the right word count, then send it to our proof-reader, Hilary Gower, who highlights corrections. Once that is done, the file is sent to Nick Webster who does a fantastic job of creating the layout and then finally the file goes to Knaphill Print. Following this, Barbara Lugton organises delivery with our fabulous team of deliverers.

If you would like to contribute to your local community and feel that you could join our team of editors, we would love to hear from you. There is nothing clever or complicated about the job and we all support each other throughout the process. The more editors we have, the less work for everyone else and perhaps it is a job you do only once a year. Do contact us on community@brookwood.org.uk if you would like to know more.

Of course, we also rely on residents' contributions, and are always grateful for any copy and pictures that come in which make the editor's job easier!

SPRING QUIZ

1. Which month is traditionally considered the start of spring in the UK?
   1. April
   2. May
   3. February
   4. March

2. Which bird is often seen as a symbol of spring's arrival?
   1. Robin
   2. Woodpigeon
   3. Swallow
   4. Magpie

3. Which flower is most associated with springtime in British gardens?
1. Lavender
   2. Daffodil
   3. Sunflower
   4. Rose

4. What is the name for the day when daylight and night are roughly equal in length?
   1. Full Moon
   2. Zenith
   3. Solstice
   4. Equinox

5. Which baby animal is especially associated with spring on farms?
   1. Lamb
   2. Calf
   3. Piglet
   4. Foal

6. Which tree is well known for its pink or white blossom in early spring?
   1. Oak
   2. Cherry
   3. Pine
   4. Birch

7. What weather phenomenon is often described as "April showers"?
   1. Heavy snow
   2. Short bursts of rain
   3. Strong winds
   4. Thunderstorms

8. Which insect becomes much more active as temperatures rise in spring?
   1. Ladybird
   2. Wasp
   3. Butterfly
   4. Beetle

9. What traditional activity is associated with May Day in many British villages?
   1. Pumpkin carving
   2. Egg rolling
   3. Maypole dancing
   4. Bonfire lighting

10. Which vegetable is typically harvested first in the spring season?
    1. Carrot
    2. Asparagus
    3. Potato
    4. Sweetcorn

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)
Third Tuesday each month	Women's Institute, 7.45pm, small Memorial Hall
First Thursday each month	Bereavement Café, 10.30am to 12pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
Saturday 21 March	Pirbright Singers, 7.30pm, St Michael and All Angels Church, Pirbright

PIRBRIGHT SINGERS

PIRBRIGHT Singers

An evening of jazz-inspired choral music

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, PIRBRIGHT

Will Todd *Jazz Missa Brevis*
Bob Chilcott *A Little Jazz Mass*

Featuring the Crane Jazz Ensemble:

Eralys Fernadez *Piano*
Marianne Windham *Bass*
Tom Holister *Drum Kit*
Matt Jacobson-Barker *Alto Sax*
Steve Dawes *Trumpet*
Will Spencer *Trumpet*

TICKETS £15
Cash or card on the door
Under 18s free

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH ROOM



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 APRIL NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th MARCH 2026 preferably by e-mail to community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

Printed by Knaphill Print and delivered to your door by a very lovely person.