

# blurb!

The regular newsletter of



Brookvale  
Community Association

ISSUE 104  
Dec 2025

Community Ward Residents' news: \* Brookvale Conservation Area \* Kings Furlong \*



## **Santa is coming to Brookvale!**

**Tickets for 18 months to 7 years to visit  
the grotto and get a gift!**

Party food! Games for all to play, like Giant Snakes & Ladders, \* Giant Jenga, \* Hopping mad, \* Tin Can Alley.

Tickets are not needed for parents, carers and kiddies not visiting Santa.

**Brookvale Village Hall, 2.30pm**

**Sat 13th December. Book tickets £5**

**[Booking@Brookvale.org.uk](mailto:Booking@Brookvale.org.uk) or**

**<https://wegottickets.com/event/675979>**



For local news, events and information:

 **HeartOfBrookvale**  
[www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)

-> From Page 1

**BCA News & Upcoming Events**

**Volunteers Needed**

Brookvale Village Hall - Help Others ... with Form-Filling



We're looking for kind, patient and non-judgemental volunteers to help local people complete forms and paperwork, assist with CV-writing and job applications both online and in hard copy formats.

Flexible hours – from just one hour a week to suit your lifestyle and availability

Support starting early 2026

Make a real difference in your community and on an individual basis

Location:

**Friendly, safe environment -**

Brookvale Village Hall, RG21 7RU

You don't need any specialist experience – just the right qualities: empathy, tact, and a willingness to help people from all backgrounds.

To find out more contact:

[malcolm@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:malcolm@brookvale.org.uk)

Use postcode RG21 7RU to find our more vacancies:

[Volunteer North Hampshire - Volunteering opportunities in North Hampshire](#)

**More upcoming events**

**RHL Talks (Rushmoor Health Living)**

**November:**

\* Nutrition

\* Blood pressure talk

**Christmas Floral Decoration**

**December:**

1 morning, 1 evening: **Dates TBA**

Wreath £30, Table decoration £15 incl. materials & refreshments

**“From Me to You” Letter Writing workshops.**

January

**Steady & Strong** classes awaiting a trained First Aider who should contact us with your certificate at:

[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)

**LEARN HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE**

Meet an expert from Thames Valley Police Cyber Crime Unit



**Cyber Security** talk went well with lot of tips about avoiding scams and using stronger passwords.

Next talk: February 2025



**Thornycroft Clock Project Inauguration**

On Saturday 6th September 2025 at 2:30pm we attended the clock switching on ceremony. Speeches were given by our Chair, project lead Ted Blackmore-Squires, Mayor Cllr Colin Phillimore, Thornycroft Society Garry Bone, Heritage Society Debbie Reavell, and Status Quo Bob Young, with surviving Thornycroft ex-apprentices present:



Bob set the clock running and afterwards there was a display of Thornycroft memorabilia in the hall.

More information at:

[https://www.brookvale.org.uk/village\\_hall/thornycroft-clock](https://www.brookvale.org.uk/village_hall/thornycroft-clock)

Bob Young, now known internationally as a song-writer and author. Bob worked at Thornycroft for 6 years and went on to join the band Status Quo in 1968 as their tour manager, harmonica player and co songwriter of, to date, around 100 of their songs. Bob came to Basingstoke in 1983 to open the extension to Brookvale Village Hall and now again to set our replica clock running ☐



Where was this?



**County & Borough News**

**NEWMAN COURT SAVED**

The Newman Court Day Centre in Basingstoke providing day care and respite for older people and carers was under threat of closure as a result of HCC cuts.

As part of a special committee looking at the proposal, I asked for detailed information about centre usage and what alternative facilities were available. It turned out that there were very few suitable alternative services. After asking for full costings, it became clear it would cost more to close the centre and provide alternative home-based services and carer respite. As a result, the Council agreed to keep the centre open and whilst they will try to find another provider to run it, and they will not close it.

**ACTION ON GPs**

I am still hearing about problems securing GP appointments and lengthy waits. These issues are longstanding and unacceptable. I believe Basingstoke deserves a healthcare system that works for everyone. We should not have to fight for appointments, chase referrals, or feel abandoned by the very services meant to support us.

I have successfully lobbied HCC to set up a special select committee to look into this and the first meeting has identified the evidence it wants to scrutinise. Please contact me with comments or issues you feel should be brought to the committees attention.

**CRANBOURNE SCHOOL UPDATE**

Hampshire County Council has confirmed there will be a full rebuild of Cranbourne School. It will deliver modern, inclusive, and future-ready facilities for local students. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, completion 2028 with phased delivery to minimise disruption .

The HCC decision follows extensive consultation with school leaders, parents, and community representatives. The new campus will feature energy-efficient buildings, enhanced accessibility, and flexible learning spaces designed to support both academic and vocational excellence. It will also include fantastic sports grounds and an indoor swimming pool.

As a former pupil of Cranbourne I am over the moon with this investment benefiting local pupils.

**GP APPOINTMENT NEWSFLASH**

From 1st October, every GP practice in England will have to offer online appointment bookings throughout the day. The move, ordered by the government, is aimed at stopping the '8am scramble' to get through.

Surgeries will have to provide the service from 08:00 to 18:30 Monday to Friday. Alongside requesting non-urgent appointments, patients should also be able to request a call back. The move is being opposed by the British Medical Association.

Cllr Kim Taylor, Basingstoke Central, Hampshire Labour Group Leader

[Cllr.kim.taylor@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.kim.taylor@hants.gov.uk)

Did you know that your local Councillor is available at Brookvale Village Hall every second Saturday of the month?

If you wish to raise any local concerns without judgement, or want to speak to somebody in confidence, please come along. Coffee/tea, biscuit and a local listening ear! ☐

-> From Page 2



**BROOKVALE  
CHRISTMAS MARKET,  
22nd NOVEMBER 2PM  
BROOKVALE  
VILLAGE HALL**

**Lower Brook Street, RG21 7RP**

**Cakes, brownies, arts and crafts,  
jewellery, decorations,**

**stocking fillers, collectibles**

**Free entry**

**RAFFLE!**

-&gt; From Page 3

## Activities



### AND PET PHOTO COMPETITION!

### Patient Participation Group (PPG) Camrose, Gillies, Hackwood & Beggarwood

Wanted: Young people and families:  
Please join us:  
[www.cghppg.weebly.com/join-the-ppg](http://www.cghppg.weebly.com/join-the-ppg)  
Your PPG signposts where to find information, represents patients and resolves issues with practice management. ☐

### Recycle used Blister Packs

Download the Recycle at Boots App. Log your empty blister packs in the app and wait for up to 24 hours for validation.

Bring your empty packs into a participating Boots store and scan the QR code on the blister pack deposit box. To receive a 100 Advantage Card points reward, customers need to recycle five empty blister packs in one deposit and spend £5 in-store:

<https://www.boots-uk.com/newsroom/news/boots-rolls-out--national-blister-pack->

**Neighbourhood Watch** Queens Rd.  
Phil & Val 01256-421621

**National Neighbourhood Watch Guide: Crime Prevention & Safety:**  
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/crime-prevention/crime->

**Hands-Face-Space-Ventilate**

## Meetings & Events

**Committee Meetings:**  
**Management Committee:**  
**Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:30pm**  
[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)

**Brookvale Village Hall activities:**  
**Brookvale Toddler Group**  
Play & support  
**Mondays: 10am (term time)**  
[brookvaltetoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:brookvaltetoddlers@gmail.com)

**Slimming World**  
Meal plans & activity  
**Every Tuesday: 5:30pm, 7pm**  
[rebeccabatty@outlook.com](mailto:rebeccabatty@outlook.com)

**Brookvale Guiding**  
Guides and Rangers  
Rainbows and Brownies  
**Wednesdays term-time 5:30-9pm**  
[brookvaleguiding@outlook.com](mailto:brookvaleguiding@outlook.com)

**Caterpillar Music**  
Music & Sensory sessions: 0-4yrs  
**Thurs: 9:45, 10:40, 11:35 am**  
[nicky.moore@caterpillarmusic.com](mailto:nicky.moore@caterpillarmusic.com)

**NCT Bumps & Babies**  
Play and support 0-5 years  
**Fri: 10am-11:30am**  
[branch.basingstoke@nct.org.uk](mailto:branch.basingstoke@nct.org.uk)

**Wu Shu Kwan**  
Fitness, confidence, self-defence:  
**Sundays: 5pm-7pm**  
**07449 673036**

**BCA Free to attend Events:**  
**Christmas Market**  
**Saturday 22nd November 2pm**  
Stocking fillers, food, drink & gifts  
[booking@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:booking@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Christmas pet Competition**  
**Saturday 6th December**  
Win a prize for best pet photo!  
[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Christmas drop-in & festive food**  
**Saturday 6th December**  
Help decorate our Christmas Tree  
[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Santa grotto & Games**  
**Saturday 13th December**  
[wegotickets.com/event/675979](http://wegotickets.com/event/675979)

**Community Coffee Morning**  
**Every Thur: 10:30-Midday**  
50p cuppas includes cake  
**Cllr Community Coffee Morning**  
**2nd Sat: 10:30-12:30 am**  
50p cuppas includes biscuits  
**Warm Hub**  
**Thursdays: Midday-1pm**  
Free/Low cost snacks  
Soup, toasties, fruit—£1 (at cost)

## Information

**Brookvale Website:**  
[www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)  
**Brookvale Village Hall Enquiries:**  
[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Hall Booking Agent:**  
[booking@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:booking@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Brookvale Lottery:**  
**Lottery now closed**  
[lottery@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:lottery@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Local Development issues:**  
Malcolm MacInnes,  
Chair, Development-Sub Committee  
(01256) 364498  
[malcolm@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:malcolm@brookvale.org.uk)  
**Your Ward Councillors are:**  
Councillor Arun Mumalaneni  
**07894 708983**  
[cilarunmumalaneni@basinstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cilarunmumalaneni@basinstoke.gov.uk)  
Councillor Abdel Ibrahim  
**07900 272294**  
[Cllr.Abdel.Ibrahim@basinstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Abdel.Ibrahim@basinstoke.gov.uk)  
Councillor Michael Howard Sorrell  
**07869 262129**  
[cllr.michael.howard-sorrell@basinstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.michael.howard-sorrell@basinstoke.gov.uk)  
**Your County Councillor is:**  
Councillor Kim Taylor  
**07738 289861**  
[cllr.kim.taylor@hants.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kim.taylor@hants.gov.uk)  
**Your Town MP is:**  
Luke Murphy MP  
**07946 617981**  
[luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.murphy.mp@parliament.uk)  
**Police Safer Neighbourhood Team: 101**  
[Basingstoke.Town.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](http://Basingstoke.Town.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)  
**01256 845700**  
**CSPO Shead:**  
[kayleigh.shead@basinstoke.gov.uk](mailto:kayleigh.shead@basinstoke.gov.uk)  
**PCSO Wilson 18513:**  
[alana.wilson2@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:alana.wilson2@hampshire.police.uk)  
**PCSO Port 18564:**  
[jess.port@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:jess.port@hampshire.police.uk)  
**Brookvale Bobby:**  
[ralph.frostick@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:ralph.frostick@hampshire.police.uk)  
**uk**  
[tom.hickman-tait@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:tom.hickman-tait@hampshire.police.uk)  
**Police website for online reporting:**  
<https://www.hamphirepolice.uk/>  
**Police Let's Talk:**  
<https://survey.hampshirealert.co.uk/>  
**Crime Stoppers: Child Line:**  
**0800 555 111 0800 1111**

### BCA:

Informing, Supporting, Entertaining,  
Representing residents since 1973:  
[info@Brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@Brookvale.org.uk) (E&OE)  
Brookvale Community Association  
(BCA) registered CIO 1174719.  
Hampshire, RG21 7RP.  
**What 3 Words: ///punk.safe.large**

**Non Profit, run by unpaid volunteers**



# Brookvale's GOT TALENT!

Share your skills - Lend a hand - Make a difference

Brookvale Village Hall is run by a team of dedicated volunteers who keep our local hub alive and thriving - but we'd love your help to keep it that way!

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Offer a helping hand
- Lend a listening ear
- Share a skill or talent
- Contribute ideas

## GIVE WHATEVER TIME YOU CAN

- One hour a week
- A one-off event
- One day a month
- Or even one small job

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

- ✓ It's easy and rewarding
- ✓ Gain work or life experience
- ✓ Meet new people and socialise

## GET INVOLVED TODAY!

[malcolm@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:malcolm@brookvale.org.uk)

## Exciting Grant News! ❁

We've got some fantastic news to share — **Brookvale Village Hall has been awarded not one, but TWO new grants** to help us bring even more life, learning, and laughter to our community!

### Supporting Our Young People

Thanks to **The Hedley Foundation**, we'll be launching a range of **youth-focused activities and chill-out sessions** right here at the hall. We know life can be stressful for young people, so we're creating a welcoming, pressure-free space to simply **relax, chat, listen to music, play games, craft, or just be themselves**. These sessions are all about community, connection, and having fun — no expectations, just good vibes.

### Fresh Activities for Everyone

Our second grant, from **The National Lottery Fund**, will help us **explore and develop a brand-new line-up of activities and talks** for all ages across the community.

We've already started with an insightful talk on **online security**, and there's so much more coming in 2026! Here's a sneak peek:

- **Board Games for Boring Sundays** – bring your best moves and your mates!
- **Chop, Chat, Cook** – a monthly cooking and sharing session for all skill levels.
- **From Me to You** – join our heartfelt letter-writing events supporting cancer patients.
- **SkillSwap** – “I’ll teach you, you teach me” – share and learn something new.
- **Health & Nutrition Talks** – easy tips for a happier, healthier you.

### Easter Flower Workshops – seasonal fun for all the family.

### Our Community Hub Is Back & Buzzing

Like many local venues, we faced a tough time during Covid, but we're thrilled to say **Brookvale Village Hall is thriving again** — hosting a variety of hirers, classes, and private events. And there's still room to grow!

We've got **space to fill and ideas to build**, and we'd love your help shaping what comes next.

### Have Your Say

What would *you* like to see happening at the hall? More activities for kids? Wellness sessions? Craft groups? Music nights?

We're listening — and your ideas matter.

Get in touch via:

- **Facebook**
- **Instagram**

Email: [info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)

# PHOTO COMPETITION

## PETS AT CHRISTMAS IN BROOKVALE



### CRITERIA


Submit a pic of your pet celebrating the festive period via Facebook/Instagram/Email: [info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk) by 9,00am Fri 5 5 Dec

### PRIZES

Pets at Home Gift Cards

### WINNERS ANNOUNCED & DISPLAYED

Sat 6 Dec 10.30am-12.00pm Brookvale Village Hall  
Join us for a mince pie and a cuppa!

 Brookvale - Heart of Basingstoke

 [\\_brookvalebasingstoke\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_brookvalebasingstoke_)



**Blurb - Hall/Room to hire?...on your doorstep**

**Did you know?..**

**Brookvale Village Hall not only has a main hall which can accommodate up to 120 people, but has a light and airy Studio Room and two smaller rooms which are ideal for meetings/hobby sessions including a room for up to 12 people seated at a table.**

- \* rates starting from £7/hour to £27/hour depending on room, status and time of day,**
- \* 30 car parking spaces,**
- \* fitted kitchen with microwave, cooker, crockery cutlery & glassware**
- \* fully accessible toilets and baby changing facilities**

**We've hosted diverse celebrations from 90th birthday celebrations and christenings to life drawing classes and religious ceremonies.**

**Come and see for yourself - we're happy to show you around, contact us to arrange a viewing.**

**Email: [booking@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:booking@brookvale.org.uk)**