

January 2010

Brookwood News

Brookwood's Local News

Dear Readers, Welcome to January 2010 and to the start of another year full of opportunities. I hope that you are ready for the challenges! As 2009 drew to a close Brookwood was full of wonderful community spirit however there were also a number of darker incidents to blight our small community. Lets hope that this was just a small blot on our landscape.

I particularly want to thank all of the **sponsors and supporters** of the newsletter in 2009 and, once again, I have had an **anonymous donation** to pay for the **January edition**. I am continuously amazed at the generosity of my local village 'neighbours'. We are extremely lucky to live in a very community spirited village.

Finally if one of your 2010 resolutions is to be more active in Brookwood then why not volunteer to help with the local Guide or Scout groups or to help at the school, the WI or BAN. They all need extra help. Contact me for information. Ed.



Girlguiding

Brookwood *girls in the lead*

WANTED GUIDE LEADER

*** No experience necessary ***

*** Training provided ***

For more details and an informal discussion
phone Nicola on 01483 837579

www.girlguiding.org.uk

www.girlguidingsurreywest.org.uk

200 Club - 1st Brookwood Scout Group

Would you like the chance to win fabulous cash prizes and at the same time support our local children in the area? For only £1 per month you can join our 200 Club.

The 4 Quarterly Draws are made up of 3 prizes:

1st Prize £100

2nd Prize £50

3rd Prize £25

With an additional annual prize of £500!

The total prizes for a year is a fantastic £1,200 with all the profit generated from the 200 Club going to the Brookwood scouts. **Contact Saf Ismail, 200 Club Manager on 486219 or Safraj.Ismail@ofgem.gov.uk.**

The questions children ask...
.....and some adults too!

Wednesday 27th January at 7:30
St Saviours Church



Have you taken your children to the 20:20 puppets or perhaps to Messy Church and now they are starting to ask tricky 'God' questions? If you have and want to try to have the questions answered then why not go along to meet the church team to explore some of the questions? Food and wine will be provided.

Contact Jo on 473489 for More information.

A BVA Thank You and a Gentle Reminder

In the December newsletter the Village Association distributed collection envelopes for your annual subscriptions. A big thank you to the many residents who dropped them off as requested with Nisha, but some homes have yet to respond. In the Christmas rush you may have mislaid your envelope. If you can't find it then just pop your £5 subscription into any envelope, write your name, address and email address on the envelope and drop it off at the Post Office. Your subscription helps to fund village projects like November's local history talk and local children's events.

Friends of Brookwood School also run a similar **100 Scheme** to help school funds and I will give details next month or contact the school directly on 473315.



TREE

COLLECTION

The Scouts will be
collecting your 'real'

Christmas trees for recycling

On Saturday 9th January 2010

in the morning. If you would like your
tree collected, please call Saf Ismail on

01483 486219 to book a slot. We do not
know what the demand will be and we will

only be able to collect trees that have been
pre-booked in advance. Please call as soon

as possible to avoid disappointment. A small
donation would be much appreciated

to cover

our costs

Suggested amount £3

1st Brookwood Scout Group

Profits go to

Brookwood Scout Group



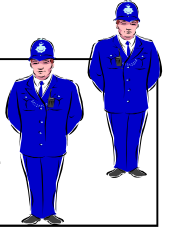
"In the midst of life, we are in Death."

I learned that in December L/Cpl Adam Drane of the Royal Anglians who are based at Pirbright was named as the 100th serviceman to die in 2009. Our thoughts and prayers are with Adam's family and his fiancée and with all of those serving in the field of war and with their loved ones. As we enter the next decade let us all hope and pray for a swift resolution to all of the conflicts that our servicemen are engaged in.

Local Crime Update



I'm sorry to have to start the new decade with a large crime report but a number of disturbing events happened in December that have been reported locally and I think residents need to be aware of. If you have any information that could provide help to the local police then please call them on the number below.



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

Early Morning 'Ram Raid' at Bentleys Garage

Thieves used a stolen land rover to try to force an entry through the main door into Bentleys garage on Connaught Road during December. Thankfully the thieves only succeeded in causing damage and inconvenience to Graham, Sarah and the garage staff as the main door had cars parked immediately behind it. Damage was limited to the main door and to the two cars that were parked behind the door. Police found the burnt out remains of the stolen vehicle near Guildford and are still investigating the attempted break in. This is not the first time that Bentleys have been targeted by thieves and Graham has installed better lighting and CCTV cameras to protect his property. If you see anything suspicious or have any information then please contact the police.

Windows Broken and Businesses Targeted

Vandals smashed the windows of two Brookwood homes in the early hours of a Saturday in early December. The homes in Connaught Road were targeted between midnight and 1am when objects were thrown at them from the main road. Both families were at home when the incidents happened. Brookwood local PC Tina Anscombe said: "Being woken in the night by people throwing objects would be a terrifying experience for anyone and to make a person feel unsafe in their own home in this way is extremely cruel".

I have also had reports of that local businesses have also been targeted in December with attempted burglaries and windows broken.

Editors Note. I know that the incidents reported here have caused some local residents to feel unsafe in and around Brookwood but whilst shocking, they are very rare, and we remain living in a very safe area.

I have also had unsubstantiated reports that the 'missing person' and the 'burnt body' are linked and that the police are not at present treating the body as suspicious but as a possible suicide.

When I have any updates then I will report them. Ed.

Incident in Connaught Road

On Friday 11th December two black men in a light blue coloured car pulled up alongside two boys on their way home from Brookwood school in an attempt to grab one of them. Thankfully they were unsuccessful and both children escaped unharmed. The Police were notified immediately and are investigating the incident but have not yet given an update, however Brookwood school have given this advice. 'The school does not allow KS1 children to leave the premises unaccompanied and recommend and prefer children to be supervised on their walk to and from school. Allowing unaccompanied children to walk to school is clearly the decision of parents, but there are obviously risks in doing so. Children learn about 'stranger danger' at school, but these messages need to be reinforced and are often not taken to heart by the younger children. In addition, they do not have the maturity to see beyond an apparently innocent approach from an adult.'

Door to Door Search for Missing Person

Police knocked on doors along Connaught Road in early December in an attempt to jog peoples memory and asked for information on a missing person. The missing lady regularly walked from Pirbright through the cemetery and along Connaught Road as she headed for Knaphill and as I go to print I am still awaiting an update.

Body found near canal

A post-mortem examination showed the cause of death was burning after the badly decomposed remains of a body were found near the canal close to the A322 in early December. The human remains were found by police in a secluded area of the canal bank. Officers are using dental records to try to establish the identity of the deceased. The local area had been cordoned off and Surrey Police had recently been searching the area with dogs when the body was found. The results of the post mortem have not yet been released.



Sherwood Driving School

Small, friendly, family run business in the heart of Brookwood.
Lessons now available all day.

Special introductory offer to Brookwood and local area residents

Contact Mandy Sherwood on 07980 948 977 for more information.

www.sherwooddrivingschool.co.uk



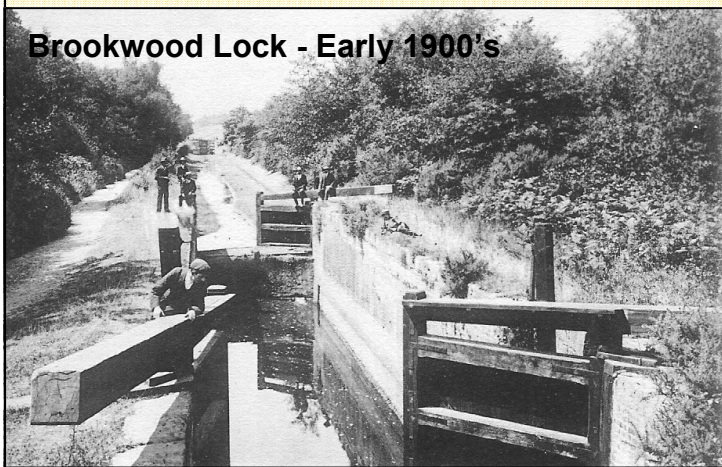
Basingstoke Canal Update

Some of you will have seen that the boats that were moored outside my house (adjacent to Sheets Heath Bridge) have now gone. My boat, Leo No 2, is now on the River Wey as I found I could not use it when it was moored outside my house. The blue boat, Misty Blue, which was moored outside my house for about four years is now on the Thames, again so it could be used regularly. The other two boats, Megan and Lilly Too are now in Hampshire and Surrey respectively but above the Deepcut flight of locks. Some people have said that the lack of boats detracts from the area but they are expensive and they do need to be used.

Deepcut will, I understand, remain closed for 2010 with the intention of it reopening in 2011. The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society will do what they can to assist with repairs and press through all avenues available for a full re-opening in early 2011.

Lock 12 at the Texaco Garage on the A322 looks in need in some tender love and care. My understanding is that the background to this starts some 20 or so years ago, when the garage was rebuilt to its present standard. Some of the land, which was a part of the canal structure and belonging to Surrey County Council, was built on when rebuilding the garage. The canal society pointed out the encroachment to SCC but unfortunately nothing was done despite continued work by the canal society. The bywash (the large pipe that takes water from above the lock to below the lock) collapsed in the Summer of 2009. The current owners of the garage then obtained 'adverse possession' because they had used it for more than 10 years. I understand they may now be suing SCC for the damage caused by the collapsed bywash. The whole process beggars belief in my view.

Kind Regards, Kathryn Dodington.



Brookwood Lock - Early 1900's



Brookwood Assisting Neighbours

Brookwood Assisting Neighbours had their AGM on the 18th Nov, the committee : Skip Mugridge Chairman, Pauline Lock Secretary, Maria Nixon Treasurer and Committee members Jenny Stoner and Liz Swain have all been voted back in. We would like to thank all those that attended the meeting and all volunteers for their continuous good works over the past year, plus we would like to wish all our Clients the very best for the year to come.

We have completed over 80 tasks for the local residents in our first year and look forward to the next.

New volunteers are always welcome, if you are interested and have just a couple of hours a month or week to assist please ring 07931 239365 between 10am and 12 midday Monday to Friday.

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Georgina's January Joke.

Knock Knock?

Who's there?

Dakota !

Dakota who?

Dakota is too long in da arms!!



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

PTC kick off 2010 with a Fun Quiz Night on Saturday 31st January at 8pm at Lord Pirbright's Hall.

The event is again hosted for the 3rd year by Andy and Dawn Coe.

You can have tables of about 8-10 friends and you bring your own picnic, bar provided, limited tickets £9 per person.

For more details see next newsletter or contact Barbara on 232693 for bookings. babara@nickandbarbara.co.uk



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I have been asked many times over the past months for information about the demolition and rebuilding of the Kingdom Hall on Connaught Road. **Richard Ashton** is a Trustee of the Woking South Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses and with the local interest in the work in Brookwood Richard has submitted a short article for the newsletter that readers will hopefully find informative and interesting. Let me know if you have any questions for Richard. Ed.

WOKING KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

It was back in 1976 that a small group of Jehovah's Witnesses bought the old church in Connaught Road and spent almost a year converting it to a Kingdom Hall, as our places of worship are known. This purchase and conversion was accomplished using their own financial and physical resources. Since then, as the congregations grew, refurbishments have taken place to maintain the fine appearance of the hall. Sadly, several years ago a structural survey revealed the hall was in terminal decline and nothing short of rebuilding would resolve the issues. The decision was taken by the local Witnesses to start a major saving campaign to accrue sufficient funds to demolish the current hall and replace it with a new structure.



Starting to Build - Mid 2009

In consultation with the local planners a new design was drawn up and planning permission obtained. The design in several ways mimics the old hall and with the use of new building methods and materials will be a fine addition to the Brookwood skyline.

Local residents have taken a keen interest in the progress of our rebuild since demolition took place in February last year (2009). Apart from the very major works of piling and the steel framework, all other work has been undertaken by a volunteer workforce of Jehovah's Witnesses. These men and women are often highly gifted artisans in the building trades and give of their own time to work on the site, often travelling hundreds of miles each week. Their collective 'loss of earnings' amounts to many tens of thousands of pounds, though all see it as a way of supporting their fellow Witnesses.

At the planning stage we were conscious of the potential disruption to our neighbours in Connaught Road. Steps were taken to try and minimise disruption and, in particular, deliveries of building supplies were requested to be after 9.30 am and before 3.00 pm. Many suppliers supported this move but others, who had often driven from the Midlands, or even further afield, seemed to be 'up with the larks'!

Another source of disruption could have been parking in Connaught Road itself. If this had been a conventional build, using contractors only, it would have resulted in literally dozens of tradesmen's vehicles vying with residents for every parking spot.

To avoid this we organised a team of local Witnesses who rise early in the morning and meet our volunteers at outlying car parks. The volunteers are then conveyed to the site and the reverse procedure in the evening. Residents will have noted the almost total lack of build-related parking in Connaught Road.

By late November the hall was completed save for the fitting out with carpet, curtains and seating - with the final touch, the solid wood windows, being fitted later in the month. During December the extensive ground works around the hall including block paving, will be completed and our first meetings are to be held in early January 2010.

With this project taking just one year to complete, it closely parallels the first conversion build all those years ago.

As soon as possible following completion, we shall be organising an open day when we hope to welcome local residents to the new hall for guided tours and share some reminiscences, including those from a few local residents who can recall attending Sunday school in the old hall all those years ago.



Preparing for demolition - Early 2009