2026 Annual Report

For the
Board of Trustees' Annual General Meeting
Date: Saturday 24th October 2026 at 2.00pm
Venue: The Brooklands Centre

Current Trustees and Officers

Chairperson - Sandy Payne
Vice-Chairperson - Pat Hurst
Treasurer - Roger Hall
Minutes Secretary - Helen Taylor
Trustee – Catherine Hall
Trustee – David Dean
Trustee – David Hulance
Trustee - David Jackson
Trustee - Margaret St George
Trustee – Brian Sidebottom (until June 2026)

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Brooklands Chairperson's Annual Report for 2026 AGM

In 1959 our first building was built and in 1965 it was officially registered as a charity to support the welfare of the over 55's.

In 2010 the old building was demolished and rebuilt; whilst we were waiting for the lovely building we use today, we used the British Legion Club.

I don't know how many people know this but Catherine Hall was the Brooklands Day Club Manager for many years, and a very good job she did too, but Catherine with Volunteers not only managed the day clubs, she took members on a week's holiday every year, an amazing lady.

I'm not sure when Catherine retired, 2007 I believe, to make way for Sandra Dorrill, two amazing leaders. I have been a volunteer here for around 18 years and Sandra and myself took over taking members away for a week's holiday, members loved it, we'd go off on a huge bus with a lift, 3 or 4 wheelchairs, numerous walkers and a few volunteers. Members loved it and we had fun, we ended up being the hotel's entertainment. However each year got harder, I remember (after taking them for 4 years), the last one was the hardest, when we arrived home Catherine looked at Sandra and myself and said 'My word you both look shattered', hence it was our last trip. Sandra offered it for another year with the proviso that they bring a carer, but no-one wanted to do it.

Brooklands is I believe 67 years old. This building being in it's 16th year is now starting to need some TLC, equipment needs replacing, items breaking down and need repairing, all expensive costs, which isn't surprising with the number of groups and people that use it, unexpected things happen so we need to keep ahead of any problems, hence 2026 has been quite a challenging year (which will be clear when reading Roger Hall and David Jackson's reports). This is where our Trustees are constantly reviewing and working hard to try and keep ahead of any problems that have arisen and will eventually arise. So I'd like to thank the team for all their hard work throughout the year. We meet roughly every 6 weeks to discuss everything and anything. Thank you all for your support throughout the year. A special thank you to our vice-chair Pat who keeps me in my place as much as she can and has been amazing support.

Also a special thanks to Gavin Read our caretaker, who goes above ad beyond his duties, thank you Gavin. Also a thank you to Elaine West our Administrator, who doesn't like to be seen, she's generally in by 5am and leaves around 7.30 – 8am. Elaine sorts out all our bookings and queries.

Most of all I'd like to thank and applaud all our volunteers, drivers, escorts, cooks, leaders, all 90 odd, what a wonderful service you provide, a safe and happy environment for all our members, you are all amazing, Brooklands wouldn't be the wonderful place it is if it wasn't for all your hard and devoted time and work, in fact I don't think there would be a Brooklands as it stands now. Thank you and well done.

Last but not least a big thank you goes to our Day Club Manager, Sandra Dorrill, who you will all agree is a saint! She copes with whatever is thrown at her with empathy, love, care, patience and a great sense of humour. She works 3 days a week, but on her day off she spends it shopping for food for the next weeks clubs. Brooklands would be in a 'pickle' without her dedication to the clubs. Also a thank you to Sue Hulance, who covers for Sandra when she's off on her travels (Back-packing around Borneo).

The Trustees and Group Leaders have all written reports on their year and Helen has put them all together in a booklet for everyone's information. Thank you Helen.

What does Brooklands hold for the future, every week is more challenging, members are becoming frailer, families needing more support and are struggling to cope. People are living longer and families are all having to work harder and longer hours, by the time they eventually are referred or come to us people are in their late 80's – 100 years, so needs are changing. Food for thought, Brooklands is a very special place and we will have to move and cope with the future generation of over 80's, perhaps a different way of enhancing future lives.

Sandy Payne, Chairperson of the Brooklands Trustees

Brooklands Treasurer's Annual Report for 2026 AGM

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Operational income rose by 11% from £78,193 in 2024/25 to £87,009 this year. Our investment income remains around £16,000 and general donations rose substantially from £3,657 to £11,417, with a further £5,000 grant from The Harry Middleton Gift towards new folding doors.

Total expenditure was down 2% at £125,868 (2025: £128,423). The trustees are focused on expenditure on the premises to maintain high standards and reduce operating costs.

The shortfall of income over expenditure for the year was lower at £5,379 (2025: deficit £29,990). During the year the value of investments fell 9% by £48,776 (2025: fall of £27,959), giving an overall deficit of £54,155 (2025: deficit of £57,949). The fall in investment value was temporary due to the Iran war starting at financial year end and has since been substantially recovered.

The financial outturn for 2025/26 is a considerable improvement on the previous year following a review of charges and tight expenditure control and the full year effect of these actions should carry through to the next financial year.

With unrestricted funds at £711,707 there is no immediate cause for concern, but the commentary under "Reserves Policy" below indicates that the Centre needs to maintain its level of investments (for revenue purposes) whilst at the same time providing funds for future significant expenditures on vehicle replacement and major building refurbishment. As the investments are used for providing a constant level of revenue income, the variation in their value from time to time is of no great concern in the short term.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have approved a reserves policy which has four elements (figures for March 2026):

- Investments supplying essential revenue, similar to an endowment fund (£523k)
- A refurbishment/replacement fund for future major capital expenditure on buildings and vehicles. Current replacement costs are broadly £2,5m and £70k respectively (£150k)
- A cashflow reserve equivalent to three months income (£29k)
- A remaining balance (£10k)

The replacement fund has remained unchanged at £150K in 2025/26 due to expenditure on folding doors (£6,031 net of £5,000 grant) and air conditioning (£4,135) against the notional allocation each year of £10,000.

The overall level of unrestricted reserves moved from £755k in 2025 to £712k in 2026. More importantly, the "remaining balance" rose slightly from £8k to £10k. Whilst the reserves policy is prudent it will be important to ensure the remaining balance is not eroded in the coming years.

Roger Hall, Treasurer of the Brooklands Trustees

Brooklands Volunteers Annual Report for 2026 AGM

Brooklands is such a special place and is held in the heart of many local people.

All of our volunteers have had to make that first, sometimes scary step, to decide they wanted to volunteer here. They normally contact the Centre and are asked to fill in a form with their name and contact number. This is where I step in. I contact them and invite them along to have a look around, discuss what days they are available and what roles they are interested in. On most occasions these lovely people decide they do want to join us and become an invaluable part of our team.

At the last AGM we were looking for more drivers and escorts to join the pool. With David Dean's excellent advertising skills we were so lucky to recruit 5 drivers and/or escorts and that has really helped with that situation. David Jackson our transport manager also joins the interviews if these are the roles we are discussing. Several other volunteers have successfully joined us in varying roles so welcome and thank you. We always loose a few helpers over the year, due to illness or changes in circumstances.

There was one role we needed to fill this year and that was group leader for Thursday's exercise class. John and Angela Gordon, along with their team had been running this excellent group for many years but a change in their circumstances meant this was no longer possible. Brian and Celia Stone stepped into the role but wanted to slow down on their many years of volunteering. We have been so lucky to find Allan and Sharon Sharp to step into the role, thank you.

I rely heavily on Sandra our fantastic Day Centre Manager, who knows where best to place people and what works. Also, Sandy our capable Chairperson and all the group leaders and Trustees. Thank you all for your help.

Thank you for whatever role you have taken on, helping in the kitchens providing the super meals, helping serve drinks, driving minibuses and escorting some of our members and spending quality time talking and supporting all our lovely members. Some of you help once a week, others several times and some just once a month for Saturday Lunch Club but all of your help is so gratefully received .

You have all also been very supportive of all the fundraising activities that go on, Quizzes, Carnival, Nearly New Sale etc. and some very brave volunteers certainly put the "Fun" into Brooklands by volunteering to be part of our Calendar girl's calendar. .

I now have 92 volunteers on our list and I thank you all for making Brooklands the happy place it is and I know you all, like me, gain so much from the volunteering you all do.

Pat Hurst, Brooklands Trustees Vice-Chairperson, Trustee with responsibility for volunteers

Brooklands Marketing Annual Report for 2026 AGM

Throughout the year, we promoted the Centre and its activities through a range of both printed and digital channels - e.g. Facebook, the website, Town Council electronic display board and community noticeboards, Phonebox Magazine, and posters and flyers:

Volunteers' party (2025)	Quiz night (Dec 2025)	Christmas lights bazaar & cafe (2025)
Christmas tree festival (2025)	Christmas celebrations/parties (2025)	Quiz night (Feb 2026)
Sandy Payne's 80th birthday	Sandy Payne town award	Mary Taylor's 101st birthday
Sausage, mash & bingo afternoon	Quiz Night (June 2026)	Vintage day/cafe
Newport Pagnell Carnival	Pat Hurst her sisters' volunteering story	Line dancing afternoon
S R Osborn & Son planters	Nearly new sale	Fill a bag for a fiver sale
Calendar launch	Brian & Celia Stone's retirement	Call out for volunteer drivers
Call-out for a handyman	Book Group	Book of favourite old recipes
Art club	Brooklands lottery	

To portray the Centre as a fun and active place, we use photos of a wide range of different people and include as many smiling faces as possible!

To reinforce the message we want to get across, we use lively and positive wording in our communications, and continually use our strapline:

FUN - FOOD - FRIENDS - FOR THE OVER 55s.

Highlights of the year.

- **Brooklands lottery.** Launched early in 2026 and now producing revenue of c£100 per month. We've had a few £25 winners and a few who've won a free line of numbers.
- **Upcoming posters and flyers.** We introduced some posters and flyers for distribution to members and for display in the Centre – to improve information about what's going on.
- **Card reader.** Introduced in early 2026 and used at the Saturday Lunch Club and various events open to the public.
- **MK Mayor's Award.** Successfully nominated Sandy Payne as one of the Town Council's Volunteers of the Year (someone who has made significant impact at an organisation).

Website. The website has been updated on an ongoing basis with new information and photos, and it continues to be a bright and cheerful shop window for the Centre.

Phonebox Magazine. We're now fully using this local magazine with regular entries in the monthly events diary. We've also achieved some good pick-up, especially with articles on:

- Mary Taylor's 101st birthday.
- Art Group – club of the month.
- Calendar Launch.

Town Council marketing channels. We continued to use the Town Council's electronic noticeboard to promote our fundraising events that are open to the public, but also extended our publicity to include the council's 10 community noticeboards.

MK Citizen. We had a number of articles appear in the online version of our local newspaper and articles about the Osborn & Son planters and the calendar launch appeared in the weekly printed version.

Facebook. We continued to use Facebook to get our news, updates and messages out to the local community. This was done not only on the Brooklands page, but also on a number of local groups that have large followings.

Printed collateral.

- Upcoming events poster (See above)
- Upcoming events flyer (See above)
- Posters for fundraising events (e.g. Vintage Day, Quiz nights, Line dancing afternoon, etc).
- Full page advert in the Vintage Day programme.

Photos. Our archive of photos was maintained and updated throughout the year.

David Dean, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for marketing

Brooklands Transport Annual Report for 2026 AGM

It's been a busy year for our two minibuses, Daisy and Baby, with a strong focus on getting our safety compliance properly bedded in, keeping on top of an ageing fleet's niggles, and finding new ways to put the buses to good use in the community.

Getting our permits and checks right

The big piece of work this year was securing Section 19 permits for both vehicles, which allow us to operate effectively. We'd held this for one bus since 2010 (known affectionately as our "Purple Badge"), and in September 2025 the trustees agreed to extend it to both vehicles. This came with the legal requirement for a proper safety regime: a six-weekly check for Daisy and a ten-weekly check for Baby, both carried out at Arden Park Motors in Wolverton at a very reasonable £50 plus VAT — well below what we might have paid elsewhere. Alongside this, drivers now complete a short daily visual check before setting off, and we carry out a more thorough weekly check covering tyres, belts, and under-bonnet items. To help cover the cost of all this extra work, members' minibus charges were increased from £1 to £2 return from January 2026 — the first rise in many years.

Compliance hasn't always run smoothly. Daily check sheets were, at times, patchy, and we have had to remind our volunteer drivers about the importance, and legal necessity, of completing them properly. Reminder signs have gone up in both cabs. We have also chosen to revise our daily journey log sheets to enable the capture of passenger and wheelchair data, giving us better statistics for future planning.

Keeping the buses on the road

Both vehicles are getting on a bit, and this year's reports read like a fairly steady stream of running repairs. Early on, Daisy needed a diesel particulate filter clean and a new vapouriser (over £700), which led to the introduction of regular "Italian tune-ups" — a fortnightly high-speed run for both buses to burn off soot in the diesel particulate filter before it becomes a costly problem again.

Baby's automatic step caused persistent trouble through the winter, traced to chafed wiring rubbing against a seatbelt, and Daisy's tail lift needed adjustment after it stopped closing properly in the centre. Both were resolved by spring. Daisy's MOT in June turned up several advisories — frayed seatbelt webbing, corroded springs (later found to be a leaf-spring-with-

coil-assist setup, which cleared up some earlier confusion), worn front tyres, perished CV gaiters, and defective exhaust mountings — with a total potential bill of around £1,120. Trustees agreed to get all of this addressed, and by the July and September reports most items were done or in hand, including a seatbelt swap using a spare seat rescued from the garage.

Smaller issues have continued to crop up throughout the year: a broken key fob sorted free of charge by a generous local locksmith (Bancroft Auto Locksmiths — happily recommended), a loose high-vis step strip now riveted rather than glued, worn tyres on Baby needing replacement, and — most recently — a sliding door on Daisy that's started coming off its runners, which will need specialist attention. None of this is unusual for vehicles of this age doing low-mileage, short-hop journeys, but it does mean maintenance has been a near-constant background task.

Cosmetics and cleaning

Both buses have accumulated minor dents, scuffed trim, and peeling decals over the years, and while nothing urgent, trustees have acknowledged that some investment will eventually be needed to stop things deteriorating further. Regular cleaning has been trickier than expected — costs and logistics of jet-washing two large vehicles took some sorting, and this summer's hosepipe ban paused the schedule altogether. This will resume once restrictions lift.

Our drivers

We were delighted to welcome four new drivers during the year, Richard Bates, Micky Brown, Michael Baker and Allan Sharp, helping offset the loss of two long-standing volunteers. Being able to use alternative providers for the medical exam required for a D1 licence has made it noticeably easier for new drivers to get qualified. Sandy also stepped in to keep the buses taxed, and David Hulance took on a significant amount of extra maintenance and driving cover during David Jackson's illness — a real team effort that trustees were keen to formally thank him for.

Costs

Beyond the fare increase already mentioned, the year has brought a mix of routine and one-off costs: roughly £800 a year for Section 19 safety checks, insurance renewed at a slightly reduced premium, and various repair bills ranging from £6–£8 washes, up to the £1,120 round of MOT-related repairs on Daisy. Nothing has been outside what the charity could manage, but it's a reminder that two ageing vehicles come with a fairly steady drip of costs.

Out and about in the community

It's not been all maintenance — the buses have kept busy. In addition to our regular local daily trips, Castlemead Care Home has become a regular user, with trips to local places of interest generating a welcome £50 donation each time and some lovely feedback, including a mention on Facebook. Our Gardening Group has also had a full year of outings — to Emmaus, Howe Park, and further afield to Wootton near Northampton — continuing a tradition of supporting our groups. These external trips do raise a fair question about who we should prioritise supporting, and that's something trustees will keep an eye on.

Looking ahead

The overall picture is of two much-loved but ageing minibuses that need ongoing, hands-on attention to stay safe, legal, and on the road — and a huge amount of that attention has come from volunteers giving their own time. The Section 19 framework is now properly embedded, the

maintenance schedule is well established, and we're gradually working through the cosmetic and mechanical items that come with vehicles of this age. Trustees will need to keep thinking about the balance between repair costs and the buses' remaining useful life, and about how far we extend use to outside groups. For now, though, both buses remain in service and continue to make a real difference to the members who rely on them.

David Jackson, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for transport

Brooklands Maintenance Annual Report for 2026 AGM

It's been a year of steady, practical upkeep on the building, with plenty of small jobs finally ticked off, a couple of bigger unexpected repairs, and a growing recognition that some areas of the premises need a proper refresh after fifteen years of hard use.

Kitchen fixtures and appliances

The kitchen has kept us busy all year. The coffee machine downstairs broke early on; a replacement was purchased and is now in regular use, alongside the upstairs machine which covers Tuesday sessions. The fridge seal caused a scare in May when the door was left ajar overnight and all the food had to be used immediately — we have since cleaned, decompressed and refitted the seal, cleared the drain hole that was causing it to leak, and done the same to the upstairs fridge. Most recently, one of the freezers developed a fault, becoming noisy and no longer freezing properly. We suspected that this may be an iced-up evaporator fan and a defrost cured the issue.

The kitchen ceiling tiles, stained by an earlier boiler leak, have proved surprisingly tricky: most of the spares kept upstairs weren't the correct type, but we did find a couple of suitable tiles and fitted these. While up in the ceiling space, no active leaks were found, though the suspended ceiling above the rolling shutter was found to be bent out of shape, and the steel roller shutter itself no longer runs smoothly — we made a quick modification to improve the operation and both are being monitored rather than undergoing a full repair for now, as neither is seen as worth the expense. A wiring fault to the main kitchen light switch has also been fixed, as has a broken alarm sensor.

The long-running saga of the gas air vent and flue outlet is still awaiting resolution. High winds had repeatedly knocked out the gas supply to the kitchen, on one occasion forcing a group to fall back on the electric cooker. We are still awaiting a quote for the fitting of a baffle of some sort on the external pipes.

Cleaning and general upkeep

Floor cleaning has had a mixed year. Our existing wet-cleaning machine never worked properly and was eventually accepted as not fit for purpose; more recently the manual for the scrubber cleaner was tracked down (shortly before the original turned up too) and the machine was put into partial use on the main hall floor, with lessons learned for next time. A rotary cleaner was also recovered from the garage and got working as a further option for the hard floor.

In July, a wider conversation was had about the general tiredness of the building — stained chairs, broken blinds, and grubby floors and patio. A working party and a programme of improvements were proposed, though the hosepipe ban has delayed some outdoor cleaning, including the patio and upstairs balcony. The forecourt has a similar problem, with oil rising to

the surface after rain and making it slippery; this will need both minibuses moved out of the way before it can be scraped and pressure washed. We plan to get onto this as soon as we can.

Smaller fixes this year include a working hand dryer in the downstairs disabled toilet (the sensor eye was simply clogged with dust) and a tap in the upstairs disabled toilet that turned out to have its isolator valve closed rather than being faulty.

Doors, cupboards and fittings

The downstairs room partition, installed last year, continues to work well and has improved soundproofing. The rubbish cupboard door required a new spring closer, this was eventually replaced at a cost of £131. A bolt on the same cupboard door was later found loose and bent, and has since been fixed. The door into the dining area from the corridor had mysteriously received a very hard bang which forced the spring door closer and architrave to come off the wall. This has now been repaired, though its architrave remains damaged and it could do with a coat of brown paint.

Fire door fire security closers needed some attention over the year: most work fine, though the upstairs kitchen door was a persistent problem and has now been fixed with a new closure unit. The sliding doors in the main downstairs room have now been replaced at significant cost and with the benefit of a financial grant. We've taken out a three-year maintenance contract with annual servicing going forward.

Heating and water

The most significant unplanned expense of the year was the hot water tank, which was found to be leaking and needed full replacement along with the expansion tank, at a cost of around £2,500. This is now fitted and working and hopefully ready for another 15 years of uninterrupted use.

Safety, admin and bigger projects

PAT testing was completed early in the year, and a fire risk assessment report has been requested and is being chased up. The list of contacts and contractors, kept on file, continues to be built up and added to as new suppliers are used. A broken office shredder was replaced after agreement from the trustees.

Storage has also been discussed: rather than a single large 12ft x 8ft shed, which won't fit the available space, the agreed solution is four smaller lockable plastic sheds at around £180 each, split between the existing shed location and the space behind the garage. We are now working to generate the funds necessary to go ahead with this project.

Looking ahead

Overall, the building has been kept safe, functional and largely trouble-free through a combination of quick fixes and patient chasing of contractors, with our volunteers putting in a great deal of practical effort. The bigger conversation now is about appearance and longer-term renewal — chairs, floors, blinds and outdoor areas all show their age, and a working party and improvement programme are the next step. Trustees will also want to keep an eye on the hot water system bedding in, the gas vent and extractor fan work being completed, and the fire risk assessment being received.

David Jackson, Brooklands Trustee, temporarily covering for responsibility for maintenance

Brooklands Technology Annual Report for 2026 AGM

This year saw a real step change in our technology, moving from patchy Wi-Fi and an unreliable phone system to a fully working internet setup and a new Audio Visual system for the hall, largely thanks to a thorough review and a lot of persistence from volunteers.

Internet and Wi-Fi

We started the year with reasonable speed test results but very variable Wi-Fi around the building. The plan was to upgrade the power line adapters to wireless, and add a second BT mesh "black disc" to spread the signal further. Following a complaint to BT, they actually provided an extra black disc free of charge, we purchased a couple of additional second hand Wi-Fi mesh discs to help spread the signal, and all discs were mounted high on the walls to get the best coverage — the last of these went up in February.

Coverage remained a bit hit and miss for a while, with mixed opinions on how good it actually was, so a further second-hand black disc (about £20) was sourced, this enabled us to extend the mesh system across both floors. By June, with this final piece in place, we had genuinely good Wi-Fi speeds throughout the building. Looking ahead, initial research into a cheaper and faster internet service to replace our current provider was already under way by July, which would also open up better options for our phones.

Phone system

The phone system proved more stubborn. With the base unit upstairs and the secondary handset downstairs a long way away, service was patchy. We elected to install a repeater on the upstairs landing to boost the signal, with mixed but gradually improving results — still some crackle on the line, but better than before. The problems are caused by us using a DECT phone system. This has limited coverage but is the only type supported on our BT Digital Voice system.

BT also recommended moving away from using an answerphone on the handsets in favour of their 1571 voicemail service, which we chose to do. By June the phone system was working about as well as it was likely to on our current BT setup. As with the internet, the plan going forward is that once we move away from BT, we'll have more choice of VOIP services and could switch to Wi-Fi powered phones for better coverage.

Audio Visual system

The bulk of this year's project work has been building an Audio Visual setup for the hall, which is now fully installed and working. It came in close to budget, at around £800. We have produced two supporting documents: a technical equipment guide recording what's been installed and how it all connects, and a more accessible user guide with instructions and images to help volunteers and group leaders use the system day to day, covering the functionality we currently need.

Training on the new system has been offered to anyone who needs it, though take-up has been slow so far — a group training session has been suggested, starting with key people before rolling out more widely to group leaders.

Building our content library

Alongside the hardware, we've been gradually building a library of material to use on the system: CDs are being ripped onto the tablet, and photos and videos are being gathered via WhatsApp

for anyone who wants to contribute. We have also added the Brooklands history DVD, "From Dreams to Reality.

Looking ahead

The technology side at Brooklands is now in a much stronger position than it was a year ago: reliable Wi-Fi throughout the building, a working (if imperfect) phone system, and a properly documented AV setup ready to be put to full use. The next steps are to get training rolled out more widely so the AV system is used to its potential, to keep building the content library, and to follow through on the planned move to a cheaper, faster internet provider — which should also finally let us put the phone system's limitations behind us.

David Jackson, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for technology

Brooklands Fundraising and Events Annual Report for 2026 AGM

It's been a very busy year with lots going on. Since October 2025 we have had as always the Christmas Lights Switch on; we had a successful fund raising day. We also had the big Lottery Raffle with £200 being donated by ExcelCare.

Grannies recipe books were all completed, thanks to Frances Campbell who had them put together and printed, selling at £5 per book. We have about 4 left.

On 12th December we had a Christmas Quiz, always a good attendance and good fund raiser.

Brooklands entered the Christmas Tree Exhibition at the church, the tree was made of forks.

We had two Christmas parties for members of the day clubs.

There was a thank you party for volunteers run by Newport Pagnell Town Council, only 4 guests from Brooklands could attend, so Sue Hulance, Sandra Dorrill, Pat Hurst and myself attended.

On 19th March I gratefully received an award from Newport Pagnell Town Council.

On 20th March, another quiz, again good fun.

1st April we had a big Easter raffle and decorated Brooklands.

27th April we started the photoshoot for our Calendar Girls Calendar, which was so much fun. Matt our photographer was great and put everyone at ease and Hannah did our make-up.

2nd May we had a great turn out for our sausage & mash and bingo afternoon, it was so popular that they want it repeated.

1st June was the last phot shoot for the calendar, again so much fun, everyone enjoyed it.

6th June was Vintage day, with sausage & onions in rolls and cakes on sale with a two-piece band. A pleasant social day.

4th July was the annual carnival, I think our 4th or 5th year. It was a difficult one this year due to the choice of theme, lack of volunteers and not a lot of enthusiasm, so possibly our last one.

11th July we had a tea dance, a really fun afternoon, with cream teas and line dancing. The floor was crammed with dancers, again so popular they have asked for it again.

15th August we had a nearly new sale, which wasn't as successful as other years, we got left with a lot of clothing and bric-a-brac.

5th September we got rid of the left overs from the nearly new sale with a 'Fill a bag for £5' jumble sale. Six large tables were filled very high. People (some dealers) were queuing outside for half an hour before we opened. Once the doors were open it was as if a swarm of locusts had entered the building, within 20 minutes the tables were empty. The little that was left went to charity shops. The bric-a-brac was kept or given away; Frances and her daughter took some for a car boot sale. I think days of bric-a-brac are now over.

19th September was the launch of our Calendar Girls Calendar. A cheese and wine evening to thank the girls, they were so fantastic, and we have had so many compliments saying how lovey it is and what a lovely thing to do. By the Monday we'd almost sold out of the calendars and we're going to order more. Many thanks to Francis Campbell who put everything together. Also Frances has put together a wonderful book of before and after photos which can be ordered. Paul Day our Mayor attended the launch and was very impressed, as is Sally Murrer from the Citizen.

Watch this space for better things to come.

Sandy Payne, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for fund raising and events

Brooklands Training Annual Report for 2026 AGM

We at Brooklands are extremely grateful to our volunteers and are always keen for them to achieve their highest standards, and also to be within the law and also ensure our clients are always safe and protected. With this in mind we regularly run food hygiene, first aid and fire safety courses, once passed the certificates are valid for 3 years. Currently we have 18 volunteers with Food Hygiene Certificates, 20 volunteers with First Aid certificates, so the next time these courses will be held will be in 2027. In the past 12 months we have held a fire training course completed by 18 of our volunteers all of whom had hands on experience with fire extinguishers, hopefully they'll never have to use them in an emergency but at least they'll know what to do.

I also arrange the drivers and escorts for the day clubs, this can be quite challenging at times as the drivers for Daisy bus require a 'D' classification on their licence which needs to be renewed every 3 years once the drivers reach 70, requiring a doctor's certificate and a stringent eye examination. I also cover as a reserve driver.

I have always been a hands on type of guy and during the past year I have done several odd jobs, including taking the buses for their safety checks, filling the buses with diesel, washing the buses, taking the buses to check their weight. Also visiting the wholesalers for catering supplies, cleaning the outside patio and balcony, collecting and disposing of the leaves that seem to fall the whole year and not just in the autumn and remaking the covers for the skylights.

David Hulance, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for training

Brooklands Monday Day Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Monday Day Club meets from 9.30am – 3.00pm. It's held in the main ground floor room and dining room. There are 29 members on the register with an average of 22-24 people regularly attending. Transport with the use of both buses is provided to collect members who live within Newport Pagnell. There are 8 volunteers, plus 2 drivers and 2 escorts.

The purpose of the group is social interaction and lunch. Seated exercises are available to members, as well as bingo, a raffle, quizzes, and on occasions someone will come to the club to give a talk. Steve the handbag man visits every few months.

Having new members can bring a lot of fun and keep the group lively and friendly. However, challenges include the increase of those with dementia, both new members and longer attending members, as well as physical frailty evident with most members.

The 'mix & match' theme works well with those day members able to attend the seated exercise group and exercise group members joining with us for lunch; it keeps the group lively. The amount of walking aids now needed by members does impact on space, particularly on the buses.

Sandra Dorrill, Day Club Manager

Brooklands Monday Exercise Group Annual Report for the 2026 AGM

The Monday Seated Exercise group meets in half of the main hall. The purpose of the group is to take part in a seated exercise class and to socialise. The group is supported by 1 volunteer.

There are 26 members on the register with an average attendance of 15, plus 7 who attend from the Monday Day Club. The session starts with coffee from 10.00am, followed by the Exercise Class from 11am – 11.45am, led by Kamal Saggu of Prosperity Rehab. About 10 members then stay on for lunch from 12noon – 1pm. Membership is always changing and we had lower numbers in the very hot weather.

Bill Clewett, Volunteer

Brooklands Tuesday Day Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Tuesday Day Club meets from 9.30am – 3.00pm. Some members start in the 'pop-in' upstairs in the function room, as Tai Chi uses the main part of the downstairs room until 11.30am. although some start in the dining room downstairs. Then all use the main ground floor room and dining room for the rest of the day. There are 31 members on the register, with an average attendance of 26 people, supported by 9 volunteers. Both mini buses are used to collect members who live within Newport Pagnell.

The purpose of the group is providing social interaction, for members to have the chance of making friends and having a hot lunch. Activities undertaken include a raffle and quizzes and in the afternoon interactive games to provide fun and laughter for members. They also have the opportunity to attend the Tai Chi classes in the morning.

It has been nice to welcome some new members. The volunteer team are very capable and they get enjoyment from their volunteer role which makes for a fun and relaxed day for all. It's a very nice group; a lot of the members make their own way to the club which helps with transport issues. There are now so many walking aids it can be difficult for the drivers and escorts fitting them on the buses.

Sandra Dorrill, Day Club Manager

Brooklands Pop-in Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Pop-in group runs weekly on a Tuesday morning from 8.45am – 12.30pm and is held in in the upstairs function room. Up to 32 people attend, arriving and leaving at different times. The group provides a place for people to come up and socialise whilst Tai Chi is taking place downstairs. The group is attended by members of the day club, members of the Tai Chi groups, Ousebank Gardners and anyone else who wishes to attend and meet others for refreshments. The group is supported by four, sometimes five volunteers.

Over the last year several new members have heard about Brooklands and have attended. Everyone seems to appreciate having somewhere to attend, meet people and have time to relax and socialise over refreshments. All has been fine apart from occasional blips, e.g. no hot water at the sink and in the upstairs restroom. During the heatwaves it has been difficult to keep cool, but having 2- 3 fans has helped.

Bevi Maghera and Trish Penn, Volunteers

Brooklands Tai Chi Annual Report for 2026 AGM

Tai Chi runs on a Tuesday morning and takes place in the main downstairs room.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise involving deep breathing, relaxation and flowing movements led by Lily Cheng, a qualified instructor. The beginners' class is from 9.30am – 10.30am, followed by an intermediate class from 10.30am – 11.30am. There are 20 people on the register for the first class, with an average of 15 attending, and 18 people on the register for the second class, with an average of 14 attending. After the Tai Chi class many people go upstairs to the Pop-in for tea or coffee and cake.

We have had quite a lot of new members in the last year and it is a very good group.

Brian Stone, Volunteer

Brooklands Wednesday Day Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Wednesday Day Club meets from 9.30am – 3.00pm in the main room downstairs and the dining room. There are 29 members on the register with an average of 26 people attending each week. The group is supported by 8 volunteers. Both buses are used to collect members who live within Newport Pagnell.

The purpose of the group is to make people feel happy, enjoy company and have a hot lunch and to increase the well-being of members, many of whom are isolated and live alone. There is a raffle, bingo, quizzes and plenty of company. On occasions there is a talk by a visiting person or entertainment by a singer or other entertainment.

New friendships have been made by some members, who also communicate outside the club, which is very nice to see. New members can change the dynamics of the group but this is not a bad thing. Challenges have been new members and members passing away, which does affect the group. The continuing frailty of members is evident, and storing all the walking aids has been difficult but is needed to reduce the risk of falls.

The group is running well, members seem happy, but it can be challenging with the degree of dementia evident. Sadly, due to this a few members are no longer able to attend due to safety risks.

Sandra Dorrill, Day Club Manager

Brooklands Bingo and Social Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1.45 – 3.30pm in the downstairs room, in the section near the kitchen. There are 16 people on the register with an average attendance of 10 people, with some members using the mini-buses so they can attend. The group is supported by one volunteer and the mini-bus driver. The group also has a chairperson, A Jennings.

The purpose of the group is a social club centred around bingo. The group provides good fellowship and the numbers attending are steady although the membership is aging. The hot weather has been challenging this year. The continual benefit of Brooklands is a source of meeting and socialising without any reference to background or social class.

Frank Lewis, Volunteer

Brooklands Art Group Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Brooklands Art Group meets on a Wednesday from 1.30pm – 3.30pm and on a Friday from 2pm – 4pm, in the upstairs function room. There are 25 members on the register with an average attendance of 20 people with a few new members in the past year. The group is led by one volunteer.

The purpose of the group is to create in a relaxed atmosphere, to enjoy and have fun, accompanied by tea and biscuits. One highlight in the last year was our Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree exhibition. One challenge has been keeping cool in the heat, we need some new fans that stand up straight.

I love my art groups, all are lovely people, always accepting of new people and helpful to each other.

Loretta Ramsay, Volunteer

Brooklands Thursday Exercise Group Annual Report for the 2026 AGM

The Seated Exercise Group meets every Thursday morning, in the main hall downstairs from 10am – 1pm. There are 30 members on the register with an average attendance of 23. We do not currently have a waiting list. We have a group of 9 hard working volunteers and there are usually 5 or 6 for each session. We are hoping to recruit maybe a couple more volunteers mainly to cover sickness or holidays and to also give those who volunteer every week a much needed break occasionally.

The group enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits upon arrival followed by a seated exercise class led by Kamal Saggu of Prosperity Rehab. Most of our members then stay for a lunch of soup and sandwiches all freshly prepared on the day by the volunteers. More tea/coffee and chocolate

biscuits are then served giving them a chance to socialise and chat before leaving. Both minibuses are used to ferry them to and from the centre.

We took over the reins from Brian and Ceilia Stone in July this year. Unfortunately due to ill health John and Angela Gordon were unable to continue after November last year. The service offered remains the same as before we took over as it works and we feel at the moment there is no need for change. Maybe in time some small changes may be considered.

All members and volunteers seem to enjoy the group and we are trying to make sure we all have some laughs along the way. We certainly could not have had such a smooth takeover without the dedication and help from all the volunteers, so a big thank you to all of them.

Sharon and Allan Sharp, Volunteers

Brooklands Garden Group Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Brooklands Garden Group meets on the second Thursday each month from 10.30am, either in the upstairs function room, at a member's house, or for a trip out. There are 13 members. The purpose of the group is to have a general discussion on gardening.

Within the last year we have had trips out on the Brooklands minibus, driven by the wonderful Brooklands volunteer drivers. The trips are very popular. We have been to see the bluebells in Howe Park Wood in Westcroft, to the Blue Diamond Garden Centre in Northampton, to the charity Emmaus Village Carlton near Bedford, and taken the bus to Olney. We have had a plant swap at a members house, a coffee morning at a members house, and in September we walked around the Brooklands grounds. All trips end with coffee and cake. We have plans to go to another garden centre in Northampton, to have a quiz, and have a Christmas lunch at a member's house.

The group used to be led by Jenny Shann, but is now jointly run by volunteers Trish Penn, Sandy Goadby and Maureen Neale.

Trish Penn, Volunteer

Brooklands Walking Group Annual Report for the 2026 AGM

The Brooklands walking group meets on the first and third Thursday each month from 2pm – 4pm, with an hours' walk of about 2 miles, followed by refreshments back at Brooklands either on the balcony or in the upstairs function room. The walks are planned and led by Helen Taylor. Pete Bowles is our tail walker, making sure no one gets left behind. Some people meet us at the start point of our walk, but many people meet at Brooklands and travel in one or both mini-buses to get to and return from the location of our walk; Richard Bates has been driving the big mini-bus since October 2025 and Pete Bowles drives the little bus when needed.

Due to a hip operation, Helen missed three walks in June and July. Our temporary walk leader was Laura Brown, assisted by Bill Clewett and Julie Dalton, with Barbara Knight organising the refreshments.

In the last year, 36 people have been on our walks, 11 new people joined us during the year and 24 continued from the previous year. 14 people are regular walkers, 14 attend when they can

and the remaining 8 have attended just once or twice. We have an average of 15/16 people on each walk, our highest number being 22, and our lowest number 9. We have a WhatsApp group with 37 members, although 6 of our regular walkers don't use WhatsApp.

The group not only promotes exercise through a gentle walk, but is also a social occasion to chat and make friends, as well as an opportunity to explore the local area, looking at nature, local history and culture. We have had 25 walks this year, walking in Great Linford Manor Park, through Great Linford Village, along different sections of the Railway walk, different sections of the Grand Union Canal, including the Canal Art Trail. We have followed the line of the old Newport Pagnell canal, walked in Newport Pagnell in Lakes Lane and the Poets Estate. We have visited Stonepit Field, Bradwell Windmill, Linford Wood, Willen Lake (both North and South), Tongwell Lake, Stanton Low Park, the ruins of St. Peter's Church, Wolverton Secret Garden, North Loughton Valley Park, the Pétanque Court, the Concrete Cows, Bancroft Roman Villa, the Tree Cathedral, Redhouse Park Art Trail and walked in Woolstone and Ouzel Valley Park, along the River Ouzel, the Canal Broadwalk and in the Ouse Valley Park along the River Great Ouse.

The weather has generally been very kind to us, and we have continued our walks throughout the year, although we had to cancel 3 walks in the winter months, but we still met up at Brooklands for tea, coffee and cake.

The participants of the group always enjoy every walk, and they really appreciate the opportunity to go to new places and explore new areas just outside Newport, for some people visiting places they have not been to before.

Helen Taylor, Brooklands Trustee and Walking Group Leader

Brooklands Carers' Group Annual Report for the 2026 AGM

The Carers' group at Brooklands has been running for 28 years. The group meets at Brooklands every other Friday from 10am until 12noon in the main downstairs room.

There are 45 people on the register, with an average of 30/31 people attending each session, up to 36 people on occasions. Our numbers have increased from an average of 20/21 per session 2 years ago and have remained high ever since. On a regular basis we have 10 couples, 7 who attend on their own as their partner is in a care home or goes to day care, 11 whose partners have passed away and one couple supported by their daughter. We have had 7 new members and 2 returned after not being able to attend for a while. We have lost 10 members, including 3 people who have gone into care, 1 person has passed away and others due to ill health. A few people have attended just once. Due to our numbers, we recently asked members whose partner had died some time ago to consider becoming volunteers or attending other sessions at Brooklands.

We currently have 11 volunteers, with an average of 7 supporting each session. All are very involved in running of the group and include: Helen Taylor, Rita Galloway, Barbara O'Reilly, Cherie Read, Linda Glidewell, Sue Ransom, Imti Farookhi, Jane Levett, Marget Bryan (from 01/26), Bill Clewett (from 09/26) and Mary Barwell (from 09/26). We lost 1 volunteer Janet Mapley in July due to ill health.

Transport is provided using the minibus for some members who live in Newport Pagnell, driven by volunteer Pete Bowles, although people attend from all over Milton Keynes.

The purpose of the group is to support carers of people with all forms of dementia. In the first hour, refreshments are provided, whilst members chat and interact with each other and share their experiences, supported by the volunteers. A fund raising raffle is also held. Throughout the morning one of the Admiral Nurses, Lorretta Peck or Sue Webb are on hand to offer one to one support to the carers, to listen, counsel, and provide information and advice.

We have an activity in the second hour: Musical sessions, The Rolling Home Band (x2), Bob Jack (x2), Norman's Crusaders, May Blossom Vintage Songbird, Kevin Vartey Comedy Songs, Sherington Village Brass Band and MK Rock 'n' Roll Choir. Sara, Judy and Nic from MK Community Learning have provided 5 Arts and Crafts sessions for us. I have led 3 Reminiscences sessions on Jobs and Employment, Pets, and Family and co-led with the Admiral Nurses 3 Information sessions, on Dementia Friendly Activities, Practical Ideas to help with Memory Loss and Caring for the Carer. We have also had Bingo, Board games and a Beetle Drive, a Love to Move session and a Good News Session.

It is a very popular group with many members saying how much they look forward to the sessions. The group continues to thrive and provide invaluable support and friendship to carers of people with dementia and their loved one.

Helen Taylor, Brooklands Trustee and Carers' Group Leader

Brooklands Book Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

The Brooklands Book Club meets on a Friday morning at 10am monthly (except August) in the upstairs function room for about 1 hour. The purpose of the group is an opportunity to relax with a hot drink and biscuits and discuss the chosen read of the month. It's an enjoyable hour. Books are read in paperback, on kindle, or as an audiobook. There are 8 people on the register with 6 or 7 attending each time.

In the past year we have had new members and that brings suggestions for books. There is comfortable disagreement about books and that leads to great discussions. All views are listened to and past experience with travel, work etc informs the discussion. One challenge is perhaps that we're not known about enough, there are no posters up at Brooklands. I'm happy for my name and email address to be given as a contact for more information about our next book and when we meet.

We've read some really interesting books in the last year. Books we would never have picked up if it hadn't been someone's choice. They change your world view. Sometimes some of us can't finish a book that others love, again interesting discussions result. We have read an eclectic selection of books this year including: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, Gabriel's Moon by William Boyd, The Satsuma Complex by Bob Mortimer, Guards! Guards! By Terry Pratchett and Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers.

Lynda Evans, Volunteer

Brooklands Saturday Lunch Club Annual Report for 2026 AGM

We meet from 10.30am to 2pm on the third Saturday of each month, except for July, August and December. The purpose of the group is to provide a meal and companionship at weekends for individuals; an opportunity for couples to share a meal with others. Refreshments are provided on arrival, with a table quiz, a raffle a two course meal, ending with tea or coffee before departure. The group is supported by 18 volunteers with an average of 12- 14 volunteers at each session. Both minibuses are used to bring members to and from Brooklands.

We have 80 members on the books with an average attendance of 62, ranging from 57 to 71 in attendance. Numbers increased to too high a level and were capped from February 2026. Clearly a good sign the lunch club is so popular. Challenges have been in taking bookings through a number of groups, and having to limit bookings with no new members. We also had to start minibus pickups earlier to avoid late arrivals.

Special thanks to Sandra Dorrill and the hardworking cooks for providing excellent meals. There is also good team working by the volunteers which creates a welcoming and happy environment, providing Fun, Food and Friendship.

Catherine Hall, Brooklands Trustee with responsibility for the lunch club

Administrator's Report for Brooklands Annual Report for 2026 AGM

All is going well, apart from a few minor office issues with having to search for items that have been moved. My responsibilities remain very much the same and I hope to continue to keep on top of bookings and invoicing for Brooklands.

External Groups who use Brooklands

We have some occasional one-off bookings as well as the following external groups who have used Brooklands in the last year on a regular basis:

- Nina Jita, Beauty Therapist (2 x per month)
- 6th Newport Pagnell Brownies (term time only)
- Memory Club led by Hazel Reynolds (2nd & 4th Thursday afternoon each month)
- Women's Institute (2nd Tuesday each month)
- National Childbirth Trust (various sessions throughout the year)
- Carla Smith, Physiotherapist (Fridays)
- Matt Cooper, Physiotherapist (Wednesdays)
- Newport Pagnell Medical Centre Carers' Group (1st Monday morning each month)
- Specsavers Hearing Clinic, Callum Briggs (until end March 2026)
- Newport Pagnell Baptist Church (Alex Kelly), Bookings for 5 months to assist them during their building work.

Elaine West, Brooklands Administrator

A big thank you to all our volunteers at Brooklands, you are all extremely valued and appreciated.

Brenda	Anderson
Michael	Baker
Mary	Barwell
Richard	Bates
Brenda	Beale
Peter	Bowles
Millie	Brady
Micky	Brown
Laura	Brown
Margaret	Bryant
Anne	Butler
Frances	Campbell
Patty	Carter
Asmita	Chauhan
Bill	Clewett
Helen	Coleman
David	Dean
Anne	Dillon
Jane	Dormer
Sandra	Dorrill
Mandy	Elston
Lynda	Evans
Lorraine	Eyles
Imtiaz	Farookhi
Larry	Freeman
Mary	Freeman
Rita	Galloway
Sue	Garnham
Linda	Glidewell
Stephen	Goff
Julie	Goodwin
Angela	Gordon
Lyn	Groves
Catherine	Hall
Roger	Hall
Juliet	Heaton
Janine	Hedges
Irene	Henderson
Joyce	Hobson
Barbara	Holmes
Katie	Holmes
Marion	Hudson
David	Hulance
Susan	Hulance
Pat	Hurst
David	Jackson
Simeon	Jackson
Christopher	Japp
Pat	Japp
Lynn	Jenkins
Carol	Jones
Barbara	Knight
Pam	Konieczny
Jane	Levett
Frank	Lewis
Janet	Mapley
Bevi	Maghera
Pat	Mesher
Tracey	Mitchell
Lynne	Murphy
Maureen	Neale
Sandra	Newman
Barbara	O'Reilly
Pat	Parker
Sandy	Payne
Trish	Penn
Christine	Phillips
Janet	Phillips
Stephanie	Proctor
Gerald	Ramsey
Loretta	Ramsey
Jenny	Randal
Sue	Ransom
Cherie	Read
Julie	Reynolds
Allan	Sharp
Sharon	Sharp
Brian	Sidebottom
Margaret	St George
Brian	Stone
Cecilia	Stone
James	Stoyles
Yvonne	Surridge
Helen	Taylor
Susan	Telling
Nathalie	Tihon
Roger	Tilley
Tony	Townsend
Gary	Trafine
Lynn	Trott
May	Watts

Apologies if we have missed any volunteers off this list, it is an admin error if we have.