

PERI NEWS

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THE WAR MEMORIAL

The war memorial has finally returned to its proper place in the churchyard of St Michael's & All Angels church. The wooden figure and cross were removed for restoration as the oak, which was unveiled on 13 August 1920 by the Bishop of Guildford, had deteriorated to such an extent that the figure was falling off its cross and the outstretched arms were so sodden from the weather that they were as soft as sponges and falling apart with fingers missing. Specialist craftsmen have spliced new pieces of oak into the original figure. This is highly skilled work and has taken time to complete but the Parish Council hope the figure, designed by Frederick Brook Hitch, will now survive long into the future. The memorial will once again feature as part of the Service of Remembrance in November.



.PIRBRIGHT GIRLS CRICKET TEAM AT THE OVAL

In September our very own Pirbright Girl's Cricket team formed a guard of honour at a packed Oval for the Surrey Men's 20:20 quarter finals. To add to the excitement, they were live on Sky Sports TV!

Well done girls, it won't be long before you are playing there!



This month's banner image
by Simon Aldrich

What's It All About?

Most of us at some time ask ourselves what is the meaning of life? Fans of Douglas Adams's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* will recall that the supercomputer Deep Thought came up with the answer '42' after 7½ million years of thinking about it, but then reflected, "I think the problem, to be quite honest...is that [we've] never actually known what the question is."

Which doesn't really help a lot.

What exactly do we mean by 'meaning'? Are we thinking about our significance or value – we might be valuable because of our particular gift (and I assure you we *all* have one)? Or are we thinking about the point or purpose of life?

As humans, we are arguably alone among all living creatures in being intelligent enough to ask that question anyway. In fact, *{the} phrase "the meaning of life" came into common usage only in the last two centuries, as advances in science...led many to doubt that life is the product of intelligent, supernatural design. The meaning of life might be an especially perplexing issue for those [of us] who reject religious answers.*¹ Moreover, as humans we are also arguably the only

living beings who have any conception of their own mortality. *'Even if long-lived creatures as intelligent as elephants and chimpanzees do recognize that the dead are gone for good, they may not recognize that death eventually will come for all, a knowledge that may be solely human.'*²

That knowledge must surely lead us to wonder if this really is the only existence we will ever have.

It is a great comfort to me, and to many millions of people around the world, to believe absolutely that we are here, and that every living being has been created by some supernatural entity that is far beyond our human brain (or even a Deep Thought supercomputer) to understand. Life, I and others believe, has *divine* significance. If that sounds trivial, I have a question: if indeed the universe began with a 'big bang', where did the big bang come from; who or what created *it*?

To me, and to many, many other people, the belief that this life is not the end, and that we and all other creatures – indeed everything else that exists, whether it has 'life' or not, was created by a loving God.

Revd Gary Williamson

¹<https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2023/02/06/meaning-of-life/>

19.09.2014

²<https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2013/DecJan/Animals/Animal-Mourning>

11.09.2024



YOUR CHURCHYARD

Thank you to everyone who turned out to help at the Mega Churchyard working party. A huge amount was achieved, and five very full trailer loads of brambles, weeds, shrub trimmings and general garden detritus were taken away. Do stop by to have a look next time you are passing, and maybe take a while to enjoy God's beautiful acre.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to get out a bit more, meet people and feel you have achieved something and made a difference?

Did you know that volunteering isn't just good for the community, it is good for your health, both physical and mental?

There are many opportunities to help out at St Michaels, even if you are not a regular church goer, and to use your skills or develop new ones. Whether it's flower arranging, or churchyard tidying, reading at a service or serving at the Altar, supporting young parents at Angel Tots, or giving a hand at Children's Church or Church on the Green, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Heidi or Jo Hurst in our Admin team to find out more. 07984323709 admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk

We are lucky enough to live in a place where good stuff happens.

Be a part of keeping it that way.

ALPHA COURSE



A new Alpha course starts on Tuesday 1st October, at 7:3pm in St Michael's Church Room. Relax over food and drink, make new friends and find out more about the Christian faith in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

To reserve your place, please contact admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk 07984323709

COFFEE CRAFT AND CHAT

Tues 22nd October 10-noon in the Church Room at St Michael's. All hand-crafters welcome to join this eclectic group who come together monthly to share our work as we chat and make new friends..

RAWLINS CLUB

On Friday 11th October between 2.00 and 4.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall the talk will be 'A Pilgrimage to a Thin Place - Iona' by Revd. Garry Williamson

Denise Granger 01483 472020



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE IN PIRBRIGHT

We welcome Joseph Harrison to the Family of God following his Baptism in September.

We give thanks for the life of Mike Milner, who died in August.



NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Fidgett, Chair of the Parish Council from 2017, tendered his resignation and also stepped down from the Council last month, having served as a member since 2011. He is succeeded by Cllr David Woollett (formerly Vice Chair), who was elected as Chair by members at the meeting on 10th September 2024. Cllr Lindsay Graham was elected as the new Vice Chair.

Steve is a professional planner and brought his knowledge and expertise to the Parish Council's planning committee, guiding it through the labyrinth of planning law when making submissions to Guildford BC in response to the many applications sent to PPC for consultation.

The transformation of the playing fields on the Green from the old and dilapidated cricket pavilion to the wonderful modern community building must be one of the greatest achievements of Steve's years as Chair, not to mention his patience and skill in dealing with the multitude of difficult issues and questions, always putting the interests of the village at the forefront of everything he did. Steve will be greatly missed and Councillors thank him for his contribution and service.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND SHADOW COUNCILLORS

Notices for a new Councillor to fill the casual vacancy left by Steve Fidgett's resignation were displayed on the PPC website and noticeboards around the Parish during September. The Parish Council hope to co-opt a new member at its next meeting on 15th October 2024.

PPC would encourage residents to consider becoming a Shadow Councillor to attend meetings and become familiar with the work and processes of the Parish Council with a view to joining the Parish Council team. A Shadow Councillor is invited to express an opinion at meetings and offer suitable expertise on topics under discussion. They are unable to vote on resolutions but are well placed to become a full voting member when a casual vacancy arises. Please contact the Clerk for more details.



*....Continued from front page
Expert restoration of the village
War Memorial Calvary.*

Don't forget, clocks go back one hour at 2am on Sunday 27th October



COMMUNITY GROUPS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our monthly social and meeting is on Monday 14th October at 8pm at the Fox Inn, Fox Corner. Please come and join us to hear about the Legion.

Advance date for your diary is our Branch AGM on Monday 4th November at 8pm. All members are welcome.

Anne Hawkins 01252 404276

PIRBRIGHT WI

The talk this month is 'Three Gowns for Three Crowns' by Grace Evans, Keeper of Costume at Chertsey Museum. The meeting is on Tuesday October 15 at 7pm in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

*Irene Dredge 01483 233279 or
iredredge@outlook.com*

TWINNING ASSOCIATION :

Our AGM is on Thursday 17 October, 8pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. We warmly welcome all from the village to come along to help us develop our future events and plans.

This year's Beaujolais Supper is on Sunday 24 November at 6.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall Club Room. For more information please contact Jonathan Lopez on 07780066142

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our meeting is on Tuesday 8th October at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom of Lord Pirbright's Hall, with a talk on 'Workaid, second hand tools for Africa' by Chris Stewart. Meeting open to all! Refreshments available.

Do join us for an interesting talk!

CARDIFF ARMS PARK MALE CHOIR IN CONCERT Sat 19th October 2:30pm, St Michael's
In aid of Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice and Cure-Parkinson's charities.

AIR AMBULANCE KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) provide emergency medical services through a helicopter air ambulance covering the Kent, Surrey and Sussex, It is funded by the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex, relying mostly on voluntary donations to meet its running costs. Most of the doctors and paramedics are employed by the NHS and the military, KSS respond to an average of nine emergency calls a day delivering life-saving treatment, such as blood transfusions and emergency anaesthetic, to people who suddenly become seriously injured or ill at the scene. The most common type of incidents are road traffic collisions (30%), accidental injuries (22%) and medical emergencies (27%). Each lifesaving mission costs on average around £3,700 and is funded almost entirely by the generosity of people within our communities. Last year two thirds of missions were in helicopters, and a third using Rapid Response Vehicles. Find out more, including how to support this life saving service, go to <https://aakss.org.uk/>



PLAYRANGERS

Playrangers is an exciting project which encourages children to play outdoors. Free sessions are held after school and all children are welcome. Qualified and experienced play workers run play sessions using the natural environment and child-led play. Sessions are aimed at 8 to 12 year olds, but under-8s are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Sessions are on alternate Mondays at 3:30—5:30, next to Lord Pirbright's Hall.

Playrangers believe that children can play in all weathers. Activities are adapted to ensure the children have fun. They will deliver sessions in all weathers, but children must have appropriate clothing.

To find out more go to <https://www.guildford.gov.uk/playrangers> or call 01483 505050.

PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB



We've had some great tournaments this summer— the American, Jean Seager (over 45s) and finishing with the Summer tournament. We've enjoyed special Tuesday Club Nights with BBQ and Cheese and Wine. But the tennis goes on into autumn with family and friends whatever the standard. Michael Jefferies and Jack Hicklin continue to give some excellent coaching to adults and children. So if you haven't already, come and join the club and have fun playing anytime day or evening (with floodlights). For the latest news follow our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

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

If God had meant us to touch our toes,
he would have put them further up our body.



Change is inevitable—except from a vending machine



PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

An old Pirbright legend has it that one of Admiral Byron's bosuns lived in a stone cottage above Pirbright Lodge in the late 1700s "so that he could look down and spit on his former master". Unlikely as this sounds, many of us will have noticed a section of wall above Pirbright Lodge, and thought that, while the wall is new, the blocks comprising the wall look quite old. And now research by one of our historians has found further evidence to support the story. An entry in the baptism register from 1793 clearly shows the existence of a house in the right place. It even has a name – "Stone Cottage". As to the spitting, I'm afraid no new evidence has been found.

Richard Hartley (richard@pirbright.info)

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

CURCHYARD CHRONICLES .

Hoorah, October, the churchyard animals' favourite time of the year!! The hedges are full of fruit, the trees are full of nuts and the church is full of *food!* Yes, it's Harvest Festival, when all you wonderful people bring boxes of fruit and barrow loads of vegetables to church and the flower ladies fill the every space with wonderful displays – it's just too delicious* for words. Mind you, some of the younger mice nearly got us into trouble last year, I think that loaf of bread modelled into a sheaf of wheat was supposed to last just a little longer. And as for those chocolate biscuits, we did wonder what they had to do with the harvest, how were we supposed to know they were for the flower ladies' tea?

Whether you usually come to church or not, make sure you drop by on Harvest weekend (5th and 6th October) to see the church all dressed up in its best. You never know, you might just spot some of us animals sneaking in for a nibble – but don't let on to the flower ladies, will you? *Yellow Rabbit*

(*Surely you mean beautiful and inspiring? Editor)



SEPTEMBER GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

The temperatures are now dropping and the nights are drawing in, so it is important to get as many jobs done in the garden before it gets too cold. Wallflowers can be planted now. Continue planting spring flowering bulbs. Cut back herbaceous perennials that have died down. Split and divide older clumps of overgrown perennials. Prune climbing and rambling roses now and tie in stems to prevent damage in high winds. Avoid feeding plants late in the season as this will encourage soft sappy growth that is more vulnerable to damage by frosts. Pot up and bring under glass tender plants such as fuchsias, citrus and brugmansias (Angels trumpet) before first frosts, cutting back if

necessary. Cut down asparagus foliage as it yellows and dies. Harvest pumpkins and squashes when the stalks are dry and brown and when the fruit is hollow when tapped.

Plant autumn onion sets and garlic. Sow overwintering broad beans for an early crop next year. Apply grease bands to fruit trees to protect them from winter moth. Apply autumn lawn feed and regularly rake and clear fallen leaves. October is a good month to lay turf

onto prepared, raked ground. Clean bird baths and replenish bird feeders. Net ponds to prevent autumn leaves falling in.

7 APPRECIATE THE FINITE TIME YOU HAVE WITH YOUR GARDEN. MAKE PEACE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ERRORS OF THIS YEAR WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF NEXT YEAR.



PIRBRIGHT COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2024

1	Tue	7:30pm	Alpha Course, session 1/8, St Michael's Church Room
3	Thur	2:30pm	Scrabble at Cunningham House
6	Sun	9:30am	Harvest Festival Service with church band, St Michael's
8	Tue	7:30pm	Horticultural Soc, 'Workaid, second hand tools for Africa ' LPH
11	Fri	2:00pm	Rawlins Club, 'A Pilgrimage to a Thin Place - Iona', LPH
13	Sun	9:30am 6:00pm	Parish Communion, St Michael's Taize service at St Mark's, Wyke
14	Mon	8:00pm	Royal British Legion meeting at The Fox Inn at Fox Corner
15	Tue	10:15am 7:00pm	Mid-week communion at St Michael's WI meeting, Three Gowns for Three Crowns, LPH
17	Thur	8:00pm	Twinning Association AGM, LPH
19	Sat	2:30pm	Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir in Concert, St Michael's
20	Sun	9:30am 6:30pm	Parish Communion, St Michael's Prayer Meeting, St Michael's
22	Tue	10:00am	Craft, Coffee and Chat, in the Church Room
27	Sun	3:00pm	Church on the Green, LPH

FAREWELL TO FULK'S

It was a sad day on 7th September when Fulk's Butchers closed for good. They have been at the heart of our village for 97 years, and supported countless community events large and small. Indeed no barbecue was complete without their legendary sausages.

As a community we all wanted to say thank you to Jo, Tony and the team for all those years of great service and wonderful produce, and to wish them all well in the future,



**PeriNews is produced and delivered by volunteers on behalf of
St Michael and All Angels Church and Pirbright Parish Council,**

Editor: Julia Douetil, julia.douetil@gmail.com
Church Cottage, Church Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0JJ.



St Michael and All Angels Church

Vicar: Rev George Watkinson
georgealbionwatkinson@gmail.com
07711944327

Admin admin@pirbrightchurch.org.uk
07984323709

Website: www.pirbrightchurch.org.uk

Pirbright Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Helen Myers,
clerk@pirbright-pc.gov.uk 07485 411214
Parish website www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk
Lord Pirbright's Hall Catherine Loots
07494 485056 LPH@pirbright-pc.gov.uk