

BROOKWOOD NEWS

September 2026

WEST SURREY SHADOW AUTHORITY



Since my last update, there were elections in May for the West Surrey Shadow Authority. Dale Roberts and I both had the honour and privilege of being elected to represent the Woking South West Division. A big thank you to all residents who voted in the election. Irrespective of your choice, we are here to serve and support our community.

Dale and I were both also elected to the Shadow Authority Cabinet. His portfolio is "Transformation, Digital and Customer Experience"; this covers the practical redesign of how residents interact with the new council, which will be formed from seven legacy local authorities, alongside the broader organisational transformation needed for the transition to Vesting Day in April 2027. My portfolio is Finance, which includes procurement and contracts for all the Council's services, including Adult Social Care, SEND, Highways, Facilities Management, etc.

West Surrey becomes operational next April 2027 to serve 650,000 residents. Until then, your Surrey and Borough Councillors will continue to serve our community.

Councillor Leslie Rice
(CllrLeslie.Rice@woking.gov.uk)

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the September edition of Brookwood News after our August break. I am writing this on the day that rain returned to Brookwood after the longest and hottest summer that I can remember. Let's hope that the weather remains more balanced as we move into Autumn, and that our gardens and countryside recover.

David Lugton – Editor

COULD YOU LEAD A RELAXED, FRIENDLY CHOIR?

Pirbright's popular gospel choir is looking for a new leader for this friendly, informal group that comes together to sing for the sheer joy of it. Though styled a gospel choir, we welcome people of all faiths and none, and we enjoy singing anything from spirituals to sea shanties, carols to country & western, as well as pop, classics and show tunes.

Most of all, we are enthusiastic, committed and up for a challenge, there is a lot of laughter in our sessions as well as music making, and we can promise that working with us will be both fun and rewarding. Several of our choir members were not confident singers before they joined us, but have discovered a talent they never knew they had. Who knows, we might be just what you need to discover your inner Gareth Malone?

The choir meets weekly on Wednesday evenings during term time, at Pirbright Primary School, and performs three or four times a year at community events. We pay a small honorarium and reasonable expenses. If you think you might be able to help, or would just like to know more, please contact Julia Douetil (julia.douetil@gmail.com, or 07718610494). We would love to hear from you.

LEMONADE STALL

In June, you may have seen 8-year-old June Cummins raising funds for the Woking & Sam Beare Hospice with a traditional lemonade stall. About 40 people turned up to support her and buy some of her homemade lemonade and chocolate chip cookies. "My mum bought a big box full of lemons for me which we then juiced and sieved. We added the sugar and water and made a big jugful" says June. "Doing something little can make a big difference to help." June raised a fantastic £120 and she visited the Hospice with her mum and her gran to see for herself how support like hers is so important.



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BROOKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope that all of our Brookwood families have been enjoying a wonderful summer break, and have had the opportunity to relax, spend time together and create some special memories. Although the school holidays are still under way as I write, there is already a great deal of activity taking place behind the scenes as staff prepare for another exciting year at Brookwood Primary School and Nursery. Classrooms are being readied, plans are being finalised, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the new academic year. We are delighted to welcome pupils back to school on Monday 7 September, and we are especially excited to greet our newest children as they begin their journey with us. Our Reception pupils will start school from Wednesday 9 September, marking the beginning of what we hope will be a happy, successful and memorable experience for them and their families.

This year is particularly special as it will be our second year of welcoming Nursery children into our school community. Establishing our nursery has been a wonderful experience for Brookwood, creating stronger links between our youngest learners and the wider school. During our Stay and Play sessions in July, we were incredibly impressed by how school-ready the children getting ready to move from our Nursery to Reception were, and how familiar they had become with our school environment. Their confidence, enthusiasm and knowledge of familiar routines were clear to see, and we know this will help them make a positive and successful start when they join us in September.

We are looking forward to another year of learning, achievement, friendship and opportunity, and we cannot wait to see everyone back at Brookwood. Until then, we wish all of our families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable remainder of the summer holiday.

Wendy Thomas, Headteacher/DSL, Brookwood Primary School and Nursery

BROOKWOOD CLUB END-OF-SUMMER BBQ, KARAOKE & DISCO

Come and join us at Brookwood Club on Saturday 12 September for an afternoon and evening of good food, music and fun. We'll have the BBQ going from 2–5pm, serving freshly cooked burgers and hot dogs. Then from 7pm, get your dancing shoes on as Nitro Sound & Light gets the party going with disco and party favourites through until midnight. And if you fancy taking the mic, simply request your favourite karaoke song and have a go! Members, non-members, friends and families are all very welcome. Never been to Brookwood Club before? This is a great chance to pop in, have a drink, meet a few local faces and see what the Club is all about. It's an open event, so just come along and join us – we'd love to see you there (Brookwood Club, 92 Connaught Road, Brookwood, Woking, GU24 0HJ).



FRIENDS OF PIRBRIGHT SURGERY – SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for our annual Pirbright Surgery patient information evening on Friday 4 September from 7.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. We will be sharing the latest news from the surgery and the NHS, followed by information on support for carers. We look forward to welcoming you.

Surrey Wildlife Trust

The Friends of Brentmoor Heath is a new volunteering group working at Brentmoor Heath & Folly Bog nature reserves, near Bisley. Led by Surrey Wildlife Trust's brilliant Voluntary Warden Nick, the group are working hard to protect the heathland – a vital haven for reptiles like grass snakes, common lizards and slow worms, as well as the rare Dartford warbler – through monthly weekend sessions. The group will be continuing their efforts to protect the heathland by removing scrub and bracken throughout the next few months, but will be starting off their autumn with a survey session at the start of September so they can fully understand the impact they will have on the site.

If you are keen to support SWT on this important local reserve, you can sign up to join the group through the link below. The group meets from 10am to 12 noon on the first Sunday of the month. It's a small, friendly and welcoming group, and we'd love to have you join us (https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/volunteering-opportunities/practical-conservation-volunteer-brentmoor-heath).

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY HISTORIC MAUSOLEUMS HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Visitors will have a rare opportunity to peek inside some of Brookwood Cemetery's historic mausoleums on Saturday 12 September as the site takes part in the Heritage Open Days 2026 campaign. Usually closed to the public, the mausoleums offer a fascinating glimpse into Victorian funerary architecture and the stories of those commemorated within them. Alongside the open mausoleums, visitors can enjoy self-guided trails of notable graves, a free guided walk, refreshments, picnics among the cemetery's wildlife and wildflowers, and entry to the cemetery's iconic Columbarium. The activities take place between 10am and 3pm. Admission is free and no booking is required. For further visitor information, please visit brookwoodcemetery.com

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Brookwood Cemetery Society is offering a choice of walks on 6 September starting at 2pm. Book by email at walks@tbcs.org.uk or mobile 07714 289375, stating which walk you would like to book. A donation of £7.50 per person will secure a place. This includes refreshments afterwards at the Lodge. Parking is available near the society's Lodge opposite the cemetery office.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY WALKS

Southwark Plots – North Cemetery. Barry Devonshire will tell you about the lives and stories of some of those who rest here.

Introductory Walk – South Cemetery. Led by Mike Dawson.

Death by Another's Hand – An intriguing title. Join Kim Lowe as she delves into the murky world of murder to reveal some of the unfortunate victims who lie within the cemetery.

NEW VOLUNTEER GROUP LAUNCHES AT BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Brookwood Cemetery is launching a new Tuesday morning volunteer group (10am to 12 noon) to help care for one of the UK's largest cemeteries and preserve its unique heritage and natural beauty. Ideal for those who enjoy working outdoors, volunteers will help with tasks such as sweeping, raking, leaf clearance and light pruning, as well as caring for graves that may no longer receive regular visits. No experience is needed, with full training and support provided. To keep sessions friendly and social, groups are limited to 20 volunteers. Please contact admin@brookwoodcemetery.com to register your interest.

WINNING BEST HAIR SALON AT THE MUDDY STILETTOS AWARDS 2026

When we opened our salon, our vision was simple: to create a space where everyone feels confident, cared for and completely themselves. Winning Best Hair Salon 2026 is an incredible honour and one of our proudest moments. This award means so much because it reflects the support, trust and loyalty of our amazing clients, community and team. Every vote truly meant the world to us. Hairdressing is about so much more than hair. It's about the relationships we build, the stories we share and helping people leave our salon feeling their very best. That has always been at the heart of everything we do.

This award belongs to our incredible team, whose passion, creativity and dedication make The Cutting Room Chobham so special. Thank you also to our wonderful clients, whether you've been with us from the beginning or have only recently discovered us, your support has shaped our journey. To be recognised by the Muddy Stilettos Awards is truly humbling and inspires us to keep raising the bar for every client who walks through our doors. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who voted, supported us and believed in us. We can't wait to continue this journey with you all.



Love from all of us at The Cutting Room. Chobham xx

AUTUMN CRAFT SHOW

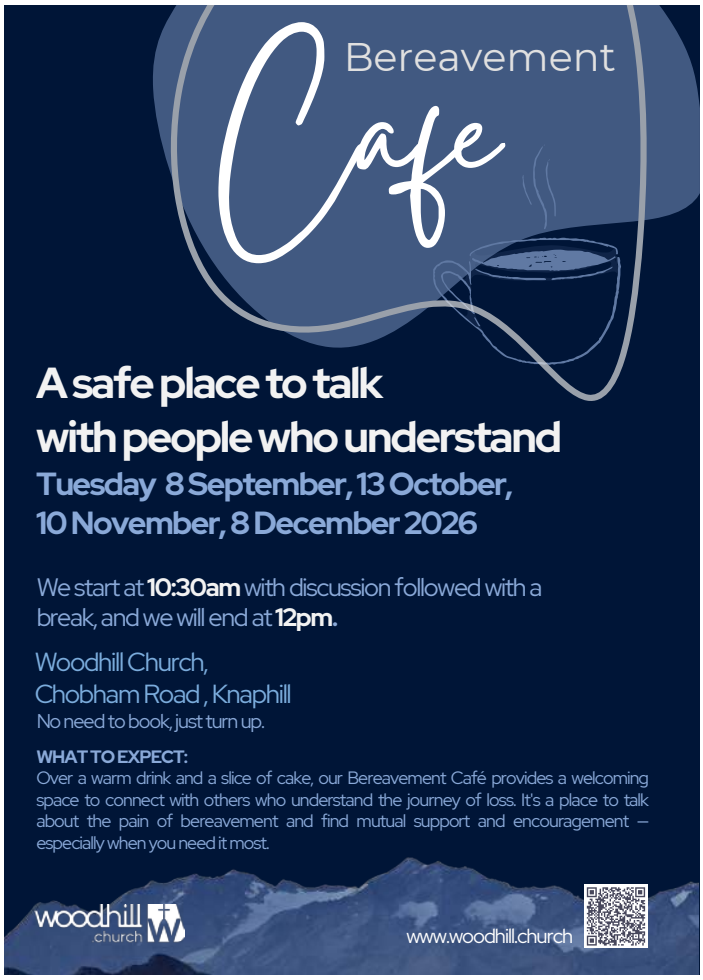
The Farnborough Craft Guild will be holding its Autumn Craft Show on Saturday 10 October between 10am and 4pm at Lord Pirbright's Village Hall. Beautiful bespoke handmade gifts by local craftspeople will be on sale. Entry is free (farnboroughcraftguild.org.uk).



BROOKWOOD ART GROUP

As you may know, the Art Group meets in the Memorial Hall on Friday mornings. And there are opportunities to display and sometimes sell our work at local events. For regular sessions, membership is just £62 for 6 months, with coffee and biscuits thrown in! We are lucky to have the perfectly equipped Memorial Hall for our sessions. If you'd like to try it for one or two weeks this is free of charge. Please do get in touch if you think this might be for you (Art.brookwood@outlook.com or phone 07775 297938; www.brookwoodart.wordpress.com).





welcome. Please contact community@brookwood.org.uk before the 20th of the month

WOKING CAR SHOW 2026

Seymours, who sponsor our newsletter, will once again be the leading sponsor of the Woking Car Show, ensuring its return to the town centre on Sunday 20 September 2026. The 2026 Show will take place between 11am and 4pm, and vehicle owners can apply now to exhibit their rare, unique or interesting rides for all to see (contact https://my.woking.gov.uk/service/Woking_car_show_registration).



BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY HERITAGE OPEN DAY

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

Discover the stories behind Brookwood Military Cemetery on this Heritage Open Day. Join the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) for a free Open Day at Brookwood Military Cemetery on Saturday 12 September, from 10am to 3pm. As part of Heritage Open Days, visitors can explore the UK's largest CWGC site, discover the stories of those commemorated there, and enjoy a range of activities for all ages. Highlights include themed guided tours, the opportunity to explore the cemetery's new memorial, family activities such as headstone rubbing and wreath making, and access to historical archives for those interested in local and family history. Visitors can also visit neighbouring Brookwood American Cemetery, making this a unique opportunity to explore two internationally significant sites of remembrance in one day. The event is free to attend, with no booking required, and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit the Eventbrite page (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cwgc-open-day-at-brookwood-military-cemetery-open-2026-tickets-1995438959644).



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 during term time	Brookwood Babies and Toddlers' Playgroup, 9.45am, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Every Tuesday	Brookwood Cemetery Volunteer Group, 10am to 12pm
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)
Every first Sunday	Friends of Brentmoor Heath, 10am to 12pm, Brentmoor Heath & Folly Bog nature reserves
Friday 4 September	Pirbright Surgery patient information evening, from 7pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall
Sunday 6 September	Brookwood Cemetery Walks, from 2pm, Society Lodge near the Cemetery office, Cemetery Pales
Monday 7 September	Brookwood School term starts
Tuesday 8 September	Bereavement Café, 10.30am to 12pm, Woodhill Church, Chobham Road, Knaphill
Wednesday 9 September	Brookwood School term starts for Reception pupils
Saturday 12 September	CWGC Heritage Open Day, 10am to 3pm, Brookwood Military Cemetery
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Saturday 12 September	Brookwood Club end-of-summer BBQ, 2–5pm, then karaoke & disco from 7pm
Sunday 20 September	2026 Seymours Woking Car Show, 11am to 4pm, Woking town centre
Saturday 10 October	Farnborough Craft Guild show, 10am to 4pm, Lord Pirbright's Hall



Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

The cost of advertising is £35.00. 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 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 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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