



Peri News



No 564

October 2020

DON'T FORGET CLOCKS GO BACK ON 25th OCTOBER

PERINEWS IS FIFTY!

The first edition of the Pirbright Village Newsletter was published in October 1970 and for fifty years the monthly booklet has kept the community informed, active and (hopefully) entertained. Our thanks to the Church and Parish Councils for authorising this special colour edition to celebrate this shared achievement.

In that first ever edition, Rev Cunningham apologised for 'imposing' upon everyone in the village, but wanted the newsletter to be inclusive of all, whatever their faith. Looking through that first newsletter some things seem very familiar – advertising for the Harvest Supper with barn dance in the village hall (tickets five shillings – from Mrs Watkins at the Post Office) and a coffee morning to raise money for new kneelers in the church. With no Church Room, the Sunday School started in the church then all the children walked down to the village hall, and a crèche was run by the Mothers' Union and Girl Guides in Churchmead, opposite the church.

The Rawlins Club planned to celebrate its 19th birthday that month and Mrs Rolfe of Chapel Lane celebrated her 90th birthday (so she was born in 1880). For the Cricket Club Charlie Rose was named best player, having taken over 50 wickets in that season. The Evening WI were holding a jumble sale and the Afternoon WI a demonstration on 'How to make Christmas Crackers' whilst the Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts all met at 'the Hut'. A full copy of the first edition is available on the Church website at www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk



I wonder what John Cunningham would make of the village newsletter today? It has acquired a new name, a new shape and a very different look - there were no pictures or graphics in those early days, and certainly no possibility of a colour edition to celebrate it's half century! I hope he would be pleased to see that his innovation has stood the test of time. I like to think that he would approve of the name, enjoy the content, smile at the jokes, and forgive me for Yellow Rabbit. *Julia Douetil, Editor*

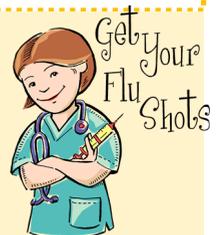
PIRBRIGHT SURGERY Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations are by appointment at the surgery this year. Please arrange a time online using Patient Access or by speaking to one of the reception team.

- all over 65s

- all 2-3 year olds

- 4-64 year olds who are in an at-risk group or living with someone in the Covid shielding group



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH



Just a thought.....

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Perinews, I am struck by words of the Vicar of Pirbright, which he penned for his first Newsletter fifty years ago this month. It seems that the Newsletter was initially set up as a means to bring people together, as Reverend Cunningham encouraged villagers to 'belong' and not to 'shut themselves away in their little gardens' or 'within the small group who happens to be their friends'. In the welcome, he said that loneliness was one of the tragedies of the age. Fifty years later, loneliness remains a tragedy of our time, not so much due to the 'new found amenities of life' mentioned by him, but mostly due to family members moving away.



It seems that the Newsletter was developed to encourage a sense of belonging, of gathering around a common purpose, with each person playing their part to help to overcome the loneliness of village life. Fifty years on, looking back, it seems that he may have achieved that goal. Pirbright remains a picturesque 'protected' village, and the sense of belonging is palpable. Fast forward to October 2020, following several months of being shut away in our homes, with or without family, people were gradually emerging from the externally imposed loneliness. However, as a result of the recent upward trend in Covid-19 infections in hotspots across the UK, new Government rules forbid social gatherings of more than six people at any one time.

This global pandemic challenges our very sense of 'belonging'. It forces us to rethink our core values, as well as what it means to live alongside people as if we didn't belong, socially distanced two metres apart, and wearing masks, even in church. Much has changed over the years, yet things have remained constant. Reverend Cunningham said that 'it is up to us to preserve that which is of value to us'. Over the years, you, the people of Pirbright village have done just that, preserving the Newsletter and continuing to build community. I believe that you are held by the love of God expressed in the mission of the church, which still stands today as a beacon of light, love and acceptance where all continue to be welcomed. I wonder what Reverend Cunningham would make of it all.

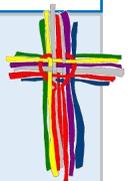


Rev Bev Hunt, October 2020

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

- Sunday 4th - 10.00am Harvest celebration Via Zoom only, no Service in Church
- Sunday 11th - 10.00am Holy Communion In Church linked to Zoom
- Sunday 18th - 10.00am Holy Communion In Church linked to Zoom
- Sunday 25th - 10.00am Holy Communion In Church linked to Zoom

For full details of all services and how to participate, both in the church and on line, contact Caroline Bewes on 01483 289123, or go to www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk



VACANCY FOR CHURCH TREASURER

Our Church Treasurer, Neil Strathdee, who has given us sterling service for 12 years has indicated that he would like to hand over the reins in the near future. With one or two practical changes during lockdown and beyond, we are looking for a retired accountant who will bring their skills to the

PCC and who would like to serve their community in this key role. Neil will be on hand to advise and help!

Please contact Catherine Cobley for a chat to find out more on 481234/07947 032210



A PIRBRIGHT YEAR IN ART

There has been a very exciting response to the idea of a book celebrating a year in the life of Pirbright in art. Local artists and crafters are invited to participate in this celebration of the life of our community, the people, places and events that make Pirbright special. If you would like to be a part of this project, and help to raise much needed funds for our beautiful old local church, please contact Helen Whitworth 07777659138 helenwelliewhitworth@btinternet.com by the end of October.



WASHABLE AND REUSABLE FACEMASKS

Buy your washable, reusable cotton face masks, in a wide range of attractive colours and prints and help to support our lovely old church. Buy a few so that you always have a clean one to wear, or one to match your outfit. In two styles, letterbox style at £3 and fitted cup style at £5 each. For more information and selection of fabrics go to <https://www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk/masks.htm> or phone Helen on 07777 659 138 All proceeds the Church.



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT

Warmest wishes for long life and happiness together to Richard and Joanna Biggers following their wedding in September.



REMEMBERING DERRICK SEARLE

Thanks to the efforts of family and friends a beautiful new bench has been installed on the village green in memory of Derrick Searle. The picture shows Kath Searle modelling the new bench. *(Read more about Derrick on page 6)*

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL



Presentation to retired Parish Clerk

With all of the restrictions imposed on gatherings this year, Councillors had to wait for a suitable opportunity to mark Lindsay's retirement after 18 years as Parish Clerk. In this time Lindsay has served the Parish Council well, and has deftly applied her knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to serving the people of Pirkbright, a role that often goes unnoticed and unsung but which has been vital in keeping the wheels turning and keeping our Parish and our community informed and in good shape. Options to mark the occasion were somewhat limited, but on a beautiful evening in August members of the Parish Council recorded their personal thanks with a small gathering at the Manor House, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Swinney, where Lindsay was presented with a painting of the pond and village green by former local artist David Deamer.



Save our streams

Please help us to safeguard our water-courses and roadside drains by thinking twice before leaving garden waste and grass clippings on their banks. We are all too familiar with the consequences of flooding in the village. We rely on the drains and streams during heavy rainfall but garden waste is a common cause of blockages. Nutrients from grass clippings can leach into streams, upsetting the ecological balance and depriving native plants and wildlife of oxygen. Good reasons to dispose of garden waste responsibly!

Parking Problems

Efforts to tackle inappropriate parking and speeding within the village have been the focus of a series of meetings with stakeholders. The Council are now considering further measures which may be taken.

Groundsman / Caretaker to Lord Pirkbright's Hall (part time)

We are seeking a reliable and hardworking individual, ideally coming from a groundsman/maintenance background to join our small and friendly team. 10 hours per week, generally 7.30am – 9am, 6 days a week but with some occasional late evening work by prior arrangement. We need someone with a positive "can do" attitude, training can be provided. £12 per hour with a pension scheme and holiday pay.

To find out more, email clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk or call 01483 797840. A full job description can be found on the Council's website <https://pirbright-pc.gov.uk/news>

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

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

Parish website www.pirkbright-pc.gov.uk

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

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

As the new academic year commences, it isn't only students who are on the look-out for new housemates. At Cunningham House, we have a vacancy for a unique house share of the non-student variety. Plus points of our house-share are: all-inclusive bills (except for the phone bill which is all your own, so no going through the bill trying to work out who rang which number); a cleaner and gardener, (so no cleaning rotas in this house!); a cook who serves housemates lunch and dinner in the communal dining room (you get your own breakfast so no having to be up in time to get the last drop of milk or left with the crumbs of the cereal packet) and the cook washes up too (so no mouldy crockery piling up in the sink or hunting for a clean knife and fork). Our residents are all graduates from the University of Life of the Octo and Nona variety. Our entry requirements for new residents are to be a fellow octo/nonagenarian, in sound mind, and ability to offer friendly and sociable company. If you would like to apply to be a Cunningham House housemate, please contact Lucy on 488751 or visit our website www.cunninghamhouse.co.uk.



And to our younger Pirbright residents who are starting university and experiencing house shares for the first time, we wish you Good Luck! And contact the number above on top tips for surviving the younger generation of house shares!

Lucy Beasley

PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

Things may look a little different with social distancing, sanitising and Track and Trace; but you will still find our usual range of baked items, garden produce and plants, preserves and Pirbright honey, together with an outstanding range of greetings

cards and crafts.

Come and see what we have produced just for you, every Thursday between 10am and 11.15am in Lord Pirbright's Hall.

Rosemary Richmond



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PIRBRIGHT

As we approach Remembrance Day, could I ask if anyone would volunteer to help put up the poppies on the lampposts during October? We do not ask you to do too many, and any help would be appreciated. Please contact me if you are able to help. Thank you.

Anne Hawkins. Tel: 01252 404276

KEEPING FIT

The word 'aerobics' was invented when gym instructors got together and said: "If we're going to charge £20 an hour, we can't call it Jumping Up and Down."



If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one.

LIZZIE IN LOCKDOWN

Lizzie realised that no Halloween costume could compare with what we have got used to during the corona virus crisis.



PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS: Ellacombe Chimes



ELLACOMBE CHIMING APPARATUS.

Further to last month's story of the restoration of the chiming mechanism in the church, we searched the archive and found Derrick Searle's memory of being allowed to ring the chimes when he was a lad, just before or during WW2. There were cards with the notes printed and you could play hymn tunes, like 'Now the Day is Over'. But with only six notes what you could play was very limited. Derrick recalls another local boy suggesting a tune that would work on six notes, 'Whistle While You Work', so the two boys gave it a go. Unfortunately a lady coming to church recognised it, and complained to the Vicar that dance tunes were being played on the church bells.

Needless to say, they both got a severe telling off.

PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

www.pirbrighttennisclub.com

In September we held our 1st Club night since lock-down and it was great to see some social tennis of mixed, men's and ladies doubles. We hope that more of our new members will join this weekly event.

The ladies doubles club winter league will recommence in October and the men's Box leagues will continue throughout the winter.

Book courts on our website. Play with social distancing and hygiene following government and LTA's guidelines. See the LTA's advice: www.lta.org.uk

Club Nights: every Tuesday from 6:30pm. All welcome.

Coaching and Re-stringing:

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

New membership: Monika Driscoll:
driscollmonika@gmail.com



PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

When you read this of course the season (what there was of it) will have ended. dwindled... I will report on the remainder... but I must draw the villagers attention to Ollie Percival from Chapel Lane who was drafted in late to play in the traditional game against Phene Philanders (50 years old fixture, is it a record?). In story book fashion he amassed a fabulous century... Ollie, the village is proud of you!! No doubt 31st of August will remain with you forever.

I feel I must reveal my identity and will no longer masquerade as Alistair Cook!!

I will now revert to Peter Austin
Chairman of PCC



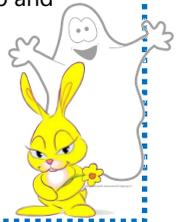
PS I can not let a special anniversary go without mention... Charlie Parker was born 100 years ago, not the batsman of yesteryear but the Jazz Saxophonist.
Bird Lives!

CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

It was the night of Halloween. The churchyard was very, very dark and quiet as the grave. All the young animals sat huddled together, feeling far from brave. Suddenly everyone froze as a small white figure appeared at the end of the church path. The animals watched in horror as it drifted silently down the path, glowing slightly in the moonlight. For a moment the animals were struck dumb, they could only watch as the figure disappeared through the churchyard wall. Then, as if freed from a spell, the baby rabbits bolted, the squirrels scarpared and the mice skiddaddled. Me? I just laughed! I had heard the children talking about trick or treating, where they all dress up and visit houses hoping for treats. They had certainly fooled the other animals!

So the next day, when the children came to visit the churchyard, I told them about how they had scared the silly animals. But instead of laughing, the children looked puzzled. 'We didn't come this way,' they said, 'it's much too spooky at night.' I think I may have turned a little pale.

Yellow Rabbit



OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Bulbs glorious bulbs. Now is the time to buy and plant bulbs for spring displays. Life might not be back to normal but at least we can add some colour and enjoyment to our gardens. Why not think about adding some pots of winter colour, such as heathers, pansies, violas and cyclamen. All the overgrown clumps of herbaceous perennials that you have been saying this summer need to be split, now is the time to do it, as the plants are dying down for the winter. Don't worry if you aren't able to do them all, some can wait until the spring.

Cut back asparagus foliage as it yellows and dies. Harvest pumpkins and squashes before the first frosts. Plant autumn onions, leeks and garlic. Apply grease bands to fruit trees to protect them from winter moth. Sow batches of broad beans and peas for early cropping next year. Cut fruited stems of blackberries and autumn raspberries down to the ground.

Net ponds to prevent autumn leaves falling in. Regularly rake and clear fallen leaves off lawns. Complete scarifying, aeration and topdressing. This month is a good month for laying turf if it hasn't turned too cold.



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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES NEWS, OCTOBER 1970



★ **Pirbright Astronomical Society:** Following last year's successful moon walk, the society has started fundraising for a visit to the planned Lunar Hotel, expected to be open for business in the year 2000. Said a member 'The new millennium seems a life-time away, but by then space tourism will be open to everyone and we want to be ready!'

Pirbright Automobile Club: Members were thrilled by a demonstration of the exciting new Hillman Avenger. 'This is the car of the future,' said one member, though another felt it would never compete with the sleek lines and cool looks of the Ford Cortina. The evening's raffle sold well due to hot competition for a pair of string backed driving gloves.



Pirbright Computer Club: Members enjoyed a thrilling game of Pong in which players compete in a simulated tennis tournament, adroitly moving paddles up and down to strike a moving 'ball' back and forth across the screen to the opposing player. News of the invention of a new computer chip called Intel failed to raise much enthusiasm, 'It will never catch on' was the unanimous verdict, and the invitation to invest in INTEL processors was declined.

The Parish Council Decimalisation Committee has been working overtime to prepare the village for next February when the nation changes to the continental decimal system. As we wave goodbye to pounds, shillings and pence the village must also embrace decimal weights and measures. Residents were reassured that, in a few short months, litres, kilos and kilometres will have erased all memory of the old fashioned pints, pounds and miles. There was some discussion as to whether a Baker's Dozen would become 11, a cricket over would be 5 and whether the WI Market would have to stop selling eggs by the half dozen and invest in five-egg boxes. However, they were able to reassure younger parishioners that, whilst guineas will cease to exist, Guinea pigs will be unaffected by the change.



The Church Finance Committee reported that the church collection has received a very large number of half crowns lately. They wish to remind the congregation that half crowns ceased to be legal tender last January. The Treasurer added, 'Ten bob notes will also cease to be legal currency next month, but no-one ever gave us those anyway.'

Pirbright Royalists were out in force when the world's most eligible bachelor drove through the village. Prince Charles was travelling to Portsmouth, where he has recently joined the Royal Navy, but was disappointed to find that the traditional daily ration of grog was abolished in July.



Pirbright Fine Wine Association enjoyed a very successful tasting evening, featuring Blue Nun, Black Tower and Mateus Rose. At the end of the evening, any members still standing repaired to the pub for a palate cleansing glass of Watney's Red Barrel.

Situation wanted: Owing to the imminent breakup of his pop group, local drummer seeks a new band to play with. References available. Please contact Mr Ringo Starr at

Editor: Julia Douetil, julia.douetil@gmail.com Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ. Please send copy for November **by 8th October**. 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.