



## KEEP ACTIVE, KEEP SMILING, KEEP SAFE

### **PIRBRIGHT ARTS: live and virtual arts curated for you and your community**

The year round programme of events featuring internationally recognised artists from the world of music, theatre and art, is back!

Covid restrictions mean events are now being live streamed from Pirbright, but the message hasn't changed, *Pirbright Arts - live and virtual arts curated for you and your community*. The stellar line-up includes broadcasting legend John Suchet, opera singers Nicky Spence, Anna Patalong and Ben Nelson, virtuoso jazz trumpeter Enrico Tomasso, a world debut by Pirbright Arts Chamber Ensemble and a rock 'n' roll extravaganza featuring drumming hero Steve White, and much, much more. There will be strong collaborations with local schools and community groups including a children's concert celebrating Beethoven, a drumming workshop, an introduction to Broadway-style dance routines for all ages and an art project with Turner prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger. For all information and to book tickets please go to [pirbrightarts.com](http://pirbrightarts.com)

*Mick Doran Director, Pirbright Arts*



A Pirbright resident called the RSPCA to report that he had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs.



"That's terrible," said the RSPCA Officer. "Are they moving?"

"I'm not sure, to be honest," he replied, "But that would explain the suitcase."

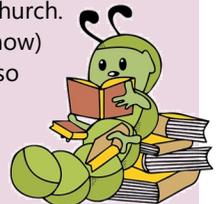
### **PERIBOOKS: the Pirbright book swap**

As we are all back to being stuck at home, and this time without the lovely weather to encourage us out into our gardens, escape into a good book is more welcome than ever. The Pirbright book swap has been a great success, with a brisk turnover of books so that there is always something new to read. If you have any good reads to share, please bring them along to the little sentry box in Blind Lane, just behind the church.

Novels seem to be the most popular (we all need a little escapism just now) but as children won't be in school accessing their school libraries, we also need up-to-date, good condition books for children and young people.

*Don't forget to quarantine your books and wash your hands after using the book swap.*

*Julia and Phil Douetil*



# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH



## *Just a thought.....*

### **New life and hope.**

It is hard to believe that spring will be with us in a few weeks, bringing new life. Already there are signs as buds appear and green shoots burst forth from bulbs hidden beneath the soil. It is as if there is a strong surge of energy in the cold dark earth, giving birth to God's creation, hope in the future, and reminding us that life lives on, even in unexpected places. During the first lockdown, I am sure that, like me, many of you found it incredibly challenging to understand what was going on across the world. Since then, many people have taken some comfort from their memories of the birdsong, clear blue skies, green grass, and beautiful flowers. Many reconnected with God's sacred creation through gardening and talking walks.

With the return of restrictions, many of us are left with feelings of déjà vu. Yet again, we are isolated and separated from loved ones. When we experience difficult times, we may feel as if God is not with us. But just as God sent his angels to support and strengthen Jesus who was isolated and tested in the wilderness, so Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and help us



through the difficulties we encounter.

William Wordsworth's poem: *'Daffodils'*, tells how we might recall some of the joys of yesterday in our living today. Wordsworth was taking a leisurely walk when he came across:

*"... a host of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze".*

At the time he *'gazed and gazed'* at them with little thought about the richness of the experience. It was only afterwards, when reflecting on it, that he seemed to become acutely aware of the treasure contained in his memory of those daffodils. He wrote:

*"For oft when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude,  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the Daffodils."*

We can learn from both good and bad memories, but it is important that we do not dwell on the negative ones. Like Wordsworth, we too can cast an inward eye of reflection on memories that help us to express the happiness within. Such memories can be life-giving and bring us hope, peace, love and joy. Our ultimate hope is in Jesus. For Christians, this means that we have hope in the present, and the knowledge that we are not alone. Hope in the past, that we are forgiven. And hope in the future, which is the assurance that Jesus is with us always even to the end of time and calls us to life eternal. So, let us take heart, and look beyond our immediate circumstances to see the new life and hope that God holds out to us. Rev Bev

**Contact Rev Bev** 07495 395225 [revbev.stmaa@gmail.com](mailto:revbev.stmaa@gmail.com)

**Church Wardens** Catherine and Helen, [churchwardens@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@pirbrightchurch.org.uk)

## CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

Cunningham House residents and staff are waiting with baited breath and cautious optimism to be called up for their Covid-19 vaccination. As we are not a care home, but an independent living establishment, we aren't at the top of the list for a vaccine, but despite not needing full time care, the residents are still very vulnerable due to age and underlying health conditions, so it shouldn't be too long before they are called up.

Whilst the vaccine won't be an overnight ticket to freedom, it does offer hope that we will soon be able to hug our relatives, invite visitors into the house and go out for a coffee again.



**WE WILL  
DEFEAT  
THIS**

And as the vaccination programme rolls out, it will enable us to accept new residents safely. We have a room available, so if the isolation of Covid has been particularly tough to bear, or you have a relative who would benefit from living nearer to you, please do get in touch on 01483 488751 or email [cunninghamhousepirbright@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamhousepirbright@gmail.com).

## ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ—THE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to all our winners:

First three out of the hat at with least one question correct:

1st £200 – Peter Skinner; 2nd £100 – Philip Lawson; 3rd £50 – Catherine Cobley

A magnum of champagne (first out of the hat with 4 sections correct) Kim McKone

A case of wine (first out of the hat of six with joint highest score) - Emma Beasley

A special Thank you to everyone who contributed with donations or gave prizes, the quiz raised close to £1000 for the church.



## CHURCH PLANT SALE AND GARDEN WALKS 9th—10th May

Calling all growers! Please help your village church by growing just a few extra plants for us. And could you help us on the day? Your local knowledge and experience are invaluable to new growers. Contact Helen [socialandfundraising@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:socialandfundraising@pirbrightchurch.org.uk) .



## VACANCY FOR A SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

St Michael's is seeking a safeguarding enthusiast to advise us on all things safeguarding. Although a relatively small parish, we view this as a vital voluntary role for our church

community. Our retiring Safeguarding Officer, Mary Straker, very happy to shadow and help, and the Guildford Diocese also has an excellent mentoring scheme to provide an experienced PSO to work alongside as a 'buddy'. Contact Catherine Cobley on 481234 or 07947 32210.



## CHURCH SERVICES in February

Currently all services are on Zoom only until guidance changes. Everyone is very welcome to join from home these special services which are suitable for all ages. If you are not on our weekly church emailing list contact Caroline Bews on [services@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:services@pirbrightchurch.org.uk) or 289123 for details of how to join. Look out for the weekly information on our website - [pirbrightchurch.org.uk](http://pirbrightchurch.org.uk). We can also deliver this information by (very carefully sanitised) hand if needed.



# PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL



## Pirbright Community

It's been a difficult start to the year and Pirbright Parish has sadly not escaped the worst effects of the coronavirus. We all extend our deepest sympathies to those who have lost friends or loved ones during this awful crisis. We must all continue to support those around us who are still isolating and may need that extra call or help, those key workers putting in endless hours and those who cannot currently work at all. Whether it's volunteers delivering Christmas parcels, doing others' shopping, even litter picking or just being there, community spirit has been strong. January has been a difficult month, but as we move into February the shoots of Spring seem ever closer and hopefully, with increasing vaccinations and if we all continue to stay home and stay safe for a little longer, we can soon put the worst behind us and look forward to the rest of 2021. Pirbright



Is a wonderful Parish and we are lucky that we can take our daily exercise in a place that, even in winter, offers so many wonderful footpaths, woodland and heath where we can take comfort and enjoy-

ment from the natural world around us. The space and freedom of this wonderful environment gives us all valuable rays of light in dark times. The Parish Council continues with presenting the precept to Guildford and helping the football and cricket clubs with the bid for the new community pavilion, so hopefully 2021 may deliver us some good news ahead.

*Steve Fidgett,*

## News from Lord Pirbright's Hall

In common with other venues, the Hall is closed to most activities, but we have been caring for it by keeping it clean, heating it to prevent damp and condensation and carrying out minor roof repairs. The skip has proved a boon for clearing litter from the recreation ground and village green. We have also found a new place above the door in the Main Hall to hang the clock that was restored by a local enthusiast. In the Clubroom we have hung the clock gifted to the late Tom Forbes, a former Clerk to the Parish Council, on his retirement, and donated back to us by his family. Fortunately Roy, our caretaker, is a keen amateur horologist, who will be able to wind both clocks and provide the t.l.c required.

*Lindsay Graham*

**Pirbright Parish Council Chair:** Steve Fidgett, [sdfidgett@icloud.com](mailto:sdfidgett@icloud.com), 07785 978817

**Parish Clerk:** Helen Myers, [clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk) 07485 411214

**Parish website** [www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk](http://www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk)

**Lord Pirbright's Hall** Lindsay Graham [lp@pirbright-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lp@pirbright-pc.gov.uk) tel 01483 476432

## PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT OUR CRICKET PITCH

Our Village Green has been invaluable this year, as a safe open space and, for many, a release from being cooped up at home. But the cricket pavilion, square covers and pitch are not play areas, and are easily damaged. Please help to support our team and protect one of our community's greatest assets by keeping children away from the cricket area. And if you see any vandalism, please do it report it to the police. Thank you



*"Crease is still a bit damp."*



**PIRBRIGHT SUMMER FAIR: June 12th**

**Pirbright on Sea!**

If one thing is for sure, it is that we all need something to look forward to in 2021! So let's all allow ourselves to dream a little, of a fun day out for the whole family, with stalls, rides, entertainments and games. Let's imagine dressing up and live music, ice-creams and sausages in buns, performing dogs and bouncy castles. Now join us in making our dreams a reality, Contact [pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com](mailto:pirbright-summer-event@hotmail.com) or tel 01483 476432 and start planning your display or stall.

**PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Christmas competition:**

The winners were:

Best decorated Christmas tree:

Jadwiga and Jimmy Grimshaw

Best Christmas table decoration:

Anne Hawkins

Best door wreath: Joint winners:

Emma Ruby and Romy Read

Thank you all for taking part.

Unfortunately I am still unable to give a date for the resumption of our meetings but there is hope on the horizon so think positive and sooner rather than later, in the words of Vera Lynn, 'we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when.'

*Philip Barralet*

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION,  
Pirbright Branch.**



Our 2021 Annual Dinner is currently scheduled for 8th May.

Please put the date in your diary, but be aware we may still have to reschedule depending on the COVID-19 situation.

*Anne Hawkins*

**PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET**

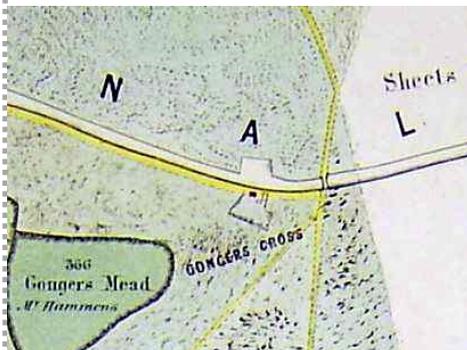
Regretfully we have taken the decision to remain closed until there is a clearer picture of the Covid infection rate and the vaccination programme. The committee will keep this under regular review. In the meantime take care and stay safe.

*Rosemary Richmond*

**PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS**

Have you ever wondered why there's a kink in Gole Road just before the Brookwood Arch? No, nor me, until I came across an explanation in Mary Cawthorn's admirable history of Pirbright the other day. Apparently there was once an ancient boundary stone of Woking Manor called Gongers Cross here---, shown on this map of 1805. This is the last time it appears, as by the time of the Tithe Map in 1841, the railway had just been built and the stone had disappeared, maybe under the embankment. It's a great deal more ancient than this, though, being mentioned as Congwera in a deed of Peter de Pyrbrit in about 1220. Although the name isn't recorded in the Domesday Book, at this time Pirbright was part of Woking, which comprised a Church Manor & a King's Manor, where the kingsfolk or congwera lived. So the next time you have to wait for those pesky traffic lights, spare a thought for the Saxon ancestors who must have passed this way almost 1000 years ago.

Jonathan Foster: [jonathan@pirbright.info](mailto:jonathan@pirbright.info)



## FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Complete pruning climbing and bush roses before new growth becomes too strong. Once winter flowering heathers have finished, trim them back with shears to the base of flower stalks. Cut back ornamental grasses and other perennials left for winter interest. Prune shrubs hard such as Cornus and Salix grown for winter coloured stems. Winter flowering jasmine can be pruned after it has finished flowering. Take out any dead or damaged wood, then tie in any stems needed to extend the framework, then shorten side shoots to 5cm from main framework.

Topdress beds and borders with a balanced fertiliser. Prune late summer flowering shrubs such as Buddleia, Lavatera and Fuchsia hard. These produce best show of flowers on wood made from spring onwards, so cutting them now encourages plenty of new growth. Try and finish pruning apple and pear trees by the end of the month. Cut autumn raspberry canes to ground level ensuring you leave no stumps to harbour diseases. Prune out a quarter of blackcurrant older growth at ground level.

Sow aubergines, tomatoes, chilli, celery, cabbage and leeks in the greenhouse, and peas, parsnips, shallots and onion sets outside. Group 2 and Group 3 Clematis should be pruned now. Group 2 comprises the large-flowered cultivars that flower in May to June on short shoots developing from the previous year's growth. Prune them by removing any dead or weak stems before growth begins. Check individual stems from the top down until you reach a pair of healthy buds, and prune just above them, removing the spindly or damaged growth above. Avoid heavy pruning or flowers will be lost. Group 3 comprises clematis that flower from mid- to late summer on the terminal 60cm (2ft) or so of the current year's growth. Prune these by cutting back all the old stems to the lowest pair of healthy buds 15-30cm (6in-1ft) above soil level.



One way to find out if you're old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're young. If they panic and start running toward you, you're old.



### PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

[www.pirbrighttennisclub.com](http://www.pirbrighttennisclub.com)

At the time of writing we're all in a national lockdown. This means our tennis club is closed and no tennis is allowed until government restrictions are lifted. Members will be informed when it is safe to play again. Please visit our website's home page for the latest news. For advice from the LTA contact [lta.org.uk](mailto:lta.org.uk)



cricket ground in Pirbright? I believe there is or was a ground up Mill Lane.... Please can anyone offering such information email me at [peteraustin649@gmail.com](mailto:peteraustin649@gmail.com)

Our AGM was held by Zoom earlier this month and sadly we said goodbye to Simon "Siggy" Gray as secretary. We thank him for his time and patience and are relieved he will still be in close touch as a vital member of PCC The Club is preparing for a post Covid era though it is hard imagine at present!!

Stay safe folks and let's keep positive. Hopefully the end is in sight

Peter Austin



## CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

Well here we are again back to home schooling. The little rabbits have been practising their times tables (rabbits have always been good at multiplying). The birds practised weaving, which is not so easy with a beak but you only have to look at one of their nest linings to see what clever weavers they are. I think the squirrels have set up a card school, which isn't at all the idea. So for a bit of fun I suggested we all try a different animal's skill.

Possibly not my best idea... teaching the mice multiplication has got a little out of hand. Like the old woman who lived in the shoe, there are now so many mouselets we don't know what to do! Teaching the squirrels weaving was a mixed blessing, before we knew it, the entire squirrel family were trussed up like a set of Egyptian mummies. Of course we quickly came to their rescue..... although the peace and quiet in the churchyard without the pesky squirrels dashing around the place was so pleasant that freeing them might have taken a little longer than strictly necessary...

*Yellow Rabbit*



## LIZZIE IN LOCKDOWN

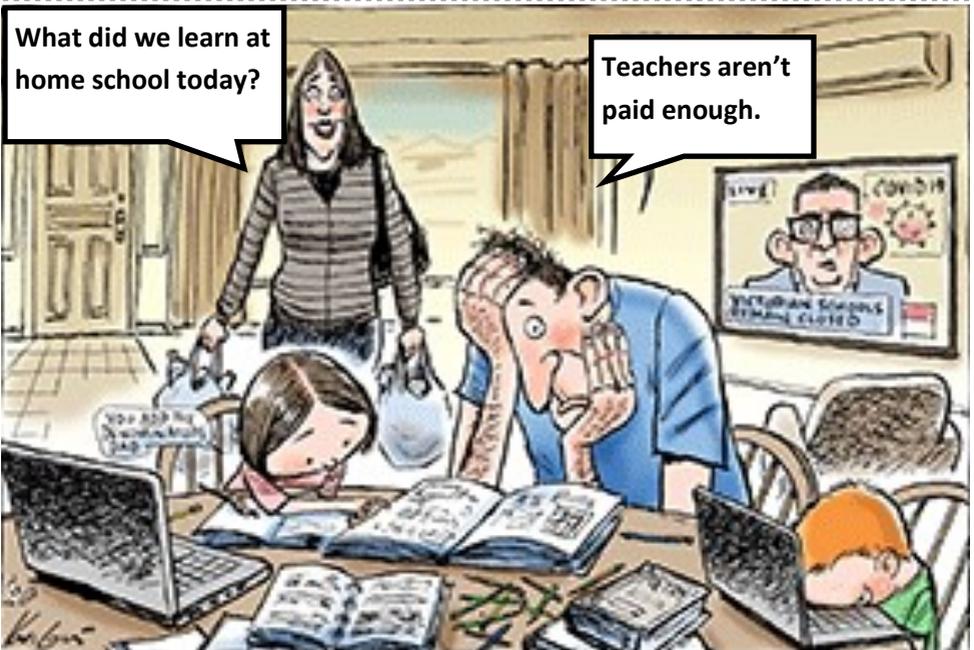
Lizzie hadn't worn a skirt and heels for months ....



.... and she couldn't help thinking there was something she had forgotten

What did we learn at home school today?

Teachers aren't paid enough.



## PIRBRIGHT NEWS FEBRUARY 2021 - just when you thought things couldn't get more crazy

**St Michael's Church:** services on zoom are proving very popular, in spite of a few little hiccoughs, such as the recent baptism. But the family are getting used to their daughter being accidentally renamed Amy Stella Mew, after the response to the question 'What name is given to this child?' was 'Am I still on mute?'

**Pirbright Surgery** broke all records for the number of people given the Covid vaccination in a single day, thanks to assistance from the Pirbright Darts Team..

**Pirbright Horticultural Society:** Following their very popular visit to Hampton Court last year, the Horticultural Society's challenge 'Grow your own Maze' competition was won by Mr Grimshaw. Mr Grimshaw has yet to claim his prize. In fact, has anyone seen Mr Grimshaw recently?



**Rawlins Club:** The talk on 'MI6 and the work of Intelligence Operatives' was very well received though members were shocked to discover a Russian mole in their midst, especially when he proceeded to hold the meeting to ransom with his contribution to the raffle, a phial of Novichok. Fortunately National Security and World Peace were restored by Mrs Beasley with a well aimed rock bun.

**Cunningham House:** Residents are observing lockdown guidance very carefully. However, the stay at home rule has made easier by the creation of a gin distillery.

**Pirbright Historians:** The secret of the Historian's meticulous research into Pirbright's past is revealed. The telephone box on the Village Green is in fact a time machine. The glass sided telephone box allows the travellers a good view out, whilst having the advantage of being arrow and pitchfork proof, "though that swipe from a dinosaur's tail the other week was a little uncomfortable" they said.



**Pirbright Primary School Therapy Farm** latest residents are proving popular with children and locals alike. The giraffes came in very handy for changing the light bulbs in the village hall, and taking the elephants to bathe in the village pond has become a popular tourist attraction.

**Pirbright Aspiration and Achievement Society** met to discuss motivation. In order to achieve perfection, instead of a To Do list, members keep a To Don't List. They simply write down all the things they were *not* going to do, then don't do them. 100% success rate every time.

**Pirbright Brownies** held a special training session for their Self Defence badge, led by the Pirbright Militia. Unfortunately things got a little out of hand but the Militia expect to be back on their feet soon.

**Pirbright Pancake Races** were won by a large black Labrador, who managed to steal four dropped pancakes. The ladies were not amused.



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