

BROOKWOOD NEWS

June 2026

WEST SURREY ELECTION RESULTS

The Liberal Democrats were the big winners in the local election held on 7 May, picking up 56 of the 90 seats on the new West Surrey Council to take overall control of the new authority. The Conservatives with 20 seats will form the official opposition.

In the Woking South West Ward, which includes Brookwood, the elected candidates were Leslie James Rice and Dale Shaun Roberts. Full details of the results can be found on Woking Borough Council's website.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RED ROSES

Congratulations on another success for local resident John "Mitch" Mitchell's England Red Roses women's rugby team, clinching a fifth successive Grand Slam and an eighth successive Women's 6 Nations Championship.



EDITORIAL

It's very pleasing to be able to report that lots of community activities are planned in and around the village in the coming weeks, so here's hoping that the weather is kind to us in June.

Congratulations to the successful candidates in the recent local election, and commiserations, and thanks, to those others who put themselves forward to represent us on the new council.

And as ever, thanks to all our contributors. We hope that you enjoy reading this edition

John Wheeler - Editor

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

Friends of Brookwood School have had an amazing academic year so far, but we've still lots planned! Please come along to our Summer Fayre at Brookwood School on Saturday 13 June, 12 noon to 3pm. We have lots of great things planned for a wonderful family afternoon.

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BROOKWOOD WI

Brookwood WI's annual resolution meeting was held in May. Each year, members highlight issues in society that need attention. Once a resolution is passed at the Annual Meeting, the WI's Public Affairs Department turns it into a campaign. From there, members, locally and nationally, work together to help make meaningful change happen.

This year two resolutions were discussed. The first focussed on increasing the number of free, accessible public toilets, the second on asking homeless charities and the government to reduce the number of women and single women at risk of homelessness and to improve the quality of temporary accommodation for them. It was agreed that both should be carried forward to the AGM for further discussion.

Our 16 June meeting will be a practical session on CPR and defibrillation machines, following on from our 2025 resolution of Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers. We are opening this meeting to non-members. If you are interested in attending, please let us know in advance, either by contacting a member (if you know one) or calling Jackie on 07803 293677.

BROOKWOOD BABIES AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP

Did you know that Brookwood has its very own community-run playgroup? Run by volunteers for decades, this group uses both the main hall at Brookwood Memorial Halls, and the cosy community room as an alternative for those with babies or whose children may need a quieter space. During the good weather, they also open up the gardens, where there is a lovely bit of woodland and a garden for the children to play in.

The playgroup is open Mondays from 9.45am to 11.30am during term time, and welcomes newborns to children aged 5 with their parents and carers. Contact Brookwoodbabies@gmail.com for more information.



KITTY II IN SERVICE

This month, the Basingstoke Canal Society introduced a new emission-free trip boat to Woking. "Kitty II" was officially named at the 60th Anniversary event on 18 April.

Built by Brayzel Narrowboats in Lancashire on the Lancaster canal, she is one of the first electric wide-beam trip boats in the UK and the first in Surrey. She even has solar panels on the roof. As an electric boat, Kitty II is exceptionally quiet on the water, providing a tranquil cruising experience. Outside seating at the front of the boat allows you to get very close to wildlife.

Public trips run on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the season from Woking Wharf in Woking town centre. She is fitted with an accessible lift and toilet. Up to two unpowered wheelchairs can be accommodated on each trip. Trips cruise for approximately 75 minutes and although you can't purchase food and drink onboard, you are welcome to bring a coffee or even a little picnic to enjoy. Alternatively, the last cruise of the day is a cream tea trip. Tickets can be booked on the Society's website (www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk).



ARE YOUR BLADES A CUT ABOVE THE REST?

How many of us ignore the importance of properly maintaining garden and kitchen tools, ensuring that the cutting edges are razor sharp, and not leaving it far too long between use and sharpening?

Julian Didyk, blade sharpener at The Full Blade Sharpening Services in Pirbright (07799 207059; fullbladesharpening@outlook.com) advises that it is vital to keep tools in a good state to avoid issues that could easily be avoided and lead to prematurely needing to replace equipment.

Poor maintenance of lawn mowers can lead to an uneven cut, and shears and secateurs will bend and crush stems, rather than cut them cleanly, opening the plant to a heightened risk of infection. Likewise, kitchen tools often get overlooked too; how many of us find ourselves squashing tomatoes in the process of preparing them rather than cleanly slicing straight through them?

For most DIY gardeners, it's a good idea to consider sharpening at least twice per season, not forgetting also to have them sharpened, serviced, cleaned and oiled ready to store for the dormant months to avoid rust and ensure they are ready for the following year's activity. Kitchen implements could require more frequent attention.

Sending your blades to a professional sharpener to service and restore their functionality is a far better option than using one of the many second-rate products on the market. You'll be amazed at the difference it makes to have your tools back to their original capabilities.



AN EVENING AT BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

We are returning to Brookwood Military Cemetery on Thursday 11 June for another wonderful concert.



The concert will start at 6pm, but we invite you to join us from 3pm for an array of different activities. There will be tours of Brookwood and the new First World War Memorial, stalls from the Foundation Team and American Cemetery Team, children's activities put on by our public engagement team, a display from the horticulture team at Brookwood, and a living history display from The Rifles Living History Society. As well as all of this, there will be fish and chips, crepes, ice cream, and coffee available to purchase.

This year sees the return of Colin Thackery (of Britain's Got Talent fame) and Gordon's School Pipes and Drums, alongside some new acts, including Kate Garner, who will be singing and telling the stories behind the songs of the First World War. Also appearing will be the Weybridge Male Voice Choir and Liphook CofE Junior School. Guest readers this year are broadcaster and writer, Gyles Brandreth, and actor Paul Cooper (of BBC's This Country).

As previously, there is no fixed seating, so we ask that you bring camping chairs and you are welcome to bring a picnic too. And with no parking on site, we ask that you park nearby at Brookwood Station multistorey car park. Anyone with access needs requiring to use one of the limited spaces on site can contact supporters@cwgc.org to make the necessary arrangements. Ticket information can be found via the QR code below.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR PET

It's at this time of year that pet owners will start to notice the many pests awakening from their winter slumber. Holly Didyk, salon manager at The Full Groom Dog Groomers in Pirbright (07395 066472, info@fullgroom.co.uk) reports that she is noticing a lot more persistent issues with fleas and ticks, with traditional medications becoming less and less effective.

Ticks aren't always easy to spot, often opting to live in dark and hidden places. Groomers get good at spotting pests as well as skin disorders, because using tools and equipment such as high-velocity hairdryers exposes the skin which would otherwise be smothered in the animal's coat and hair.

However, it is vitally important for owners to monitor their animal's skin health on a daily basis and take advice from a vet to ensure that any treatments being used are working and keeping on top of any potential infestations they might import into the home.

A visit to the groomer every 6 to 8 weeks isn't just about keeping on top of a fabulous hairstyle for your dog, it should form a part of regular health maintenance and checks, alongside visiting the vet. It's also about ensuring any issues with pests, overcrowded follicles, overgrown nails, and matting are all kept monitored and maintained. Good coat health will make it much harder for pests to hide and far easier to apply treatments.

WOKING LEISURE CENTRE – FAMILY COMMUNITY DAY

Team GB sprinter and television personality Harry Aikines-Aryeetey will be the star attraction at a free family community day at Woking Leisure Centre, showcasing its £1.2m refurbishment.

The Commonwealth gold medallist will join local residents on Sunday 14 June to celebrate the centre's recent transformation. Running from 10am to 4pm, the community day will feature a huge array of free activities with something for everyone. Harry will be at the event from 10am to 2pm, meeting visitors, testing out the new gym equipment, and taking part in fitness challenges.

Visitors can enjoy free access to the gym and exercise classes, including EA Series sessions, alongside complementary personal training and the opportunity to try the brand-new Reformer studio. There will also be taster sessions for a range of activities including swimming, Air X and its new Laser Tag offering, alongside children's entertainment such as face painting.

WOKING & SAM BEARE HOSPICE RIBBONS AND HEARTS WALK

A reminder that that the Ribbons and Hearts Walk mentioned in last month's edition is taking place at Horsley Towers on Sunday 28 June, starting at 11am. Further details can be obtained from Kerry Gibb (k.gibb@wsbh.org.uk or 01483 881750, Ext.1801).

COUNTRYSIDE ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Country Fair at Merrist Wood returns on the weekend of 13 and 14 June, bringing a bigger, better, action-packed countryside experience for all ages, with even more hands-on fun and new activities this year.

Organised by Surrey Hills Enterprises and Merrist Wood, the fair brings the Surrey Hills to life with hands-on experiences, fascinating insights into the skills, education, and careers that shape the landscape, and inspiration for visitors of all ages.

Where else can you climb a tree, try archery, meet farm animals, step into a VR experience, make a bird box, ride a pony, discover land-based careers, browse artisan stalls, enjoy street food and live music, all in a single day? From skilled demonstrations to artisan products, every corner of the fair is packed with something special for all ages to enjoy. New for 2026 is the Wellness Village, providing a programme of taster sessions and experiences including activities such as yoga, mindfulness and nature-based wellbeing, reflecting the growing importance of the countryside in supporting both physical and mental health. Contact www.surreyhills.org for more information and to book tickets.



Three chicks have hatched and Mum is being kept very busy feeding them!

GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

By and large Brookwood is a relatively quiet place to live in, though possibly that relies on residents being able to screen out some or all of the noise generated by Farnborough, Fairoaks and Heathrow aircraft movements, SWR's occasional fast trains and overnight engineering works, and Bisley shooting events.

What can be less easy to tolerate are unexpected bursts of loud music. With the approaching (hopefully) warmer months in sight, when we all want to enjoy our outside spaces, here's a gentle plea for residents to show consideration to others by tweaking the volume down a notch or two and keeping windows closed.

Another neighbourly issue to mention is the obstruction of pavements by parked cars and wheelie bins not taken in after emptying. Residents who rely on wheelchairs, or have other mobility issues, or who are transporting children in prams and pushchairs can be left facing difficult and sometimes dangerous options when simply trying to go about an ordinary journey around the village. So, please, be mindful of the possible danger, not to say inconvenience, that is being caused.

PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE FAIR

Pirbright Village Fair will take place on Saturday 6 June, from 11am until 4pm. There will be a full range of activities and events, from donkey rides, a petting farm and the wonderful Fun Dog show, to taster sessions of Pilates, orienteering, and a chance to cheer on Pirbright Women and Girls Cricket Teams battling it out on the cricket pitch. The central arena will be a hive of activity, with music from the Raiders Band, displays of ballet and martial arts, plus a short but hilarious performance by the Pirbright Players.

Food and drinks will be on offer around Lord Pirbright's Hall, with hot drinks served by the WI in the Club room and cream teas at the church. And while you are at the church, don't miss the beautiful floral displays and spectacular Noah's Ark.

The programme, with a timetable of events, is available from the church porch or on the day at the Information tent.

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

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

Every Sunday	Evening Service, 6pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Rd)
Every Monday	Babies and Toddlers Playgroup, 9.45am, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Every Friday	Brookwood Art Group, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Ever Friday	Pop-up Coffee, 10am to 12pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Rd)
Third Tuesday each month	Brookwood WI meeting, 7.30pm, Small Memorial Hall
Saturday 6 June	Pirbright Village Fair, 11am to 4pm
Sunday 7 June	Brookwood Cemetery Society Guided Walks, 2pm, details at www.tbcs.org.uk
Tuesday 9 June	Bereavement Café, 10.30am, Woodhill Church (Chobham Road, Knaphill)
Thursday 11 June	Brookwood Military Cemetery, activities from 3pm, Concert at 6pm
Saturday 13 June	FOBS Summer Fayre, Brookwood School, 12 noon to 3pm
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 June	Country Fair, Merrist Wood, Worplesdon, 10am to 4pm both days
Sunday 14 June	Family Activity Day, Woking Leisure Centre, 10am to 4pm
Sunday 28 June	Woking & Sam Beare Hospice Ribbons and Hearts Walk, Horsley Towers, 11am

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Tuesday: 10am – 5pm
Sunday: 10am – 1pm

contact information:
Contact Number: 07736 880696
Instagram: @beautybykatie_may
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NB: DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th JUNE 2026 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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