



St Michael & All Angels Church  
Pirbright Parish Council

# Peri News



No 627

December 2022

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS



**COMMUNITY  
CAROLS**

16th December  
Page 3

**PIRBRIGHT  
SINGERS  
IN CONCERT**

3rd December  
Page 3

**VILLAGE HALL  
LIGHTS  
& ART SHOW**  
3-4 December  
Page 4

**VILLAGE  
PANTOMIME**  
10-11th  
December  
Page 8

**SCHOOL  
WINTER TRAIL**  
9-30 December  
See flier

## ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

*Just a thought.....*



### Unconditional Love

There are surely few people who can fail to have been moved by the coverage of former rugby league player Rob Burrow as he battles against the cruel and as yet incurable motor neurone disease.

The unconditional love and support shown by Rob's wife, children and former team mate Kevin Sinfield have shone out of every TV broadcast and interview.



In many ways that is unsurprising. It is the same sort of unconditional love that we see regularly on other TV programmes too – film of penguin parents struggling miles over land to hunt for food, leaving their chicks in the warmth of the other parent's pouch; film of all sorts of other animals putting their own lives very much on the line to protect their young. During the Covid lockdown many people acquired a dog to keep them company. Dogs offer their owners that same unconditional love, and it is so sad that many of them are now

being abandoned because their owners no longer have the time, or the novelty has worn off. How very human that is!

Sadly it is that 'human touch' that makes the unconditional love shown by Rob Burrow's family – and others – so surprising, because it is so seldom seen, never mind celebrated.

As we approach Christmas, many of us will be thinking about getting together with family and friends to share the joys of the season and giving and receiving the almost unconditional love that goes with Christmas. 'Almost', because isn't it sometimes the case that we don't offer gifts to some distant relative or friend 'because they didn't last year'?

But there are other folk who always show their unconditional love for any and every person who might really need it. We all know someone like that, don't we? I certainly do.

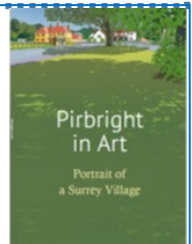
Christmas marks the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago. Jesus, the Son of God, who 'so loved the world that he gave his only Son' to save us from ourselves. God still offers all of us that unconditional love; all we have to do is reach out to him.

On behalf of all the team at St Michael & All Angels, I wish you all a very happy and love-filled Christmas.

*Rev'd Gary Williamson*

### LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

If you missed your chance to buy Pirbright in Art last year, there are still a few copies remaining. This glorious celebration of our village costs just £10 and is perfect to say Thinking of You, Thank You or simply Happy Christmas. Every penny raised helps our village church. Contact Helen Whitworth 07777659138 [helen-churchwarden@pirbrightchurch.org.uk](mailto:helen-churchwarden@pirbrightchurch.org.uk)



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
IN THE CHURCHYARD**  
**Friday 16th December 6pm**

*Tis the season to be jolly...*

*Fa la la la la la la la*

**Join us from 6pm for jolly Carol singing,  
mulled wine and hot chocolate to warm  
you, hot sausage rolls and mince pies to  
nourish you, all wrapped up with a  
special visit from someone special!**

**Bring a torch  
All profits to Crisis at Christmas**



**PIRBRIGHT SINGERS IN CONCERT**  
**"O Holy Night"**

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm**

Do you love the sound of festive music and carols to get you in the mood for Christmas? Come and join us for a wonderful evening of joyful and festive Christmas music performed by the

**Pirbright Singers**

at St Michael & All Angels Church.

Tickets are available on the door at £10 per person (children under 12 years free). Doors open at 7pm and tickets allocated first come first served with payment by cash or card.



**CHURCH FLOWERS COFFEE MORNING**  
**Saturday Dec 3rd 10am**

The official start of Christmas in Pirbright! With coffee and mince pies, a raffle, a Christmas cake to be won and gifts for sale, all to raise funds for the flowers and decorations in the church at Christmas and throughout the year.



**LOVED ONES SERVICE AND TEA**  
**Sunday Dec 11th 4:30 pm**



Christmas can be an especially difficult time for those who have lost a loved one, whether recently or long ago. This gentle service is an opportunity to reflect, give thanks and remember those we have loved, who can no longer share Christmas with us. Followed by a sociable tea.

**COMING UP IN 2023**

**New Year's Lunch, Saturday 14th January** - after the excitement of Christmas, face the new year in the company of friends old and new with an informal lunch in the church room. Details in the January PeriNews.



**Film Night, Friday 27th January**—following the success of Paddington Bear (and the revelation of just how amazing the church's sound system is!) we will hold a second film night in January. It will be another family friendly film, with snacks for children and a bar for the adults. In these difficult times, we want all families to be able to enjoy an evening out together so tickets will be on a Pay What You Can basis. Details in January.

**CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT**

We welcome Fergus Harrison, Mathilda Sinclair and Octavia Gurney to the Family of God following their Baptisms. Our thoughts are with the Hopson family following the death of Sue Hopson.



## PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to wish all its Parishioners a peaceful Christmas this year, hopefully spent with family and friends and in good spirits. Let's raise a toast to 2022, bid farewell and then welcome in 2023 with positivity and kindness.

### Christmas Switch-on of the LPH Lights

Come and join us for the Annual Switch-On at LPH on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm.** There will be burgers and waffles in the car park and Father Christmas himself will be our Guest of honour for the evening. He will be there to take messages back to the North Pole in time for Christmas and spread some festive cheer. Inside the Hall will be the chance to buy Christmas



wreaths, advent calendars, chocolates, puzzles, jewellery and a Christmas cake or two from Christmas' Bakery. We will also be serving hot mulled wine and boozy mince pies to start December off with a bang!

### Pavilion News

As you will have seen, progress with the provision of the new Community Sports Pavilion is now very real! The old pavilion which served the village well for many years was sadly demolished at the end of October. Key elements of the building

were saved for installation in the new pavilion, including the clock tower and weather vane, together with some of the benches in the building. Work progressed into November with foundation excavation and it is hoped that some of the superstructure will be up before Christmas, weather permitting. It is testament to the determination and hard work and of the late Derek Bytheway that this project has got so far and that the community will soon benefit from a building which supports a wide range of sports and recreational activities for all ages and abilities. More news to follow in the New Year!

**Thank you** to those who turned out for the Community Litter Pick on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. As the Parish Council are looking to hold regular sessions, we have acquired lots of new equipment. PPC will hold the next session in the Spring.

### Warm Hubs

With the cost of living crisis hitting hard, the Parish Council would like to spread the word about Warm Hubs provided by Guildford Borough Council. A link to locations can be found on the PPC website/ LATEST NEWS. And a reminder that the W.I. run a warm café at LPH every Thursday morning in the Club Room and would be happy to welcome anyone in from the cold with a hot drink and a warm welcome.



## PIRBRIGHT ART CLUB EXHIBITION *PIRBRIGHT ART CLUB!*

Our Annual Exhibition is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at Lord Pirbright's Hall. Open 10 -7pm Saturday (coinciding with the village hall lights switch-on, above) and 11am- 4pm Sunday. Many original paintings, prints & cards by our talented artists! Also visit our Craft Stalls for hand-made children's clothes, knitwear, jewellery, cakes & plants. Great gift ideas for Xmas! Free admission. Luxury raffle prizes. Café for visitors in the Clubroom. Also this year, we have a special art display by children from Pirbright Village Primary School. *Contact Maggie Read, 07977 552780 [pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com](mailto:pirbrightartclub@btconnect.com)*

## CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

After a Covid-induced much-longer-than-expected break from open house lunch events at Cunningham House, we are very pleased to be able to extend an invitation to local villagers who are alone over Christmas to join us for Boxing Day lunch on 26th December. If you would like to join us for a warming, post-Christmas lunch, please call Lucy on 488751. We also welcome visitors for Scrabble on 7th and a festive film on 14th, both starting 2:30pm. *Lucy 488751*



## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our December 13 meeting will be a brief AGM with seasonal refreshments, in a social festive evening. AGMs are important so we can hear your thoughts on how we run the Society. Do come so we can plan for next year, e.g. it has been suggested that perhaps we should bring the start time of our meetings to an earlier time of 7pm. What do you think?

*Philip Barralet, Chairman*

## PIRBRIGHT WI

There is no meeting this month as we are having a Christmas meal.

The WI serve refreshments in the Club Room on Thursday mornings 10-11.15am. Why not meet up & chat over coffee after visiting the Country Market.

## RAWLINS CLUB

Our Christmas Lunch is on Friday 9th December, 12:30 to 3:30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. *Denise Granger 472070*

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As we approach the festive season, we think of our members who may not enjoy such a good Christmas for whatever reason. If you know of a member or any service personnel who needs the Legion's help, please get in touch.

Our next meeting is on Monday, 13th December in The Fox at Fox Corner when Christmas jumpers will be worn. Please join us if you want to learn more about the Legion. *Anne Hawkins 01252 404276*

## PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

Lord Pirbright's Hall Thursdays 10.00 – 11.15 Whether it's mince pies or Christmas cake, your favourite savouries or preserves, that special gift or a festive planted basket, we have it all available in a friendly relaxed atmosphere. To help our producers please order your eggs, meat and Christmas food for collection on December 22<sup>nd</sup> which is our final Market before Christmas. We open again in the New Year on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>. *Rosemary Richmond*

## PIRBRIGHT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our popular Annual Quiz is back on Sunday 8th January at 6:30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. There will be our usual delicious home cooked buffet, including dietary options as required. Tickets from Jim Grimshaw ([trocha@clara.co.uk](mailto:trocha@clara.co.uk)) at £13 for members and £15 for non-members. Payment by bank transfer (BACS) to: Pirbright Twinning Association Sort code 30-99-80, A/C No. 01174367.

[Pirbrighttwinning.association@gmail.com](mailto:Pirbrighttwinning.association@gmail.com)

**Why** do reindeer have fur coats? Because they look silly in snow suits.

**I asked** my grandson why he was only wearing one wellie. He gave me one of his 'I'm so smart' looks. 'Because there's only a 50% chance of snow Grandma!'

**As the clock strikes midnight** on December 31st be sure to lift your left leg. That way you will start off the New Year on the right foot.

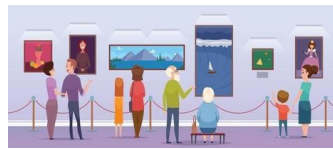




## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES—Quince Cottage Gallery

Just for now, the former Parish Shop on the Green has metamorphosed into The Quince Cottage Gallery, showcasing Pirbright's talented artists and crafters. It will be open on Saturdays from 10am – 2pm (and on other days by appointment), when you will be able to view and purchase the works of members of Pirbright Art Club, the Country Market and local cottage industries, including hand-made chocolates, jigsaw puzzles and etched glass.

For more information please contact Lindsay Graham on 01483 472157.



## PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

The Manor Court  
parchment tale from last

*James (son of Sarah Sherratt who resides with William Russell at the Stone Cottage upon the Hill above the late Admiral Byron's house)*

month continues with a 1781 marriage of William Skerrett to Sarah Bullen, but only 3 years later & clearly going downhill, the first of many payments to William was recorded in the Pirbright Overseers of the Poor book, culminating in 1787/8 with more to Sarah for clothes & shoes for her children. Life must have been desperate, but the 1788 baptism of illegitimate William Russell Sherratt still came as a surprise, followed by the above disapproving entry in 1793. William Russell was one of the stone-getters who dug Pirbright stone from the Common (see the church tower). He died in 1796, leaving his land & cottage in trust to eldest son William Russell Skirrett, letting mother Sarah live there for life & it was he who sold them in 1823 via the long-missing parchment which turned up in Sheffield.

*jonathan@pirbright.info*

## PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PirbrightTennisClub>



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Club Night Special  
Come and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and play tennis from 6.30pm.

Activities and Coaching: There are lots of activities and coaching throughout the winter. Members of whatever age or ability can play on our fabulous courts with flood-lights in the evening.

Save the Date for our Popular Quiz  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023: to reserve (or join) a table [ali.williams03@gmail.com](mailto:ali.williams03@gmail.com)

You can still join the club: for new membership contact Monika Driscoll [driscollmonika@gmail.com](mailto:driscollmonika@gmail.com)

Visit our website and Facebook for all activities and news  
*David Greenland*

## PIRBRIGHT CRICKET CLUB

Letter from Australia: Chairman's trip of six weeks in Australia has taken him to Brisbane, Perth and Darwin. It has been most enjoyable watching 20 20 cricket at Brisbane (cheating I saw some from Sydney on the television!) and some local games. Sadly it is now coming to an end, but it has reinforced something that all of us villagers (past, present and future) are inclined to take for granted....

Let's enjoy the village things happening in the near future in our village, not only cricket orientated though with the expansion of PCC we are all closer. Being away reinforces my love of after living here for 30 years ... my home!

*Peter Austin (aka Alistair Cook)*  
*Brisbane*



## CHURCHYARD CHRONICLES

The animals gathered around the new nativity figurines. They had been made years ago by a talented boy in the village, but lay forgotten in a garage as the boy went on to become a famous sculptor. Now they were in the church for all to see.

'They are not very Christmassy,' ventured a mouse after a while. 'They do look rather battered,' agreed a rabbit. 'And their clothes are not very colourful' grumbled a squirrel, 'even the Kings look a bit shabby.' 'They don't look very cheerful, do they?' said Badger, 'in fact Joseph looks decidedly worried!'

'He was worried' said a quiet voice behind them, and the animals turned to find the tramp who often visited the church, especially at this time of year. 'Poor Joseph,' the man went on, 'he was just beginning to realise the huge responsibility he had been given. Those Kings were exhausted after travelling so far and fearful of Herod, they were beginning to realise the danger they were all in. I think the shepherds were still in shock from being visited by angels. Angels can be quite alarming, especially a whole host of them suddenly appearing like that.' The tramp was quiet for a moment, as if remembering, before he continued. 'They were all just ordinary people who found themselves in an extraordinary situation, and were just realising that their lives, and the whole world, had changed forever.'

The animals were thoughtful for a while, and when they looked around the tramp had disappeared, just as the Christmas bells began to ring.

Merry Christmas to all, *Yellow Rabbit*



## DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Prune Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*) now (if required), as they will bleed sap if pruning is done in Spring onwards. Start to winter prune wisteria by cutting back the whippy summer side shoots to 2 or 3 buds. Prune climbing roses, removing diseased or damaged growth and tying in any new shoots. Prune older flowered side shoots back to two thirds of their length. Remove yellowing leaves from your winter brassicas and cover with netting to protect from pigeons. Cut down dead asparagus foliage, (if not already done). Dig over empty borders and cover with well rotted manure. Prune apple and pear trees now to maintain an open, well balanced structure and encourage quality over quantity of fruit production. Prune grape vines now by cutting back the side shoots to 1 or 2 buds. Apply grease bands to trunks of fruit trees to prevent female winter moths

climbing the trunks to lay their eggs. Wash and disinfect bird feeders and tables, clean out bird baths. Hang fat balls and make sure feeders are kept topped up. Make a pile of old logs in a corner of your garden to provide shelter for wildlife. Did you know that the wrappers of Quality Street chocolates are compostable? Apparently they are made from cellulose, derived from wood pulp, so they can be added to your compost heap.....well that will be my excuse for eating some chocolates over Christmas!





## PIRBRIGHT COMMUNITY CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022



3	Sat	10:00am 10:00am 5:00pm 7:30pm	Church Flower Fund Coffee Morning, Church Room Art Club Exhibition, LPH Switching on Christmas lights, LPH Pirbright Singers Concert, in the Church	
4	Sun	10:00am 11:00am	Family Christingle Service, Rev Bev Hunt Art Club Exhibition, LPH	
7	Wed	10:15am	Said Holy Communion & Café Club, Rev Rob Bennett	
9	Fri	12:30pm	Rawlins Club Christmas Lunch, LPH Friends of Pirbright School Christmas Trail opens	
10	Sat	1:30pm 3:00pm 6:30pm	Pirbright Players Revue and Treasure Island LPH Remembering Loved Ones Service, Rev Gary Williamson Pirbright Players Revue and Treasure Island LPH	
11	Sun	10:00am 1:30pm	Holy Communion, Rev Paul Fenner Pirbright Players Revue and Treasure Island, LPH	
12	Mon	8:00pm	Royal British Legion Meeting at Fox Inn, Fox Corner	
13	Tues	8:00pm	Horticultural Society AGM, LPH	
16	Fri	6:00pm	Community Christmas Carols in the Churchyard	
18	Sun	10:00am 6:00pm	Holy Communion, Rev Gary Williamson Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols Rev Gary Williamson	
22	Thurs	10:00am	Last Country Market of the year	
24	Sat	3:30pm 5:00pm	Family Crib Service Family Crib Service	
<b>25</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Family Communion, Rev Bev Hunt</b>	
26	Mon		Boxing day lunch at Cunningham House	

### PIRBRIGHT PLAYERS PRESENT A REVUE PLUS TREASURE ISLAND PANTOMIME

Join us for poems, sketches and songs, followed by a traditional Pantomime. Long John Silver is recruiting pirates to hunt for treasure. Where will he find the most ferocious pirates in all of Bristol? Why, the Smuggler's Cove Women's Institute of course! Don't miss this fun packed production by Ben Crocker, based on Stevenson's classic adventure story Treasure Island.  
Saturday 1:30pm and 6:30pm, Sunday 1:30pm  
For tickets go to [www.spanglefish.com/pirbrightplayers](http://www.spanglefish.com/pirbrightplayers)



**Editor:** Julia Douetil, [julia.douetil@gmail.com](mailto:julia.douetil@gmail.com) Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ. Please send copy for January **by 8th December**. PeriNews is also on the Church and Parish Council websites, for you to download and print or keep.

