

BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2015

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this month's newsletter and another collection of interesting items sent in about our village life. However, there are changes afoot and members of the Village Forum, in particular Cllr Kevin Davis, are working hard to make sure we have some influence on the plans that will affect us. The Wesson's site has been cleared ready for development, Cala Homes is still building at Brookwood Farm, SW Trains is planning to expand the car park and options are being discussed for the Coblands site. Some things we will like, others we won't, but let's be thankful that most of us have a roof over our heads and a safe, pleasant place to live.

Yvonne Craven

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Violet Clare would like to thank all those who took part in the Biggest Coffee Morning in the World, raising money for MacMillan Cancer Relief. Held in St Saviour's Church last month, £242.53p was raised. Violet runs a coffee morning every Friday from 10 to 12pm in the church and anyone is welcome to pop in for a quick cuppa, or stay all morning and chat.

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

JOIN THE TEAM!

We would really like to have a couple more editors on our team to share the production of the newsletter. You don't have to be experienced, clever at writing or need lots of time. A method is now in place with Hilary Gower proof reading and Steven Hunt designing the layout. So the

editors just collect and decide on the items to use, knock them into shape a bit where necessary and the support team does the rest. Lots of help is available from others if you're not feeling confident. Just contact us through the newsletter email.

BREAKFAST AT ST SAVIOUR'S

You will have read last month that our vicar, Nick Grew, and his wife Christine are moving on, but while a new vicar is found services and activities at St Saviour's Church will carry on as usual. A new service of Café Church is held at 10.30am every third Sunday and the inviting smell of bacon is now wafting out on to the street. Café Church is an informal service that you can drop into for coffee and

rolls, with time to chat, activities for the children, and the Sunday papers for those who just want to relax.

Harvest Supper managed to clash with one of the biggest sporting events of the year when England was playing in the Rugby World Cup! For those who were not glued to the telly and crying into their beer, the opportunity of meeting

neighbours, sharing a meal and being entertained by two delightful performers was available. The church looked absolutely stunning with decorations provided by Sue Kaufman, and our entertainers, Alex Cawley and Anya Hamilton, performed some wonderful show songs.

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BROOKWOOD LAST POST ASSOCIATION

Remembrance Sunday this year is 8 November and there will be a Remembrance Service held in Brookwood Memorial Hall at 10.30am near the commemoration plaque. The Brookwood Last Post Association has been running since the Second World War and meets on the first Sunday of the month in Brookwood cemetery, near the RAF memorial, when the last post is still played. Some of you will know that the last post has sounded every evening at 8pm at the Menin Gate in Ypres since 1928. However, during the Second World War, when Belgium was occupied, this was discontinued in Ypres, and transferred to Brookwood cemetery instead. When the war ended, the event was returned

to Ypres where the last post has been played ever since. At that time the Brookwood Last Post Association was formed and has continued ever since. There aren't many members now and it is in danger of folding, but Cllr Kevin Davis has joined and is anxious to support them and keep the association going. Unfortunately, they don't have anyone to play the bugle anymore and rely on recordings instead. Money is available through Woking Council for organisations, and Kevin is keen to buy them a bugle to use, but of course players are needed. If anyone is interested in joining the association, or knows anyone who could play the bugle, then please contact Kevin at cllrkevin.davis@woking.gov.uk.

CALA HOMES PATH

This path has been made to link the new estate on Brookwood Farm to the towpath and Brookwood village, near the back of the school. For all of you who have been wondering, the path is definitely not finished. There has been a hitch with the planning, but the path will eventually have a bonded surface and be wide enough for two prams. There won't be any lighting due to the sensitive nature of the area for wildlife.

MIND MARATHON



Ex-resident, 25-year-old Dave Abrams was brought up in the village, went to Brookwood School and now lives in London. He was recently featured in Time Out magazine, as he has come up with an unusual way of raising awareness and funds for the mental health charity, Mind. He has set himself the challenge of running overground between every tube station on the London Underground network, which is approximately 520km over 25 separate runs. He then intends to run the London Marathon next year. His recent 35km run from Upminster to Embankment marked the halfway point of his tube run. You can track his progress on <http://goo.gl/Nnmf2a>. If you'd like to help Dave achieve his aim of raising money for Mind, you can donate via his JustGiving page at: www.JustGiving.com/dave-abrams. Dave and, more importantly, Mind, would be very grateful for your support.

BEST GARDENER AND GROWER AWARD

Congratulations to Roy Clare who has won third prize in the Woking in Bloom and Allotment Awards, which was held at H.G. Wells Conference Centre last month. Roy lives in Church Close and has an allotment at Sheets Heath. Those of us who know him have sampled the fruits of his labour on many occasions and his small garden is a delight to see at any time of the year.



Photo by Cliff Bolton A.B.I.P.P.

THE NAKED CHOIR

Earlier in the year, quite a few of you came to the Academix, A Cappella group concert at St Saviour's Church and one of their members is a Brookwood resident. Here is a recent online comment from Neil, one of the singers:

'The draconian press embargo is now lifted and at last the truth can be told: we only made it as far as Week 3 on BBC2's, The Naked Choir. Not as one of the lucky eight groups who were selected to perform, but the eagle-eyed amongst you will have spotted a split-second appearance by Academix on the opening credits for each of the first three weeks. We were pleased and excited to get an audition, since we heard they had nearly 300 applications for only eight places. We were slightly surprised by the format of the first four weeks, specifically the way each group was given a brand new song and asked to arrange, learn and polish it in three days. Obviously

this is an accelerated schedule: we typically take two to three weeks to get notes right, another week or two to memorise, and then enter a phase of continual refinement. This process only starts once an arrangement is ready: the arranging itself can take weeks. I do this by listening to the song hundreds of times, while dressing, driving, eating, anywhere. Then there is the process of writing down the arrangement and playing it back over and over, and agonising about awkward places where nothing seems quite right no matter how you tweak it. I write this having just watched Week Four, and the standard is clearly climbing. As for our night with Gareth – well, we didn't have one. He wasn't present at our audition, just a small camera crew and an interviewer. So we have no secrets to spill. Probably just as well, as we no longer make the opening credits from Week Four. For us, it's the end of the road.'

NEWS FROM BROOKWOOD SCHOOL

Term has started very well at Brookwood Primary School with over 190 children in school, which is fantastic news. We welcomed a new Reception class of 4 year-olds who have settled in beautifully. You may have seen builders' signs on the gate during the summer break. We had the ceilings in the library (old school hall), and some of the original classrooms, replaced as the lath and plaster had become unstable. We have also had much of the school recarpeted, refurnished and redecorated to make sure we have a lovely learning environment. If you would like to come and have a look, give Mrs Cook a ring and I'll arrange a tour. We recently held our Harvest Festival at St Saviour's Church, ably led by Year 3. Our food donations this year

have supported Woking Food Bank and The York House Project. Our Christmas Fair is on Friday 4 December at 3.30pm and everyone is welcome. Remember, you can help us by donating unwanted clothes and shoes in bags by our school gate (but no longer household linens), and we are always glad of your unwanted gifts, which we use in our raffles. On Thursday 26 November, we are building 'Mega Structures' out of unwanted A4 white paper, (which can have printing on it, but not be creased). If you have a source and can help, please bring it along to school. We need lots of it!

Mrs Jo Green, Headteacher

PIRBRIGHT PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS

The Pirbright Players are performing a Christmas show called 'Follow the Star', based on the Nativity story, involving adults and children, on the evening of Saturday 28 November, and the afternoon and evening of Sunday 29 November. For tickets, see the details on the poster or contact Nicola Owen on 07917 463806, nicola.owen@me.com.

Pirbright Church is holding its annual Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of 4 to 6 December. If anyone or any organisation would like to take part and enter a unique, decorated tree, please contact Pauline or Michael Cannon for further details at michael@normandyparklodge.com, or on 01252 326534.



WI CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year Brookwood WI will once again be holding their Christmas Fair in the large Memorial Hall, on Saturday 26 November from 2pm. Stalls will include: cakes, tombolas, bric-a-brac, Christmas crafts, books, jewellery, games and competitions for the children, and the usual splendid raffle. This is an opportunity to browse for your Christmas gifts, and enjoy a cup of tea and mince pie. Look out for the posters around the village.

RETURN OF THE OTTER

Join Surrey Wildlife Trust Woking Group for an illustrated talk by Chris Matcham, former SWT Otter and River Project Officer. This will be held on Thursday 19 November from 7.15 to 9.15pm in Brookwood Small Memorial Hall. £3 adults, £1 children including refreshments. No need to book, just turn up on the night, everyone welcome. Further information is available from Kati Reeve on 01483 795460 during office hours.



MONSTER FROM THE DEEP

While we are on the subject of wildlife, this creature was found at the back of Connaught Crescent, on a ledge next to the canal, by Andree Broadbent. We think it is a crayfish, but probably not the native kind. A visit to the Surrey Wildlife Trust talk might reveal more. When you are along the canal, look out for the kingfisher, which is still about.



THE BAKER'S DOZEN – POP UP SHOP 'LUNCH ON THE LAWN'

**Every day at Pirbright Village Hall
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, 8.30am to 4pm
Thursday 12 to 4pm**

We sell hot and cold food, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, fresh bread, rolls, French sticks, milk, hot soup, bread, sweets, chocolate and stamps.

Email: lunchonthelawn@yahoo.co.uk
Phone (during opening hours),
07922 072095

Call and pre-order your hot food if you are in a hurry!

VILLAGE DIARY DATES

Also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk

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| Sunday 1 November | Brookwood Cemetery Boundary walk, 1.30pm |
| Sunday 8 November | Remembrance Service, Memorial Hall, 10.30am |
| Saturday 14 November | Cash Bingo, Brookwood Club (non-members welcome), 8pm |
| Sunday 15 November | Café Church, St Saviour's, 10.30am |
| Thursday 19 November | Surrey Wildlife Trust talk, Memorial Hall, 7.15pm |
| Saturday 26 November | WI Christmas Fair, Memorial Hall, 2pm |
| Friday 4 December | Brookwood School Christmas Fair, 3.30 to 5.30pm |

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

Adverts are £25 for an 1/8 page, or £45 for 1/4 page. For more information on advertising please contact us on community@brookwood.org.uk.

Deadline for the December issue is 20 November 2015

Preferably by email to: community@brookwood.org.uk or telephone 01483 480273 or a note through the door of 78 Connaught Road.

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