

March 2010

Brookwood News

Dear Readers, Brookwood lost one of its oldest and longest lived residents last month. I have produced a separate insert as a tribute to her for this months newsletter. Doris Butler was born in 1919 in Brookwood and wrote about her childhood in the area for the June 2006 newsletter. Along with Doris's obituary I have also reproduced her remembrances. Dear Doris, you will be sadly missed by all our family. Ed.

This months newsletter is sponsored and paid for by **Brookwood Memorial Halls** whose **AGM will take place on Tuesday 13th April. Full details and the Halls Annual report inside.** *If you would like to sponsor or to help part-pay for an edition of Brookwood News drop me an email to: brookwoodnews@ntlworld.com for more details.*

The Brookwood red telephone box restoration is progressing well as you may have seen. We recently re-hung the door using new hinges and have now primed the two sides ready for the final traditional red paint which will be applied during April. Many members of our community are now involved one way or another, with individuals, businesses and also the school all making a valued contribution. We will be complete by 16 May to coincide with the Brookwood Club annual bash.

If you would like to contribute time to help with the kiosk, please contact Kevin Davis on 03333 409063. If you would like to sponsor a pane of glass that would be really appreciated, a large pane costs £8.50 and a small pane costs £4.25. Everyone who helps out with time or funds will have their name permanently displayed in the kiosk if they so wish when it is completed. Kevin and Alan.

Goodge Entertainment

Bring You

**The Youth Academy of
TV, Acting, & Musical Theatre**
Coming Soon to Brookwood!

The Youth Academy is setting up its residency in Brookwood to offer youngsters the opportunity to explore themselves through the medium of Theatre & Television.

This unique school for children who are aged 7 years and up will be offering a trial 6 week period costing just £60 for the initial six weeks.

Please keep an eye on the local press for information.

Alternatively to find out more please contact

Martin Dickinson on 07984 763015

Samantha's Hair Design:

As from the end of April, I will not be renewing my lease on the salon. I would like to thank you all for your loyalty over the past 12 years and I wish you all the best. I am going to be a mobile hairdresser and so I hope to see you again in the future. Sam



Brookwood School Quiz Night

**Saturday 24th April
8.00 – 10.30 pm**



Test your general knowledge and support Brookwood School by coming along to the quiz night. Enter a team of 6-8 people or join a team on the night. The cost is only £3.00 per person.

Nibbles will be provided - bring your own drinks.

Entry forms are available at the school office or call Sarah Downs on 01483 824658.



Is that Chris Evans ?

Radio 2 breakfast presenter Chris Evans came to Bisley camp to try his hand at clay shooting last month. It was a part of his programme challenge with his sports presenter colleague Jonny Saunders. The weather was unkind though with snow flurries blowing around and it was very cold. How did Chris do at the challenge? He lost and is now 3 - 4 down to Jonny.

Brookwood News Expands

From this month Brookwood News will be delivered to the residents of **Manor Crescent and Cowshot Crescent** near to **Pirbright camp**. All the house's belong to Woking Borough Homes Limited and I need to thank Michelle Henfrey who has agreed to distribute them to the homes for me. Ed.

Doris 'Dotty' Kathleen Butler: 27 October 1919 - 8 February 2010

Brookwood lost one of its oldest residents in early February following a short illness and a period of hospitalisation. Doris was a regular user of BAN and although effectively housebound many local residents knew her well. Doris lived in Brookwood all her life. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends locally.

Local Crime Update



We are extremely fortunate to live in such a low crime area but small pockets of irritation continue to raise its head. Sometime during the 9th February lead from the church organ bellows housing roof was stolen. The police have been informed - did you see anything suspicious? I have also been informed about a late night incident (midnight) on Sheets Heath affecting three homes during February. It started with a quad bike being driven slowly past homes and then youths were heard screaming and shouting in bushes. The police were called and a canine response unit arrived very quickly. The police questioned a couple of youths. I am not aware of any charges being brought.

See something suspicious? Ring 0845 125 2222 & Report it.



John Ridley's Garden



Sarah Downs - Gruffalo!!

Snow!! Thanks

I asked you to send me your pictures of Brookwood in the snow and so thank you for all of the snow pictures that residents have sent me. I'm very sorry if I've missed yours out but I only have room for a few as the newsletter is very full this month.



Stuart Hawkins - Canal

Pirbright Meeting to Discuss Access to Brookwood Station.

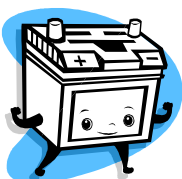
Over sixty interested people, mostly from Pirbright, packed into Lord Pirbrights Hall on the evening of 24th February. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss access from Pirbright through the cemetery to the rear of Brookwood Station. The meeting, organised by Lindsay Graham on behalf of Pirbright Parish Council, was called to try to help resolve the problem. Residents listened to Cllr Preshaw, and representatives from Woking BC, South West Trains and Network Rail as they tried to explain the difficult access situation.

The cemetery is owned by Mr Guney and is private property with no automatic right of access. To protect the cemetery from vandals, who it is claimed enter the cemetery at night, the owners now lock the rear gate between the station and cemetery from 5:00pm to 7:00am during the Winter months, and this causes major problems for Pirbright residents.

One solution may be to organise some form of out of ours licence with a 'key' to the gate, however any way forward is still some way off. Pirbright residents were very restrained with only a few outbursts of frustration. No immediate resolution was found. It was a strange meeting with rehearsals for Pirbright Players 'King and I' taking place in the adjoining room and the songs 'I have Dreamed' and 'Whistle a Happy Tune' ringing out as discussions were taking place. Perhaps that was why the residents were able to remain so calm!!!

Some residents will know that local Brookwood singing teacher Nathan Lubbock-Smith is also a professional actor. Nathan will be appearing in 'Dorian Gray' at the Leicester Square Theatre, London, from the 9th of March to 18th April. Box Office 0844 8472475 Google: Ruby in the Dust Production for more information. Good Luck Nathan.

Friend's of Brookwood School would like to thank the village residents for all their contributions for the last Bag2School collection which raised £400 for school funds - an amazing amount for so little effort. Please keep collecting and saving for the next one which is Wednesday 30th June.



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Brookwood Memorial Halls

Registered charity number 304981

www.bmhalls.org.uk

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee of Brookwood Memorial Hall

Will be held in the **Committee rooms at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 13 April 2010** where the financial statements and annual report for 2009 will be available. Any resident of Brookwood is entitled to attend, to stand for election, and if appropriate to vote on the matters discussed. Any resident wishing to be considered for election must submit his or her name and address to the Secretary before seven days prior to the meeting and must meet the eligibility requirements of the Charity Commission. Any resident wishing to have any matter discussed at the meeting must submit the request in writing to the Secretary before seven days prior to the meeting. A resident for these purposes is any person listed currently on the electoral roll for the Brookwood ward of Woking Borough. Correspondence should be addressed to The Secretary, 38 Connaught Crescent, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0AN.

Report for the year ending 31st December 2009

The Halls are managed by committee constituted under a Deed of Trust dated 20th February 1950 for the benefit of all inhabitants of the Village of Brookwood. The Management Committee is appointed annually in April comprising 4 members elected by qualifying inhabitants and up to 14 members representing recognised Village organisations. A further 6 members may be co-opted by the Management Committee to represent other local interests. All Management Committee members serve for a year from the date of the Annual General Meeting at which they are appointed. Co-opted members serve until the AGM following their co-option. The Management Committee throughout the year comprised Mr J Thornton (Chairman), Mrs J Gable (Secretary), Mr A Male (Treasurer), Mrs M Cook, Mr A Gray, Mrs K Lopez, Mrs M Mealin and Mrs J Stone (who acts as voluntary Lettings Agent). The Hall's banker is the Charities Aid Foundation, West Malling, Kent. The Management Committee has established a policy to maintain financial reserves adequate to sustain the Halls' financial solvency in the event that the Halls became unlettable for a year, calculated as the average annual regular expenses measured over the three preceding financial years. The Committee estimate that a year would likely be the maximum period required to render the Halls fully lettable again after major insured damage. The Committee reviews this policy annually. The reserves policy was met throughout the year.

During 2009 we renovated the Large Hall woodblock flooring and replaced its large windows with double glazed units, thanks to a grant from SITA Trust. We are currently engaged in a project to renew the kitchen of the Small Hall and to improve storage arrangements. The Halls have continued to be very well utilised by all sections of our community, and our finances remain in good shape under close management of our ever-rising expenses. The annual Remembrance Service was well attended once again by a large cross section of our community. We are developing proposals to collate and present information on the history of the Halls, and in particular on those who died on our behalf, collected by the Scouts and presented so movingly at recent Services. We would welcome contributions of information, photographs or ideas toward this.

We continue to rely upon the support and engagement of our community to help provide and improve the Halls as a valued amenity, accessible to all our hirers at reasonable costs. Without their continuing efforts, we may in future have to employ professional contractors more often, with resultant increased costs and hire charges. Spreading the burden of occasional sundry tasks to local volunteers would provide welcome relief to our Committee members and I appeal to friends of the Halls to contact me for further information.

John Thornton, Chairman

On behalf of the Management Committee, Brookwood Memorial Halls



Easter Services at St Saviour's Church Connaught Road, Brookwood

Friday 2nd April, 2pm : An hour by the Cross
Sunday 4th April, 10.30am : Easter Sunday All-age Service



On Wednesday 31st March from 7.00am, members of St Saviour's and Holy Trinity Churches will be offering commuters at Brookwood Railway Station a hot cross bun on their way to work.



Brookwood Cars & Taxis 905 905

Airport Express 905 906





BROOKWOOD ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS



Welcome to BAN's first newsletter. The village's good neighbour scheme has been operating for 15 months and is supported by 40 volunteers, who have undertaken over 80 jobs. There are 17 clients within

the village who regularly use the service. Requests for help have been varied ranging from providing transport for hospital and doctor appointments and help with shopping, to the more unusual of giving assistance to help retune a client's TV and providing support with letter writing.

BAN would like to welcome 4 new volunteers – Susan Brown, Adrienne Card and John Crook will be Duty Officers and David Stonor is a volunteer.

When you call BAN's number (**07931 239365**) you get through to the volunteer Duty Officer of the day. Unfortunately over the past year there have been occasions when the phone wasn't covered because of the lack of Duty Officers. Please remember – if you have a few hours to spare a month, please think about becoming a volunteer, Duty Officer or committee member. If anyone is interested please contact the above number between 10 am and 12 noon Monday to Friday.

When requesting help it would be appreciated if –

- 1 You can plan ahead by giving the Duty Officer as much notice as possible of a request for help as they have to phone around to find a volunteer to help you.
- 2 Try and avoid requests for help during difficult times of the day as some of our volunteers have young families and are not available during school run times – 8.30 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 3.30pm.
- 3 If possible be flexible about the request for assistance eg day and / or time of non-urgent trips, as it can make it easier for the Duty Officer to find a volunteer.

BAN volunteers try their best to help, but there will be occasions when they cannot find a volunteer to fulfil a request for assistance.

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

BAN 07931 239365

Woking's Bustler Bus 01483 724433

Local Hospitals:

Ashford 01784 884488

Royal Surrey 01483 571122

St Peter's 01932 872000

Woking Community 01483 715911

Homelink 01483 755855

Homelink at Woking Borough Council – provides Handyman service, advice with home maintenance, improvements & adaptations

Careline 01483 743647

Careline at Woking Borough Council – 24 hour emergency alarm service

Age Concern (Woking) 01483 770753

Provide befriending, free fire risk checks etc.

P A Bayliss Carpentry & Property Maintenance



I specialise in fitting Kitchens, Bathrooms, Wooden Floors and all Home improvements, Decorating, Guttering, fitting internal and external doors etc.

No job too small. Local references available.

I am a Brookwood resident and live on Connaught Road

Contact me on 07967 213954, Phil Bayliss.



Final copy for the April newsletter needs to be with the Editor by Friday March 20th
Local problems contact me directly on 01483 852410 or email brookwoodnews@ntlworld.com
Please keep the news and events coming so that I can advertise and help.

I first met Doris when we collected her to take her to the Centenary celebrations at Brookwood school. She had difficulty walking and we had to use a wheelchair to help her. Although Doris had difficulty walking and suffered with her painful joints she was always happy and always looked immaculate. After our first meeting Angie and I would often call when we were passing and have a cup of tea and a chat. Doris was a very pleasant lady to spend time with and always had an interesting slant on life. We exchanged telephone numbers so that if Doris had any problems she knew that she could call for help. We last saw Doris during the snow in January when we dropped off a few provisions for her. You will be sadly missed. Mike Angie and GJ

A Loving Eulogy for Doris Butler

By Doris's son Gareth Butler

Mum – Grandma – Doris – Dottie – Dot...How to do justice to the person, – to who she was; to sum up her life; how we feel about her; what she meant to the people who knew her – in just a few fleeting words? It can't be done. Like her life – even though she was 90 years old, it is still too short a time. We all want more.

In many ways our mother's character was paradoxical. It will probably come as a surprise to many of you that Doris was actually shy, but she hid this behind an extrovert persona that acted as a smokescreen. At a family wedding in the late 70's, she was asked by one of the guests if she would be staying on in the evening for the entertainment. Her reply was simply "My dear, I *am* the entertainment"

Doris Hill was born in Brookwood, the second daughter of the village baker. She lived her whole life within a few yards of where she was born. Home was where her heart was. She had a highly enjoyable childhood bickering with her older sister Margaret, and playing on (what was known then as) Hill's Common at the back of their house. It was a time filled with family gatherings jammed into their small Victorian house over the shop. In her mid-teens she used to go with Maggie to dances at Lord Pirbright's Hall. They were only allowed to attend because their older cousin Bob was there to act as guardian – or was it chaperone?



Doris at a family wedding - 1990

Doris met Gil, her husband to be, just before the War, when he was a policeman in Woking. Some of you have friendships with Doris that date back to this time, when she was supervisor of the Post Office in Woking. You would have shared the terror & joy that marked that time in everyone's life. When Gil returned from the War, they married 1946 and my brother Gil was born three years later, and I followed ten years on.

Doris was no stranger to grief & loss. During the War, the whole family was devastated by the loss of her father when she was only 21 years old. She lost her beloved Mother in 1964 and in 1986, my father died. Twenty-four years is a long time to be alone.



Doris in the 1940's in her 20's

Although not enjoying the best of health throughout her life, she had an immense underlying strength, fuelled by the quality of the relationships she had with others. That so many of you have come today pays tribute to the depth of those bonds she formed with you. I think what I will miss most about Doris is the warmth of her greeting. We will miss her ability to give good advice, and most of all her *wonderful* sense of humour. As one person said "I will always remember her ability to put a smile on anyone's face", another recalled her "unrivalled stock of dirty jokes", which she would share liberally at appropriate occasions. If you can say nothing else, the life around Dottie was never boring.

This is where the hard bit starts for all of us who are left. We feel that we have lost our anchor, our touchstone. If our family can be likened to a herd of elephants, we have lost our matriarch. She was a very special lady, the like of which we will not see again, who enriched the lives of others. She connected with people because Mum was not interested in *what* people were, but genuinely interested in *who* they were – their lives, their thoughts, their feelings.

She was deeply loved by so many, and she herself loved others, in the only way she knew how – all the way. We will all miss you.

Doris Butler's Brookwood Reminiscences.

Doris Butler lived in Brookwood all of her life and died last month aged 90 years old. Doris was one of the guests of honour at the school centenary celebrations four years ago in June 2006. She was the oldest former pupil in the village and went to Brookwood primary school in 1925. Doris's family used to be the village Bakers many years ago. The old building next to her home was the village bakery and had a queue outside their door every morning for the fresh bread baked by her father and family.

Doris's Brookwood Recollections.

When I was a little girl in the 1920s Connaught Road was very quiet with lots of wooded places where there were no houses. From the station to the cross roads there were just lots of trees and hedges.

We often took our 'tops and whips' to school and at lunch times we spun them in the middle of the road all the way home – almost to the church in Pirbright. There was hardly any traffic then with very few cars, only horse and carts and bicycles; we had plenty of time to get off the road if we heard a car coming. The boys always told us that cars could never travel at 30 mph, if they ever tried then they would explode!

Almost everyone in the village kept chickens in their gardens. My father also kept pigs, 14 at a time. He loved them all dearly and washed them and kept them like prize porkers. Sad was the day when they had to be taken to be sold at Guildford market, but another 14 would take their place and immediately be taken to his heart. Looking back it seemed out of character that the pigs ever tried to get out of their 'pig heaven' but at intervals, much to our delight, the cry would go out "The pigs are out Freddie" We would watch in delight as the neighbours came out in force, steering the pigs away from the vegetable gardens and chasing them up and down Connaught road. Feathers flew from chicken coups and dogs fought to get off their chains. The noise and shouts, the swearing, laughter and the pigs grunts, the barking and the squawking chickens was unbelievable and when eventually everything had quietened down with a shout of "All in" all we heard was quiet talk and helpful banter from the neighbours who had helped. It was the best environment to grow up in.

Every year on Empire day, 1st May, a huge school sports event was held at Woking recreational ground. All the schools could take part and so we practised very hard in the hope of being chosen as a contender. I was certainly no athlete but for some reason when I ran against a girl called Pam she gave me more enthusiasm and every day we ran and jumped and came neck to neck at the tape. Finally when the points were added up I had just beaten her by an odd race and so I was sent to Woking to compete. I lined up full of confidence for the race and the starting gun went off – but I didn't. Pam wasn't there next to me and neither was my adrenaline. I knocked over every hurdle and came last!! I suppose it was about then that I decided that aiming for the Olympics was not going to be my most sensible ambition. But looking back it was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed the opportunity to partake.

Each July the village woke up to a busy time during Bisley fortnight. A railway line ran from Brookwood station to Bisley camp taking people from all over the Commonwealth and the World to their clubs in the camp to take part in the rifle shooting competitions. Between the wars it was a great event because every soldier had a gun and he knew how to use it to hit the target. We thought that we were very lucky because our back garden saw right to the Bisley line and we were able to sit on the fence and wave to people and the train driver who would give us a toot on the whistle as he passed. The train was an old little steam engine like the ones that are in Thomas the Tank Engine and there was a veranda in between each of the sets of carriages. Later the train name was changed to The Bisley Bullet – much grander, and always full.



The Bisley Bullet 1916 passing over the canal.

All sorts of people in different clothes and costumes walked through Brookwood throughout the fortnight. It was like a carnival to us and very exciting at our young ages. I can clearly remember the first Blackman that I ever saw. He was dressed in a white suit and carrying an umbrella. I was so confused and I thought 'He can't be real', surely he only existed in my story books and I ran in the house to the bookcase to see if he was still there in the book with his jolly fat wife and children in their rags in the rain. It was most confusing.

At the end of the fortnight either King George VI or Queen Mary would arrive with great pomp and ceremony to present the prizes; magnificent gold plates and cups, then the winners would be hoisted shoulder high and taken to all the clubhouses in the camp in turn to celebrate. The next day a large marquee was used as a church and we all put our best clothes on and attended. After the service there was lots of dancing, merriment and celebrating and I'm sure that there were a lot of sore heads the next morning, but it was a wonderful experience and not to be missed. I am lucky to have so many vivid and exciting childhood memories of this wonderful village and those times.

Thank you all for your interest and God Bless. *And God bless to you Doris, You were a very special lady. Ed.*