



STAY STRONG - STAY SAFE - STAY KIND

PERI AID

It seems to have been going on forever doesn't it! Things are easing slightly, our local shops are well stocked, the box deliveries are a huge success and Sainsbury's have increased their click and collect slots for vulnerable people. But neighbours looking out for neighbours is still as important as ever, not just practical support like buying food and essentials but, as the crisis drags on and lockdown weariness sets in, for those who have to isolate the risks of loneliness and even depression are still very real. If you know someone who is isolating, or who may be struggling with the prolonged crisis, please do make that phone call, drop in a card, or have a doorstep chat with them - it really could make all the difference.



WOKING FOODBANK.

The Covid19 pandemic has made the work of foodbanks even more vital with more clients in crisis being referred for food parcels. St Michael's has long had a collection point based in the church but during lockdown this is now being operated very successfully from Linnards, The Green and then transported to the Woking warehouse. This will continue in July. By donating you can help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. If everyone could give a little extra from their weekly shop, we would be able to make a big difference! A typical food parcel includes: breakfast cereal, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, instant mash, UHT milk, tea, coffee, sugar, tinned dessert and biscuits. Please call Catherine on 481234 or 07947 032210 if you need a collection or just leave in the bin by the gate.



PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Virtual Annual Show!

Are you are planning your entries for the 'virtual' Horticultural Society show this year? Though not as extensive as usual, there will still be a wide range of classes for you to try your luck, and entries will be judged from photographs on Show Day at the end of July. Entries are FREE and the show is open to all, members or not. The summer flower and produce show is a great Pirbright tradition, not to mention a source of friendly rivalry, but we need your support to make it happen in this very unusual year.

Whether you are an expert or novice, a grower, a baker or a crafter, you stand a chance of winning, but only if you enter! To find out more and receive the mini-schedule contact Philip Barralet on

Philipbarraletcardiff19@gmail.com



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Just a thought.....



Free as a bird?

If you were a bird, what would you like to be? A magnificent eagle, perhaps, fearless, soaring high above the mountains, seeing every movement far below? Or a noisy blackbird, pinking away from dawn to dusk? Or a busy little blue tit, flitting from one feeding post to the next gathering food for its chicks?

Whatever type of bird you might fancy being – and I imagine that some of you can think of your own avian counterpart! – I'm sure that like me you have been able to hear much more wonderful birdsong over the past few months when there has been little traffic or other noise pollution to hide their happy chirruping.

What would it be like do you think, to be as free as a bird? But then, what do we actually mean by 'free'? Free from what,

exactly? True, birds don't have to earn a living to pay for food, mortgages and all of the other essentials (and non-essentials). They have within themselves all that they need to survive, to feed themselves and their offspring, to build a home for their family; what else would they need?



But all freedoms come at a price, even for birds. There are always those who are higher in the pecking order (literally) who want to control them. And of course it's the same for us as human beings: there is (almost) always someone flying higher than us with more 'power' than we have ourselves. We are so fortunate in this country to enjoy so much more freedom than folk do in other places; that is something we should value and treasure.

Perhaps these last few weeks and months have been a salutary lesson for us all, to enjoy a bit more freedom, to take stock of our lives and our surroundings – and the creatures who share them with us. I do hope so.

Just in case you are wondering, if I were a bird I think I'd *like* to be a dove – God's bird of peace. As the Psalmist says, 'Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest...I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm' (*Psalm 55:6-8*). Or maybe I'll just be satisfied with simply being a plain brown sparrow, busy(ish) and watchful like all other birds, happy being lost in the crowd of my more important, colourful and noisier neighbours.

Rev'd Gary Williamson

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT

Remembering with gratitude the lives and contribution to our community of Barry Wise, Audrey Standing and Mary Campbell

Last month the name of Charles Stewart was spelled incorrectly - our sincere apologies to his family.



Contact Rev Bev 07495 395225 revbev.stmaa@gmail.com

Church Administrator Chris Phillips admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk 07599154872

Churchwardens Catherine Cobley 481234, Pauline Cannon 01252 326534) or e mail churchwardens@pirbrightchurch.org.uk

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

Summer holidays are on many people's minds as we move out of lockdown and into July and wonder if holidays abroad, or even in this country will be possible. Our residents have travelled all over the world during their younger years but now prefer their home comforts (and travel insurance for over 80/90's is extortionate!). We still like to imagine where we would go if we could have a magic carpet (and no insurance



necessary) to get us there. With eyes closed, we summon up the image of sitting on a beach in the Maldives, cocktail in one hand and Kindle in the other, with a cool sea breeze and the sound of waves washing ashore.....then Ella barks at a passer-by and brings us back to our patio in Pirbright, and we admit that without a magic carpet, this is where we would prefer to spend our summer holidays anyway, ice-cream in hand and maybe a pool to paddle in (note to self: email Committee to ask if H&S would allow paddling pool.....!) If you pass by on a sunny day, do give us a wave!

Lucy Beasley

PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

If you too are missing home-made preserves, baking and crafts, or a cuppa with friends, rest assured that the county market organisers are working hard behind the scenes to try to reopen before the end of summer.

Rosemary Richmond

PIRBRIGHT BOOK SWAP

The community book swap in the church porch needs a new home. As soon as we have one we will post information on the church and parish websites and in the next PeriNews. If you can't wait, or if know a possible site, please contact the editor.

DID YOU KNOW...? William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson

On July 30th the Church of England especially remembers three men who played a critical part in the movement to end the slave trade in the 18th century. Perhaps the best known of the three is **William Wilberforce**, MP for Kingston Upon Hull and voice of the abolitionist movement. **Thomas Clarkson** was an Anglican clergyman who helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano was kidnapped into slavery as a child in what is now Nigeria. He was resold many times, and renamed many times so the name Gustavus Vassa is often associated with him. He was sold to a sea captain and spent many years at sea, but finally sold to a merchant in Monserat where he was able to buy his own freedom. He travelled to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners of his day. His autobiography of 1789 was one of the first books published by a black African writer and was a huge success, running to nine reprints. It brought home to many the horrors of the slavery, and played a critical role in changing attitudes to the slave trade.



PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council continues to adapt to the changing environment as we start to emerge from lockdown. While it is still very important to maintain social distancing and observe Government guidance, it is a welcome relief to have more freedoms to resume something of our daily exercise and activity and to meet friends and relatives in small groups. This has seen greatly increased use of the village green and other open spaces, including Pirbright Common and the Ranges around us, especially in the hot weather, with many people travelling some distance to enjoy the village. This has resulted in an increase in litter and some dumping of clothes and other materials at the recycling centre, which has caused some issues, so we have put in place additional temporary support to ensure that the Village Green remains in first class condition. We would ask that to cope with the additional demands, particularly over weekends, people take their litter home with them if they can. We will, over the summer, be looking to appoint new support for the Village Green and Lord Pirbright's Hall following Terry's retirement after many years. We all wish him well in his retirement.



The Trustees of Lord Pirbright's Hall recently conducted a survey of regular hirers of the village hall to establish interest and needs to start planning for the reopening of the village hall once Government guidance allows. At present the Hall, Parish Meeting Room and play-ground remain closed but it is likely these will reopen at some point later in the summer when circumstances allow and we are preparing for the increased cleaning and other requirements that will accompany this. Until then, please direct any questions to Lindsay at the address below.

The Parish Council have also launched the new Council website, improved the look, security and content, and will be developing this further over the coming weeks. We have, as part of this, adopted two new email addresses for the Parish Clerk and Lord Pirbright's Hall, which are noted below. These now follow official Government protocols and improved security. The old email addresses will continue to work for a period, to ensure continuity. We would welcome good photos of the village to populate and update the website from time to time and are happy to promote local news and, in time, future events, so contact Helen if you have any good ideas.

Finally, the new security posts for the village green have been completed and a further phase undertaken around the Little Green to match. The new posts are set in concrete and are wider and shorter, so achieve added security and are more discrete, so should enhance the appearance of the green for many years to come.



Pirbright Parish Council Chair: Steve Fidgett, 07785978817, sdfidgett@icloud.com

Parish Clerk: Helen Myers, clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk tel 01483 797840

Parish website www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk

Lord Pirbright's Hall Lindsay Graham lph@pirbright-pc.gov.uk tel 01483 476432

DREAMING OF THE HOLIDAYS?

Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

- * On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.
- * We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.
- * The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.
- * No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.
- * It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.
- * We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.
- * I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.



PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

For those who don't 'do' Facebook, here is the old view from the Green mentioned by Shirley in last month's newsletter. It was taken on a glass plate by William Willcock's grandson Victor John (born 1900), probably shortly after WW1. The building on the left, now Greengates, has had a chequered history. Starting life in the 1880s, when it was built as a draper & grocer's shop with living accommodation, it was initially managed by Herbert Mose Briant, then leased by him in 1896 with grand ideas, which came to naught. After he left in 1909, sadder & wiser, the refreshment rooms continued through the Great War up to 1922, when the Co-Op took over. They traded for 21 years until it was bought for £975 by Ernest Bennett and turned into a private house (with a doctor's surgery?) in 1943.

The 'Old' Forge isn't actually as old as Greengates. When Lord Pribright had The Terrace built in 1898, the old house & smithy on that site were demolished & this one built. By the time of the photo, William Willcocks senior was getting on, so the business was taken over by son William George, hence the sign over the entrance. He gave up in 1924 and Fred Henden (motto "*Anything. Anywhere. Anytime*") & son Chris ran the haulage business from the yard for 34 years, afterwards renting the site to Bill Greenwood for his waste paper business. After a few more short-lived enterprises & an empty spell, the present houses were built in 2015. *Jonathan Foster email: jonathan@pirbright.info*



LIZZIE IN LOCKDOWN

Online shopping for clothes had been a welcome distraction during lockdown, but Lizzie couldn't help wondering if she had gone too far this time....?



MUMS: The wisdom of seven year olds

What kind of little girl was your mum? I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

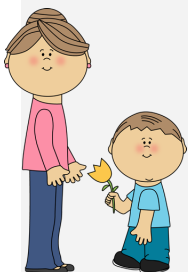
What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him? His last name.

Why did your mum marry your dad? She got too old to do anything else with him.

What's the difference between mums & dads? Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum? God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

What would it take to make your mum perfect? On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

www.pirbrighttennisclub.com

It's great to see new members and the courts being booked up again. Book courts on our website. Play singles and doubles with social distancing and hygiene following government and LTA guidelines. See the LTA advice: www.lta.org.uk

Coaching and Re-stringing:

Tim Seymour: Tel: 07887 723554 or email: tennisextremeuk@gmail.com
www.tennis-extreme.com

All special activities are cancelled or postponed until further notice. If the situation changes members will be notified.

PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

Sadly we are without cricket for the foreseeable future however I can tell readers that current shortage of flour due to the

pandemic was also evident during the Great Plague as Daniel Defoe (Robinson Crusoe) was moved to write about his experiences then.

Pirbright Cricket Club are in close touch and I am relieved to say some of the faithful have paid their subscriptions, despite cricket not seeming likely as I write. We are maintaining the square as you see and staying driven. This is the longest Chairman has not played for since 1991, we play because it is our tonic, inspiration and soul. We have played Malta, Corfu New Forest and of course PCC Green but one of my favourites was when we played Broadmoor twice... sadly the suggested return fixture was not viewed as a good idea! Please hang onto your memories and hopefully soon we will be out there again!! Alistair Cooke aka Peter Austin

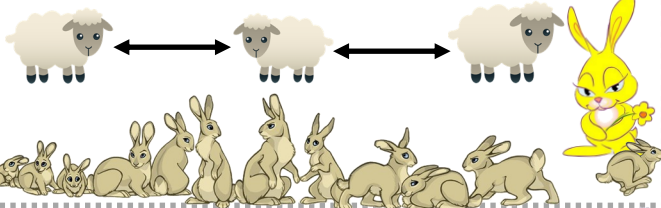


CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

I don't know why you humans are making such a song and dance about social distancing, it comes as second nature to us animals. Keeping two metres apart from Mr Badger is no problem because, not to put too fine a point on it, he's a bit smelly. And everyone keeps their distance from Mr Fox because you never know when he might get hungry. The birds have social distancing down to a fine art, they just do a vertical take-off when you get near, which can be a bit annoying when you go to tell them its their turn to do the tidying up. In the field next door, the sheep are perfect models of social distancing, they just stay well apaaaaaart. And have you noticed the speed that squirrels can run up, down and around a tree keeping exactly the same distance apart the whole time? In fact the only animals that are really not very good at staying apart are the rabbits.... and to prove it, here comes another family of baby bunnies!

Yellow Rabbit

Social distancing ✓



Social distancing ✗

JULY GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Divide congested clumps of bearded iris after flowering. Dead head bedding plants, roses and herbaceous plants to encourage more flowers. Trim evergreen hedges, including conifers. Feed dahlias and cannas every two weeks with a high potassium fertilizer, such as tomato feed. Prune early-summer flowering shrubs, such as Philadelphus, once they have finished flowering. Cut back flowered growth to a strong lower shoot and thin out up to a fifth of old, woody stems.

Cut back hardy geraniums and delphiniums to ground level after their first flush of flowers to encourage new foliage and more flowers later in the year. Feed after cutting back.

Pinch out climbing beans when they reach the top of their supports. Water courgettes consistently so they continue to crop well and keep picking them to encourage new ones to grow. Keep tomatoes well watered to prevent blossom end rot. Clear ponds of algae and blanket weed.

Continue mowing lawns, but raise height if we still have a drought. Newly turfed and seeded lawns need to be kept watered.





NEWS FROM PIRBRIGHT CLUBS AND SOCIETIES JULY 2020



Pirbright Horticultural Society are looking forward to the first meeting following their triumphant return from the Amazon Rainforest, just as soon as they are released from the Tropical Diseases clinic.

Pirbright Natural History Society was evacuated after a seven year old member brought a poison dart frog to their meeting. One of the world's deadliest creatures, the authorities are baffled as to how it came to be swimming in the Basingstoke Canal, as the bright blue frog is usually found in the Amazon Rainforest. The child's father, a prominent member of the Pirbright Horticultural Society, was unavailable for comment.

Pirbright Rugby Club search parties were sent out for members still missing following last month's celebratory pub crawl, carefully following the same route. A further search party is now being organised to search for the search party.

Pirbright Players are looking for a new Christmas production after 'The Deer Hunter' (suggested by the local garden club) turned out not to be a family friendly comedy about Father Christmas recruiting new reindeer.

Cunningham House management were puzzled by residents' enthusiasm for a vaulting horse in the back garden, until it proved to be hiding a tunnel leading under the Green and emerging in the wine cellar at The Cricketers.

Pirbright Opera Society are planning a thrilling finale to their performance of Tosca when the heroine will leap from the roof of Lord Pirbright's Hall. If anyone has any spare mattresses please contact the health and safety officer.

Pirbright Scuba Diving Association will hold its inaugural meeting at the village pond, bring your own sandwiches and flippers.

Pirbright Mountain Rescue Team will practise on Tuesdays at the church tower, if Dave's Mum can spare her washing line.

Royal British Legion Pirbright are staging a military re-enactment of the D Day Landings at Swallow Pond. Medals may be worn. Bring your own amphibious vehicle.

Pirbright Naturists' annual barbecue will be held on the playing field at Lord Pirbright's Hall. Following last year's unfortunate incident, there will be no sausages.

Pirbright Philharmonic sadly the performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture had to be cancelled, after Mick lost his triangle.

Pirbright Cub Scouts' camping trip was in the balance when Akela was taken ill, and the stand-in turned out to be a real wolf. But never let it be said Pirbright parents are species-ist, and off the cubs went. Oddly, the new Akela declined offers of food for the trip, saying that he would be able to find all he needed.

Pirbright Sumo Wrestling Club has attracted dozens of new members following the introduction of a strict training regime, involving a cake based diet.

Pirbright Formula 1 Grand Prix has been put on hold because no-one can find the key to wind up the motors.

Editor: Julia Douetil, julia.douetil@gmail.com Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ. Please send copy for August **by 8th July**. PeriNews is also on the Church and Parish Council websites, for you to download and print or keep, and you can receive PeriNews by e mail, just email Julia Douetil at the above address.