

PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE NEWS

No. 651 January 2025

NEW YEAR, NEW NEWSLETTER !

A new team has stepped up to take the village newsletter into the future. We are Gemma Hyland, Heidi Gower and Jo Hurst. You can contact us through the church office mail address on page 8.

We have been given the challenge of refreshing the newsletter although that doesn't mean changing everything at once. One change you might have noticed is the name, which we hope will make the newsletter welcoming and immediately recognisable to everyone, including all those new to our community.

By Spring we hope welcome Guest Editors to collaborate with us for one or two months each year. If you're interested in becoming a Guest Editor please let us know - you won't be thrown in at the deep end! There will plenty of support to guide you through. It's a fantastic opportunity to have your voice to be heard, and to champion the causes that matter most to you and the community.

Gemma, Heidi and Jo

WELCOME TO 2025.

**WISHING ALL OUR READERS
A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND
SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR**

Make this the year you join in, get involved, volunteer or support the wonderful range of opportunities in our community.



*Save
the
Date*

**Pirbright Village Fair
Saturday 30th August 2025**

BEST OF BRITISH

**This month's banner photo
St Michael's Church Pirbright
by Philip Douetil**

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

New Year Promise with St Michael's

2024 has turned out to be an exciting year for our church community as we have begun to work through our new 5 year vision – to know Christ and to make him known. This now underpins everything we do as a church.

One of my favourite verses in scripture is Matthew 6:33 which says; "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The most important thing that we as the church (and as Christians) can do is to first seek God and know Him better.

Flowing out of this, we believe we are called, as a church, to be a blessing to the community here in Pirbright. We are 'For the community and in the heart of the community.' We have therefore been exploring ways in which we as the church can engage with the community in new ways.

Please do read our vision document enclosed which explains more of what we have already started to fulfil our vision, as well as what we are wanting to get going in 2025. We would love for you to be a part of our exciting vision by getting involved, whether that's practically or financially. We can't do it without you!

I am only a phone call or text away. I look forward to a cuppa and a chat!

Every blessing, *Rev'd George*



CONNECT GROUPS –these sociable groups meet mid-week in the relaxed atmosphere of members' homes. Activities include worship, Bible study and prayer. Connect groups offer an environment of friendship and trust where we can support each other in our wholehearted devotion to Jesus Christ, looking outwards as well as inwards as we seek to put the Gospel into practice in our own lives. To find out more go to www.pirbrightchurch.org/connectgroups.htm

ANGEL TOTS Are you a new parent or new to Pirbright?

Why not join us in St. Michael & All Angels Church Room on Monday mornings from 10:–11:30am during term time? This is a very informal group for parents, grandparents and carers with children under 3 years old. Come and join your friends, or make new friends while your children play. Angel Tots is free but we appreciate a small donation towards the cost of refreshments.

Could you volunteer to help? Parents / carers look after their own children but you could help to support the parents and carers, by making teas or just chatting, For more information contact angeltots@pirbrightchurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED. WITH J JOHN

In a packed Lord Pirbright's Hall on the 15th December, the room fell silent while listening to a haunting solo of Silent Night.

Internationally renowned speaker J. John spoke with warmth and humour about how Christ is at the heart of Christmas and how there can be no birthday celebration without a birth. He challenged everyone to open their hearts to Jesus, prayed for everyone and gave gifts of a small holding cross made of olive wood from Bethlehem. After the service everyone enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies.

Prior to the event a team from St Michael's hand-delivered Christmas cards and invitations to Christmas events to every home in Pirbright. It was a wonderful privilege to be able knock on doors and chat with people. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

Rev Joanna Day



.CHURCH ON THE GREEN

To allow the Players to transform the village hall for their show on 26th January, *just for this month* Church on the Green will be on Sunday 12th January

Join us for modern, family friendly worship, with fun for children and spiritual nourishment for adults.



St Michael's Pirbright & St Mark's Wyke

STAY CURIOUS Try Alpha

Starting
Tuesday 14th January
PIRBRIGHT PRIMARY SCHOOL
GU24 0JN

7.30pm-9.30pm

To sign up and get more details email
office@stmarkswyke.org.uk
07984323709/01483811777

Happy New Year 2025!

The Council has its own Webpage and Facebook Page – please do take a look to keep up to date with the latest village news, projects, dates for public meetings, contact information for various services and a live calendar for booking the village hall.

After many years of potholes and puddles, the Sandpits Car Park (opposite the School) has been tarmacked. This car park is owned by the Parish Council and was opened to parents for drop-off and pick-up to ease congestion on School Lane. The resurfacing was made possible with grants from both Cllr Keith Witham (Pirbright) and Cllr Ayesha Azad (Brookwood) as we recognise that the car park is heavily used by parents of both villages.

Litter Picking – it's a Piece of Cake!

Come and join Cllr Keith Rowe and Church volunteers for our January Litter Pick on Saturday 4th January 2025 2pm – 4pm.

All equipment provided. Please meet at the Village Hall. The litter pick will be followed by free tea and cake in the Club Room for all the wonderful Litter Pickers who take part to keep our village tidy. Thank you

News from Lord Pirbright's Hall

As we welcome in the New Year, we reflect on the ups and downs of the old one, which have included an emergency replacement of the central heating boilers and the long-awaited installation of a modern cooker. We had consulted our

regular users and professional caterers about this and, with thanks to a generous grant from Peribus, the new cooker arrived before Christmas. More improvements are planned for the kitchen during the coming months.

We have also been successful in obtaining a 50% grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to replace the outer kitchen door, the door at the south exit, and the doors to the under-stage storage area. We shall be carrying out the work in the first quarter of this year.

We are also planning minor improvements at the community sports pavilion to make it more user-friendly for hirers during the winter months, with thanks for practical suggestions from the Twinning Association's trial run, their Beaujolais Supper in November. We would love to welcome more regular use of the Pavilion by village groups and ad hoc hirers, and we would invite suggestions about the formation of new clubs – bridge, photography or books, for example. Do contact Catherine, the LPH Secretary, with your enquiries and thoughts.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

PIRBRIGHT COUNTRY MARKET

The country market opens again on Thursday 23rd January 10.00 – 11.15 in Lord Pirbright's Hall

PIRBRIGHT WI

Our talk this month is '*A Romany lifestyle – a family and social history story from Surrey*' by David Rose, on Tuesday January 21st, 7pm in the Club Room in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Visitors welcome.

The WI serve refreshments on Thursday mornings 10 to 11:15am, why not pop in when you visit the Country Market.

Irene Dredge 01483 233279
irenedredge@outlook.com

RAWLINS CLUB

Our next meeting is on Friday 10th January, 2.00pm— 4.00pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall. Geoff Burch and David Rose will talk about "When the Railway came to Guildford".

Denise Granger 472070

PIRBRIGHT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Start your gardening year with a talk by Geoff Hawkins on "Ground cover plants" at the Horticultural Society on Tuesday 14 January, 7:30pm in the Club Room, Lord Pirbright's Hall. All welcome.

Secretary@pirbrighthort.co.uk

TWINNING ASSOCIATION :Annual Quiz

Our annual quiz is on Sunday 5 January at 6.30pm Lord Pirbright's Hall.

Tickets from George Lane
treasurer.twinning@gmail.com

£15 members, £17 non members .

Payment by bank transfer (BACS) to:
Pirbright Twinning Association

Sort code 30-99-80, A/C No. 01174367.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our monthly meeting is at The Fox, Fox Corner, on Monday, 13th January, 8pm. We look forward to meeting anyone who would like to join us and learn about the Legion.

Anne Hawkins 01252 404276

Alexander Barracks, Pirbright – Construction Works

The Army is investing in Alexander Barracks to support basic training at Pirbright. The Defence Estate Optimisation (Army) Programme - known as DEO Army - is improving facilities for Service personnel, reducing running costs across the estate and supporting military capability.

The Alexander Barracks project will provide enhanced living, working and training accommodation, including modern recruit accommodation, a swimming pool and gym. Construction is due to start in 2026 and be completed in 2032. A detailed traffic plan will minimise disruption to the local area.

Army representatives met with the Parish Council in November, and will continue to share updates with the local community as the works progress. For more information go to gov.uk - [search 'Defence Estate Optimisation'](#)

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TO GET BACK INTO SHAPE?

Pirbright has a wealth of fitness clubs and classes, see our two inserts this month to get you started!

And don't imagine exercise classes are only for the young and skinny! There is something for every age and ability, from Seated Pilates with Claire Seager to Yoga in the Pavilion with Janet Ashton.



PIRBRIGHT TENNIS CLUB

[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
PirbrightTennisClub](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/PirbrightTennisClub)

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

www.facebook.com/pirbrighttennisclub

Looking for a new year's resolution? If you haven't already done so, join the tennis club whatever your standard of tennis. We have regular activities, coaching and tournaments.

Save the Date for a great social evening:
Friday 14th March for a return of the tennis Quiz Night.



Philip and Elizabeth Barralet

We would like to thank friends in Pirbright for their messages of love and support during our move away. We are very grateful and humbled by all these good wishes.

PIRBRIGHT HISTORIANS

To continue last month's theme of Christmas Cheer, we now turn our attention to The Fox at Fox Corner. It first opened in 1862, on the site of a shoemaker's house on a piece of land called (for reasons unknown) "Gander Hill". It served beers from the well-known Simonds Brewery in Reading, which then bought the pub (in 1882) and continued to run it, until the company merged with Courage in 1960. Walter Liley (1911-46) and Eric Gosden (1946-65) were the best known landlords during this time. During the 1980s Courage sold The Fox to one of the new "Pubco's", but thankfully it is now owned privately by a local resident. The photos show The Fox c1900 and c1910 (complete with local Aldershot & District bus service). Cheers!

Richard Hartley richard@pirbright.info



PIRBRIGHT PLAYERS - TALES FROM THE WOODS

Saturday 25th 1:30pm and 7:00 pm, Sunday 26th 1:30 pm Lord Pirbright's Hall,

Come with us to a magical place to sit and watch traditional stories acted out by country folk. All you need is imagination and a willingness to suspend your disbelief. Here in the woods you can find out what happens to the wicked Queen at the end of Snow White and what happens to Rumpelstiltskin when another Queen guesses his name. If you can bear it, watch the Emperor parade in his new clothes and watch Beauty meet the Beast... and, if you like porridge, bring a spoon! Suitable for all ages, the stories are short and are linked by snatches of well-known folk songs.



JANUARY GARDENING TIPS from Wellie

Time to plan what you want to do to your garden over the coming year, look at seed catalogues and order your seeds. Wash pots and seed trays so they are clean and ready for using in the coming year. Clean your greenhouse to let in more light over the winter months. Cut back deciduous grasses to allow new shoots to emerge freely. Plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs now. Cut back foliage of helleborus to show off their beautiful flowers.

Sow early peas such as 'Feltham First' for harvesting in May/June. Broad beans can be sown inside now, to plant out in February. Prune gooseberries and

redcurrants, apples and pears, wisteria and roses now. Force rhubarb to encourage faster growth. Put out food and water for birds to encourage them into your garden. What to do with your Christmas tree? Did you know that donkeys, goats and alpacas enjoy eating Christmas trees, which are either fir, pine or spruce and are a great source of vitamin C and antioxidants for them....who knew! **But never feed animals without checking with the owner first!**



PIRBRIGHT COMMUNITY CALENDAR JANUARY 2025

2	Thur	2:30pm	Scrabble at Cunningham House
4	Sat	2:00pm	Community litter pick followed by tea
5	Sun	9:30am 6:30pm	All Age Service with church band, St Michael's Twinning Association annual Quiz, LPH
10	Fri	2:00pm	Rawlins Club 'When the Railway came to Guildford' LPH
11	Sat	10:00am	Operation Churchyard
12	Sun	10:00am 5:00pm	Church on the Green, at LPH, St Michael's Taize service at St Michael's
13	Mon	8:00pm	Royal British Legion meeting, The Fox Pub at Fox Corner
14	Tue	7:30pm	Horticultural Society 'Ground Cover Plants' LPH
19	Sun	9:30am 7:30pm	Parish Communion, St Michael's Prayer Meeting at St Mark's
21	Tue	10:15am 7:00pm	Mid week communion & café club, St Michael's WI meeting 'A Romany Lifestyle', LPH
25	Sat	1:30pm 7:00pm	Pirbright Players 'Tales from the Woods' , LPH Pirbright Players 'Tales from the Woods' , LPH
26	Sun	9:30pm 1:30pm	Parish Communion, St Michael's Pirbright Players 'Tales from the Woods' , LPH
28	Tue	9:30am	Coffee Craft & Chat, St Michael's church room

My New Year's resolution is to stop procrastinating. I'll start tomorrow.

Last year I managed to keep all my New Year Resolutions...

.... tucked into a notebook on my bookshelf.

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

Editors: Heidi Gower, Jo Hurst and Gemma Hyland,
please continue to send content to julia.douetil@gmail.com



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

Chair of the PPC: David Woolletts

Parish website www.pirbright-pc.gov.uk

Lord Pirbright's Hall Catherine Loots
07494 485056 LPH@pirbright-pc.gov.uk