

BROOKWOOD NEWS

November 2026

BROOKWOOD STATION SHORTLISTED, 'STATION OF THE YEAR 2026'!



The Station Reflective Garden team were surprised when we saw this announcement in an email from South Western Railway (SWR), and even more astonished when we discovered we were in the last five contestants, and the only station in southern England in the running. As it was a public vote, some of you may have seen us handing out flyers early in the morning at the station encouraging commuters to vote. A big thank you to everyone who voted because we raised Brookwood's profile in the World Cup of Stations, with BBC Radio Surrey interviewing the designer, Geoff Ward, and our pictures and quotes appearing in the BBC Surrey News feed online, and in Woking News and Mail. However, Irlam station near Manchester won this contest and it's not surprising when you see their Facebook page and everything they have to offer there. Something to aim for perhaps?

Over the past year, eight of us have been looking after the Reflective Garden on the cemetery side of the station, keeping it tidy and well-watered through the driest summer we've had in a long time. As a result, apart from hopefully keeping everything alive, we have discovered that there is a great deal more we could do to enhance and create an even more interesting space if we had more volunteers to help us. It isn't just gardening, but also coming up with ideas to make Brookwood station a pleasant place to use. You may have noticed the plaque in the ticket hall which states that we have 'adopted' the station. This means that we have access to funding from SWR who have an amazing Community Group project to keep stations looking bright, cheerful and unique. There are 1300 station voluntary groups across the country and SWR has 105, of which we are one. Three of us went to the SWR Community Groups conference at the beginning of October and we were surprised to see about 100 volunteers from stations as far apart as Raynes Park and Devon, all of whom are busy creating community projects at their stations, regenerating buildings as well as putting in planters or hanging displays and art on the walls. Haslemere station group have restored the old signal box back to its former glory, and Hilsea refurbished the waiting room. Another group turned a disused space into an office, which is now occupied by a charity that helps teenagers.

The speakers at the conference included Stephen Morgan MP, Portsmouth, and Lawrence Bowman, Managing Director of SWR and Network Rail Wessex. The latter explained the public ownership programme that is under way across the country, which will be called Great British Railways and should be complete in the autumn of next year. Arterio trains are being introduced and driver numbers have been increased from 60 to 200. AI-operated barriers are being installed at level crossings and timetables are being adapted to the new demands for travel in the post-Covid era. There is a public consultation about timetables at www.southwesterntimetable.com, and contact can be made by emailing info@southwesterntimetable.com.



Currently our team consists of Brenda Denyer, Sue Gale, Neville Broyd, Hilary Gower, Mandy and Mike Sherwood, Mark and Yvonne Craven. If you have any time to spare (it doesn't have to be a regular or big commitment), we would be delighted to have some more help at the station, either gardening or implementing other projects that we have planned, so please get in touch or speak to one of us (email: yvonne.brookwood@gmail.com; 07752687467).

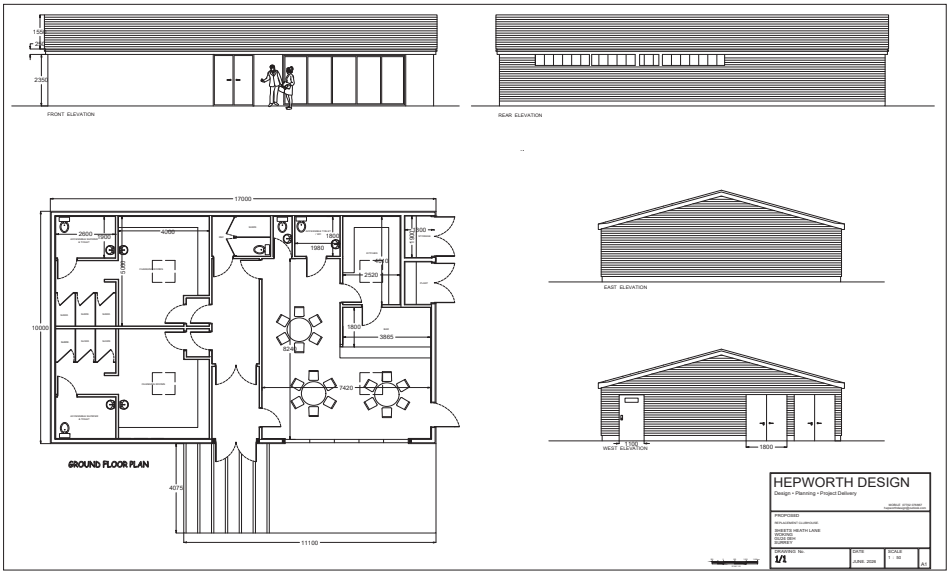
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PROPOSED NEW SPORTS PAVILION



For several months now, plans and recommendations have been put to Woking Borough Council to demolish the existing sports pavilion on Sheets Heath recreation ground and replace it with a new, slightly larger building that will enhance the use of the sports ground and provide better facilities for local sporting clubs. Meadow Sports FC, and Woking and Horsell Cricket Club have come together and are working towards achieving this goal, with the help of some funding from the Football Association and Football Foundation. Plans are available to see on the Woking Council planning website; these include changing rooms, showers, a kitchen, bar and social space for meetings, although the plans are subject to further amendments before planning permission is granted. Other concerns are accessibility, parking and disturbance to nearby homes, as well as the wildlife and how to light the area. The proposal is currently due for further consultation on 22 October, and comments can be made via the council website (Planning applications, 'Pavilion Sheets Heath').

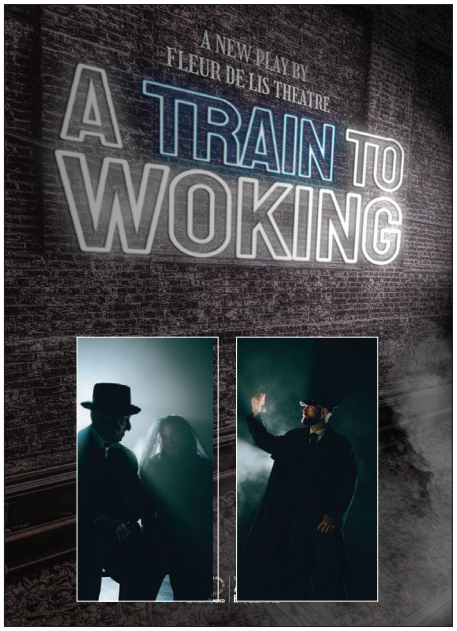
LESLIE RICE, COUNCIL MATTERS UPDATE

Work is progressing on the acquisition of new equipment for the Connaught Crescent play area and new "Brookwood" village signs. Woking Borough Council are now involved and the thoroughness required is very time consuming. A few people have done most of the heavy lifting on these initiatives and their efforts are very much appreciated.

There was a series of meetings to garner interest in a Neighbourhood Forum or something similar, but unfortunately we did not have the level of interest to sustain an active group. So, while the meetings are on hold for now, I am happy to support initiatives in Brookwood.

The formation of West Surrey Council is progressing. We can see already that, despite the potential savings from rationalising the Borough and District Councils, the spiralling costs of social care and the legacy debt burden of some £4 billion plus will provide substantial challenges for the next few years. Your Woking Councillors will be supporting you and handling your casework until the changes to West Surrey in April 2027.

A TRAIN TO WOKING



Many of you will have seen the item in last month's newsletter about the Fleur de Lis Theatre Company performance of this play in the cemetery on Saturday 6 December. This performance has now sold out, but they are performing at the Rhoda McGaw from 1 to 5 December, so there are plenty more opportunities to see this intriguing presentation (https://fleurdelistheatre.co.uk/shows).

FLEUR DE LIS classical theatre company

HELP WETLANDS THRIVE

Surrey Wildlife Trust has launched a new appeal to raise £30,000 to help rewet, restore and rewild wetland habitats, and reintroduce lost species which will benefit entire ecosystems. From rivers and ponds to wet woods, grassland and heathland, these habitats are vital for Surrey's wildlife and for the resilience of our landscapes.

Your support will help create healthier, wilder wetlands that make our county more resilient against fire and flood as the climate changes. By doing this, we'll restore the conditions hundreds of species need to thrive, and make people and our economy safer too. It's all part of our £1million Save Surrey's Nature appeal, designed to kickstart the big changes we need to restore wildlife and make life better for people too.

Climate change is bringing hotter, drier periods in summer and we are seeing more intense and prolonged rainfall in winter, while pollution, development and water abstraction are putting further pressure on our rivers, ponds and wetlands. We must restore and extend wetland habitats so they can be part of the fightback, acting as firebreaks, cooling the wider landscape, and providing liveable spaces for all life. We're also working to restore lost native species, like



PHOTOGRAPH: Richard Bradshaw

Eurasian beavers and water voles, that act as ecosystem engineers, extending and improving wetland habitats in places like Thundry Meadows, near Elstead, and helping hundreds of other species, including frogs, newts, dragonflies and potentially otters, to thrive across our county.

You can help by donating on the website from 4 November (https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/wilder-wetlands).



BEREAVEMENT CAFE

November is the month when we especially remember those whom we have lost and, as the nights get darker and longer, it can be a difficult time of year. If anyone is struggling with bereavement, they may find that talking and sharing with those who are also going through sad times is helpful. Woodhill Church, Chobham Road, holds a Bereavement Cafe once a month, where people can join and talk through their situation with others who understand the journey of loss, and find mutual support and encouragement.

The next two sessions are on Tuesday 10 November and Tuesday 8 December, Woodhill Church, Chobham Road, 10.30am to 12pm. See www.woodhill.church for more information.

LIVE MUSIC IN NOVEMBER AT

BROOKWOOD CLUB





November promises another enjoyable month of live entertainment at Brookwood Club, with two bands bringing their own styles of music to the village.

On Saturday 14 November, the Club welcomes On The Note, performing live from 9pm. With over 20 years of experience, the band will be bringing a lively mix of pop, rock, soul, funk and R&B favourites, including well-known hits from Queen, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John, Oasis and The Killers. There is plenty to look forward to for anyone who enjoys an evening of familiar favourites.

On Saturday 28 November, Woking-based indie-rock band Tom's Sister returns to Brookwood Club for another live performance from 8.30pm. Having played at the Club on previous occasions, the band are familiar faces to many local regulars. Known for their distinctive guitar-driven sound and energetic performances, this is another great opportunity to enjoy homegrown music right on our doorstep.

Why not bring a few friends and join us? Visitors are always welcome and, if you enjoy your evening, we'd love you to consider becoming a member of Brookwood Club.

NEW TEA AND COFFEE SESSION

Friday mornings at Woodhill Church, Connaught Road, are flourishing, with many neighbours and friends popping in for a chat to exchange news between 10am and 12pm. Our curate, Emily-Grace Sainsbury, is now hosting a new session on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 to 4.30pm for anyone who would like to relax and chat in between collecting children or other appointments and commitments. Everyone is welcome, including children of course, and it is a great opportunity to meet friends and new local people, even if it is only for a short while, so do drop in and say hello.





BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY TOURS

Sunday 1 November, 1pm

- VC Walk, the graves of VC service personnel, led by Kim Lowe.
- The Indian Subcontinent at War, service personnel who served in both World Wars, post 1947, led by Barry Devonshire.

Booking is essential and please specify which walk you are booking. A donation of £7.50 per person is suggested and this includes refreshments at the Lodge after the walk. Meet at the Society Lodge by the entrance to the cemetery off Cemetery Pales (www.tbcs.org.uk/walks).

Janie Angell

REIKI MASTER

Experience the gentle magic of reiki, right here in Brookwood.

This holistic healing practice supports physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

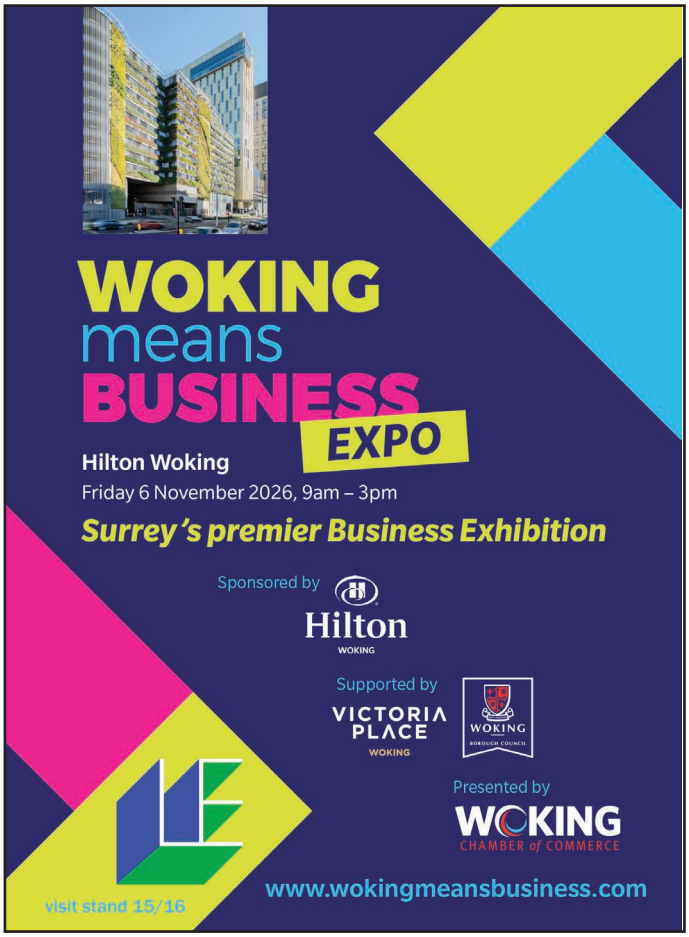
Reiki energy is channelled through gentle hand placements on or just above the body, while you rest comfortably seated or lying down.

Sessions take place in my garden treatment room with views of the trees outside. Online sessions are also available if preferred, as Reiki is just as effective from a distance.

£60 for 1 hr session
Gift Vouchers available

For all enquiries, please message via email or WhatsApp; janieangell@protonmail.com, +44 7932 186070

WWW.JANIEANGELL.CO.UK



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

GETTING INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

There was a wonderfully festive atmosphere at Brookwood WI's October meeting as members channelled their inner Blue Peter and came together for an evening of Christmas crafting. Amid plenty of chat, laughter and shared creativity, we enjoyed making beautiful seasonal cards, snowmen and origami stars while catching up with friends.

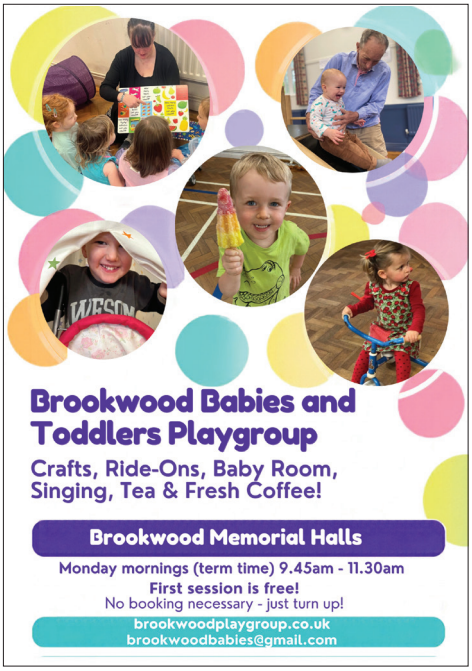
The evening was a lovely reminder of what the WI is all about: friendship, community and learning together. By the end of the meeting, members left with not only their handmade crafts, but also a healthy dose of Christmas cheer!

Our November meeting is our AGM, followed by our Christmas Party in December. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start at the Memorial Hall. If you are interested, please feel free to pop along!

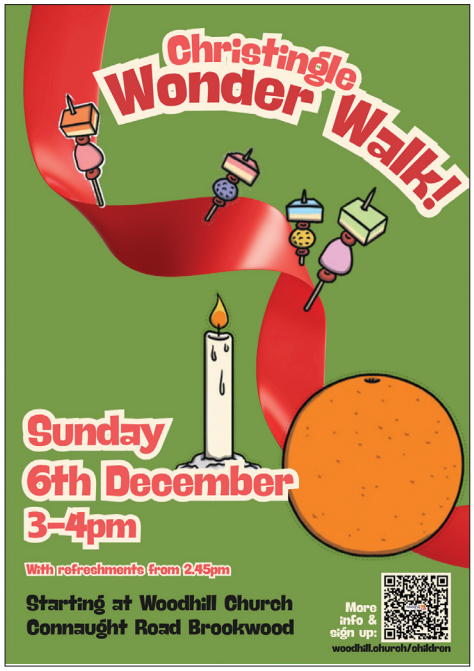












VILLAGE DIARY DATES (also see the village website at www.brookwood.org.uk)

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	Pop-up Coffee, 2.30 to 4.30pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Road)
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
Sunday 1 November	Cemetery walks (see article), 1pm, Brookwood Cemetery
Saturday 7 November	Bingo, Brookwood Club, from 8.30pm
Sunday 8 November	Remembrance Sunday
Tuesday 10 November	Bereavement Cafe, 10.30am to 12pm, Woodhill Church (Chobham Road)
Saturday 14 November	On The Note band, from 9pm, Brookwood Club
Tuesday 17 November	WI AGM, 7.30pm, Brookwood Memorial Hall
Saturday 28 November	Tom's Sister band, from 8.30pm, Brookwood Club
Sunday 6 December	Christingle, 3–4pm, Woodhill Church (Connaught Rd)
Saturday 12 December	Christmas Trail, 4–6pm, Brookwood Memorial 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 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS MIDDAY 20th NOVEMBER 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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